



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session  
Cent soixante- huitième session  
168.º período de sesiones**

**Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021  
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL  
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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>29 November 2021</b>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:40 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.40  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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## CHAIRPERSON

Good morning and as we are living in a virtual global room, also good afternoon and good evening. It is great to see so many here present in the renewed Plenary Hall of FAO. I would like to thank the Director-General and his team for giving us the most modern IT room for hybrid meetings, I think, within the United Nations.

If you see the equipment they have installed to make sure that we have an excellent hybrid meeting, not only for those who are in the room, but also for those who are following us for the virtual room, I think we can be very, very interactive. Of course, as you probably have witnessed, for those who are longer or for sometime in Rome, that for the first time in many years we have the ceiling again visible for all of us, because it was renovated, it was secured, and for the first time in this Council, we have now a full complete renovated room. Thank you so much, Director-General and your team.

Of course, also a very good morning to the interpreters as well as the technicians and all those who are facilitating our meeting this week. And of course a very, very warm welcome to the Director-General. It is great to have you here present and we certainly will listen and I would like to thank you for your leadership and your strong leadership for FAO.

As we know, all around the world people are living in poverty and in hunger and the numbers continue to rise. Our action is our future. That was the last time when many of us were here in this room, during the World Food Day. There we had the clear motto “Our Actions are our Future”. If we do not act, we will have probably 1 billion people living in hunger and poverty within two years.

Species are becoming extinct and also here the numbers are rising. If we do not act, many millions will follow.

Three billion people do not have access to safe, affordable and nutritious food and they need healthy diets and we all know one-third of our food is being lost every year. We also know that our current pathways are not bringing us where we need to be in 2030. So, does it not make sense that we ask ourselves the question, should we not radically change our current pathways?

We have a huge opportunity right now. As we build our economies and bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic, this is humanity’s big chance to change our future, and we need transformative change and we need it right now.

We need perhaps also to think more out of the box. What we have to do seems to be an almost impossible task, but if we think outside of the box, if we think how to change our directions, perhaps we can also take a little bit more risk to do so, because we need breakthroughs.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit brought food security and food systems, agri-food systems where they need to be, within the highest political level within the United Nations.

We have now to grab this momentum and it is not without reason that the United Nations Secretary-General put the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), and especially FAO, in the lead and certainly the Director-General will say more about it.

Of course, we have to do this not only in Rome but in an UN-wide system approach. With the Council this week we can show that we can live up to this challenge, our task also to change our pathways. Our actions are our future and we have to show that we can overcome our differences and that we stand united to support especially developing countries and their national pathways. Of course, in that we have to take into account the regional and national differences and priorities.

During this Council, we will decide on important issues such as the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and we hopefully give direction to important strategies of FAO. However, at the end of the day, we all know that only outcomes and results will make the difference, especially at the national level.

With the incredible challenges we face, let us overcome this week our differences and stand united with our strong conclusions and a strong outcome of this Council. Our actions are our future, that was also the drive for Ambassador Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranteng. With her passing, we lost a dear colleague and a dear friend.

Her passion, not only for Ghana or Africa but for all those who need the most, her dedication to her work, mixed with her great experience and knowledge, will be globally, and certainly in Rome, be missed. She will be missed by so many who know her, so let us give a moment of silence for her, to remember her.

*Minute of silence*  
*Minute de silence*  
*Minuto de silencio*

Her energy and her dedication was also for finding new ways forward and I knew that she was very supportive also to messages from our youth. When we had the World Food Day celebration here, and we had the lunch offered by the Director-General, she and I said together, let us show the energy that the youth is giving us, and that is why, hopefully, the next time we meet we can also dance. That is why we now show that wonderful video with the clear message of the World Food Day.

*Video Presentation*  
*Présentation vidéo*  
*Videopresentación*

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

The clear message, we can all become food heroes and the future is in our hands.

With that I would like to give the floor to the Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, our strong leader for our Organization, FAO.

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

## **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning from Rome!

I am pleased to address you today at the opening of this first-ever hybrid 168th Session of the Council.

We would like to be prudently optimistic on the progress towards a “new normal”. The past 28 months have put many challenges in front of us, but on the other side of the coin, they also have presented us with enormous new opportunities, with an important learning curve for all of us.

Today, I will inform you of our major developments and principal achievements since the Council’s last session. Since I took office in August 2019, I have been working consistently towards putting my vision for the Organization into action, despite the unexpected challenges we faced.

I have been walking the talk!

On the unexpected challenges: through an effective vaccination campaign, the majority of FAO employees and their dependents in Italy (more than 90% at Headquarters) have been vaccinated. In this aspect, I really wish to convey appreciation to the Italian Government and its people for looking after not only FAO, IFAD and WFP, but all the 26 UN Agencies located in Italy. Some are small and only have three staff members, so you can imagine how vulnerable they are within the UN family, but yet they all got the same adequate, efficient and effective service from the Italian Government – especially from the vaccination Commissioner and his Team.

That is why on 25 November, the American Thanksgiving Day, I hosted a special Cocktail lunch for them. We need to show appreciation and have a grateful heart for all the people who help us. Not only the Host Country for Headquarters, but also the Host Countries of all our Regional and Country Offices globally. There are 167 countries where we have operational presence.

I am confident now more and more that colleagues will gradually increase their physical presence at work, while also continuing to work remotely under the Digital FAO. This is also what the ICC, Mr

Hogeveen, mentioned. The pandemic forced us to speed up and scale up the Digital FAO. Now, we are one of the best UN professional organizations, running in full virtual mode, in all six UN languages.

Early next year, should the situation permit, we plan to discontinue this special approach of voluntary presence adopted so far and request FAO employees in Rome and in other countries, if the condition allow, to return to the premises for three days a week. I think we should get used to the new normal. The global reality is still there, especially with the recent new variant. Therefore, we have to be careful, but at the same time there is a need to return to work that will be accompanied by hybrid modalities. That will be the new normal.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our personnel remain central, and our plans will be adjusted in line with the evolving situation.

Recently, we have also been able to re-open access for Members to FAO premises in a more agile way under the required protocols. Here, I request your cooperation, especially at Headquarters, for all representatives and colleagues who wish to access the premises for hybrid meetings: please follow the protocol set by the FAO Crisis Management Team (CMT).

This is our common home. Nobody has a special privilege to destroy it. That is a clear message. We welcome you all, but in adherence to the protocol and the conditions set by the Host Country, and in line with WHO recommendations to FAO. Even I, every time I know I will need to travel to any place, even in Rome, I always do a rapid test before joining any meeting. It costs EUR 9.90 for one self-test - I bought several test toolkits in my home.

For the G20, we were required to do the tests for all the meetings. It is important that we follow the rules. In the past eleven months, I had at least 20 tests done. This also makes the other people feel more comfortable. We have to take responsibility to look after the colleagues who surround you.

We will continue to align procedures with the Italian Government's safety measures, recommendations by WHO and UN Country Team guidance. The Crisis Management Team (CMT), coordinated by Laurent Thomas, will continue to ensure that return plans are "location specific", based on the Organization's duty of care towards employees and their dependents across all locations.

The immunization effort continues, with the third dose already started in Italy. I encourage all colleagues – especially here in Italy at Headquarters, to get your third dose if possible before travelling to your friends and family, because this helps you for your travel and return back to work.

Of course, the First Line of Defense in field offices should be looked after.

On walking the talk and our working environment: I know that for many years, Members pushed Management to look at the issues.

In 2021, to date we have made significant progress towards creating a better working environment at FAO. We have listened to employee needs for more support in their professional development, transparent recruitment, new ways of working and enhanced internal communication.

We established the new mentoring programme. We have also established the annual Employee Recognition Awards. I said 'employees' because I include all the staff.

We have a more ethical workplace. Preventing and combating all forms of Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Sexual exploitation and Abuse of Authority remains a priority.

We have set several guidelines for ethical conduct and the Organization is striving for a culture change towards a work environment that is people-centered, transparent, accountable, dynamic, engaged and ethical.

For the first time, I asked the Director of Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and his Team to brief all the cases analysis and outlines to the Senior Management, not only to Deputy Director-General (DDGs), Assistants Director-General (ADGs) and Regional Representatives, but also Director-Level 2 (D2), on all cases, with an analysis and outline. It is a collective responsibility and accountability, not only for one person or a few people. This is a very good change we have implemented.

The new Investigation Guidelines have also been put in place.

One important thing I want to highlight here, related to all the staff and the Permanent Representations, is the FAO Commissary. It was closed since September 2017 due to historical reasons – I do not want to say too much on this, but we tried our best. Negotiations with Italian relevant partners are finished, and now we are defining how to introduce the new Commissary business model. I hope it will be finished soon, it will be good not only for the staff, but also for all Permanent Representations to FAO.

I strongly encourage my colleagues, together with the Italian relevant players to speed up the process. I said so many times, I come from a poor developing nation: even one dollar is important, not like Mr Hogeveen, he is from a rich country, where one dollar is nothing. One dollar for me is important. The first time I went to the United States of America (USA), I had only one dollar pocket money per day in 1986. Poor life, only bread, drinking tap water. That is why now I still drink tap water. We were poor, and now we want to live a better life.

That is why the Commissary is very important in my heart. It is not a question of saving money, it is a question of help improving livelihood of people from developing nations in Rome, Italy and beyond.

Multilingualism is a defining characteristic of FAO, firmly rooted in the Basic Texts, which enables the effective participation of all Members in the work and governance of the Organization.

I have appointed the Director of the Governing Bodies Servicing Division as FAO Coordinator.

Dear Colleagues, on walking the talk and our management transformation to fit for purpose: following the implementation of the structural reforms at headquarters that were endorsed by the Council, Regional and Sub-regional Offices have initiated their transformation.

These improvements aim at building a One FAO, fostering coherent actions and breaking down silos. Regional Offices are at the interface between global and country level actions. They need to optimize this unique position, while ensuring FAO systematic core competence within region, cross-regional, and cross-continental cooperation to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

There were big silos between the Regional Offices and Sub-Regional Offices, I have now asked my Core Leaders, together with the Regional Representatives to restructure the Regional Offices first, followed by the Sub-Regional Offices.

We want to enhance the Regional, Sub-regional and Country Offices' capacities to better contribute to the delivery of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31,

For the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

I have also established the internal Engagement and Partnerships Committee to minimize risk.

The Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) is in line and we want to improve it, to become more fit for purpose, even more catalytic and impact-focused. On Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developed Countries (LLDCs) to strengthen their capacity for adaptation.

Dear Colleagues, on walking the talk and the implementation of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31: the COVID-19 pandemic raised concerns about the fragility of agri-food systems.

While most agri-food systems continued functioning, the incomes of many people were affected, severely limiting access to foods. Both in developing and developed countries, it is a big challenge. As a result, the number of people experiencing high acute food insecurity has risen further in 2021.

Today 45 million people in 43 countries are experiencing emergency levels of acute food insecurity – moving closer to starvation.

FAO is fully addressing this growing global hunger crisis through our agriculture and food emergencies Programme Priority, and at the same time through all our activities that aim at transforming agri-food systems.

On the agriculture and emergencies: this time I want to draw more attention to this matter for that reason I am highlighting it to Council Members, as this year is so difficult for emergencies.

We are pooling our collective efforts at the highest levels, including through the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine.

Under this initiative, FAO and WFP have jointly stepped up their advocacy and resource mobilization efforts. My colleagues from WFP tried with all means as we urgently needed to get results due to the big decrease compared to previous years.

The agricultural sector is receiving less than 10% of the allocated humanitarian assistance, when more than two-thirds of the people affected by crises rely on agriculture.

We need a collective response that brings together humanitarian, development, peace and climate actors - to tackle the root causes of hunger.

The agri-food sector offers an ideal entry point for nexus approaches, as the sector is resilient in conflict contexts,

Recognizing the criticality of the nexus, FAO was the first UN agency to evaluate its own work in this area, with the Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus: 2014-2020, finalized in the second quarter of 2021.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Bi-Annual Principals meeting, which I attended in October, identified the Humanitarian-Development Nexus supporting Peace as a strategic priority for the coming biennium.

In Afghanistan, all of you know, 4 out of 5 of the estimated 22.8 million Afghans projected to be in acute food insecurity over the next 6 months live in rural areas, and others. It is estimated that approximately 400 000 people are currently suffering from famine-like conditions, in addition to another 4 million people in need of urgent food and livelihoods assistance.

Other regions, like Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, South Sudan and Syria, there is an urgent need to address the deepening crisis, which affect the vulnerable most, where drought-like conditions and lack of inputs (fertilizer and fuel for irrigation) are affecting food availability and deepening food insecurity.

Under resilient agri-food systems, desert Locust remains high on the agenda.

Following successful operations in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, as well as enhanced scale up efforts in Pakistan and Iran, operations are now primarily focused in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.

Fall Armyworm continues to spread and has been reported in over 75 countries, with the latest report from the Solomon Islands.

Yield loss due to Fall Armyworm in Africa was estimated to be at USD 9.4 billion per year, the highest among all invasive alien species in the continent.

Through the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control, FAO is focusing on both strengthening capacities for detection and early response.

Let me be very clear in that context: agriculture is very crucial and cannot wait for other priorities to be addressed first. Protecting rural livelihoods must be a fundamental element of the immediate emergency humanitarian response.

On our Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) to build back better: FAO has been intensively working on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, to reach a larger share of rural populations and to relaunch economic activities.

The Programme is now focusing on building back better and stronger towards transforming agri-food systems across all our *four betters*.

Let me focus, on science and innovation, climate change, legal frameworks and scaling up.



Dear Colleagues, Science and Innovation (including technology) has always been a key component of my vision for FAO - these are two of our accelerators that intensify our work in each of our Four Betters and all our PPAs.

We need science and innovation to deliver on our common goals of transforming agri-food systems to nourish people, nurture the planet, advance equitable livelihoods and build resilient ecosystems.

Science and innovation provide the backbone of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and have cross-sectoral relevance across the Organization's programme of work.

FAO new thematic Strategy on Science and Innovation will provide a framework for strengthening the Organization's capacities to support Members in harnessing science and innovation, to ensure that FAO shifts to a forward-looking business model to effectively support the transformation of agri-food systems on the ground.

On climate change, and within the context of FAO's mandate, and a Better Environment, COP26 made important advances in the areas of forestry, agriculture and land use.

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, a process directly supported by FAO; the Methane Pledge is important for agri-food sectors; and, the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use reflects the collective commitment of 141 countries, covering 90% of the planet's forests, to halt and revert forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the CBD COP15 have provided key opportunities to advance climate-biodiversity mutual integration across agricultural sectors at large.

The FAO new thematic Strategy on Climate Change needs game-changing, innovative and wise solutions based on science and partnerships to transform agri-food systems to be more sustainable.

Given the urgency for climate action, it is crucial that this Strategy goes beyond business-as-usual if we are to reach the climate targets of the Paris Agreement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For 2021, the Green Cities Initiative prioritized the African region. The Green Cities Initiative is closely linked with other FAO initiatives, including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative – which now counts 45 countries that have requested support to national programming. Both new thematic strategies are being developed in tandem to ensure complementarity. Both prioritize science, innovative solutions and inclusive processes, will be key tools for the implementation of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 over the next decade.

The private sector will also be vital for coherent and tangible action. Since the endorsement of the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement by the 165th Session of the Council, we have moved forward with implementation.

And I want to mention that a number of initiatives have already been launched, including the FAO CONNECT Portal among others.

Dear Colleagues,

The Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: "One Country One Priority Product" Initiative focuses on the country and regional priorities of Members and aims to promote the full length of the value chains of a selected specialized product.

It will play a game changing role for agri-food systems transformation by branding national competitiveness. It also offers a space for open international trade, because each Member develops its special comparative advantaged product, and then can share it with others. That is the real nature of agri-food systems. Any country, big or small, cannot produce all products in a more competitive way than others – you only have few or limited natural resources because it depends on agri-zones, climate, and soil, to name a few.

On legal frameworks: for the first time I want to mention that, because more and more it is becoming a service we provide to Members.

FAO also needs to offer the sound legal framework services for sustainable agri-food systems.

Technical legislative assistance to Members is provided through normative and technical cooperation programmes and pragmatic enforcement of regulations and laws. This will assist Members to effect change, especially Members who request consultations and advice from other Members through FAO.

At Member's request, we have embarked on outreach activities during 2021 to provide Members with information regarding the full range of services and support available.

Dear Colleagues, we need to scale up investments and to accelerate action at country level.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative continues to gain strength as a mechanism for bringing diverse actors together to help the least advantaged, eradicate poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and reduce inequalities within and among nations. 45 Member countries have been accepted as formal participants, and several more are benefitting from the methodologies, platforms and support, developed under the Initiative.

The G20 Matera Declaration included reference to the Food Coalition as a flexible coordination mechanism to provide political leadership in the area of food security.

The G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration provides a very clear path, placing food security and sustainable development at the centre of discussions. It highlights the One Health approach, empowerment of women and youth, adapting agri-food systems to climate change, and catalytic investment.

The UN Food Systems Pre-Summit and the Summit (FSS) have generated a significant momentum for moving forward the transformation of agri-food systems and now is time to accelerate the work at the country level.

Last week, on 23 November, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, together with relevant UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNEP and DCO), agreed that FAO will host the Coordination Hub for FSS follow-up action in the FAO Office for SDGs, under my leadership on behalf of the UN system starting at January of 2022.

The Oversight Group of the Coordination Hub will be comprised of the Principals of FAO, IFAD, WFP, DCO and UNEP.

It was agreed with the Deputy Secretary-General that the Chair of the UN Oversight Group would be on a rotational basis.

The FAO newly appointed Director of the Office of SDGs (D2 level) will lead the Coordination Hub and will report directly to the FAO Director-General.

Furthermore, a D1 will be hired from the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, who will put forward some candidates.

Finally, the Deputy Secretary-General and the members of Oversight Group have agreed on the current design of the Coordination Hub and have given the green light to proceed.

Finally, I had vowed to take our work out of the castles and bring it to the people and to the streets.

And the figures of increased visibility show that we have walked the talk: the total number of visitors to our website went from 16.5 million in 2019 to 26 million in 2021. Only 11 months have gone by, and already we are at 26 million - more than 10 million compared to two years ago. So far, 85 million pages were viewed on our website this year. FAO's social media followers increased from 4.1 million in 2019 to 6.3 million today. 80 000 multilingual posts were shared on FAO social media channels this year, reaching a total of 9 billion accounts.

We repositioned FAO as a central member of the UN Family, contributing to the success of numerous UN efforts.

By interacting with the General Assembly, contributing to the High Level Political Forum dialogues, with our SOFI flagship publication and the rural poverty report, by providing the Security Council with advice, and dedicating crucial technical, political and logistical support to the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit.

Renewing FAO also meant redefining our position at the highest international level, ensuring that food and agriculture remain at the top of the global political agenda.

Today, FAO's role as honest broker and provider of science-based, technical expertise is universally recognized,

By world leaders and in international fora, from the G20 to the World Economic Forum (WEF), and beyond.

FAO's close engagement with Italy's G20 presidency has yielded historic results, putting the agenda of food security firmly at the forefront of top international negotiations and the Leaders' Declaration.

By establishing the G20 Green Garden, initiated by FAO, supported by the Italian Government and the city of Rome, FAO contributed to the educational and environmental wellbeing of the youth, families and citizens of Rome, and also promoted the SDGs. This is our core mandate as part of the UN family.

By creating the much-needed global engagement with the young through the World Food Forum (WFF), led by the FAO Youth Committee, has ensured that the perspectives of youth at large, including Indigenous communities, smallholder farmers and marginalized voices are heard loud and clear.

The World Food Day 2021, with 450 activities in up to 150 countries, was communicated in more than 44 languages.

Our Junior World Food Day Food Heroes campaign and TikTok dance video, as you saw just minutes ago, was an effective way to engage the public, especially the young, with its impressive reach resulted in nearly two million views in six weeks.

We also lit the iconic Colosseum with Food Hero images and projected the Green, White and Red "tricolore" colors on our Headquarters building and just as our aspirations soar high in the sky, so did the FAO flag as it was taken to outer space by our Goodwill Ambassador ESA Astronaut Thomas Pesquet!

Dear Colleagues, as I take stock of my 28 months in office, I want to share with you today some of the key findings as we go forward with implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31:

One: connectivity is a pre-condition for inclusivity! In rural areas, infrastructure and digital technologies can be leveraged to address multiple market failures, to facilitate smallholder farmers' integration into markets, and to foster sustainable outcomes. In particular, the digital gender divide in rural areas causes multiple disadvantages for rural women.

As FAO Director-General, I have been working tirelessly over the past 851 days to leverage digital technologies to build a dynamic and transparent Organization, and to promote rural transformation on the ground.

Two: agriculture must go digital! "Going Digital" is the smart solution for agriculture and rural development in the future. FAO is committed to a digital agricultural transformation and the use of innovation to end hunger and improve life quality.

Three: we must reduce food loss and waste! The current unacceptably high amounts of food lost and wasted could feed around 1.26 billion people per year, and are adding huge footprints on the environment. Innovations in business models, institutional arrangements, technologies and digital solutions can all contribute to reducing food loss and waste.

Four: preventing future pandemics is a collective and coherent responsibility! The five principles adopted by the One Health Tripartite are fundamental to strengthening management and sustainable investment for pandemic preparedness and response: Universality, Legitimacy, Inclusivity, Coherence and Accountability.

Five: smallholder and family farmers, women, youth and indigenous peoples must be at the centre of agri-food systems transformation!

Six: we urgently need to re-position agricultural support! Growth in the agricultural sector is the most significant sector to effectively reduce poverty and hunger in middle to low income countries. It is

vital that we collectively address the need for additional investments in agriculture, in Research and Development, in national development strategies, as well as bilateral and multilateral initiatives. Significant resource mobilization is required to end widespread hunger. The cost of investment is manageable.

Seven: coalitions and partnerships are key! Coalitions and partnerships will bring together game-changing solutions to address the complex set of agri-food system challenges to achieve the SDGs.

Eight: we need to be innovative and effective! In a world that has been further challenged by the pandemic and unprecedented socio-economic downturns, we are not acting fast enough or comprehensively enough or innovatively enough to deliver on our commitments.

We must produce more with less - with less natural resources and less emissions.

I declared 2020 the year of efficiency. 2021 was adding the year of effectiveness. 2022 will be adding the year of extraordinary. From efficiency to effectiveness, then brings the extraordinary. We need extraordinary thinking, efforts and ways of doing business - extraordinary efficiency and effectiveness!

Nine: we need a holistic approach – for people, planet and prosperity! We at FAO are determined to continue working with all Members, partners and stakeholders – Hand-in-Hand - to end poverty and hunger in all forms and dimensions, To protect the planet from degradation, to improve production and consumption, and to sustain natural resources under the overarch of the Four Betters, to ensure that human beings, plants, animals and all micro-organisms can prosper and co-exist in harmony with nature, for present and future generations to come!

I wish you a successful Council under the leadership of the new ICC, Mr Hogeveen.

Thank you.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Director-General, not only for your clear statement but also for your 28 months in office, for your leadership, showing in your statement what you have achieved and what you are planning to achieve, reflecting on crucial events of the last couple of years, reflection on the action taken but also to be taken.

To take a special moment we have now with the Food Systems Summit in the heart of the UN system, in the lead in the UN system, where FAO should be with all our organizations, especially in Rome, taking a lead and transforming our agri-food systems.

Thank you very much for your priorities, your nine priorities to be set for the next coming years. We have to all work hard and stand behind these priorities and I would also thank you that you made sure that your Organization was able to withstand the COVID-19 crisis pandemic and prioritized the health and safety of your staff and the Members. Because of this, we are now able to sit in this room and have our virtual meeting together, to do our work and to take decisive decisions on the future.

I think we should not only thank the people here, the Director-General and his staff here in Rome, but I think we should also thank all the FAO staff in Regional Offices and in the National Offices, because they have to do crucial important work over the last two years in very difficult circumstances. Let us give them, with a big applause, our support.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

Of course, we will reflect on everything what the Director-General said in the several Agenda items, which we are going to discuss today and in the course of this week.

Since the outset of our pandemic, four Council Sessions had to be held in a virtual format. However, as I said, we are now in a position to be able to sit together in this room and sit together in a virtual manner, be it in limited numbers to ensure equal participation, of course, to go ahead strongly for the work of our Members, for the work of our partners and for the work of FAO.

Of course, at the beginning of this meeting I have to do the formal elements of our meeting and, first of all, to draw your attention to the procedures to be followed during our hybrid meeting. For those who are participating in this Session physically, you may request the floor by pressing the button in front of you.

For those who are attending the Council in virtual mode, I would like to request you to follow the meeting as much as possible in a muted mode and to click only the unmute button when you are given the floor. As we know now, since two years, you can ask for the floor by “raising your hand”.

We had to make sure that we are equal here in the room and in virtual mode. Therefore, we have made a system, which automatically generates on the screen the list of speakers, both attending virtually as well as in the room. It will be done in a first come, first served basis but as we have tested, it will be possible to do this both here in the room as well as in the virtual mode. Everybody will, hopefully, as the system is working, be served first come basis.

I wish also to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. Furthermore, the European Union will be participating in the Drafting Committee in accordance with the aforementioned paragraphs of Article II of the FAO Constitution and on matters within its competence will be exercising on an alternative basis the membership rights of the European Union Member States elected to the Drafting Committee. The Declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document *CL168/INF/3*.

Again, I really would like to thank the Director-General for his presence here, for his strong commitment, for his leadership and also for giving us a strong input for our discussions during this Council, which is very much needed and appreciated. Thank you so much, Dr QU. You can stay, of course.

## **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Thank you for the opportunity. I am still working, not sleeping. Thank you.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

### **Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

#### **Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier**

#### **Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario**

*(CL 168/1; CL 168/INF/1; CL 168/INF/3; CL 168/INF/5)*

## **CHAIRPERSON**

The first Item on the Agenda is the *Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable*. As indicated in document *CL168/INF/5, Methods of Work for the 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council*, the special arrangements and procedures proposed for this hybrid 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council are submitted for the Council's endorsement under Agenda Item 1.

Under this Item, as outlined in paragraph 27 of the mentioned document, *Methods of Work for the 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council*, the Council is now invited to confirm that participation by virtual means constitutes attendance at the Session, which is held at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council. All the relevant information for the Agenda and Timetable of the Session is set out in document *CL168/1, CL168/INF/1* and *CL168/INF/3*.

When we look to the Provisional Timetable, I would like to propose that Item 3, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget*; Item 4, *-19: Building to Transform*; Item 5 *The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*; Item 12 *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*; Item 13 *Code of Conduct for Voting*; Item 15 *Selection And Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies* will be deliberated under their own items and not when we consider the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting, as well as the meeting of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

For each reference, the relevant paragraphs in the Reports of the Committees are included in the Provisional Timetable under their respective Items. In addition, following consultations, at the Informal Meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and building on the success and experience of Governing Body Sessions held since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of special items are prepared by written correspondence, which means that we try to facilitate the proceedings of this week, not having always oral statements.

I will give Italy the floor in a moment, but because of the fact that not all documents were delivered in time, for each item any Member of the Council, besides having given their written comments, can take the floor and, of course, give an oral presentation of the points of view on the different items, and you are seeing those items on the agenda.

**Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

I would like to kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union Presidency.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

On behalf of the European Union 27 Member States, we would like to thank FAO for its efforts to enable this hybrid meeting of the Council and we look forward to fruitful discussions this week. We would like to make the following comments on the written correspondence procedure that you also mentioned under this Agenda Item.

We fully acknowledge that the exceptional circumstances due to the pandemic requires special arrangements for this Council Session, including the use of the written correspondence procedure. We welcome this approach, however the very late availability of FAO's written responses on the relevant Agenda items is problematic. Members need sufficient time to examine these responses ahead of the Council Session, and this has not been possible.

This is a serious concern for us and we wish to flag this at the opening of the Session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I said just a moment ago, but also during the Informal Meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, it is the target and goal of the Secretariat to deliver all documents in time, in all six UN languages, because only then it will be possible for all delegations to prepare the Council in close cooperation and coordination with the Capitals.

Although we succeeded in more than 95 percent of the documents to be in time, we did not succeed for all documents. Certainly, for our next Council we will try to meet at least a 99 – and hopefully 100 percent. As I said, for those documents, which are proposed for the way to proceed, they will be dealt with in each of the Agenda Items, and of course some Members have already sent in written comments.

During that specific Agenda Item, all our Members can give their comments to those Agenda Items. Everybody has the availability to give input in written or oral form to those Agenda Items.

May I take it that the Council, based on what we just explained, also when it comes to the written correspondence procedure Agenda Items, approve the Agenda and the Timetable for the Session with suggestions made and the Timetable presented? Can I take that we can adopt this Agenda Item 1 and the Timetable?

I do not see any objections.

*It is so decided.*

*Approved*

*Approuvé*

*Aprobado*

**Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee**

**Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction**

**Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y designación del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we turn to Agenda Item 2, the *Election of Three Vice-Chairpersons and the Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following the consultations amongst the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts have been received:

His Excellency Md Shameen Ahsan from Bangladesh; Ms Tamara Villanueva from Chile; Ms Lynda Hayden from Australia. Can I take it that the Council would like to elect these three Members for...?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I could not even finish what I said. Thank you very much, it is very effective.

Then we go to the Drafting Committee: the following Members for the Drafting Committee have been proposed. First, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee is Mr Maarten de Groot of Canada. The Members of the Drafting Committee are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Canada, China, France, Luxembourg, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, and Sudan – and we are still waiting for a Member from the African Group to be appointed or proposed for the Drafting Committee. But can I take that we can already agree to the 12 Members of the Drafting Committee, and Mr Maarten de Groot as the Chair? Of course, the Drafting Committee will be meeting in a hybrid form as was already consulted with the Regions.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I see no objections. It is so decided.

*Approved*

*Approuvé*

*Aprobado*

Now we move to the more substantive part of our Council Meeting, and a very important part. May I remind all the Members of the Council to submit if they have a copy of their written statements in advance, if possible of course, to assist the Secretariat to draft the Conclusions as well as to assist the interpreters and verbatim reports to do their work. The statements should be committed to [FAO-Interpretation@fao.org](mailto:FAO-Interpretation@fao.org).

I would like to remind Members that, in light of amended modalities for this Session, the introductions to the Agenda Items have been circulated in written form to the Members and Observers of the Council in an effort to streamline the proceedings of this meeting.

We all have seen that we have a very full Agenda for this week, so we try to be as effective and efficient as possible. In such cases where there is a written introduction, the introduction of the Secretariat or Management will not be delivered during the meeting itself, but after the statements and input of the Members, Management will react to the Statements. The same will be followed when it comes to the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committee as well as the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), when it comes to the reactions of the Chairpersons.

Let us now turn our work to Agenda Item 3, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*.

When it comes to our method of working this week, of course we will continue with the procedure that we publish the Draft Conclusions on the screen. There will be a slight difference from the past

Councils because we try to do it when it comes to the Draft Conclusions after each break, so that we have the time to make sure that we have captured all the statements of the Members of the Council.

Although we have a more than excellent Secretariat, it is impossible to directly go to Draft Conclusions when we have finished our deliberations because those who speak last have the risk that their statements cannot be incorporated. For that reason, we do it a little bit later after each break. Of course, we try to finish all the Agenda Items with conclusions each day and will make sure that when the text is shown on the screen it will also be circulated in the room and verbally to the Members so that they can read it on their computers.

The ideal situation is that we could also circulate the Draft Conclusions in all six UN languages. Together with the Secretariat, we are working hard to make that possible, but it would not be possible during this Council, but we will try to do it in our next Council so that the moment we discuss our Draft Conclusions, they will be available in all six UN languages, as we live by the principle of multilingualism.

**Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23**

**Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023**

**Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23**

(CL 168/3)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin our substantive work with Agenda Item 3, the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-23*. The documents before the Council are CL168/3 and its ten *Annexes*.

The introduction of this Item is by Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy Planning and Resource Management, has been circulated to you, and the item was also discussed at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee, the 180<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance Committee, and the Joint Meeting.

**Introduction to Item 3: Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23**

*Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget*

The Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 is the final document in the established programme planning cycle (Basic Texts, Volume II, Part F) before implementation in the 2022-23 biennium.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference in June 2021 considered the Director-General's Strategic Framework 2022-31, and Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23.<sup>1</sup> The Conference approved the budgetary appropriations for the 2022-23 biennium and provided guidance on the substance of the proposals.<sup>2</sup>

The Council is requested to consider the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23, where the Director-General has reflected the Conference's decisions and guidance.

In line with Conference guidance, the updated results framework better articulates the linkage between the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by illustrating the specific SDG targets and indicators that would apply to each of the *betters*.

As requested, a further balance of the three pillars of sustainable development is achieved, including through the number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and allocation of budget between the *four betters*. The PPA "Achieving sustainable urban food systems" is shifted from *better life* to *better environment* in recognition of the critical importance of a resilient natural resource base to safeguarding and enhancing sustainable urban and peri-urban agri-food systems transformation.

The document also describes the streamlined and improved approach to outputs and their

<sup>1</sup> C 2021/7; C 2021/3; C 2021/3 Information Note 1; C 2021/3 Web Annex 10; C 2021/LIM/4

<sup>2</sup> C 2021/REP paragraphs 61-70 and CR 8/2021



measurement to more fully integrate Country Programming Frameworks in the strategic results framework.

To help move forward the Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as to further support science and innovation implementation in the field, additional resources of USD 1.2 million are transferred to the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Innovation on a cost neutral basis.

The Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting considered the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 as per Rule XXVIII.1 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and provided guidance to Council.

The Council is requested to consider the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 in line with Rule XXIV.3(d) and (l) of the GRO and Financial Regulation 4.5 and:

- a) approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter (*Table 2*);
- b) review the revised budgeted post establishment (*Table 3* and *Annex 8*);
- c) take note of the updated results frameworks (*Annex 1*); and
- d) take note of the updated estimates of extrabudgetary resources (*Table 4*).

Further budgetary transfers could arise during the 2022-23 biennium as implementation is underway. Within chapter transfers and transfers from one chapter to another required to implement the PWB will be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now pass the floor to the Members of the Council and afterwards I will give the floor to the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee for comments.

#### **Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)**

As I have two statements one for the Asia Group and the other for my country, with your indulgence and permission, I will deliver a joint statement followed by my country's national statement.

Republic of Korea has the honor to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We understand that this Item is for Council's approval on the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter, and all adjustments are based upon decisions and guidance from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference.

According to the proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), we take note of the Secretariat's efforts on further balancing among the three pillars of sustainable development and its commitment for achieving the *four betters* through the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs).

We also acknowledge a shift of one PPA "Achieving sustainable urban food systems" from 'Better Life' to 'Better Environment', which underlines the importance of achieving sustainable, equitable and resilient urban and peri-urban food systems.

The Asia Regional Group supports FAO's efforts for adoption of innovations and green technologies and investments including those for human resources. We underscore that capacity building and training for relevant stakeholders across food supply chains have to be in place in all rural, urban and peri-urban areas, both at national and local levels in order to accelerate transformation for sustainable agri-food systems. In this regard, we do support an additional USD 1.2 million to be transferred in order to move forward the Science and Innovation Strategy and strengthen its implementation on the ground.

Finally, we encourage FAO to further streamline and fully integrate Country Programming Frameworks in the Strategic Results Framework, and look forward to receiving subsequent updates about the progress.

Now I will proceed with my national statement.

Republic of Korea aligns itself to the Asia Group's joint statement as it was just delivered, and

expresses its general satisfaction towards this document since it reflects most of the comments which were raised by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference. This document is particularly significant in terms of its implementation as it will be comprised of the UN Food Systems Summit results and the continuous efforts for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of the major points that were made in the Asia Group's joint statement, we would like to share following observations.

Firstly, Republic of Korea takes note of the multiple strategies and initiatives, which will lead to a substantive implementation of the Strategic Framework during the coming biennium. We welcome and express our great interest in FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and Science and Innovation Strategy. While we consider FAO's work on these two Strategies timely, we also acknowledge that there are diverse perspectives among Members and partners. Thus, we request the Secretariat to sufficiently consult with all Member states and relevant stakeholders during the whole process.

For the transfer of USD 1.2 million to two Offices, as this transfer will be made in advance from the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy, we request the Secretariat to make sure that this budget be used for essential work with regard to the Strategy.

Secondly, Republic of Korea regards an updated Results Framework is well harmonized with quantitative and qualitative indicators for each PPA. Meanwhile, we recognize that some Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets for 2023 and 2025 such as accelerators in the Objective 5 will be set by the next year. Since we understand it is a somewhat peculiar situation that needs some time for collecting baseline data, we request the Secretariat to make clear targets, which can keep its ambition high being mindful of concrete data and evidence within the timeline.

To conclude, with these comments, the Republic of Korea endorses the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

As we discussed also in the Informal Meetings with the Chairpersons and the Vice-Chairpersons, we would like to give the floor first to the Representatives of the Regions to avoid further repetitions.

#### **Mr Gabriel MBAIROBE (Cameroon)**

I deliver this on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Regional Group notes that guidance and decisions of the 2021 Conference have been well-considered in the Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23, with respect and emphasis put on the strengthening in the area of science and innovations and further work planning. We also have thoroughly examined the revised proposal for appropriations in the PWB put before the Council for approval.

For Africa, the priority events in the three Regional Initiatives, namely, accelerating actions by Member Countries in the promotion of sustainable and innovative practices and principles of production and post-production processes, and threatening resilience among vulnerable farming communities and pastoralists. We note the conclusion of these in the programmatic highlights including the *four betters*, the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strategies, initiatives and actions supporting the Strategic Framework and the results framework.

With regard to the operationalization of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 that ensures more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, we are looking forward to discussing further how to consider the outcomes of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in its implementation, while promoting strategies on climate change and on science and innovation, as well as maximizing of key corporate initiatives concerning the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and the Food Coalition.

Concerning the evolution of budgeted posts by location and category stemming from the updated organizational structure approved by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference, we endorse the revised budgeted post establishment. We expect an update on the functioning of the two Committees, Women and Youth, that are established within the Office of the Director-General. We would appreciate if reporting on this important information is done in the Mid-Term Review and the Programme Implementation Report.

With regard to finance, programmatic and operational work, we support the consent on the integrated budget that brings together all sources of funds made available through Members' assessed contributions, as well as voluntary contributions from Members and other resource partners to form a consolidated basis of means for the implementation of the programme of work. This will generate a high impact.

As far as the adjusted 2022-23 budgetary proposal by chapter and funding sources (*Annex 5*), we approve the new budgetary chapter distribution as revised on the basis of the Conference approved net appropriations. In relation to the results framework and Output indicators and targets for strategic objectives, we expect their impact to be reported as part of the Programme Implementation Report in 2022.

We also take note of the estimates of the extra-budgetary resources, while encouraging Members to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the programme implementation and achievement of efforts and initiatives.

In closing we also note that Financial Regulation 4.5 for budgetary transfers arising as a result of further work planning, as well as from the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation.

**Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union Presidency.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the Republic of North Macedonia and San Marino align themselves with this statement. We take note of the proposed Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 as reflected in particular in the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter and the revised budgeted post establishment. We recall that the PWB 2022-23 has been adopted by the FAO Conference. Adjustments in particular to the PWB results framework should therefore remain limited.

We reiterate the importance of a better balance among the three pillars of sustainable development, the Programme Priority Areas and the budget allocation. We encourage FAO to continue working towards that objective in the budget implementation. Indeed, further steps are needed to adequately follow-up on the guidance provided by the FAO Conference at its latest Session.

We request assurance from Management that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative will have no further impact on the agreed Regular Budget. We note with appreciation the better alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system, in particular the improved integration of the Country Programming Framework in the updated results framework 2022-25.

On the updated results framework, we would point out that more work is needed, especially on properly defining the output indicators. We would in particular like to have more information about the way to determine to what extent the Programme Priority Area *Achieving sustainable urban food systems* (BE4) will take account the environmental dimensions of sustainable development considering the SDG indicator and output indicators mentioned in *Annex 1 Updated results framework 2022-25* to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (document *CL 168/3*).

On adjustments on the budgetary chapter distribution, we also note changes in the budget allocation as regards Functional Objectives *outreach; information and communications technology; FAO governance, oversight and direction; and efficient and effective administration*, while these changes are rather small, more information on the rationale behind them would be welcome.

Moreover, on possible further budgetary transfers, within the overall zero nominal growth budgetary envelope that may be deemed necessary during the biennium, we wish to stress the importance of handling any such transfers in accordance with the FAO's Financial Regulations, especially Regulation 4.5 as mentioned in the referenced document *CL 168/3*.

Our final comment concerns the data on the voluntary contributions, both received and spent by FAO. In the interests of transparency and accountability, and in accordance with best practice in the UN system, we encourage FAO to ensure that those data are available and accessible to Members.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia notes the changes to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23, which have been made to address requests by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Conference, and we respectfully offer the following comments.

Firstly, as reflected in paragraph 9 (k) of the Report from the recent Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees, Australia highlights the importance of documents using multilaterally agreed language and concepts, especially from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also reiterate that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Secondly, during the Conference many countries, including Australia, emphasised the importance of partnerships and the value of working together to meet the SDGs by 2030. We highlight that strengthened partnerships, such as the Tripartite Plus arrangements, are instrumental in achieving the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and we consider further articulation by Management of the role of partnership arrangements in this regard is needed.

Thirdly, we highlight the importance of ensuring FAO outputs are balanced and accommodate a range of innovative solutions, in order to drive transformative change in line with national needs and circumstances. We highlight paragraph 9 (j) of the recent Joint Meeting Report and reiterate the importance of clearly explaining concepts and avoiding the use of descriptor language – such as Geographical Indications - which does not enjoy consensus and which may result in the FAO undertaking activities which operate in a limitative way in terms of the countries they usefully serve. We also emphasise the utmost importance of robust science-based decision-making and of ensuring individual national views do not adversely affect the core tenet of the FAO's normative policy and standard setting work.

Fourthly, Australia welcomed that the Strategic Framework recognises the fundamental role of transparent and rules-based trade in achieving food security and we highlight the ongoing importance of both recognising and clearly articulating the role of global, regional and local trade in addressing malnutrition.

Finally, on extra-budgetary requirements, Australia recognises the need for flexible, lightly-earmarked or unearmarked contributions but we note the challenges for Members to pivot in this way. As Australia did for *Better Production 3* (BP3): One Health, we consider it may be easier for Members to contribute funding towards one of the *four betters*, or perhaps a subset of PPAs, and we recommend Management explore and promote alternative funding modalities such as these to attract more flexible funding.

With these comments, we endorse the PWB 2022-2023.

**Mme Elissa GOLBERG (Canada)**

Je remercie le Directeur général pour ses remarques et réflexions sur son mandat à ce jour. Pour ceux qui ne me connaissent pas, je suis Elissa Golberg, la nouvelle Ambassadrice désignée du Canada et je viens d'arriver. Je me réjouis de cette occasion, en fait, de m'adresser dès le début de mon mandat à un organe directeur qui est très important pour le Canada. Pour ceux qui aimeraient en savoir un peu plus, j'ai une vaste expérience multilatérale dans des portefeuilles de l'humanitaire, du développement durable, de la diplomatie économique, et de la paix et de la sécurité, et j'attends avec impatience des discussions plus approfondies avec mes collègues dans les semaines à venir.

***Continues in English***

Today however, I will limit myself to highlighting three areas of priority focus from my delegation that relate to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). First the long tale that we can expect from this pandemic, the importance of ambitious climate action and how science, standards and a strong rule-space system contribute to fostering innovative approaches to food security.

First, as Dr QU Dongyu noted, we are operating in a complex geo-strategic environment, which COVID-19 has only amplified. This means that all of us as global citizens, need to bring positive solutions to shared challenges. For the purposes of this Body, the pandemic has rightly put a spotlight back on the vital importance of global food security and its relationship to equity, dignity and sustainable and inclusive development.

Given the socio-economic tale that we can expect this pandemic to have, and its implications for the Sustainable Development Goals, all partners and stakeholders, irrespective of their age, gender, ability or geography, will need to constructively contribute to achieve sustainable food systems.

For us to succeed, we are going to have to have innovative collaborations amongst governments at all levels, the private sector, scientists, family farmers, indigenous peoples, women and excluded or disadvantaged groups. For its part, Canada has been committed to demonstrating its solidarity with vulnerable populations impacted by the pandemic since its outbreak, and enabling access to nutritious food. We have contributed over USD 22 million to FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme to-date, and that is part of a wider contribution of USD 1.7 billion in COVID response efforts.

My second point is related to climate change which like the pandemic, impacts everybody everywhere, albeit distinctly. Earlier this year for example severe drought affected farms across the Canadian prairies and contributed to more than 6 000 forest fires across the country – and right now, flooding from extreme weather events near Canada's West Coast, has wiped out a number of farms and disrupted food supplies.

For Canadians, these events have brought home again the devastating impact that climate change has on agriculture and on livelihoods, and we know that it is the poorest and the most vulnerable who suffer the most from climate-related stresses and crises.

We need therefore to explore all solutions and to follow the science and the evidence, including traditional knowledge. Farmers across the world need access to all the necessary tools appropriate to their context, from agroecology to biotechnology.

Moreover, and third, an open rules-based and non-discriminatory and predictable international trade system is also critical to enhancing resilience to food systems and access to global value chains. We need to continue to facilitate the modernization of our trade practices, recognizing the contribution that FAO makes in this regard through its normative and knowledge work.

As we work on these three important priorities, Canada's efforts will be underpinned by deliberate attention to supporting the FAO to be well positioned organizationally, including a commitment to management excellence, effective controllership and efficiency, learning and innovation and the promotion of a work environment that fosters gender equality, diversity and respect. Canada looks forward to fruitful deliberations of this session to the Council and I look forward to working with all colleagues in the years ahead.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Canada and of course very much welcome Ms Elissa Goldberg here in Rome. We all look forward to working with you closely.

### **Sr. Dastis QUECEDO (España)**

Quisiera en primer lugar, manifestar el agradecimiento de España a la FAO por la organización de este 168.º período de sesiones del Consejo en formato híbrido, después de tantas reuniones virtuales con la consiguiente pérdida de eficiencia en las negociaciones. Verdaderamente, es una gran satisfacción estar aquí en esta renovada sala. Confío en que la presencia física ayude a construir entre todos un mejor ambiente de comunicación en nuestros debates y un mayor éxito en nuestras negociaciones.

De cara al futuro trabajo de FAO, me gustaría resaltar algunas cuestiones que merecen una especial atención para España, además de las ya expuestas por la presidencia de la Unión Europea, que naturalmente suscribimos. En primer lugar, me gustaría subrayar la necesidad de prestar especial atención al seguimiento de los resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios en colaboración con otras instituciones, entre las que no quiero dejar de resaltar, el

Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) y su Grupo de alto nivel de expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición (GANESAN). De entre los numerosos cometidos que tiene ante sí FAO en los próximos años, quisiera resaltar alguno de especial relevancia para mi país, en los que apoyamos la labor de FAO. Se trata de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación, la digitalización en la producción agroalimentaria, pesquera y acuícola; la gestión triplemente sostenible e inteligente de los recursos naturales, particularmente los recursos hídricos; el apoyo a la política pesquera sostenible, la política de protección de datos y la estrategia basada en el enfoque “una salud”.

Finalmente, no podemos obviar en el marco de trabajo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, el multilingüismo, por el que España aboga decididamente. Como parte de la riqueza cultural de las Naciones Unidas y la igualdad de oportunidades entre sus Miembros. Por ello, debemos asegurar siempre, la disponibilidad de documentación con la antelación suficiente para poder analizarla con la necesaria profundidad en los seis idiomas oficiales de Naciones Unidas

### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradecemos la propuesta de ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto (PTP) para 2022-23 presentada por el Director General, que confirma su visión de una FAO empeñada al logro de un mundo mejor, sin pobreza, sin hambre, ni malnutrición y comprometido con la protección del medio ambiente, un crecimiento económico responsable y con la promoción de la equidad.

Para generar el compromiso de los países con la visión del Director General, es primordial que el documento sea un esfuerzo conjunto entre la Secretaría de la FAO y los Miembros, como muy bien lo expresara la delegación de la República de Corea. Con ese espíritu, celebramos que los presentes ajustes al PTP reflejen decisiones y orientaciones brindadas por la Conferencia y el Consejo de la FAO en pos de su mejora y apropiación de parte de los Miembros. En especial, el mayor equilibrio entre los tres pilares del desarrollo sostenible y la utilización de conceptos, enfoques y lenguaje acordados multilateralmente. En cuanto a la redistribución de consignaciones, nos alegra ver un fortalecimiento en la esfera de la ciencia y la innovación, vinculado a la nueva estrategia y la centralidad de esta temática en el Marco Estratégico y la visión del Director General para la FAO, que la Argentina comparte. No podremos derrotar el desafío de producir más con menos respetando el medio ambiente sin innovación. No podemos seguir apoyando sistemas insostenibles e ineficientes, como por ejemplo a través de subsidios distorsivos.

Creemos, de todas formas, que aún existe margen de mejora para el PTP para 2022-23 y Anexos. En esa línea, persiste la necesidad de dar claridad a conceptos como la “transformación azul”. Desde el Comité del Programa, a principio de este año, hemos hablado sobre la necesidad de dar claridad al concepto de lo “azul”. Es claro que la terminología “azul” proviene de ideales que a veces no corresponden con el verdadero color de muchos de nuestros sistemas acuáticos y entendemos que muchos países se refieren de esa manera a sus propios sistemas acuáticos y nos parece absolutamente respetable.

Por lo tanto, celebramos lo acordado en el pasado Comité del Programa en cuanto a la necesidad de que, en la esfera programática prioritaria, “mejor producción”, se sustituya el concepto de “sistemas alimentarios azules” por el término “sistemas alimentarios acuáticos”. Ello en el entendido que, de esta manera, no solamente estaríamos definiendo el alcance del concepto “azul”, que lo incluye, sino que estaríamos clarificando el título de la esfera programática prioritaria. A fin de ser coherentes, mismo cambio debería realizarse en el marco de resultados revisados.

Habiendo mencionado el documento *CL168/3 Anexo I, Marco de resultados para el 2022-25 actualizado*, quisiéramos reiterar lo expresado en el pasado Comité del Programa y Reunión Conjunta con el Comité de Finanzas, sobre la introducción de referencias a las indicaciones geográficas, vinculadas a la producción sostenible. Especialmente bajo el área programática prioritaria *Mejor Producción 1 (MP1): Innovación para una producción agrícola sostenible*. Al respecto, llama la atención el lenguaje prescriptivo en la presentación de las indicaciones geográficas, siendo que no existen fundamentos acordados multilateralmente, ni antecedentes normativos ni científicos para tal vinculación. Promover las indicaciones geográficas, como instrumento para mejorar y cito del documento mencionado, “los sistemas de producción y protección de los cultivos o mejorar la eficiencia en el uso de los recursos en la producción y la salud ganadera”, parece forzado, no

adecuado, ni acorde con lo acordado en foros como la Organización de Mundial de Comercio (OMC) o como la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI).

Revindicamos a las indicaciones geográficas, como elementos de *marketing* y protección de marcas. De hecho, mi país, la Argentina, es un gran usuario de esta herramienta como *global trader*, pero de ninguna manera podemos aceptar la vinculación pretendida por la FAO, dado que no corresponde ni con el artículo 22 del Acuerdo sobre los Aspectos de los Derechos de Propiedad Intelectual relacionados con el Comercio (ADPIC), ni a la definición que hace la OMPI sobre indicaciones geográficas.

En efecto, para la Argentina en base al acuerdo ADPIC y a la OMPI, las indicaciones geográficas son un instrumento vinculado a la propiedad intelectual que destaca cualidades y características de un producto que se deben esencialmente a su lugar de origen y no precisamente a una forma de producción sustentable. La indicación geográfica cumple fundamentalmente una función de identificación. No consideramos, por lo tanto, que las indicaciones geográficas, sean un instrumento pertinente para mejorar la producción, eficiencia y productividad y menos bajo el área programática prioritaria MP1. La mejora de la producción y la innovación en los sistemas alimentarios, debería enfocarse desde una perspectiva distinta al incremento de los derechos de propiedad intelectual sobre la producción de alimentos, que puede desequilibrar balances muy delicados en el marco de acuerdos multilaterales vigentes, como el acuerdo ADPIC o TRIPS, en inglés.

Recordamos también, que este es un marco de resultado para implementar un marco estratégico, que no menciona en ningún momento la vinculación pretendida. Por ello, solicitamos que nos concentremos en los consensos y no incorporemos aquí cuestiones conflictivas que podrían evitar la implementación del Marco de resultados y su PTP. No debemos traer a este plan cuestiones que merecen una mayor discusión científica y técnica y que corresponden a otros foros y no a Roma. Conforme ello, proponemos que el informe del Consejo solicite a la FAO, una nueva redacción que evite el lenguaje controversial, prescriptivo y sin fundamentos de ningún tipo y, así, refleje el debate suscitado en los órganos de gobernanza de la FAO sobre esta cuestión. Australia, lo expresó de manera excelente.

Por otro lado, y con esto estoy terminado, nosotros notamos que se hicieron ajustes, a fin de balancear la asignación del presupuesto entre las cuatro mejoras. Aunque a nuestro entender, no es suficiente para evitar el desbalance programático que se genera por las contribuciones voluntarias etiquetadas y, por ende, no responde al pedido que muchos países realizamos a lo largo de este año. Aguardamos, con atención, el informe de la implementación sobre la ejecución del programa de la FAO venidero a fin de abordar esta cuestión con más detalle. Permítame hacer una referencia al *Coordination Hub* que, claramente, debería estar vinculado con los diferentes programas, agencias y fondos como lo explicó la Asesora Jurídica en el Marco del Comité del Programa y la reunión conjunta. Con estos comentarios, la Argentina, respetuosa de las diferentes posiciones nacionales, solicita la revisión del marco de resultados a fin de permitir la aprobación de nuestro país de los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

Good day to all my colleagues and a warm welcome to our new colleague from Canada, Ambassador Elissa Goldberg.

The United States would like to reiterate our appreciation for FAO's efforts to maintain a flat, nominal budget – as well as FAO's focus on applying science and technology and innovation to agriculture to facilitate sound science and evidence-based advice to policy-makers and farmers around the world.

We also want to highlight the important role of open, transparent markets and trade, recognizing that well-functioning markets at the local, regional and international levels both for food security and sustainable, resilient food systems. They are also key to expanding income opportunities, stabilizing food supply, ensuring food affordability, minimizing food loss and waste and improving dietary diversity and nutrition.

I would like to underscore a couple of points raised by some earlier speakers. First, I would like to join our Australian colleagues to emphasize the primacy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

specifically the need for FAO documents to remain rooted in the SDGs and to use internationally agreed language without qualifiers to SDG targets or indicators because the internationally agreed language was negotiated and is amply clear.

Furthermore, I would like to echo points made by our Australian and Argentinian colleagues regarding the linking of geographical indicators (GIs) and improved agricultural production, as shown in *Annex I*. The United States rejects any implication that there is evidence to support the promotion of GIs for the purpose of improving sustainable crop and livestock production.

Finally, as I said at the 188th Session of the Finance Committee, the United States fully supports FAO's developing a Strategy on Climate Change. The 26th UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) showed us we can make progress on this difficult issue and we must build on the decisive efforts of our leaders in Glasgow to highlight the food and agricultural sectors as part of the solution. We look forward to continued engagement with the FAO in the development of this Strategy.

**Mr Arnaldo de Baena FERNANDES (Brazil)**

At the last Session of the Programme Committee the Brazilian delegation made some comments and observations to the document Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. We take this opportunity to highlight a few aspects of our previous intervention.

First of all, we would like to stress once again the importance of using multilaterally agreed concepts and language. A few weeks ago, we noted with concern, the occurrence in the document and its *Annex I* of expressions such as “blue transformation,” as well as the reference to geographical indicators – which has been corrected, as addressed by the report of the Programme Committee and it was mentioned by delegations at this Session of the Council.

On *Section C*, we expressed our concern about the insufficiency of the tailored information on the development of the Strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation. For Brazil, it is paramount that those initiatives be designed closely with Members in an inclusive and transparent process of consultations. In this context, we express our thanks for the realization of the consultation with Members last Friday.

Regarding the reference to UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) follow-up in the Programme of Work and Budget, Brazil would like to highlight the central role played by the high-level political forum in the UN system, following-up the advancements towards achieving the SDGs and the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and indivisible way.

In order truly not to create new and duplicated structures in the follow-up, the proposed coordination hub should have enhanced synergy and a more direct reporting responsibility towards the high-level political forum in New York, taking into account that the Food Systems Summit and its post-event actions are an integral part of our efforts within the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In Rome, as defined in international pathways and in the emerging coalitions, the post-FSS role of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) should be in supporting countries to achieve their national commitments and goals towards more sustainable food systems.

On budgetary and post adjustments, we support the proposal in order to strengthen the Offices of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Innovation. Brazil believes that the emphasis of the new structure shall lay upon building effectiveness to the neglected concept of transfer of technologies. The role of the new strategy and the Offices, in our view, is to support developed countries in their strategic decisions, taking into account that technological packages may be very expensive and disengaging to the food systems different realities.

On the updated estimates of extra-budgetary resources, Brazil notes with concern the large and growing proportion of extra-budgetary donations in FAO's total budget, which has reached about 70 percent, as well as a tendency to concentrate resources on the *better life* PPA (Programme Priority Area) which will receive more than 37 percent of the total budget. Nine percent of these PPA's resources derive from extra-budgetary donations. In line with the decisions of the Conference, Brazil deems it important to address details behind such concentration of resources and to clarify if voluntary contributions are flexible, lightly earmarked or unearmarked.



**Sr. Edward Francisco CENTENO GADEA (Nicaragua)**

Queremos dar un saludo a nuestro amigo, Qu Dongyu, Director General de la FAO, a quien felicitamos y reconocemos su excelente labor al frente de este importante Organismo. Agradecemos la presentación del documento sobre los Ajustes al programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23, el cual está centrado en los objetivos y metas que pretendemos alcanzar a nivel nacional, regional y mundial en cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Acogemos con agrado que, en el documento Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto, hayan sido consideradas las orientaciones y recomendaciones emanadas de la Conferencia y que, entre estas, lo relacionado a la mejora para integrar el Marco de Programación por País (MPP) y alcanzar más y mejores resultados. Este enfoque permitirá una mayor armonización entre los planes y resultados nacionales, con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS) y las esferas programáticas prioritarias (EPP), avanzando en la realización del Marco estratégico para 2022-31.

Reconocemos que los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto nuevamente se gestionarán sin variación nominal, como fue aprobado por la Conferencia. Sin embargo, es importante señalar que, a la luz del incremento de la crisis climática, los efectos del COVID-19, los conflictos y sus repercusiones, es necesario aumentar los esfuerzos de mayor financiación, alternativa y flexible, dirigidas a los programas de iniciativas en los países y lograr una recuperación inclusiva y accesible para todos en cumplimiento con el Marco estratégico para 2022-31 y la ejecución del plan de trabajo integrado. Instamos a la FAO a que prosiga con sus esfuerzos para destinar recursos adicionales en apoyo a la protección y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales, puesto que se trata de los mayores desafíos que enfrenta la humanidad. Coincidimos en que la ciencia, la innovación y la tecnología revisten un papel fundamental como aceleradores transversales en el proceso de transformación de los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles. En este sentido, todas las estrategias relacionadas a la innovación y tecnología deben tomar en cuenta un oportuno análisis de riesgo basado en principios científicos y considerar, además, las brechas tecnológicas existentes.

Desde Nicaragua, respaldamos la reasignación de 1,2 millones de USD para fortalecer la ciencia y la innovación y lograr impulsar una estrategia, la cual debe centrarse en su implementación sobre el terreno y reflejarse en apoyo concreto a las necesidades específicas de los países miembros. En otras palabras, pasar de los conocimientos a la acción.

Reiteramos la importancia de utilizar en cualquier documento relacionado con el PTP, los términos y conceptos de la Agenda 2030, aquellos acordados multilateralmente y en particular, los acordados por los Órganos Rectores de la FAO. Esto, facilitaría el buen desarrollo de los procesos de consulta y discusión. Con estos comentarios, Nicaragua aprueba el documento *Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23* e instamos al equipo directivo a supervisar sistemáticamente su desempeño y solicitamos, además, recibir oportunamente informes sobre los avances al respecto.

**Mr Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)**

Distinguished delegates, as I am taking the floor for the first time during the Council, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my esteemed colleagues to nominate Bangladesh as one of the Council Members during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Conference.

My delegation truly values your cooperation and guidance and would like to express our firm commitment to work with all of you in the days ahead. Bangladesh fully aligns itself with the comments made by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Regional Group on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

As such, we support the efforts in attaining Zero Hunger and improving the livelihoods of people through *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*. Having said this, Bangladesh would like to re-emphasize the following two points. While we appreciate FAO Management's commitment to manage the assessment within the flat nominal budget, I would like to reiterate the importance of the flexible, lightly earmarked and unearmarked voluntary contributions, as highlighted by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference and also by the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee. Bangladesh encourages the Members to contribute more flexible,

lightly earmarked and unearmarked voluntary contributions, particularly to address the challenges of the increasingly volatile environment.

At the same time, FAO Management may find out a preferable mechanism to attract more flexible voluntary funding to implement the Strategic Framework and inform the Members about the initiatives in the upcoming Governing Body meetings. Secondly, we believe that Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) are at the centre of the implementation of the Strategic Framework and Programme Priority Areas at the country level.

In this regard, we welcome the Director-General's proposed Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 that aim to promote a more holistic and coordinated approach in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges raising for agriculture and food systems in these challenging times. At the same time, we would like to emphasize to integrate the CPFs more with the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) goals and targets, as well as national plan documents and priorities on the one side, while linking this with the results framework, on the other.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

I would like to welcome you to your seat, as well as new colleagues who just arrived and, actually, I wanted to limit my intervention by this welcoming remark but, unfortunately, I also have to make a point of order as well.

You started our discussion with the notion that the representatives of the Regional Groups must be given priority when they address the audience. Some countries, they moved this right to speak first to the representative of the Regional Organizations.

As I understand, within FAO we have the European Regional Group which does not 100 percent consist, I would say only 50 percent consists, of the representative of the European Union. So, my plea to the Secretariat is to follow the order - we either give priorities to the Regional Groups or we give priority to the Unions, be it African Union, be it European Union. In my part of the world, we have a Eurasian Economic Union.

If I may now, I will turn to the basis of my intervention under agenda Item 3 and I will switch to Russian.

***Continues in Russian***

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation, based on the decisions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference, to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23, which is called upon to reflect the closer link between the main areas of work, the *four betters*.

I would also like to note the very succinct overview of the activities of the Organization in this year, as well as the plans for the future which were described by the Director-General of the Organization, Dr QU Dongyu.

He also highlighted the importance of the support the FAO provides for Member States in the context of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity, as well as of course, the Summit of Leaders of the G20 in Rome and the UN Food Systems Summit.

These Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget reflect these priorities. We would also like to note the course taken by the Secretariat to cover the adjustments through internal optimization and savings, which will allow to keep the budget at the approved level without increasing assessed contributions of Members. This practice is a sign of the high effectiveness of the work of the Organization. We also support the call of the Secretariat regarding the need for contributions to be paid on time and in full.

In addition, we note favourably the efforts of the Secretariat to expand the financial base of the FAO's activity, including by developing mechanisms to increase voluntary unearmarked or lightly earmarked financing, as well as by working with the private sector.

As previous delegations have said, including the respective representatives of Australia and of Argentina, the US and Brazil, we would like to draw attention to the need to use, in programmatic and budgetary documents of the FAO, agreed terminology and approaches in the area of agriculture, which will ensure consensus support from Members.

With these comments and observations, the Russian Federation supports and is not against the approval of the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Russian Federation, for your remarks and certainly, we will take into account your point of order.

#### **Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Like others, I would like to welcome new colleagues such as the Canadian Ambassador Ms Elissa Golberg to this Council and to Rome.

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement.

The Nordic countries welcome that the 2030 Agenda is now at the center of the Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), including the references to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets and indicators in the Results Framework of the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs). We also note that there is a clear link under each of the *Four Betters* to SDG indicators and impact, as asked for by the Conference. We underline how important a systemic approach is for the achievement of the SDGs, appreciating their interconnectedness. This will enable FAO to deliver technical knowledge and important normative work, according to its mandate and in line with its comparative advantages, to promote sustainable transformation of food systems, with the ultimate aim of reaching SDG2 and realizing Agenda 2030.

We note that the PPA on achieving sustainable Urban Food Systems is proposed to be moved from Chapter 4 to Chapter 3. We urge FAO to continue working with all three dimensions of sustainability throughout the PWB and under all chapters, so that this also is reflected in every PPA.

We reiterate FAO's leading role in forest matters in the wider UN system as well as FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture. A continued focus on the One Health approach, including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), as well as drawing lessons applicable to other areas from that approach, is also something we want to highlight.

We note that for the coming biennium, the voluntary funding is expected to make up to 70 percent of the budget. We recognize the challenge this poses for the Organization. We recommend FAO to improve the way the Organization handles voluntary funds, so that more flexible funding can be attracted to deliver on its mandate, improve efficiency and achieve lower transaction costs. In this regard, we encourage FAO to keep building trust with resource partners and exploring different funding modalities, while showcasing the possible efficiency gains.

On Section IIB – country level planning – we appreciate the link to the UN Resident Coordinator system, where FAO can play its role within the collective UN effort to support countries reach their national goals with national ownership. As the national pathways that were presented at the Food Systems Summit will be implemented at national level, we look forward to seeing how these processes can be mutually reinforcing.

Concerning the proposed adjustment to increase the budget for the Offices of the Chief Scientist and Office of Innovation with additional USD 1.2 million– we recognize that science and evidence-based solutions are fundamental to a knowledge organization such as FAO. We can support the proposed adjustment of the budget and appreciate that no reduction has been made to the budget of the Office of the Inspector-General and Evaluation Offices.

To conclude, on Chapter 6 in the Results Framework, we welcome the indicator 6.1.C, which takes into account gender aspects. We trust this, among other initiatives on gender, will improve the ability of FAO to include gender equality at all levels of its work, including at project level.

With these comments, we endorse the proposed adjustments to the PWB.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres, et je souhaite à cet égard fêter le 30<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la FAO, un événement extrêmement important pour cette Organisation. Je souhaite aussi me féliciter de ce que nous puissions enfin nous réunir en personne dans cette enceinte, car c'est très important pour avoir des négociations efficaces.

Nous remercions la FAO et prenons note des ajustements apportés pour tenir compte des demandes et observations exprimées par les Membres lors de l'examen, puis de l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget.

Premièrement, la France rappelle l'importance pour la FAO d'assurer un équilibre entre les trois piliers du développement, et elle se félicite à cet égard du rééquilibrage du budget ordinaire en faveur du pilier «*environnemental*», qui était initialement sous-doté par rapport aux autres postes de dépenses. Nous regrettons toutefois que le pilier «*environnemental*» demeure toujours le moins bien doté des quatre améliorations du Programme de travail et budget, notamment par rapport au pilier consacré à la production. La France souhaite que ce rééquilibrage budgétaire se poursuive afin que, premièrement, le pilier «*amélioration de la production*» soit davantage rationalisé et, deuxièmement, que le pilier «*amélioration de l'environnement*» soit mieux doté. Il convient que la FAO consacre davantage de moyens pour répondre à l'urgence climatique, à l'urgence de l'érosion de la biodiversité et de la dégradation de notre environnement, notamment en accompagnant la transition vers des systèmes alimentaires résilients et durables.

Deuxièmement, nous souhaiterions aussi recevoir confirmation que l'Initiative Main dans la main n'aura pas d'impact supplémentaire sur le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation puisque dans l'idée d'origine, cette initiative devait être financée par des contributions volontaires.

Troisièmement, la France invite la FAO à s'inspirer des meilleurs standards en matière de transparence dans l'allocation des ressources et de leur origine, tels que pratiqués dans le système onusien, comme par exemple, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), qui produit ses données en accès libre. Cela renforcera la confiance et permettra d'autant plus de disposer de contributions volontaires.

Quatrièmement, la France s'interroge sur le respect du mandat de la FAO quant au troisième domaine du pilier «*amélioration des conditions de vie*», relatif aux situations d'urgence agricole et alimentaire. La FAO indique que ce poste de dépenses consiste à fournir, je cite: «...une assistance d'urgence à l'appui des moyens d'existence et de la nutrition[...], dans le cadre d'une approche axée sur l'interface entre aide humanitaire et développement...». La description de ce poste de dépenses semble s'éloigner du mandat de la FAO et chevaucher le mandat d'autres organisations des Nations Unies, en premier lieu celui du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM). Nous remercions la FAO de ces informations au sujet de ce pilier pour s'assurer que l'Organisation agisse dans le respect de son mandat, qui n'est pas celui d'un organisme humanitaire.

Cinquièmement, je souhaite rappeler toute l'importance que nous attachons aux indications géographiques, point évoqué par d'autres collègues. Le concept des indications géographiques est défini par l'Accord sur les droits de propriété intellectuelle liés au commerce. Il existe 8 608 indications géographiques dans le monde. Les indications géographiques sont un outil performant pour la préservation de la biodiversité, au travers de cahiers des charges. Plusieurs études scientifiques en attestent et nous les avons transmises lors de la Réunion conjointe.

Il faut donc sensibiliser les producteurs, d'où l'importance du travail de la FAO. Comme je l'ai indiqué, c'est un sujet qui a été longuement débattu lors de la Réunion conjointe. Un langage de compromis a été trouvé et nous espérons que nous pourrons nous y tenir. Je rappelle également, que la notion de «*climate-smart agriculture*» (agriculture intelligente) ne fait pas l'objet d'une définition précise. Enfin,

comme d'autres collègues, je souhaite rappeler l'importance pour la FAO de s'en tenir à du langage agréé, notamment à propos des objectifs de développement durable.

Enfin, et en conclusion, je souhaite saluer les interprètes puisque je n'ai pas encore eu l'occasion de le faire et de les assurer de notre soutien alors que leurs conditions de travail ont été particulièrement dégradées durant l'année qui s'est écoulée.

**Ms Agnes Rosari DEWI (Indonesia)**

Allow me to share the screen for the statement from our head of delegation, the Secretary-General of our Ministry of Agriculture.

***His Excellency Kasdi SUBAGYONO (Video Statement)***

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Korea delegation on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We wish to extend our appreciation to FAO's Management and the Finance and Programme Committees, and would like to emphasize the following points:

Firstly, Indonesia welcomes the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-2023, recognizing the critical importance these documents play in operationalizing FAO's 2022 to 2031 Strategic Framework.

Second, we appreciate the efforts that are being made by the Secretariat to ensure stronger linkages and a better balance among the three pillars of Sustainable Development and the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) under the *four betters*, along with the vision *leaving no one behind*.

Third, in principle, Indonesia can agree with the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as well as the revised budgeted post establishment.

Fourth, we particularly support the continued priority given to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in the PWB for the next biennium, which maintains at 14 percent of the net budgetary appropriation. Considering the central role of Country Programming Framework (CPF) as guidance of implementation of FAO's programme at the country level, we reiterate the importance of coherent efforts and coordinated actions from the FAO Country Offices and Regional Offices in developing and evaluating the progress of the CPF, to continuously ensure alignment of strategic direction as well as the national and regional contexts.

Fifth, we take note of the updated results frameworks and the updated estimates of extra-budgetary resources.

With this statement, Indonesia supports the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are now going to adjourn the meeting for our lunch break. After lunch, we will have as speakers Thailand, Costa Rica, Mexico, Chile, China, Sudan and the observer, the Syrian Arabic Republic.

We would like to thank all of you for your focused statements, the substance of your statements and the support to the work within the Programme Work and Budget. I really would like to thank all the interpreters, the technicians and the messengers for the work this morning.

Have an excellent break, reenergize yourself and we see each other back at 14:00 hours sharp and I really would like to start at 14:00 hours sharp.

Thank you so much, meeting adjourned.

***The meeting rose at 12:02 hours***

***La séance est levée à 12 h 02***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 12.02***

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session</b> <b>Cent soixante-huitième session</b> <b>168.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021</b> <b>Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021</b> <b>Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b></p>
<p><b>SECOND PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>29 November 2021</b></p>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:01 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 01  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.01  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (continued)**  
**Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023 (suite)**  
**Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23 (continuación)**  
(CL 168/3)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Good afternoon Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, dear Members of the Council, both here in Rome as well as in the virtual room. It is great to have you back for this afternoon session—the first session of this afternoon. I think we have had an excellent morning with quite a lot of substantive issues, substantive remarks, certainly to work on – and we continue our deliberations on Agenda Item 3 the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*.

#### **Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the regional statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by the Republic of Korea.

We express our appreciation for the efforts made by Director-General during his 28 months in office, and also other FAO Management, FAO colleagues in the regional and country offices to achieve the commitment and mandate in working to ensure efficient, inclusive, resilience and sustainable agri-food systems and to work with the Members to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030. We welcome the Secretariat's efforts on further balancing among the three pillars of sustainable development and its commitment for achieving the *four betters* through the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs).

We take note of the updated results framework and appreciate that the key thematic component highlights normative aspects, science-based risk analysis, trade-offs minimizations and those in relation with FAO's core functions. Today, in the afternoon we started the Council with a video of our youth, our food heroes – youth is our future! During the past year, we have discussed a lot on the new FAO Strategic Framework, the new Strategy on Science and Innovation and the new Strategy on Climate Change, on agri-food systems, Hand-in-Hand Initiative and others.

My delegation is expecting that in the next Council or Conference or other Technical Committees, we will have an opportunity to watch more videos of success stories, achievements and lessons learned from FAO programmes implemented at the field and country levels, or we will hear the voice of farmers, people who have received support from the FAO programmes implemented at the country level.

Their voices will help us understand the situation on the ground and we can further discuss how to improve the work of the Organization and how to scale up the work to make greater impact for all at the country level, and then we will see the global impact, as we are here. We believe that FAO can play a key role in providing support and expertise to Members in order to identify best practices, enhance knowledge sharing and find appropriate business modalities for scaling up their implementations in alignment with national priorities.

Regarding the follow up of the UN Food Systems Summit, we are expecting that FAO, Rome-based Organizations (RBAs) and other UN agencies will take the lead and work closely with Members to continue making an impact at the national level.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and the ways of work. We need to move faster towards this new normal, we need to bring new energies to the Organization, we are expecting to see FAO as an agile Organization that is quick in responding to changes and challenges in agri-food systems, as we all saw the video this morning. Our future is in our hands, therefore if we want to see a better future, we need to act today. With this statement, Thailand endorses the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Thailand, for highlighting the need to discuss in Council the outcomes and implementation of our work.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Mi delegación desea expresar su apoyo al documento *Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuestos para 2022-2023* y todo el esfuerzo que los diferentes actores han puesto en su preparación. Nos referimos a algunos asuntos muy puntuales, con respecto al párrafo 11 donde se menciona: "Consecución de la Agenda 2030" es respaldada por el concepto de la seguridad alimentaria que es inseparable de la urgencia por erradicar la pobreza extrema, afrontar los desafíos climáticos, crear resiliencia comunitaria, gestionar de forma responsable los recursos naturales y la biodiversidad de forma sostenible, deseamos hacer énfasis en que es importante tomar en cuenta el concepto de pobreza y no solamente lo de pobreza extrema.

Ello para que se tome en cuenta los diferentes estratos de la población en los países menos desarrollados y aquellos en desarrollo. Este *gap* entre la pobreza y la pobreza extrema cada vez es más corto y más pequeño: los pobres están empobreciéndose cada vez más, por lo tanto, el término "pobreza extrema" se queda un poco corto para lo que puede ser la pobreza del mundo.

Más adelante en el párrafo 32, que se refiere al seguimiento de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, Costa Rica reafirma su apoyo a las coaliciones que han estado surgiendo luego de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios emanadas de los trabajos realizados en la FAO. En nuestro caso, la coalición que apoya las acciones del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar.

En el párrafo 26 referido a la Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático, mi delegación agradecería que en el texto se pudieran ver resaltados los esfuerzos multilaterales en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático COP26, particularmente en tema de Protección Ambiental y Compromiso de Descarbonización de la Agricultura y la Ganadería.

En cuanto a los anexos al tema tres, quisiéramos referirnos al número 2, párrafo 64, sección N. Mi delegación recuerda la importancia de la Asociación Estratégica con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) para que enfoque en el tema "Una Salud", así como para mejorar el acceso e la integración de los pequeños agricultores y los agricultores familiares a las cadenas de valor y los mercados para mejorar su productividad y medios de vida.

Finalmente en el párrafo 68, sección D, donde se resalta la importante función de la labor nominativa; el establecimiento de normas basadas en principios científicos; los hechos comprobados de la FAO y el mantenimiento del incremento respecto al 2020-21 de la cuantía de los recursos destinados a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) y al Marco FAO/OMS para la Prestación de Asesoramiento Científico sobre Inocuidad de los Alimentos y Nutrición y el Centro Conjunto FAO/OIEA de Técnicas Nucleares en la Alimentación y la Agricultura, agradeceríamos se incluya también el Centro Conjunto FAO/OMS (Normas Alimentarias del Codex y Enfermedades Zoonóticas).

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

Permítame comenzar por agradecerle sus esfuerzos en la planificación de este que creo es su primer Consejo como Presidente Independiente. Le deseo mucho éxito en sus tareas y debo decirle que no lo envidio para nada en todo lo que tiene de frente. Agradezco también a FAO, agradecemos también a FAO por sus esfuerzos de hacer de esta sesión del Consejo un evento único que nos permite regresar a una nueva modalidad, donde podemos al menos parcialmente vernos cara a cara.

Expresamos un saludo al Señor Director General, Dr QU Dongyu, valoramos mucho su intervención del día de hoy. Seguramente tendremos oportunidad para conversar sobre su mensaje y las prioridades que nos ha planteado, puesto que requieren un análisis y una meditación profunda. Expreso también nuestra más cordial bienvenida a los nuevos Embajadores y Representantes Permanentes, les reitero el compromiso de México para llevar a cabo una colaboración honesta y transparente.

En relación al tema que nos ocupa en este punto del Programa y que tiene que ver con los Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23, México aprecia el esfuerzo de la FAO para mantener un presupuesto de cero crecimiento nominal. También, aprecia el trabajo que la Administración está haciendo para alinear los recursos con los objetivos estratégicos propuestos.



En particular, vemos con agrado los ajustes que se proponen en favor del fortalecimiento del trabajo de la FAO en la innovación y la ciencia, así como también en el cambio climático. Ambas son prioridades para nuestro país y estamos atentos a conversar los detalles de cómo se van a implementar ambas propuestas. Vemos también con mucho gusto la asignación de recursos para atender el tema de biodiversidad y el tema de bioeconomía.

México confía en que las medidas propuestas ayuden a facilitar la acción y pronto se puedan ver no solo resultados tangibles, sino resultados transformadores, mejorando las condiciones de vida de quienes más lo necesitan y una recuperación de la salud de nuestra madre tierra.

Quisiéramos también expresar nuestro reconocimiento por el esfuerzo que se está realizando para lograr mayores contribuciones extracuota; sin embargo, seguimos insistiendo en la importancia que se tiene en lograr que estos recursos extracuota sean otorgados sin etiquetar. Creemos que esto es de vital importancia para mantener la independencia de la Organización y para evitar conflictos de intereses.

De particular importancia, solicitamos que se siga apoyando, mediante este mecanismo, recursos para impulsar la iniciativa de "Una sola salud". Para finalizar, México se suma al apoyo que la Membresía ha expresado a los ajustes propuestos al documento en cuestión, por lo que esperamos el documento final con los ajustes correspondientes para su aprobación definitiva. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso de trabajar juntos en apoyo a la consecución de las metas planteadas en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

#### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Chile realiza las siguientes observaciones generales sobre el documento *CL 168/3* y *Anexos*. Reiteramos la importancia que Chile otorga a la utilización de conceptos y lenguaje acordado multilateralmente y a dar preferencia a los adoptados por los órganos rectores de la FAO.

Esta es una preocupación ya expresada repetidamente por varias delegaciones el día de hoy y también en reuniones pasadas de los órganos rectores y durante las consultas informales y formales con los Estados Miembros. En este sentido, acogimos con beneplácito las recomendaciones del informe del 132 Comité de Programa contenidos en el numeral 6, I y J respecto a que se sustituya el término "Verde" de las esferas programáticas prioritarias (EPP) por "Sostenible" y "Sistemas Alimentarios Azules" por el término "Sistemas Alimentarios Acuáticos".

En cuanto al documento sobre el Marco de Resultados actualizado para 2022-25, nos sorprende encontrar menciones específicas de las indicaciones geográficas en relación con Mejor Producción y Mejor Vida relacionadas con la mejora de los sistemas de producción y protección de cultivos bajo *Better Production (BP1)* y aspectos normativos que regulan la ampliación de la inversión en *Better Life (BL6)*.

Como señalamos cuando se llevaron a cabo consultas informales sobre el Plan de Acción para la Implementación de la Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los sectores agrícolas, nos oponemos a la referencia de las indicaciones geográficas como beneficiosas para la biodiversidad debido a la falta de evidencia científica que respalda dicha conexión.

Como Argentina, Australia y los Estados Unidos de América han expresado, no existe evidencia científica establecida sobre las relaciones entre las indicaciones geográficas y las consideraciones ambientales en general. Los instrumentos internacionales que definen y regulan el tema de las indicaciones geográficas establecen su conexión únicamente con los aspectos económicos y comerciales. Los países, entre ellos Chile, usan las indicaciones geográficas como elemento de marketing que destaca las cualidades y características de un producto que se deben esencialmente a su lugar de origen y no necesariamente a una forma de producción sustentable.

Solicitamos que se eliminen las menciones específicas a las indicaciones geográficas en el Marco de Resultados actualizado bajo la esfera programática prioritaria Mejor Producción (MP1). Así mismo como se señala en el párrafo 9 (e) del informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas, acogimos con agrado la mejora del enfoque para integrar el Marco de Programación por Países en el Marco de Resultados en consonancia con el nuevo posicionamiento del Sistema de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo.

Es claro que el impacto del trabajo de la Organización se debe reflejar a nivel de los países que es donde se hace realidad. Respaldamos el fortalecimiento del trabajo en ciencias e innovación y reiteramos que la ciencia debe ser la base del trabajo normativo de la FAO. Esperamos que el desarrollo de las estrategias de cambio climático y de ciencias e innovación se diseñarán en estrecha consulta con los Estados Miembros de manera inclusiva y transparente.

Hacemos nuestras las palabras de los Estados Unidos de América respecto al importante papel de los mercados y el comercio abierto y transparente, reconociendo que los mercados que funcionan bien, refuerzan la seguridad alimentaria y sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y resilientes, siendo al mismo tiempo clave para ampliar las oportunidades de ingreso, estabilizar el suministro de alimentos, garantizar la asequibilidad de los alimentos, minimizar su pérdida y desperdicio y mejorar el acceso a dietas saludables para todos.

Por último, apoyamos lo dicho por Brasil con relación al seguimiento de la Cumbre sobre Sistemas Alimentarios de las Naciones Unidas, cuestiones que entendemos discutiremos en mayor profundidad en el tema 6 del Programa.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Chile for reminding us that on the Food Systems Summit we have a separate Agenda Item on Wednesday – hopefully Wednesday morning – where we will certainly go into, not only the follow up, but some of the details as well, and also reflections made by the Director-General this morning.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We align ourselves with the statement made by the Asia Regional Group. I have three remarks I would like to make: firstly, we welcome the fact that the Adjustments fully reflect the indications given by the Conference, as well as the subsidiary Bodies. Secondly, we would propose that the Council approve the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as the posts. We support the strengthened balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. Lastly, we are in favour of strengthening innovation across all the domains of FAO's work, as well as the accelerated implementation of the Science and Innovation Strategy.

#### **Ms Sadia Elmubarak AHMED DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

We would like to express our appreciation for the Organization and for the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23. We also welcome the themes discussed under the Programme Committee. We welcome the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and the new balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, as well as the *four betters*.

We also welcome the focus on Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and the importance of supporting them while reducing funding gaps that have an impact on sustainable development, and which undermine the achievement of these objectives at national level, especially when it comes to those objectives linked to agri-food systems. We need to ensure that national and regional offices are involved in this work.

We support the FAO Strategic Framework and the Strategy on Climate Change with a view to building food systems that can be resilient to climate change with innovative solutions. Indeed, climate change is among the greatest challenges the world faces today. As we have seen during 26th Session of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26), climate change has a greater impact on developing countries with somewhat limited capacity.

We also welcome the FAO Strategy on Science and Innovation which is one of the main accelerators which will allow us to achieve the Organization's goals and the *four betters* in the domain of agri-food systems and the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), and we welcome the support for the Strategy. With these comments we would like to once again express our support for the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 and commends the FAO Secretariat for ensuring the Organization's activities can be achieved during the pandemic without an increase in financial obligations on its Members.

We have three brief additional comments: taking note of the Director-General's valuable comments this morning that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) drive all of our work, and as per the Report of the Joint Meeting, paragraph 9(k), we reiterate the importance of using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as our key reference, and reflect again that they are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development. We do not believe that the application of qualifiers to targets or indicators add value to our work in this regard.

Secondly, while fully recognizing the consensus that was reached at the Programme Committee regarding geographical indicators (GIs), we remain concerned about the link there and access drawn between geographical indicators and enhancing crop production and protection systems. We remain unaware of any evidence that geographic denominations can protect crops from pest and disease or improve agricultural productivity and we believe that singling out one approach among many does a disservice to the rich and diverse work of the FAO under the *better production* pillar.

Finally, noting the Director-General's comments this morning of the need to do more with less, we also reiterate our concern regarding the language in the trade off section of Better Nutrition 5 (BN5), *Transparent Markets and Trade*, which suggests that agricultural intensification is problematic – doing more with less implies that we must do agricultural intensification on some level.

With these brief comments we endorse the Adjustments to the PWB.

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

I think it is time that I speak a little bit of geographical indicators (GIs), as many have referred to them. In the European Union (EU), we use them a lot but not only as also some of you that have spoken critically about them use them and use them in large numbers. I would also like to refer to a big use in the African continent, we have a big cooperation programme on geographical indicators with the African Union. So what are they about?

We have heard a little bit already about it, so the definition of the GIs makes an intrinsic link between products, the natural environment, and *savoir faire* of the local producers, and secures value added to the upstream producer. The GIs schemes' aim is primarily to meet citizens' fundamental rights to have the intellectual property in GIs, protected. GI agriculture food products incorporate some sustainability characteristics in one or more of the three dimensions of the term. Environmental: stemming from GI products intrinsic link to a specific area with its specific natural factors and resulting from production methods adapted to that area. Social: due to exploitation of local producers know-how and traditional practises over time. Economic: as the value added in a GI product is secured for the local producers and cannot be delocalized, this property right interrupts the commodity trap as downstream players cannot substitute cheaper products without losing the use of the GI name.

I want to bring this a bit into the link from what we have heard in the bigger discussion today. That was we have heard that FAO has decided to create a better balance between the various pillars, the four pillars of the *four betters*, by moving one programme from *better life* into *better environment*. So it is just an indication that a programme can have multiple objectives; the same for geographical indicators.

What I do see, that might stick with some of those that have spoken to the topic before me, is what is indeed a bit of prescriptive language in document CL 168/3 *Annex I*, which is the updated results framework, on page 2, it is the fourth bullet under the key thematic components which reads: 'Through geographical indicators...' I think that the group here could probably agree if we would just put into our meeting report that we concur that this should rather read: 'Through instruments such as geographical indicators.' That would also leave the space open for other practises and would be less prescriptive. However, I think it does not need to be taken out of the text of the document of FAO entirely.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

De todos los debates y discusiones que hemos tenido en todas las reuniones de los Órganos Rectores, hemos aprendido todos a escucharnos y a ver por dónde va el consenso entre los Miembros. Creo que hay dos cosas para mí que están muy claras, una, que hicimos un enorme esfuerzo en el Comité del Programa y en la *Joint Meeting* para tratar de buscar, intercambiando ideas con representantes de todas las regiones, la posibilidad de buscar cuál era el mínimo común denominador que nos permitía llegar a un consenso respecto de alguna de las cuestiones como la de las indicaciones geográficas.

Hoy la otra cuestión también que quedó clara es la importante cantidad de Países Miembros que han planteado sus inconvenientes, sus situaciones de no comodidad con el concepto de indicaciones geográficas dentro de los documentos que presentó la FAO. Yo creo que si la idea es trabajar constructivamente hay que ver al consenso alcanzado en los diferentes Comités del Programa y en la *Joint Meeting* que nos permite claramente saber cuál es el mínimo común denominador que nos permita pasar por encima un debate interminable en este Consejo.

Yo invito absolutamente a todos los Miembros que en honor a sentir que todos estamos un poquito insatisfechos con ese acuerdo, pero somos también conscientes que ninguno va a lograr su plena satisfacción con la máxima insatisfacción del otro: el consenso requiere un poco de insatisfacción de todos. Repito y reitero, invito a todos a ser constructivos, a no empezar de cero lo que ya existe, que es resultado de un trabajo muy serio liderado por la Presidente del Comité del Programa y por la Copresidente y Presidente de la *Joint Meeting* para tratar de no reabrir discusiones que ya hemos tenido y que ya sabemos cada uno qué piensa.

Con esos comentarios, Presidente, espero ayudar a que en el report podamos sostener los consensos que ya hemos logrado y no reabrir discusiones que van a ser interminables.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, I will try and find a way forward with the draft conclusions.

With that, we have concluded our deliberations on the Programme of Work and Budget. Before going to Management, I would like to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee as well as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for some brief reflections.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

Good afternoon distinguished Council Members and really a warm welcome to our new colleague, the Ambassador of Canada. You can find the deliberations of this Item from the Joint Meeting in document *CL168/7* paragraph 9 and from the Programme Committee in document *CL168/8* paragraph 6.

I am pleased to share with you some highlights: *“The Joint Meeting welcomed the document reflecting the guidance and decision of the Conference on the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. The Joint Meeting expressed satisfaction for the proposed adjustments that would be managed within the overall approved budget level of USD 1 005.6 million, and the Joint Meeting supported the reallocation of USD 1.2 million to strengthen Science and Innovation and supported the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 2 and recommended it for approval by the Council.”*

Now I would like to move to the Programme Committee: *“The Programme Committee in particular welcomed information on consideration on the implementation of accepted recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO’s strategic results framework. The Programme Committee supported the results framework for the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) under the four betters as shown in Annex 1, and looked forward to reviewing progress in implementation of the updated results framework during 2022-23 in corporate reporting at mid-term and end-of-biennium, and supported the proposed approach to results planning, monitoring and reporting, welcoming the inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative baseline data and Output indicators under the PPAs, and their contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*.

To conclude, I invite Council Members to consider and agree with the recommendation from the Joint Meeting and of the Programme Committee on this Item, to approve the Adjustments to the Programme

of Work and Budget 2022-23. However, before concluding, I would like just to refer to what the European Union (EU) was saying before and Argentina's response. I fully agree with the Ambassador of Argentina, I think we had a very intense discussion and we agreed to come to a kind of a compromise *vis-à-vis* this Agenda Item and I really would like all of us really not to change and not to come and re-open the entire discussion.

**Sra. Imelda SMOLCIC (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Me complace estar aquí con ustedes para resaltar algunos puntos de interés general de las deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas sobre los *Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23*, documento *CL168/3*. Algunos de los cuales se comparten con el Comité Conjunto, lo que supone que algunos los repetiré.

Las deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas están expuestas en el documento *CL168/9 Informe del 188.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas*, párrafos 13 y 14.

El Comité de Finanzas expresó su satisfacción por el hecho de que los ajustes propuestos se gestionarían sin superar la cuantía global del presupuesto aprobado, de 1 005,6 millones de USD, mediante transferencias entre capítulos sin repercusión en los costos y reasignaciones derivadas de la planificación más detallada del trabajo.

Recomendó que el Consejo aprobase la distribución revisada de la consignación neta por capítulo presupuestario presentada en el Cuadro 2 del documento *CL168/3*.

Tomó nota de las mejoras realizadas en el marco de resultados actualizado (*Anexo 1* del documento *CL 168/3*) relativas a los objetivos funcionales y los capítulos especiales.

Alentó a los Miembros a aportar contribuciones voluntarias para apoyar las prioridades en el Programa integrado de trabajo y a la Administración a estudiar modalidades de financiación alternativas para atraer financiación más flexible.

Quedo a vuestra disposición para proporcionar cualquier explicación adicional que requieran al respecto.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

It is a pleasure to be here with everybody today. I would just like to thank the Members for the many informative and constructive comments that you have made on this document, the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23. As you know, this is the final document in the series before we move into implementation in the 2022-23 biennium. We are really pleased to have this final guidance from you, which allows us also to move forward and prepare for the implementation of the PWB 2022-23.

I will try to respond and comment on some of the main points that were made today, there were very many, but some came out in multiple interventions. One for example is on the balance among the *four betters*, I believe that the Members appreciated the improved balance among the *four betters*, which was partially achieved by adjusting one of the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) from *better life* to *better environment*.

This is the Programme Priority Area on *Achieving Sustainable Urban Food Systems*. We made this shift in recognition of the critical importance of a resilient natural resource base to safeguarding and enhancing sustainable urban and peri-urban agri-food systems transformation, and you can see that also in the new wording in the Outcome statement of this PPA which includes the language “while safeguarding the underlying natural resources base.”

We will of course continue to focus on this balance, not just in the *better environment*, but among all of the *betters*, a balance among the *betters* and a balance within the Programme Priority Areas, so that we always have the importance of those three pillars of sustainable development upfront.

We will do this during the implementation, for example also through the way that we will be having our coordination and oversight arrangements for the Programme Priority Areas, where we will combine experts in social, economic and natural resources disciplines across the Programme Priority Areas.

The European Union asked a question about the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets under the PPA on *Sustainable Urban Food Systems*. Perhaps I can use this as an example to again highlight the importance of the SDG targets and indeed the mix and balance of SDG targets that you see under each of the Programme Priority Areas, and under the *four betters*. The *Sustainable Urban Food Systems* Programme Priority Area has SDG 12.1 as a primary target, which has of course a heavy focus on resource efficiency initiatives, thus promoting resource efficiency and productivity and environmental sustainability. Another primary target is SDG 11.a, which promotes urban policies that ensure balanced territorial development, among other things.

I would also recall that all of the Programme Priority Areas also have secondary targets. We did not repeat these in the Adjustments to the PWB, but you can see these in the main Programme of Work and Budget document, specifically in *Annex 3* of the PWB 2022-23, and these additional targets are also very integral in the formulation of the Programme Priority Areas.

There you will see for example SDG 1.4 which focuses on access to natural resources, and you will see target 13.1 which is about strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. I think if you wish to review all of the Programme Priority Areas in this manner we have tried to find the balance of the three pillars across the PPAs and across the *four betters*.

Several Members also noted the importance of course of the country level work, as it is there where we will be achieving the Agenda 2030, and welcomed the improved approach in our planning framework. So just again to emphasize, FAO's Country Programming Framework is derived from the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, so that is the Cooperation Framework that is developed by the entire UN at country level. FAO's Country Programming Framework derives directly from that. This really ensures that FAO builds on the UN Development System efforts at country level to collectively support country ownership and address national SDG priorities and gaps.

Similarly, the processes that we have put in place in developing FAO's Country Programming Framework or country processes I should say, at the country level, really ensure that we bring that agri-food systems transformation concerns and related SDGs to the table so that when at country level the discussions are ongoing, FAO stands ready and is ready to contribute to shaping that formulation process. This again ensures that the SDGs are well integrated and prioritized in the UN common planning documents. We really believe that this common language of the SDGs and working in this coordinated fashion at the country level is one of the big improvements and changes in this new framework that we will be beginning to implement in 2022.

We welcome the many comments on the importance of the two Strategies that are under development to support the implementation of the Strategic Framework, so that is the Strategy on Climate Change and the Strategy on Science and Innovation. Members also commented favourably on the transfer of the USD 1.2 million to the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Innovation, and these funds indeed will help move forward that Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as support science and innovation implementation in the field.

This includes areas like facilitating learning, linkages and coordination among global, regional and country level stakeholders and undertaking foresight and horizon scanning exercises on technologies and innovation, and supporting innovation and digital agriculture, as also mentioned by the Director-General this morning.

On the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, I can confirm that the net appropriation resources assigned to this initiative remain at USD 500 000 and you can see that in *Annex 2* of the Adjustments to the PWB, which shows both the net appropriation resources and the extra-budgetary resources by Programme Priority Area. Of course, 'within chapter transfers' or 'transfers from one chapter to another,' which may be required to implement the Programme of Work and Budget, will be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

We welcome the importance that Members continue to give in comments today, but also in previous Sessions, on the importance of unearmarked and lightly earmarked funds to support the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31. This really is very important for us to enable to handle the resources in an integrated manner, focused on the results that we have presented for you in the Programme of Work and Budget and in *Annex 1*. As suggested by several Members today, but also

as recommended by Conference in its Report in June, Management will further elaborate possible mechanisms and approaches to attract more flexible funding.

There were also a number of comments today on the level and distribution of the extra-budgetary resources in the Programme of Work and Budget. In this regard, I would just recall that the Programme of Work and Budget reflects the preliminary estimates for what we expect we may be receiving under voluntary contributions in 2022-23. It is based on operational projects that continue, proposed projects in the pipeline, maybe some prospects that we are in discussion with partners, and also an analysis of trends. Of course, the actual implementation of extra-budgetary resources will be reported back to you in the Programme Implementation Report at the end of the biennium and in the Mid Term Review in the middle of the biennium.

There were also a few comments about the information or transparency of the extra-budgetary resources. Again, I would recall that we report on that in the Mid-term Review and in the Programme Implementation Report, but Members may also be interested to look at the reporting that we do under the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). This is where, on a quarterly basis, we report on all projects and this reporting includes a brief description and financial information.

Finally, several Members today have stressed the importance of using agreed language, concepts and terminology and we thank you very much for the guidance. I would just mention that the Adjustments to the PWB already include some language adjustments that were requested by Conference, for example the Programme Priority Area that was previously entitled “Green Innovation,” has been renamed *Innovation for Sustainable Agricultural Production*, and the language that we use in its Outcome Statement has also been adjusted.

We do not use “blue economy” in the document - that has been substituted by “aquatic-based economic sectors.” Of course, we do still have the title *Blue Transformation* for one of the Programme Priority Areas, as this was agreed by the Committee on Fisheries. We will of course be pleased to make further adjustments to terminology or language, based on Council guidance. For example, the language used for the key thematic component under the PPA on *Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production* was mentioned by several Members, and they were requesting that perhaps it could be adjusted to ensure that it reflects that there are many approaches to sustainable agricultural production.

The results framework, what is shown in *Annex 1*, is used throughout the biennium for monitoring and reporting back to you, so we look forward to feedback from Council on any requested changes, as just highlighted, and these will be incorporated before the first reporting period back to you.

The reporting back happens through the Mid-term Review which will be at the end of 2022, and will come to you in the early part of 2023, and then in the Programme Implementation Report which is at the end of the biennium. There, we will report on the entire results framework that you see in *Annex 1*, also on financial implementation, as just mentioned, in particular in areas of the net appropriation and extra-budgetary resources, and we will also report on areas that perhaps, some Members mentioned, did not come out as strongly as they may have wished in this document, for example partnerships, and we fully agree that partnerships are really key to the implementation of the programme of work, and we will be happy to report back on that in more detail, and we will also be happy to report on the Women’s Committee and the Youth Committee, as requested by some Members.

I believe that that covers the main points raised today and thank you again.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for answering all those questions and remarks on the Programme of Work and Budget. I think you were very inclusive.

Before ending this Agenda Item, I see that the Observer of the Syrian Arab Republic is now back, and I will give the Minister the floor.

**His Excellency Mohammed Hassan KATANA (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observer) (Original Language Arabic)**

Greetings to the FAO Director-General, and also I would like to greet the Independent Chairperson of the Council and all of the Council Members. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very happy to have this opportunity to take part with you in this 168th Council Session.

Council is the essential Governing Body where the different challenges that we are facing in agriculture can be discussed, and I would like to express my gratitude to Dr QU for the efforts that he has made to achieve the objectives of the Organization, and especially through a number of programmes that have led to positive and constructive results, helping us achieve our common objectives. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this Council Session is taking place at a point in time in which we see the growing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and also the impacts of climate change on agriculture systems.

Farmers are increasingly obliged to adapt coping strategies that are negative, especially in regions that are afflicted by conflict, and that is the case of the Syrian Republic. The level of suffering of the population has increased, the economic, health and food situations have worsened, and this is especially true for the rural population which is in dire need of agriculture as the source of their livelihood, and therefore these changes along with the degradation of the climate, with the ensuing drought, and at times flooding – all of this is a major obstacle to the development of these many countries that depend on agriculture for their economic development.

Production levels have deteriorated because of degradation of resources such as land, water and also lack of awareness of the reality of the challenges that we are facing. International organizations are providing a measure of assistance to help with this suffering, but the needs are enormous and it is very difficult to enable families to continue to live and survive and remain in their areas and engage in agriculture.

The Agriculture Ministry of Syria, working together with FAO, has emphasized the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, especially as regards the agricultural sector. We have taken a number of decisions to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, as well as strengthening the health sector, we have worked to facilitate access of producers to their land, to the resources they need for agricultural production and to open up markets to ensure the steady flow of food and the availability of food in the country.

We also try to make use of digital transformation and mechanisms to support small farmers and to provide them with social protection. The Syrian Government and the Agriculture Ministry have emphasized the Hand-in-Hand Initiatives that was launched by the Director-General and a number of countries have been involved – Syria is one of these. Syria is working hard to improve the overall livelihood of the population, to contend with the challenge of hunger and to realize the noble goals of our Organization.

We are working to now complete the first phase of this initiative through a capacity-building project providing technical training, also in the area of digitization, and we also have an investment programme with our development partners which reflects one of the priorities of the Syrian Government, and we have a programme for collaboration to improve food security and nutrition and improve the livelihoods of our poorer citizens.

We are looking forward to support from all our partners to achieve these objectives, and these initiatives are being carried out following a study of the Agriculture Ministry on the future of agriculture in our country. We have reviewed our strategy and policies comprehensively and chosen a participatory approach, working with all of the stakeholders. FAO has provided us with crucial support in this framework and we are grateful for that. Our aim is to build up resilience and the resilience to external stresses, and to the impact of climate change, as well as to build up and strengthen the value chains.

Finally, I would like to say that in the recent period we have received supplies of wheat, wheat seeds, in a region that is not under the authority of the Syrian Government, and these seeds were contributed by a number of countries that are in opposition to the Syrian Government and the seeds that were



provided are contaminated and have been introduced fraudulently, against all of the plant protection measures in place.

These seed supplies were affected by a plant pathology which will have a negative impact for the years to come and therefore we firmly condemn any seed imports that do not respect the sovereignty of the Syrian Government and do not respect plant protection phytosanitary measures, and we express also our opposition to the restrictions that are placed on us which make it impossible for us to import all of the seeds we need, as well as all of the other commodities that the Syrian people are in need of, to lead a decent life.

This is a people that has fought to protect its national sovereignty, to protect its frontiers against terrorism and the seed supplies that were imported in Syria were done so in violation of the rights of the Syrian people, their economic rights and their social rights to development. We call on the international community to condemn those who are working to destroy the basis of our national economy.

Ultimately, we would like to express our gratitude to FAO for all of the technical support that has been provided to us, as well as for the importance of the implementation of FAO's Strategy in addressing climate change and the effort to seek smart regional solutions. We wish this Council every success in its deliberations in addressing the many challenges that exist today, and these challenges can only be addressed on the basis of deepened cooperation to identify solutions to those who are in need.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think all countries which are facing conflicts and disasters because of climate change deserve support to recover from the tragedy, and that is why we are working within the mandate of FAO to see how we can support all those who need it the most. Of course, there are other issues, but they belong outside of the mandate of FAO and belong to other UN *fora*.

With that, I would like to conclude Item 3. We are working now on the draft conclusions, and although I was hoping to have very concise conclusions, I have seen that many important and substantive issues were raised, so we are working on it.

**Item 7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021)**

**Point 7. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-deuxième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-huitième session) (novembre 2021)**

**Tema 7. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2021)**

(CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We now turn to Agenda Item 7 and after that we start discussing our draft conclusions. So, we turn now to Agenda Item 7 and that is the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee* held on 8, 9 and 12 November this year. The documents before the Council are CL 168/7 and CL 168/INF/6. The introductory remarks are already presented by the Chairperson of the Joint Committee Ms Yael Rubinstein as well as the Co-chairperson of the Committee and that is Ms Imelda Smolčić.

#### **Introduction to Item 7: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021)**

*H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee*

Mr Chairperson, Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee. This Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 168/7.

The Council is invited to approve the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee.

The Joint Meeting examined, among others, the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 and the Update on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Review and Strategic Exercise. These are presented in detail in document CL 168/7. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Joint Meeting commended the inclusive and transparent process followed in refining the approach for regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resource shares, and invited Management to provide updates on the refinements of the criteria for TCP resource allocation within regions, considering ways to ensure greater uniformity, while keeping the required flexibility to respond to regional specificities.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

You have had, I think, excellent, extensive discussions so I do hope that we have focused interventions from you on the issues which were not already covered in separate Agenda Items. Separate Agenda Items are the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget*, which we just discussed. We have first, *FAO's Response to COVID-19*, which we will discuss later as well as the *Progress Report on the Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*. They will be discussed later on separate Agenda Items.

With that, I will open the floor now for Members to reflect on those Conclusions, after which I will give the floor to the Chairperson and Co-chairperson, as well as Management to respond.

#### **Ms Koschina MARSHALL (Bahamas)**

Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), Review and Strategic Exercise. We wish to commend FAO for recognising the need to re-evaluate the systems and make the necessary adjustments to service Members accordingly to reflect a changing world.

Also commendable is the inclusive and transparent process with Members in the refinement of the criteria allocation to move beyond the technical line of per capita income and taking into account the specific needs of each Region such as overall poverty and inequality, vulnerability to Climate Change and biodiversity degradation.

We also acknowledge the efforts taken to develop the methodologies, scenarios and the dissemination of information for further discussions. Noting that the Strategic Exercise on the Review of Regional Shares is still being conducted, the Caribbean Region calls for more inclusive discussions within the Region, the Sub-Region, and we wish to recognize the following.

Firstly, the Latin America and Caribbean Region has the greatest number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); 16 out of the 33 globally. These States are most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, biodiversity loss and increasing socio-economic risk largely to the slow recovery from natural disasters.

Secondly, there is an additional need for special attention also at Sub-Regional levels for fair distribution of resource allocation. There are Caribbean countries that receive the minimum allocation of USD 100 000 per annum in the biennium which is insufficient for the substantial catalyst work to be done.

Thirdly, despite the potential benefit of the increased allocations based on the proposed criteria, the availability of undated data to measure the indicators is challenging for countries in the Region. There is a need for specific resources to be allocated to Caribbean SIDS for agriculture and fisheries, surveys to ensure that the data used to measure the indicators are the most recent to provide a true reflection of the state of food and agriculture in the country. Particularly with regards to poverty levels and inequality.

Fourthly, we call on FAO to work closely within the Region to assist in the provision of resources to assess data tools and technology to build capacities of countries with respect to data collection. Often after FAO developed data tools are utilized in the African and Asian regions largely supported through

donor funding. To truly engage in uniformity, we request that Management advocate for donor funding for data collections in the Caribbean SIDS.

Lastly, the ability of Caribbean SIDS to recover from unforeseen climate shocks will greatly impact the quality of life on these islands. With increased occurrences of catastrophic natural disasters there is a need to consider recovery periods for disasters, or rather countries' level of resilience as a criteria in determining TAC allocations.

With these comments the Caribbean Region is requesting that, during the Strategic Framework Exercise, Management engages the Sub-Region, specifically to ensure greater uniformity while keeping to the commitment to respond to the needs of the regions.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

China has the honour to deliver the statements on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group recognizes the documents reflecting the guidance and the decisions of the Conference on the Strategic Programme of Work 2022-2031, the Medium Term Plan 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023.

We recognize the improved approach to an integrated country programming framework in the result of framework in-line with the position of UN Development System. We support the allocation of USD 1.2 million to strengthen science and innovation and implementation in the field. We appreciate the update on the Technical Cooperation Programme Review and Strategic Exercise. We encourage the contributions of inclusive and transparent approaches in ensuring Members' participation in the Strategic Exercise to refine the criteria on Regional Technical Cooperation Programme resources shares.

We appreciate the results achieved by FAO through its comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and its saving priorities area of works. However, we note with concern the exacerbated inequalities particularly in rural areas and underline the importance of targeted assistance and the investment for rural people.

Asia Regional Group welcomes the progress report and its concrete achievements, in-depth examples, and strategic directions of the Rome-based Agencies collaboration especially within the UNDS repositioning to collectively support country needs and priorities. We recognize that continued support to the Committee of World Food Security Secretariat and its products. The Asia Regional Group reiterates the importance of the implementation of the UN Food Systems Summit outcomes.

We welcome the update on the Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. However, we encourage FAO to further improve the effectiveness, independence and the fairness of sexual harassment investigations. With these observations, the Asia Regional Group approves the Report of the Joint Meeting of 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Financial Committee.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I would like to kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We welcome the successful organisation of the Session of the Joint Committee in hybrid mode, and we encourage FAO to continue with its efforts to ensure effective and safe in-person meetings as soon as possible.

On the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), we underline the importance of a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development and would like to highlight the importance of well-aligned voluntary funding to facilitate the achievement of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. We note the relevance of context-specific sustainable agriculture approaches, but would like to highlight the importance of taking into account the broader food system and its significant interlinkages with the environment, health, water, climate, energy, infrastructure and other factors. We welcome the progress made in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Technical

Cooperation Programme (TCP), as well as FAO's efforts in the review of the regional TCP resource shares, and we are looking forward to the Management's updates on the refinements of the criteria for TCP resource allocation within regions. We recall the need to maintain the focus of the TCP on the needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

As regards FAO's Response to COVID-19, we commend the Organization for its efforts in tackling the pandemic's multiple negative effects on food systems, including through its comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and its role in the AU-FAO COVID-19 Task Force on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa. The COVID-19 crisis has more than ever demonstrated the urgent need to build resilient and sustainable food systems for healthy diets within the planetary boundaries.

We welcome the *Progress Report on the Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*, which gives a good overview of the activities implemented at global, regional, and country level. We call upon FAO to continue to improve collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). We, however, regret the fact that the RBA's Evaluation Report is not on the agenda of FAO Council, while it has already been discussed in the second regular Session of the WFP Executive Board and will be discussed at the next Executive Board of IFAD in December. We request FAO to put the RBA Evaluation Report, including its recommendations, on the agenda of the next Programme Committee and FAO Council for discussion. In this regard, we urge FAO to prepare the joint RBAs feasibility study on integrating administrative functions as requested in the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and the 178th Session of the Finance Committee*, from November 2019.

Finally, we welcome FAO's progress and continued commitment in reforming and strengthening its policies to prevent and investigate harassment, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, and its efforts to align with the wider UN system and increase inter-agency collaboration in this regard.

With these comments, we endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We would like to thank the Members of the Governing Bodies; the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee for their work on these issues reported for the Organization. We are not against the adoption of the Joint Meeting's Report and we support the recommendations that are contained in this document.

I would especially like to point out the following. In this morning's session we already discussed the issue of the development of mechanisms to attract voluntary contributions and we would like to draw attention to the recommendations of the Joint Meeting supporting this work and supporting the development of mechanisms to attract voluntary contributions.

In this connection, from our point of view, it would have been useful to borrow from the experience of other United Nations Organizations, in particular the World Food Programme, which is a leader in attracting voluntary contributions for development support in the case of emergency situations.

We think it is also important to draw attention to the recommendations regarding the development of collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and here we share and support the comments and the point of view that has been expressed already by the European Union on the need to enhance the collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies.

We have seen progress in the preparation of reports on the experience of collaboration and additional support has been received but we think that, at the same time, it is important to look at other potential for collaboration. We think that it would be important to strengthen the efforts to prepare mechanisms regarding the follow-up of the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit. From my point of view, there is added value in the development of collaboration of the RBAs in the context of operation of this follow-up mechanism.

Unfortunately, however, in this case we are forced to support the comments of the European Union regarding the evaluation of the RBA collaboration and a preliminary evaluation of the sharing of administrative functions of the RBAs and an audit of the outcome of the collaboration of the organizations in the local areas.

This recommendation was made two years ago but unfortunately, to this point this analysis has yet to be provided and on our side we would like to understand: what is preventing this analysis? What obstacles there may be to considering these aspects regarding the analysis, and I would like to hear from the Secretariat on this point. We also would like to say that we support the comment that was made by the European Union regarding this analysis of the RBA collaboration. We know that in November we had the outcome of this evaluation. It was discussed in the context of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) but the document has not attracted much attention from the part of FAO Secretariat.

A concrete plan was discussed regarding activities and involving also FAO in the implementation recommendations, and so we would like to understand why this has not been followed through and we would like to receive information on future consideration of this document that was then submitted.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do like to remind all Members of the Council that we have also a separate Agenda Item on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration, but nevertheless they are reflected in the Joint Meeting.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Antes que nada, quisiera agradecer a la señora Presidenta del Comité del Programa, la Embajadora Yael Rubinstein, por su excelente conducción de la sesión, al igual que a la Secretaría por su incesante labor.

Quisiera en primer lugar, antes de entrar en los dos puntos que voy a referirme, prestar mi absoluto respaldo a lo expresado por la representante de Bahamas respecto de su comentario sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), sobre todo en términos de la necesidad de visibilizar las problemáticas graves que existen también en América Latina y el Caribe. Y también creo que es muy importante lo expresado por el representante de la Federación de Rusia respecto de la importancia de poner un ojo, o los dos ojos, en el tema de la transparencia de las contribuciones voluntarias.

Bajo este punto de agenda, y voy a tratar de ser disciplinado con lo que usted estableció Presidente, me voy a referir solo a dos puntos. El primero de ellos, la información actualizada relativa al examen del PCT brindada por la FAO. Sobre este tema, reiteramos nuestro beneplácito por el trabajo de Beth Bechdol y su equipo, desde el momento en que los Miembros decidieron comenzar un proceso para actualizar los criterios de asignación de recursos y reinventar el PCT.

El resultado de ese arduo trabajo en estrecha consulta con todos nosotros, los Miembros, nos permite estar muy orgullosos sobre lo avanzado hasta este momento. Destacamos el proceso inclusivo y transparente de perfeccionamiento del enfoque relativo a las cuotas de recursos del PCT en el plano regional basado en los criterios recomendados por los Miembros de la FAO y los criterios evaluados incluyen: prevalencia de la desnutrición, la pobreza, la vulnerabilidad, la desigualdad y también la biodiversidad. Ellos se suman a los criterios vigentes, hoy en día, de universalidad y de los países menos adelantados.

Ya hemos participado de dos consultas que nos depositan muy cerca de un enfoque basado en los criterios recomendados por los Miembros para el cálculo de las cuotas de los recursos regionales del PCT. En ellas, se nos han brindado consideraciones de datos e información sobre los pasos necesarios para obtener valores representativos para cada región y criterio para poder permitir posibles escenarios de cálculo.

A nuestro entender, resta definir la asignación de valores o ponderación para el conjunto de criterios que hacen al nuevo cálculo para la finalización de esta primera etapa que proseguirá con el perfeccionamiento de los criterios de asignación de recursos del PCT dentro de las regiones, estudiando la forma de garantizar una mayor uniformidad y manteniendo, al mismo tiempo, la flexibilidad necesaria para responder a las especificidades regionales.

En cuanto a la ponderación de los criterios, nuestro país ya lo ha expresado en la Reunión Conjunta que preferimos que cada uno de los criterios sean tratados por igual. Eso atento que la tarea de ponderar o priorizar un criterio sobre el otro depende exclusivamente de los contextos y las circunstancias, lo que convertiría en muy difícil ese ejercicio.

Asimismo, recordamos que la solicitud de los Miembros de perfeccionar los criterios de asignación surge del diagnóstico compartido por todos de que el criterio de ingreso de los países no refleja, aún más, distorsiona muchas veces la realidad presente en el terreno de la mayoría de los países en desarrollo.

Coincidimos con lo expresado por la Reunión Conjunta en cuanto a la conveniencia de continuar con las consultas informales, talvez bajo el liderazgo suyo, Presidente. Sería beneficioso para la discusión de este tema tan complejo, pero al mismo tiempo tan importante para los Miembros.

Segundo tema, y con esto concluyo. En cuanto al hostigamiento, el acoso sexual y la explotación y el abuso sexuales, acompañamos las conclusiones de la Reunión Conjunta sobre esta cuestión, que reconocen que la FAO opera en entornos conformados por considerables diferencias de poder y desigualdades profundamente enraizadas, incluidas las desigualdades de género, donde existen condiciones que pueden dar lugar a conductas sexuales indebidas.

En este punto de agenda, es oportuno que el Consejo dé un claro mensaje de que no existe justificación ninguna para las conductas sexuales indebidas. Nada justifica el ejercicio de la violencia, la víctima nunca es culpable de la violencia que recibe.

Con estos comentarios, Presidente, la Argentina acoge con beneplácito las conclusiones de la Reunión Conjunta sobre la información actualizada relativa al examen del PCT y el proceso estratégico sobre este, y sobre el informe anual sobre política, procesos y las medidas institucionales relativas a la prevención del hostigamiento, el acoso sexual y la explotación y abusos sexuales.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais remercier l'Ambassadrice Rubinstein, Présidente de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, pour la manière excellente dont elle a mené les travaux. Je voudrais m'aligner, naturellement, sur la déclaration qui a été prononcée par la Slovaquie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États Membres, rapidement, puisque j'aurai l'occasion de revenir sur certains points, lors de nos débats.

Tout d'abord, sur le Programme de coopération technique, je voudrais souligner qu'à notre avis, le Programme de coopération technique doit se concentrer sur les besoins des pays les moins avancés. C'est extrêmement important et cela devra se traduire, de notre point de vue, dans les critères et dans la pondération des critères.

Deuxièmement, s'agissant des enjeux liés au harcèlement et plus généralement des enjeux de ressources humaines, je voudrais souscrire aux conclusions de la Réunion conjointe et souligner le besoin d'avoir une approche centrée sur les victimes, une approche qui assure le plein respect des droits des femmes et de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes.

Je souhaiterais également avoir des précisions concernant le mandat et les termes de références du Médiateur. Je souhaiterais également savoir où en est la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de la FAO sur les ressources humaines.

Troisième point rapidement sur le multilinguisme, car je souhaiterais à nouveau souligner toute l'importance que ma délégation attache au multilinguisme. Nous nous félicitons de constater que le rapport intérimaire qualifie le multilinguisme de valeur fondamentale de la FAO, une formule identique à celle de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Nous saluons la nomination du Coordonnateur pour le multilinguisme et avons pris bonne note du fait que le futur cadre stratégique de la FAO pour le multilinguisme aura vocation à être adopté par les organes de gouvernance de la FAO, d'ici la fin 2022, conformément à la recommandation numéro 1 du rapport du Corps commun d'inspection (CCI), accepté par la FAO, et je remercie par avance la FAO des éléments de calendrier qu'elle voudra bien nous fournir.

Enfin, s'agissant de la collaboration entre les organismes romains, je voudrais là aussi souligner toute l'importance que nous attachons à plus d'efficacité dans la collaboration entre eux, et plus généralement dans la collaboration avec les autres organisations des Nations Unies. Les besoins ne cessent d'augmenter, les financements ne pourront pas augmenter indéfiniment et donc il est indispensable que cette coopération soit plus efficace. J'aurai l'occasion d'y revenir plus tard et naturellement, nous souhaiterons examiner le rapport d'évaluation sur la coopération entre les organisations romaines.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Haciendo uso de las ventajas que tiene las reuniones híbridas, ahora me atraía en la oficina y un saludo de acá por un rato hasta mañana o más tarde en el salón, pero le agradezco mucho que me aconseja el uso de la palabra.

Mi delegación desea expresar su agradecimiento por el informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones llevadas a cabo del 8 al 12 de noviembre pasados.

Seremos muy breves y puntuales a gana del tiempo.

Deseamos referirnos concretamente al Inciso G, del punto 5 *Informe sobre la marcha de las actividades de colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma* el cual resalta que, como resultado de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, la FAO acogería el Centro de Coordinación para los Sistemas Alimentarios.

Al respecto, nos permitimos indicar que coincidimos en que dicho centro no deberá duplicar las funciones y capacidades existentes de las Naciones Unidas; que es necesario estar claros en que se requiere mayor información acerca de la operatividad de dicho centro, así como de los recursos y personal capacitado con el cual se dotará.

Asimismo, mi delegación desea resaltar la importancia de las coaliciones que están resultando de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios, amparadas en el mandato de la FAO, como una oportunidad para posicionar la labor del organismo más allá de las Agencias de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma.

En nuestro caso, expresamos nuestro entusiasmo y compromiso para llevar a buen término la Coalición que apoya el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar cuyo anuncio lo hiciera el Presidente de Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado Quesada, durante las declaraciones de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno y que ha sido apoyada por otros estados miembros y organizaciones de agricultores familiares.

Con estos comentarios, Costa Rica aprueba el informe de marras y agradece su presentación.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

I really appreciate the hybrid modalities. You can see that in the morning we joined you physically in the room, but in the afternoon, as we have other commitments, we can also join the meeting virtually. Thank you very much that COVID-19 changed our lives.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by China.

We would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees and all other Members for their active discussions for having made available to us this concise report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We take note of the review of Programme Priority Areas and allocation of budget between the Four Betters to ensure a better balance among the three pillars of sustainable development.

We would like to recall the 42nd Session of the Conference highlighting the importance of flexible, lightly earmarked and unearmarked voluntary contributions. We request FAO to provide further elaborations on possible mechanisms and approaches to attract more flexible voluntary funding in order to support a balanced budget resources for effective implementation of the Strategic Framework.

With regards to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). We appreciate the progress in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiencies of TCP operations including alignment of TCP funded activities with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031. We would like to stress the importance of maintaining TCP expenditures at the agreed level to ensure full expenditures of the TCP appropriation as approved by the Conference. All of us know that at the end of the TCP implementation, the project will deliver the outputs as required by the TCP document.

However, as mentioned in our previous national statement in Item 3, we encourage FAO to present and visualize the success stories, achievements and lessons learned from the FAO Programme and TCP implementation at the field and country level. We would like to hear more of the voices of farmers and people who have received support from FAO Programme and TCP implementation at the country level.

This will help us understand the situation and implementation and operationalization of the TCP on the ground and also, we can further discuss how to improve the work of the Organization and how to scale up the lessons learned and also the success of the TCP project for greater impact in other countries.

We would like to stress the importance of the continued support to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and also the CFS Secretariat and its products. You can see that after we endorse the CFS voluntary guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition or CFS recommendation on agroecological and other innovative approaches.

What is next? That is a question, how the Members, FAO, and other RBAs can support the countries to implement those products, CFS policy products, at the regional level, country level and also the local level. It is our challenge.

In addition, I would like to see FAO and also the RBAs use the uniqueness and beauty of the CFS as the intergovernmental, inclusive and multi-stakeholder platform to support the work on the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit with great support of FAO and the RBAs. With these comments, Thailand endorses the report of the Joint Meeting of 132nd Sessions of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Thailand, as the previous Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), we will never forget you in that sense.

#### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo a la Informe de la reunión conjunta del 132.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 188.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente: Manifestar, el primer lugar, nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la Unión Europea (UE) y sus Estados Miembros (EEMM).

Como ya se ha manifestado desde esta Representación Permanente, nos congratulamos de que se hayan celebrado sesiones presenciales de estos Comités de FAO.

Asimismo, apreciamos los esfuerzos de FAO para establecer el programa de respuesta y recuperación del COVID-19, para tratar de minimizar los efectos de la pandemia en los sistemas agroalimentarios y pesqueros.

De la misma forma, confiamos en que FAO va a continuar los esfuerzos para seguir mejorando la efectividad y eficiencia de los Programas Técnicos de Cooperación (PTC).

Por último, animamos a FAO a seguir buscando sinergias con las otras organizaciones con sede en Roma. No cabe duda de que queda trabajo por hacer para reducir solapamientos y duplicaciones entre estas instituciones, que es necesario evitar.

Con todo lo dicho, España apoya el *Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones.*



**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

Buenas tardes a todos, espero que hayan disfrutado el almuerzo en la FAO por primera vez después de mucho tiempo.

Comienzo por expresar nuestro agradecimiento a la excelente labor de las señoras Presidentas, tanto del Comité del Programa como del Comité de Finanzas y de la Reunión Conjunta. Su liderazgo, me parece, ha sido factor determinante en la consolidación de este reporte.

México, en estos Comités y en la Reunión Conjunta, ya ha endosado su contenido, así que lo hacemos nuevamente en este Consejo. Solo quisiera hacer mención de dos temas que nos parecen importantes: el primero tiene que ver con la decisión tomada por la FAO para dar una atención urgente, prioritaria a todo lo que tiene que ver con acoso y abuso sexual. En este sentido, México apoya la implementación de un programa de cero tolerancia y esperamos que todas los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) puedan realizar y llevar a cabo cambios en su política para que sean un ejemplo de esta materia a lo largo del mundo.

El segundo tema es insistir, y al hacerlo uno mi voz a la de otros Miembros que me han antecedido, en no olvidar las necesidades de los países de ingreso medio, a encontrar un mecanismo realmente transparente y eficiente para asegurar que estos países cuenten con los recursos necesarios para avanzar en su camino de desarrollo. Al hacerlo, no lo hago insistentemente por la necesidad de venir de un país de ingreso medio, lo hago convencido en el hecho que si no encontramos un balance adecuado en la asignación de recursos, pondremos en riesgo la estabilidad social, la estabilidad económica, ambiental y la producción de alimentos no solo en estos países, sino en el mundo entero.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor. I will now give the floor first to the Chairperson and Co-Chairpersons of the Joint Meeting.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

Building on my election, on this Item I would like to underscore the Joint Meeting recognition of the great progress accomplished in the process to refine the approach for Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resource shares. We will continue our discussion in 2022 to consider ways to ensure greater uniformity while keeping the required flexibility to respond to regional specificities.

Further to Joint Meeting comments, FAO results were achieved through the comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, and its seven priority areas of work, and in particular its close collaboration with the G20 Presidency and its tireless efforts towards placing food security, nutrition and agri-food system as an integral part in the G20 Rome Leaders Declaration in the G20 Ministerial Meeting.

Let me also underscore the Joint Meetings appreciation to FAO for its commitment in the prevention of and the protection against harassment, sexual harassment, and abuse. I appreciated the Council Members' highlighting our recommendation from the Joint Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Joint Meeting and the Programme and Finance Committees again for their hard work and professionalism, which led us all to a very efficient and constructive discussion. I invite Council Members to consider and agree with recommendations from the Joint Meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look whether or not the Co-Chairperson Ms Imelda Smolčić would like to make any remarks? I see none. With that, I would like to give the floor for brief answers from the Management. First, on the Technical Cooperation Programme, I give the floor to Ms Beth Bechdol.

**Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Let me thank the members of the Programme Committee and also the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for their positive feedback and valuable input on the continued development and refinement of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Let me just say very briefly as I believe we have very clearly outlined the next steps of the Strategic Exercise to realign the TCP that indeed we are very much looking forward to continuing to engage Members and especially Regional Groups specifically around the final determinations of the resource allocation shares which are to be approved by the 43rd Session of the Conference in mid-2023.

Until then we have three more Sessions of our Joint Meeting in May and November 2022 and also March 2023 and we are very supportive of the suggestion that has been offered to convene, along with you the Independent Chairperson of the Council. These additional regional discussions that are needed to ultimately secure Member input and make final determinations on these shares.

Next, as I think has also been highlighted is the commitment that we make to indeed continue to keep you apprised of how best to determine the regional criteria for allocation. We intend to provide you with continued updates including one at the next Joint Meeting in May and we also are beginning the process of consulting with our own Regional Assistant Directors-General and ensuring that there is not only a regional but also a sub-regional perspective being incorporated into our work to continue to refine, harmonize, and unify these criteria.

Last but not least, we also appreciate the comments that have been provided about operational efficiencies working to ensure that not only are there full expenditures of the TCP resources, but as was also suggested, to ensure that there are better success stories and lessons learned shared very much with Members and also external partners on the impact and focus at the country level. So let me just reaffirm that we are fully committed to ensure that we will maintain these highly transparent and inclusive steps to continue with this exercise and ensure a high degree of responsiveness and strategic thinking with all of you in improving the TCP.

Let me also just very briefly, if I might reference that a few other comments were offered on some of the items that were indeed suggested for written correspondence procedures, and I would like to add just two very brief comments related to Member perspectives on the progress report on the Rome-based Agencies collaboration. Just to reaffirm two points that were made in Management's response.

The first is related to the feasibility assessment on strengthening collaboration and administrative services. This point was raised by the European Union and also the Russian Federation and as we have shared in the written response we are indeed currently in the process of recruiting the external firm that will carry out this study. This assessment, we think, was very important to put into this current timeline so that we would have the joint evaluation completed so that the feasibility study could fully take on board the evaluation reports recommendations.

This assessment is indeed moving forward and it will take fully into consideration the findings of the joint evaluation and be shared with Members once available. At this time, I cannot provide a very specific timeline but I do not expect that it will take more than a few months to complete based on the proposals we have received from the outside firms.

Finally, I just simply want to confirm that indeed the joint evaluation that has been conducted, we believe, very much confirms the importance and the relevance of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) partnership and collaboration and indeed we look forward to fully discussing the joint evaluation with all of you in the Spring 2022 Sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I give the floor to the Director of Human Resources, Ms Greet de Leeuw, on the issue of sexual harassment.

#### **Ms Greet DE LEEUW (Director, Human Resources Division)**

I understand that the question was for an update on the Human Resources (HR) Strategic Plan if I am correct? I just wanted to let you know that the HR Strategic Plan was approved in September of last year and we have provided a first update of the implementation of the HR Strategic Plan in the Spring Session of this year to the Finance Committee. We will provide a new update on the Annual Report towards the progress of the HR Strategic Plan and its Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in the next Spring Session.

Members have highlighted that flexibility is required in the implementation of the Strategic Plan given the situation around COVID-19. Our priorities obviously have changed and resources have been redirected with the first priority of keeping our people safe around the world, meaning that people should be able to work in safe working circumstances but also continue the business operations around the world.

Despite the COVID-19 situation and despite the fact that we are still building up our HR capacity, still recruiting positions that have been reallocated by the Members, for which have been approved in the budget by the Members, for which we are very thankful, we have been able to get through a number of important priorities in the area of learning and career development. In the area of bringing new people on board an orientation, like a new orientation programme for the representatives.

We have, of course, developed into a section plan and also reported progress on that. We have developed a task force for misconduct and SEM prevention to make sure that we make progress in all these areas, and so I believe important progress is being made while there are still some matters of policy to be completed, like the recruitment policy, and the classification policy, which will also provide an opportunity for job growth for staff.

All in all, while there are some delays, I believe important progress has been made as was also acknowledged by the Oversight Audit Committee and we are committed to putting everything in place as soon as we can and will provide a full update in the Spring Session and through the document on the HR Annual Report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

There was also a question about the Mandate and the Terms of Reference of the Ombudsperson. I understand that Ms Beth Crawford will take that answer.

#### **Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

I just wanted to also thank the Members again for their comments on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), which we did discuss in detail this morning, but we continue to take note of your comments and feedback on the balance among the three pillars of sustainable development, and also on the importance of that unearmarked voluntary funding.

I could also just indeed respond briefly to the question of France on the Terms of Reference of the Ombudsman and here I am switching to my role as Secretary of the Oversight Advisory Committee so just to let the Members know that the Draft Terms of Reference of the Ombudsman have been shared and discussed with the Oversight Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference are now with Management for final review and finalization.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

When it comes to Multilingualism, I turn the floor to the newly appointed Coordinator, Mr Rakesh Muthoo.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Just like Ms Beth Crawford, I am going to switch hats from the Secretary-General to the Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism. As per your guidance, multilingualism will be taken up under Item 18, but I can very briefly confirm that the process for development of the Corporate Strategic Policy Framework is an inclusive and iterative one, which will end up with approval of a final product by the Council at its 170th Session in 2022 with an interim Report at the 169th Session for inputs by the Members themselves. This does not mean that the measures for enhancing multilingualism will wait for such approval in 2022; this is something that we are committed and continuing to enact now and here.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have concluded Agenda Item 7. Of course, we will draft our draft conclusions based on your interventions.

As we agreed and promised, we turn now back to the conclusions of Items earlier today, and we start with the Introductory Items. What we will do, we will put it on the screen, we send it to you by email, and we circulate it also here in the room now, so that you do not get a stiff neck that you always have to look up to have the conclusions. We try to facilitate your health as well.

We start with the Introductory Items.

The first Introductory Item is paragraph 1 and I will read them out, of course, for language purposes.

1. The 168th Session of the Council was held from 29 November to 3 December 2021, under the Chairpersonship of Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council.
2. The Session was convened in hybrid modality, on an exceptional basis, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, with some representatives attending in person at FAO headquarters and others participating virtually. This followed consultations by the Director-General with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, and with the Regional Groups of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Council confirmed that participation by designated Representatives through virtual modality constituted attendance at the Session which was convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

That is the Introductory Item. We go now item by item.

I now go to paragraph 1 of the Introductory Item, so if we can scroll up.

Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any requests for the floor.

Can we agree to paragraph 2?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Si j'ai bien compris vos interventions liminaires, le texte devait nous être distribué par écrit ou ai-je mal compris?

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, the idea would be that we will circulate the moment we put the text on the screen, also by the Members Gateway, the text for all participants, but not beforehand, because that would, of course, not bring everybody in the same equal position. That was discussed with the Chairs and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regions so that the text would be made available virtually, directly the moment it is presented on the screen.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Il serait utile aussi, autant que possible, qu'une version écrite soit distribuée en salle.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the Secretariat.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

There is nothing I would prefer than to be helpful and hand out hard copies. Unfortunately, that is not allowed under the strict health and safety protocols. However, I can confirm that the text that you are reading now on the screen has been circulated to all Members electronically.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As we are all bound by the rules set for our medical safety, as said by the Secretariat, we cannot circulate hard copies but, of course, you have it now in your email inbox.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Cuando menciona las notas al pie de página, que lo podamos ver cuando pasemos párrafo por párrafo, y hay una nota al pie de página que podamos ver al fondo porque en la pantalla no la vemos totalmente.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The footnotes refer to the Verbatim, which will come later when we finalize them, but it is a matter for the final Report.

Can we agree to these three paragraphs?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

S'agissant du paragraphe 2, je souhaiterais que soit rajouté, comme il est d'usage: "*without creating a precedent*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this insertion? I do not see any objections.

Any other requests for the floor for these three paragraphs? I see none. The Introductory Item with the three paragraphs are adopted.

Now, I turn to the Statement by the Director-General.

1. The Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, delivered a statement to Council.

In the footnote, you will see that this statement will be accompanied in the Report of the Council.

Can we agree to this paragraph?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Normalmente, no sé si hay consenso, pero normalmente, cuando el Director General hace un *speech* a los Miembros, ponemos algún mensaje como, "Bienvenido el mensaje del Director General" o algo por el estilo. Me parece por ahí, poco gentil, si me permite decir ese término. Pero si hay alguna otra razón, estoy abierto a que me convenzan de que por ahí por no conviene ser gentil con el Director General.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You gave over the answer in your last remark because these are the exact lines we always used in previous Reports of the Council.

With this, can we agree to this paragraph?

**Mr Arnaldo de Baena FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Could we go back to the previous section please? Yes, regarding this introduction here, in paragraph 2, it is just to consult, saying "*without creating a precedent*". Well, we are here trying to move back to normality of course and we are emerging but sometimes the pandemic has illustrated to us that it is difficult to predict what is going to happen in the future.

Let us hope for the best that in the future we have the full ability to be in the position to be everybody here in the FAO with the full capacity of all delegations to be present and to actively participate in the debates physically. But we do not know what things will be like at the next scenario in June so I do not know if Members are accountable for his proposition made by the distinguished delegate of France but, it is just a consultation to you and other Members if we are not prejudging the future inserting this sentence "*and without creating a precedent*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, we are working on an exceptional basis in a hybrid modality and this is a language, which we also used in previous Reports of the Council. That is why I put it forward for your adoption. We do not create any precedent for the future because this is an exceptional situation.

With that, can we agree to paragraph 2? I do not see any objections.

**Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (*continued*)****Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (*suite*)****Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/1; CL 168/INF/1; CL 168/INF/3; CL 168/INF/5)

We go to Item 1: *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable.*

1. The Council noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Union, and adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session.
2. The Council approved the special procedures outlined in document *CL 168/INF/5, Methods of Work for the 168th Session of the Council.*
3. The Agenda is given in *Appendix A* to this Report.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

On paragraph 2, if I were asked to put somewhere the idea of “*without creating a precedent*” this is where I would put it. “*The Council approved this special procedure without creating a precedent outlined in this document*”, because this is where the approval of the Conference is sought. I know that we have the same sentence in the previous Council, but I believe that this addition may be helpful because we are approving special procedures and we do not want to come back again to approve them at this point.

**Mme Michèle PRANCHÈRE-TOMASSINI (Luxembourg)**

Je ne veux pas être pédante, mais dans l'intérêt du multilinguisme, sous "Statement" du Directeur général, est-ce qu'on pourrait ajouter l'article "the", car vous l'avez dit vous-même, c'est aussi dans l'intérêt de la traduction.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will certainly take care of the translation issues in this respect.

I now go paragraph by paragraph. Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any objections.

We go to paragraph 2. Can we agree to paragraph 2?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Con el agregado de Camerún, que creo que es razonable, yo estoy de acuerdo. Me parece que es razonable, si para ustedes en la Secretaría que son los más expertos, pero me parece que tiene razón.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the paragraph, as I was meaning with the proposed insertion of the delegate of Cameroon.

Can we agree to paragraph 2? I do not see objections.

I go to paragraph 3. I do not see any objections.

**Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)**

**Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)**

**Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y designación del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)**

We go to Item 2: *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee.* I can inform you that Africa submitted the proposal for Guinea as a Member of the Drafting Committee. I will read out paragraph 1.

1. The Council elected three Vice-Chairpersons for its Session: Ms Lynda Hayden (Australia); H.E. Md Shameem Ahsan (Bangladesh); and Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile).
2. The Council elected Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee with the following membership: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Guinea, Luxembourg, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain and Sudan.

Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to paragraph 2. Can we agree to paragraph 2? I do not see any objections. It is so decided.

Then we go to Item 3. Before I show the text on the screen, as I said, it was a very substantive discussion this morning and this afternoon, and many items were raised. Most of them were also, of course, discussed in the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting. I could refer only to the paragraphs but then this Report would not reflect the discussion in the room.

I brought in those paragraphs where most of the Members refer to and, of course, what I tried to do is to use as much as possible, multilaterally agreed language, both from the Joint Meeting, the Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Meeting of the Finance Committee, as well as agreed language, for example, on the trade issue of the Conference.

With that now, I would like to continue with the Item 3: *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*. I would certainly make sure that the other conclusions will be much more concise, but this was such a substantive discussion, which is so important as it is the finalization of the documents for the Programme of Work and it was explained by Beth Crawford that we had to take on board the substantive elements which were presented by the Members.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me come back to something that you mentioned this morning, and I am not quite sure, I may be wrong, please correct me. I am not quite sure that we find it in document *CL 168/3, Annex 5*, you mentioned it and I have reference to that and the Drafting Committee will work in virtual mode. This is a decision to take and I do not know whether we have it somewhere stated, but you mentioned it this morning, I remember quite well.

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, I think it is up to the Drafting Committee to decide how they would like to work, but there is the possibility to work in hybrid mode in the meeting. It depends, of course, on when they would like to start. It can also be done in a virtual mode or a physical one, but at least they have the possibility to do it in a hybrid mode, it is up to the Drafting Committee to decide how to convene.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The Verbatim will not contain that sentence of yours this morning? Alright, so that should be clear enough, because if it is in the Verbatim then there will be a problem.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In the Informal Consultations leading up to this Council, there was a clear signal from the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs of the Regions that the most practical thing would be working in hybrid mode, but it is the decision of the Drafting Committee and it will not be reflected in the Verbatim.

**Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (continued)**

**Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023 (suite)**

**Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23 (continuación)**

(CL 168/3)

With that, I would like to turn to Item 3: *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022 -23*.

1. The Council welcomed the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and their Joint Meeting with respect to the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022 - 23*.
2. The Council:
  - a) Welcomed the document reflecting the guidance and decisions of the Conference on the Strategic Framework 2022 - 31, and Medium Term Plan 2022 - 25, and Programme of Work and Budget 2022 – 23;
  - b) Expressed satisfaction that the proposed adjustments would be managed within the overall approved budget level of USD 1,005.6 million in accordance with the Conference Resolution 8/2021;

- c) Supported the re-allocation of USD 1.2 million to strengthen science and innovation, including moving forward the Science and Innovation Strategy and supporting science and innovation implementation in the field, on a cost-neutral basis;
- d) Took note of the reviewed number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and allocation of budget between the *four betters* to ensure a better balance amongst the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), and supported the shift of the PPA “Achieving sustainable urban food systems” from *better life* to *better environment* in recognition of the critical importance of a resilient natural resources base to safeguarding and enhancing sustainable urban and pre-urban agri-food system transformation;
- e) Took note of the updated results framework presented in *Annex I*, and welcomed the improved linkages between the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with specific SDG targets and indicators, and requested (i) to replace reference to “green” in the BP1 with “sustainable” and (ii) that the concept of “blue food systems” in BP2 be replaced by the term “aquatic food systems”;
- f) Welcomed the improved approach to integrated Country Programming Frameworks in the results framework in line with the repositioning of the UN Development System.
- g) Supported the proposed approach to resource planning, monitoring and reporting, welcoming the inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative baseline data and output indicators under the PPAs, and their contributions to the SDGs;
- h) Stressed the importance of partnerships in implementing the Programme of Work;
- i) Noted there are many approaches to sustainable agriculture production, emphasised the need to consider all such approaches and request that Management reflect these considerations in the results framework;
- j) Highlighted the importance of global food supply chains and open, non-discriminatory, predictable and rule-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and taking into account the mandate of FAO in this respect;
- k) Noted that there are many approaches to sustainable agriculture production, there is no one-size-fits all approach and prescriptive language, which has no consensus amongst Members on its direct interlinkages with sustainable agriculture production, should be avoided given the different perspectives expressed on geographical indications (GIs) and climate-smart agriculture, among other concepts, and they should be reflected in the results framework;
- l) Welcomed the leading role of FAO in the implementation of the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit, the UN-wide system approach, including with the HLPF and looked forward to the Organization's engagement with the UN agencies and programmes in this regard;
- m) Recognised that the Hand-In-Hand Initiative has become a catalyst and important support to strengthening the Organization's capacity to deliver integrated size and evidence-based technical policy and investment support, and noted that this will benefit all Members by increasing the quality, relevance, skill and impact of FAO support at national, regional and sub-regional programmes as well as FAO's global normative work and to ensure that the initiative would not have further impacts on FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2022 – 23;
- n) Stressed the need to duly consider in a neutral, balanced, science and evidence-based manner all the available approaches, systems, and tools to leverage FAO's comparative advantages to promote working at scale for greater sustainability and long-term impact in response to Members' needs;
- o) Reiterated the importance of using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilaterally agreed language and concepts, in particular those agreed by the FAO



Governing Bodies, noting that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and recommended that any documents related to this PWB use this language accordingly;

- p) Looked forward to regular reporting to the Governing Bodies on outcomes and results at country level in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022 - 23 biennium;
  - q) Took note of the revised budgeted post establishment (*Table 3* and *Annex 8*), and the updated estimates for extra-budgetary resources (*Table 4*);
  - r) Encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to support priorities in the integrated Programme of Work and invited Management to explore alternative funding modalities to attract more flexible funding to support effective implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022 - 31.
3. The Council approved the revised distribution of the net appropriations by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 2*.

Now we scroll up to paragraph 1. Can we agree to paragraph 1?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais proposer qu'on remplace "*welcome*" par "*endorsed*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this change? I do not see any objections. It is adopted.

We go to subparagraph 2(a). Can we agree to subparagraph 2(a)?

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

If we say, "*welcomed the document*", which document are we referring to? I believe we need to be specific because if you put it that way I think it is a document *CL 168/3*. That is the document we are talking about, we are not talking about a report of the committees and so on, so there could be confusion there if we do not.

**CHAIRPERSON**

For making it more crystal clear it should be, indeed, included. Can we agree with the change proposed by Cameroon?

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

I would like to go back to paragraph 1 if I may. "*The Council welcomed the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and their Joint Meeting*". Are we welcoming all three or just one of them? If we are talking about all three Reports there is one we are still to discuss. I would like to hear your opinion on this. Can we use the term '*endorsed*' or '*welcomed*' on all three reports? I am not sure I agree, perhaps we could hear your views on this and then discuss which term to use here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Here we are not endorsing the three Reports in general. We are endorsing the Reports with respect to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. That is why we only mention the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting, because it is only reflecting on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

In the same wing as my colleague, the Distinguished Ambassador from Cameroon, proposed amendment of the document to subparagraph (a), I would like to propose some more specific reference to the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, assuming we are talking about the reports that relate to the adjustments. I suppose it is necessary to provide them with regular numbering. "*The*

*Reports of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee, 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance Committee and their Joint Meeting*". As an alternative reference to the numbers of the Report.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think our colleague from China had a point there, because we will be discussing the Reports themselves at a given period in time, so we cannot endorse. Because the statement here is 'we are going to endorse the report' when we are discussing them, including in this Item, because we are endorsing the report of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. Now, we welcome elements of those Reports. That is the difference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can do it in two ways. We can do it as you suggested: we say "we welcomed the Reports with regards to..." and later on in the text we say, "endorsed all reports". But you can always say "I endorse Reports" when it relates to elements of the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, because in both ways it is feasible to do. We can at this moment just say 'welcome' but further on in the text, we have to say "we endorse the Reports". That could be done as well.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are anticipating the endorsement of the Reports here. Are we? Even if we have not seen all the elements of the Report? We do not want to anticipate an endorsement of the Report, as we will be examining these reports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I understand your question and your remark, but what we state here is that we only endorse the Reports with respect to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, not the rest of those Reports because they are not discussed yet. Of course, I think we could have a lengthy discussion on this. My suggestion would be that we say "We welcome the Reports with this" and later on we will say "when we have discussed all the Reports." We have one sentence that we endorse all the Reports because then it is crystal clear otherwise, we have a lengthy discussion because you can go two ways.

Therefore, my suggestion would be that we maintain "welcome" and later on in the text, we will say "endorse the Reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meetings" so that we have one sentence after we have discussed all the items which were discussed in those three sessions of the Committee. Would that be agreeable?

I do not see any objections and with that, when I look to the time schedule, we have to stop now for the interpreters. We have to give the interpreters some rest. We will continue with our work for the adoption of the conclusions at 17:00 hours. Re-energize yourself for half an hour. Of course, you can go down for a cup of coffee, there is water, and we will see each other back in this room at 17:00 hours.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:33 to 17:03 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 33 à 17 h 03*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.33 a las 17.03*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Colleagues, friends I hope you had some time to re-energize although it was short, half an hour, but let us continue our work.

I think we were at paragraph 8. Can we agree to paragraph 8?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Excusez-moi, j'ai deux points à noter.

Premièrement, s'agissant du paragraphe 1 du point 3, j'ai bien noté votre proposition de revenir à "welcome", plutôt que "endorsed" avec l'*understanding*, avec l'accord que plus tard, nous pourrions approuver, "endorse", formellement les rapports. Avec cette interprétation, ma délégation peut accepter le mot "welcome".

Deuxième point, et je m'en excuse par avance, je souhaiterais revenir au paragraphe 3 du point 1. J'ai en effet retrouvé le langage agréé que nous avons adopté.

**CHAIRPERSON**

One moment please. Secretariat, go to Item 1. Introductory Item. We go to paragraph 3.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai retrouvé le langage que nous utilisons habituellement dans les sessions précédentes du Conseil et il me semble qu'il serait plus précis que celui que nous avons ici, au paragraphe 3. Selon le paragraphe habituel, conformément à l'Article VIII du Règlement intérieur du Conseil, le Conseil se met d'accord sur la suspension de toute règle incompatible avec des modalités virtuelles, en l'espèce hybride, et en particulier l'Article II, paragraphe 3. Et puisque certains d'entre nous, notamment les Membres, ne sont pas tous présents physiquement dans la salle, il me semblerait important, sur le plan juridique, de reprendre ce langage, à savoir *"pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, it agreed to the suspension of any rules incompatible with the hybrid setting, specifically Rule 2.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, which provided that each session of the Council shall be held at the seat of the Organization"*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to the Legal Counsel for advice, of course.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Thank you for this proposal from the distinguished Ambassador of France. Indeed, in the previous Sessions, the Council has used the language proposed by France, as has now been put forward in this paragraph for alternate paragraph 3.

The language that was originally presented was intended to reflect that the individuals, the designated representatives who were participating in a virtual modality were nevertheless attending a session which was being indeed convened at the headquarters of the Organization and thus in compliance with Rule II, paragraph 3.

Nevertheless, the language that is proposed by France for reinstatement or taken from earlier reports is indeed more specific as regards the possible suspension of rules that are incompatible. In my legal opinion, both would meet the needs and reflect the virtual modality and ensure the authorization or the validity and integrity of the Session, either the originally stated one here, or the language from the previous Session.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We would like to support the proposal made by the French delegate. If you could also allow me, can I go back further, to Agenda Item 3.1, where we dealt with endorsement and welcoming, if you could allow me at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first clarify this item. Otherwise, we go back and forth in the text and on the screen. First, the proposal is to replace the paragraph 3, which is in brackets now, by what is now in paragraph 4. Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We have now again an agreed paragraph 3. Now we go back to Item 3. There we had both Cameroon and the Russian Federation.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We would like to propose for your consideration the following: as soon as there was a proposal by France to reinstate "welcome" with "endorse", that is stronger, and we cannot be endorsing at this point the Report as a whole. Can we make the following amendment to this paragraph: *"The Council endorsed their recommendations of the Report."*

Then, at the end of the phrase of this paragraph, "*with respect to the adjustments*". That would be more specific as to the recommendations that we are endorsing, not the Report as a whole, but the recommendations of the Report dealing with adjustments.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have a problem with what the Russian Federation said, but I want us to be at the same understanding of the procedures here. Because of the Committees - Finance Committee, Programme Committee, and Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters – they are all advisory bodies to the Council and because they are advisory bodies to the Council, the Council is not obliged to adopt or endorse their Report. It has to discuss elements in their Reports.

We have to be clear from the very beginning because when we come to this later on, probably there will be indeed fighting whether we should endorse or adopt that. We have to understand that these are advisory bodies. When we are an advisor, I am not obliged to take what you advise me on.

That is the understanding we have.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La verdad es que yo me siento muy cómodo con la propuesta que hizo la Federación de Rusia sobre "*Endorse the recommendations*". Pero tratando de responder al planteo de mi estimadísimo colega de Camerún, yo creo que sí es cierto, que los Órganos Rectores como el Comité del Programa y los demás comités asesoran al Consejo, pero tampoco significa que el Consejo no tenga por qué tomar o aceptar o confirmar lo que esos Órganos Rectores determinan.

Las dos cosas son ciertas, las que dice él como también aquellos que planteamos que cuando hay acuerdo en el Consejo, esas recomendaciones tienen que ser confirmadas o ratificadas. Las dos cosas. Entonces, quizás, lo que podríamos hacer como mecanismo de solución, es tratar de poner como usted sugirió, Presidente, entre corchetes esa "*Endorse*" hasta que podamos culminar el proceso y dejarlo para que al final podamos confirmar la idea del respaldo de las recomendaciones que hicieron los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Si no fuera así, obviamente deberíamos volver, pero lo podríamos dejar entre corchetes. Usted sugirió esa alternativa, me parece que es una posibilidad. Esto quiere decir, no estamos obligados, pero tampoco estamos obligados a no aceptar o respaldar las recomendaciones del Comité, entonces creo que de esa manera podríamos perfectamente respetar lo que sugiere técnicamente nuestro estimado colega de Camerún y al mismo tiempo las expectativas de muchos Miembros que han trabajado duramente en el Comité del Programa y que interpretamos que lo que se ha logrado en el Comité del Programa y en los demás Comités, fue un consenso muy trabajado, difícil, pero logrado un resultado claramente exitoso de trabajo de los Miembros, de una parte de ellos.

Repito, dejándole al Consejo que finalmente decida, pero quizás lo pudiéramos dejar entre corchetes.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Taking note of what my Argentinian colleague and Cameroon, my neighbour, just recently said, I think it is a very good point because if I listened well to everyone's interventions this morning, they said we welcome this, then they made a list of three or four different points, and at the end, with these comments, we endorse the report.

In a sense, that is the kind of intervention that we might have here, welcoming first, then going through the points that are under number two, and at the end of that coming to a conclusion that we endorse it based upon those comments.

In that regard, I would support my Cameroonian colleague's suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My suggestion would be, taking on both, that we have in pair of one welcomed recommendation, as was suggested, and that we have a paragraph 4, with what was suggested by Canada, that we then in that paragraph endorse.

So, we keep here *'welcomed'*, because then we go into the specific recommendations, which we want to highlight and then in paragraph 4, we will endorse. Would that be a way forward? I see no objections.

Can we then go to subparagraph 2(a)? I do not see any requests for the floor. We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any request for the floor,

I go to subparagraph (c). Can we agree to subparagraph (c)?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No entiendo qué quiere decir "*On a cost-neutral basis.*" Me gustaría, si pudiéramos, mejorar esa redacción para entenderlo mejor. Si es realmente imprescindible colocarlo, me gustaría entender exactamente lo que se pretende decir con "*Cost-neutral Basis.*" Quiero tratar de interpretar lo mismo que la Secretaría.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give the floor to Ms Beth Crawford.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

The cost-neutral basis refers to the fact that these resources of USD 1.2 million have been reallocated within the approved budget of USD 1 billion 5.6 million. I do take the point of the distinguished delegate of Argentina that it is possibly confusing the way it is written, and I wonder if it would help to move on a cost neutral-basis up to the beginning, so "*supported the reallocation of USD 1.2 million*", either there, on a cost-neutral basis, or after "*to strengthen science and innovation*".

Or, sorry, we could even put it after reallocation, "*supported the reallocation on a cost-neutral basis of USD 1.2 million*", just to make it clear that it refers to that reallocation that was cost-neutral.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I would like to ask you to give the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We apologize for being late, but we have a proposal for an addition for paragraph 2 (b). We hope that you can take into consideration our proposal, we would like to add to the phrase in the end, "*and noted that further budgetary transfers within the overall budgetary envelope should be handled in accordance with FAO's financial regulations, especially Regulation 4.5*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first go to subparagraph (c), before we go back to subparagraph (b). Can we agree with the insertions as was suggested by Ms Beth Crawford?

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Perhaps just as an alternative to the language on a cost-neutral basis. We could keep the language at the end but replace it with "*no impact on the overall budget*". That might make it a little bit clearer for people as to what we are trying to say when we say on a cost-neutral basis.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The suggestion now is to have instead of "*a no cost-neutral basis*", "*with no impact on the overall budget*" at the end, is that agreeable?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lo acepto y permítame igual agradecerle al Director General Adjunto, Señora Beth Crawford sus intentos de clarificar el concepto, pero me parece que lo que está planteando Australia, creo que va en la misma dirección y de alguna manera es lo que queremos expresar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see any other requests for the floor. Can we agree that subparagraph (c) is now adopted as it stands on the screen? I do not see any objections. It is so decided.

We go back now to subparagraph (b) with the proposal of the European Union. Can we agree to the insertion?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This looks like a good addition. But I wonder whether it is the prerogative of the Council or the Finance Committee? Because is it not the Finance Committee to take the decisions on the budgetary task force? That is the only place where the Finance Committee takes the decision. So, I probably need some clarification there at this time. But if it is... I agree with it but, you know, how to handle it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this question, I look to my right side, your left side, and that is Ms Donata Rugarabamu. Help us out.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Regulation 4.5(b) sub-subparagraph 1 establishes that “*transfers from one chapter of the budget to another relating to expenditures, which would not involve additional financial obligations for Member nations and Associate Members, either current or future, may be affected by the Director-General after having obtained the approval of the Finance Committee or by the Council between sessions of the Finance Committee*”.

Regulation sub-sub paragraph 2 then provides “*transfers from one chapter of the budget to another other than those for which the Finance Committee has authority may be affected by the Director-General after having obtained the approval of the Council*”.

I trust that clarifies the roles of the Finance Committee and the Council in this regard.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Okay, whether or not the text as proposed is correct as the data suggests, can we agree to this insertion?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We speak of the net appropriation overall budgetary envelope. Do we also include, what should I say, the extra budgetary resources there? It is I think the net appropriation is the appropriate words. Is it an overall budgetary envelope?

**CHAIRPERSON**

We see your experience also as a former Chairperson of the Finance Committee, because indeed this I think what I see is correct.

Can we agree to this adjusted subparagraph? I do not see any objections. Is it so agreed.

Let me go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree? I do not see any request for the floor, it is so adopted.

Then we go to subparagraph (e).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Chairperson, kindly give the floor to the Chair of our Africa Group to speak on this Item.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

I would like to give my intervention on this particular Item. We know a lot of work has gone into this through the Drafting Committee, but we do not agree with the removal of “*Blue Economy*”. There are quite a number of countries, including Kenya and many others, that have endorsed the Strategic Plan of the FAO that was endorsed in the last Council. Therefore, we would prefer it to be reinstated amongst the others.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We have one small suggestion for subparagraph (e), and that is to move the Sustainable Development Goals earlier in the phrase so it would read “*between the Sustainable Development Goals and the four betters*” to emphasize the primacy of the SDGs.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

My comment is similar to the United States.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quisiera ver si con mi intervención puedo ayudar en términos de lo expresado por mi querida hermana, la Presidenta del Grupo Regional Africano. En ningún momento la idea me parece, por lo menos en base de lo que algunos Miembros expresaron, la idea es sacar digamos... no era una cuestión vinculada a *Blue Economy*, que es un concepto donde todos los países que lo utilizan son muchísimos, seguramente, y además existen mecanismos de cooperación a través de los programas de FAO con los diferentes países.

Eso no es un tema que está en discusión, sino lo que digamos, para algunos países, hemos planteado que el tema de *Blue Food Systems*, que es un concepto que, digamos, aparece como menos inclusivo que el concepto de *Aquatic Food Systems*. Esto fue incluso en un seminario que la propia FAO realizó, este fue el concepto que se utilizó sobre esta cuestión, pero esto no significa de ninguna manera que afecte la utilización por parte de cada uno de los países de la economía *Blue* ni tampoco que eso afecte en ninguna medida el alineamiento de la FAO en términos de estrategia de cooperación con cada uno de los países.

Me parece que apunta más a una cuestión de tratar de utilizar, en el caso de los Sistemas Alimentarios Azules, un concepto más amplio, inclusive más amplio, pero no negando lo que con mucha razón expresa mi querida Presidenta del Grupo Africano.

He tratado por lo menos, de ser claro en esto.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

Thank you, Argentina, for that clarification. It is still our stand that there should be a reflection because we do not want inferences. It is not clear that the Blue Economy is also part of it. So, we believe there should be a phrase. I do not have the phrase myself, but as long as the Blue Economy term is also used amongst the others, we are good with that.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Very briefly, I believe that the intervention made by Ambassador Cherniak goes along with the idea of maintaining FAO texts and documents aligned with multilaterally agreed language. That is a very important issue to Members, and we believe that those countries who deal with the Blue Economy concept are not prevented from adopting it. The main focus here is the documents of FAO. That is why we, at the Programme Committee, indicated and requested this insertion in the Programme Committee Report, and that is why we reiterated this issue this morning.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros, primero que todo, quisiéramos apoyar la sugerencia de Estados Unidos de América de mover los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) antes de los *Four Betters*. En cuanto al tema del *Blue Food Systems*, justamente concordamos con lo señalado por Brasil y lo dicho por Argentina, que la idea no es que los países que tengan trabajo sobre economías azules - que en todo caso es un concepto diferente al que está usado acá - puedan seguir haciéndolo, pero sí que en los documentos de la FAO se use lenguaje multilateralmente acordado.

**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

We fully support what the Ambassador of Kenya has said on behalf of the Africa Group. We would also like to recall that the Blue Economy is very much an acceptable multilateral term, which is widely used, for example, by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Furthermore, if you look at the issue of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), it has adopted six priority pillars in terms of its Blue Economy, which includes fisheries and aquaculture, renewable, oceans, energy.

Furthermore, in terms of FAO's own documents, if we only look as far back as 2014, the COFI Report, which was endorsed by the Council and the Conference in 2014, made a very clear reference to Blue Growth Initiative. In that regard, for us, this is very much an accepted multilateral term and it should not be lost.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

South Africa said exactly what I wanted to say, in better English. We support what Kenya said.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to Ms Beth Crawford, perhaps for finding a way forward out of this discussion.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

While I do not wish to enter into the substance of the discussion, I could perhaps just recall that at the time of the Conference, we prepared Document *C 2021/LIM/4*. In Section 2 of that document, we put in the details of how we would handle some of this terminology that had been discussed in the previous sessions of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Joint Meeting and the Council. Specifically on the point of Blue Economy, there we agreed that a footnote would be added to the Strategic Framework.

Therefore, if Members wish to look at the Strategic Framework, currently posted on the FAO website, the term Blue Economy is there and there is a footnote that describes what it means based on the World Bank definition.

In that same document, we confirm that the term Blue Economy would not be specifically used in the articulation of the Strategic Results Framework because in the actual Strategic Framework, it is used in the foresight section of the document.

This is just to confirm that we have continued with the agreement reached at the time of the Conference on how the term Blue Economy would be used. I believe in this particular paragraph now, the suggestion is to replace the term Blue with Aquatic, in the form of Food Systems. This would be a matter for the Council. Management would be fine with that either way.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Justamente lo que nosotros queremos evitar es esta confusión de conceptos: hemos escuchado ahora usar de manera intercambiable los conceptos de *Blue Food System*, *Blue Economy*, *Blue Growth*. En este caso no se está hablando del concepto de *Blue Economy*, sino que del concepto de *Blue Food Systems* y es este el que nosotros pedimos que se reemplace por el término "*Aquatic Food Systems*".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lo que queremos es que seamos todos inclusivos. Yo creo que lo que planteó Chile es interesante porque es la diferenciación entre cuestiones que a veces se confunden.

En el documento se habla de *Blue Transformation* y eso no está en discusión: eso va a mantenerse. El tema de la Economía Azul es un tema que también estaba siendo utilizado y no está en cuestionamiento en este párrafo. Lo único que está planteándose es que para no estamos de acuerdo ni con Transformación Azul ni con esos conceptos, pero lo que está en este momento en discusión en este párrafo es específicamente el tema de Sistemas Alimentarios Azules que sería diferente de los Sistemas Alimentarios Acuáticos en cuanto estos se entienden como un concepto más amplio.

Entonces, estamos tratando de ser más inclusivos, no estamos siendo restrictivos de aquellos que quieran utilizar internamente en sus políticas la política azul o diferentes formas de utilización del concepto. No nos olvidemos que también estamos hablando de aguas interiores, como lagos, y estamos hablando de un montón de actividades que para muchos países eso no significa o no se puede resumir en el concepto Azul, sino que en el concepto Acuático. Entonces para ser inclusivos e incorporar todas las realidades, tenemos que tratar de entender las lógicas de aquellos que utilizan



Economía Azul como aquellos que tienen otras realidades para lo cual lo Acuático aparece como un concepto más amplio e inclusivo.

Yo creo que incluso en la acuicultura, la preocupación de muchos países es pensar de que pueda ser afectado el alineamiento de sus políticas "azules" con la estrategia de la FAO en términos de sus políticas de cooperación, pero creo que está claro que esto de ninguna manera, como lo dijo muy bien el Director General Adjunto, Señora Beth Crawford, afecta absolutamente la política de cooperación de la FAO con quienes llevan adelante políticas denominadas azules.

Entonces no estamos hablando de Economía Azul ni de Transformación, sino estamos hablando estrictamente de Sistemas Alimentarios Azules. Si pudiéramos evitar hacer esa confusión entre los términos, probablemente creo que no debería haber problema en ponernos de acuerdo: creo que el tema de Economía Azul no se utiliza en el Marco estratégico, sino que se utilice en los Marcos de Política. Entonces este es un punto central que tiene que ver con un concepto que es Sistemas Alimentarios Azules que es sumamente restrictivo frente al concepto acuático que es mucho más amplio, que no niega la Economía Azul ni las políticas que cada país implementa del lado denominado Azul.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was going to propose some language along the lines of what you had proposed, at the tail end. We do not have a strong position on using Blue or Aquatic. It is fine either way for us. But, at the tail end of that sentence, adding "*while noting this does not limit Member States ability to use these terms as they see fit*", could be an alternative to your suggested language.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to try to find a way out and find a compromise in this room, both physically and virtually. Cameroon.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I wish to be positive and try to advance the situation. It might be a radical suggestion that may look like we are shying away from what we have in front of us. But, we suggest to put a full stop, after "*indicators*" to, then, create a footnote, and probably under that, refer to Blue Economy and consider using alternatively Blue Food Systems and Aquatic Food Systems. This is a suggestion that I would like us to take and see if we can progress. So, remove it from up in the centre. We have a full stop there and, then, there is something that is not captured with regard to the Blue Economy, something like that.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord soutenir ce qui a été indiqué par mes collègues du Kenya, au nom du Groupe Afrique, et de l'Afrique du Sud. Je comprends que la notion de «*Blue Economy*», «Blue Transformation» est quelque chose d'extrêmement important pour nos collègues et amis du Groupe Afrique. Ma délégation est naturellement prête à soutenir cette demande, qui nous paraît légitime, importante et qui d'ailleurs a été longuement discutée au Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires. Nous sommes prêts à soutenir la proposition de compromis que vous avez faite.

J'ai une autre suggestion, c'est une idée et je ne sais pas si elle rencontrera l'intérêt des autres délégations. Si j'ai bien compris, la crainte de mes collègues de l'Argentine, du Brésil et du Chili serait à propos de "*blue*" qui ne comporte pas le mot "aquatique", donc pourquoi ne pas dire "*blue and aquatic food system*" pour que les choses soient claires.

Je ne sais pas si cela contribue à faire avancer le débat, en tout cas, je crois que c'est un terme en discussion dans le cadre du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires, et je voulais saisir cette occasion pour soutenir la demande de mes collègues africains.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Sencillamente quería apoyar lo que acaba de decir mi colega francesa y, por tanto, también los puntos manifestados por el Grupo Africano.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have to apologize to the Observer, because when we are speaking about the negotiations of text, the Rules and Procedures give a clear rule that it is only the Members of the Council who can negotiate. For that I cannot give you the floor at this moment of the discussion.

We have several proposals now on the table. Is there any proposal which could meet the consensus in the room? I see no delegation asking for the floor. Then we keep it pending and I will put this up later if we finalize the other paragraphs.

We go to subparagraph (f). Can we agree to paragraph (f)?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

¿Podríamos volver un momento al párrafo anterior para poder sacar una foto?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (f)? I do not see any requests for the floor, it is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph (g). I do not see any requests for the floor, it is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph (h). I do not see any requests for the floor, it is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph (i).

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Subparagraphs (i) and (k) might be very similar in their wording. Would it be possible to scroll up so we can see them both on the screen at the same time?

**CHAIRPERSON**

We included these because in the Joint Meeting and Programme Committee both subparagraphs were used as well.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I agree with Canada. I think the two refer to the same and can be combined.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Does Mexico or Canada have any suggestion, if we want to combine those?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Retain subparagraph (k) and drop subparagraph (i).

**CHAIRPERSON**

The suggestion of Canada is to delete subparagraph (i) and maintain subparagraph (k). Can we agree to this?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

My esteemed colleague from Mexico suggested that it might be a tail end of paragraph I that could be stuck to the bottom of what is now the part "*and requested Management to reflect these considerations in the Results Framework*". Perhaps that piece could be blended into the one that has been retained. I guess it is already there.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is already there. Can we agree to maintain the old subparagraph (k) and delete subparagraph (i)? I do not see any objections, it is so decided.

We go to subparagraph of the open, non-discriminatory, predictable and rules-based, multilateral trading system. This subparagraph comes from and was agreed during the FAO Conference. Can we agree to this subparagraph? I do not see any objections.

We continue to the new subparagraph (k). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (l). Sorry, Russian Federation.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We are a bit uneasy about welcoming the leading role of FAO in the implementation of the outcomes, since we believe that this topic will be more broadly discussed under the Agenda Item on the Food Systems Summit.

Providing this green light, so to speak, to FAO as regards its leading role, we are a bit cautious as regards the Hub that has been established in FAO, because we are not yet clear about staffing and financing of this Hub. Therefore, we cannot welcome it.

A proposal would be to “note”, but “noting the leading role” sounds a little bit peculiar. So, we might be replacing “welcome” with “noting the plans of FAO to play a leading role in the implementation of the outcomes”. Again, this is pending the discussion of the Food Systems Summit under another Agenda Item.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To be honest, I think the text sounds a little bit particular, because it was not the plan of FAO. It was a decision of the Secretary-General to give the leading role to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and within the RBAs to FAO.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

Mexico agrees with Russia. We did not discuss this in detail and there will be topic later in the meeting to address this issue. We can only acknowledge the potential role to be played by FAO. Other than that, I do not think this is the time to welcome or endorse anything else. The same probably goes with the following line.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Because we know that we will have an extensive discussion on Wednesday on this Agenda Item, we can delete this subparagraph here and go into more substantive discussion on Wednesday. There will be much more to discuss about the broader outcome of the Food System Summit, about the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), about FAO, about coalitions and coordination. Would that be a way out of this discussion? Otherwise, we risk spending a lot of time finding some wording here, to then still have to discuss the item itself on Wednesday.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Firstly, I raised my flag to get your permission to go back to what is subparagraph (j) , once this discussion has concluded. But, while I have the floor, I would like to support the proposal you've just made, noting that we will get into a fulsome discussion on this and have an opportunity to reflect this in a later Agenda Item.

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I will kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We would like to support your proposal to discuss this under Item 6. But, should this not be the case, we will come back with some additional language proposals for this subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quería proponer un párrafo alternativo, en caso de que tuviera consenso, en línea con lo que planteó el representante de la Federación de Rusia. Pero repito, si es que tiene consenso para salir de esa situación. Lo voy a leer a velocidad de dictado en inglés.

*“Leading role of FAO in assessing and potentially implementing the proposal resulted from the United Nations Food System Summit.”*

Si vuela bien, y si no, no hay problema en sacarla.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I was listening to your suggestion, I think I consider that it is very wise to drop this subparagraph, as we have further discussion during this week. If Members are okay with this idea, Brazil can embark on that and, if not, I have some suggestions to alter the subparagraph.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme plusieurs collègues, il me semble préférable, à ce stade de nos discussions, de supprimer ce paragraphe, puisque nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir en détail. Je souhaite aussi en profiter pour soutenir la suggestion de mon collègue mexicain, de faire la même chose pour le paragraphe suivant, anciennement (m), nouvellement (l), puisque ce point fera également l'objet de discussions détaillées.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first address the new subparagraph (k).

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to distinguished colleague from Mexico for lending support to our proposal. We have the same feeling as regards the next subparagraph that concerns Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We believe that we cannot discuss this thoroughly at this particular point in time, so we can get back to it while we have the corresponding Agenda Item.

If you could also allow me to make a small comment on the role of FAO as regards the UN Food Systems Summit results. We do not question the distribution of labour in this case, we just think that the bodies that are created within FAO and financed from the regular budget shall be, so to speak, financed and staffed and shall be discussed with Members. So, we have not yet received exhaustive information as regards the staffing and financing of this hub, and just deliberating on this agenda item under the adjustments to the regular budget, we proceed from the fact that this regular budget will be covering the hub, but if my memory does not fail me, we have got nothing that regards the hub in the current Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-23, so we cannot be supportive of this particular language at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think there is a growing support for deleting this subparagraph.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I think we would like to support your proposal, which has been supported by some Members, to delete this the new subparagraph (k).

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We also join our colleagues from Mexico, France and Russia to support deleting this subparagraph as well as the following, given the extensive discussions we will have on both items.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think there is now an agreement in the room to at least delete subparagraph (k), I do not see any objections, it is so decided.

Given the fact that we are going to discuss the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to delete this subparagraph under this Agenda Item, can we agree to that? I do not see any objections.

We go up because Australia had a suggestion for a previous subparagraph, which was the subparagraph, which was agreed to in the Joint Meeting.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I am sorry to come back to this, and I hope I do not sound pedantic, but on reflecting on the two different subparagraphs, the one that has been deleted earlier, I think it was the previous subparagraph (i), and the current subparagraph (j), while on the surface they read very similarly, I think they are actually addressing two different points.

The previous subparagraph (i) highlighted the fact that there are multiple sustainable agricultural approaches and encouraged that those approaches be included in the results framework, whereas the current subparagraph (j) targets in more on the prescriptive language and calls for prescriptive language not to be used and the results framework to reflect that we do not want to use the prescriptive language.

So, in my mind, we have got two options, we go back to what seems repetitive, noting that there are actually a nuance in what is being said, or we make a bit of a clunky subparagraph here at subparagraph (j) and my proposal for that, noting my preference would be just to go back to what we had and what was agreed in the joint meeting, but the alternative here would read, "*Noted that there are many approaches to sustainable agricultural production,*" sorry, I have got so many scribbles here.

Let me get to the other one that I had, how about can I get your agreement to see if we can just go back and not delete the two subparagraph based on the nuances and if people do not agree, I will give you something really clunky that you will probably hate, but at least I have tried.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

My preference would be your first, because it was already two agreed subparagraphs in the Joint Meeting, in the Programme Committee meeting, so as many of you said let us try to stick to agreed language, could we then not contain both subparagraphs? That would be also for time's sake the easiest way forward.

#### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros apoyamos lo señalado por Australia, nos parece que los dos subpárrafos refieren a distintos niveles, distintas cosas, ¿no? Y quisiéramos mantener los dos párrafos aprobados en la Reunión Conjunta y Reunión del Comité de Programa.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We have no objection to Australia's suggestion, it was really just to try to have a lighter text, but we appreciate the distinction that Australia has made.

#### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We also support Australia's proposal to keep the original both subparagraph.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think that was a growing consensus that we can maintain both subparagraphs, can we agree to that? I do not see any objections. It is so agreed.

We go to subparagraph (l), can we agree to subparagraph (l)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (m).

#### **Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Al referirnos al tema tres, mi delegación realizó varias precisiones y me ha llamado la atención que ninguno de nuestros puntos de vista ha sido contemplado ni en el informe que hizo el Director General Adjunto, Señora Beth Crawford, ni en estos temas. Y para Costa Rica, pues, comprendemos que no todo puede ser incluido en las conclusiones, pero sí le agradecería tomar en cuenta dos puntos muy concretos, que para Costa Rica y de acuerdo a nuestra perspectiva, son importantes para otros países, muchos países del mundo, sobretodo para los países en desarrollo.

Y a eso me refiero con la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible, propusimos agregar y lo voy a leer, un texto sugerido en español y que se lo pueden ir traduciendo o lo haga después la Comisión de Redacción, pero proponemos decir "*Enfatizó en la importancia de considerar el concepto de pobreza y no solamente de pobreza extrema, ello con el objetivo de que se vean reflejados los diferentes estratos de la población en los países menos desarrollados, así como los países en desarrollo*".

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Costa Rica, to be sure, you want this in the text before "*using the 2030 Agenda*"?

#### **Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

I La Comisión de Redacción lo redactará, pero lo que quiere Costa Rica es que aparezca, que se considere el concepto de pobreza y no solo de pobreza extrema, poco se puede definir esa diferencia entre una cosa y la otra. Y como lo dije en la mañana, la pobreza en muchos países, sobre todo en los países en desarrollo, se está convirtiendo ya en pobreza extrema. Entonces poder definir eso, separar eso, es muy difícil. Yo quisiera que fueran considerados y nuestra Delegación; que fuera considerado el concepto de pobreza en general, que abarca más el problema que se tiene en el mundo entero.

¿Está claro así? Y tengo otro punto, por favor,

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we could make two subparagraph, because...

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

¿Eso no lo puede ver el Comité de Redacción?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, because as per subparagraph (m) as it reads now, it is going into the issue of using multilaterally agreed language and your proposed subparagraph has I think a different meaning or a different goal, so that is why I think it is better to at least make two subparagraphs of it.

**Mr Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

It would be okay for me if it appears in the text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps you could make your other proposal as well, at least we have them all on the screen.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Este es un subpárrafo aparte que tiene que ver con la estrategia de FAO sobre el cambio climático. Y lo digo igual en español despacio para hacer otro párrafo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps could we discuss that under the next Agenda Item because there we are going to discuss the Climate Change Strategy and as we have done with other issues like the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Está bien, pero yo lo incluí en el tema tres que estamos discutiendo, y es que se incluya sobre el cambio climático en la COP26, particularmente en la protección ambiental. O sea, si quiere que lo veamos en el otro segmento pues, lo vemos, pero esto está incluido en el tema tres.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly it is in the record, but we will introduce it then in the next Agenda Item when we speak about the Climate Change Strategy.

**Mr Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

That is okay.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have subparagraph (m) first, can we agree to subparagraph (m)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (n), can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je prends note de cette demande. Je pense que la rédaction pourrait sans doute être un petit peu modifiée et je propose à ce stade de nos discussions de le mettre entre crochets. Je ne sais pas comment est défini le concept de pauvreté et si l'Économiste en Chef ou la Directrice du Bureau de la stratégie, du programme et du budget pourrait nous donner plus d'indications là-dessus, mais je pense

que ce paragraphe mériterait d'être un petit peu retravaillé. Donc, je propose à ce stade de le mettre entre crochets.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to either Ms Beth Crawford or Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, one is in the room, one is in the virtual room.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

If we want to bring the definition because it is I assume what the Costa Rica Ambassador is referring to is the poverty lines, where we have the extreme poverty line and we have a poverty line as defined by the World Bank. If we want to include that concept, we can put a footnote for the case of poverty and extreme poverty and I can send a footnote to Ms Jiani Tian, so that she can include it if we want to put the definition, or basically that is defined by the World Bank.

The other definition is linked to dimensional poverty, which is not separated by extreme poverty, so this is specific cases, we are going to make the difference between extreme and poverty, we are looking at the World Bank definition of both.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If you could provide us the text, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Yes, I will send it to Ms Jiani Tian.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We are much supportive of the proposal of the distinguished Ambassador from France to break at this subparagraph, but at the same time would believe that the Costa Rica proposal also merits attention. We have got two concerns as regards this subparagraph and we probably could find the solution.

As to the extreme poverty, as proposed by Costa Rica, we could be using a term that is widely employed in the Agenda 2030, and this is "multidimensional poverty", so as to risk consensus with extreme poverty. But another issue that we have in mind is the following, FAO's focus countries are not only Least Developed Countries (LDCs), but Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

So, if we are referring to the Least Developed Countries, we are singling them out of the focused country list, so we might probably be in need of making the whole list of focused country in this phrase. "*extreme poverty*" to replace with "*multidimensional poverty*", as it is used in the Agenda 2030.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My suggestion would be to keep this pending so that we can work on the text, so that we have not only the reference to multidimensional poverty, but also the wording of the World Bank, and come back to this probably either later this evening, before the break, or tomorrow morning. Let us continue with subparagraph (o). Can we agree to subparagraph (o)?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

In principle, it is not a subparagraph we cannot refuse. I think it has its place there because here we are requesting that the outcomes, the result, at country level, are included in the implementation programme. We have, if I may, probably we can keep this, but I have another suggestion which I can read to you, Chairperson, which could be either another before that or after that. It depends, so I will read it. It should be another paragraph probably. "*Look forward, following the planning process, to regular reporting to Governing Bodies, including through the 2022 Mid Term Review Report, and the 2022-23 Programme Implementation Report.*" I believe that may put it in a better way, if it is requested to do so.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Actually, reporting and also the highlighting of the achievement and success stories of the FAO Implementation or Programme of Work of the Organization at the country level, is our concern and that is why I would like to suggest that perhaps we can include the text, for example, like *“highlighting or suggested FAO.”* Maybe you can have another subparagraph as well, *“highlighting the success story achievement, and lessons learned.”* I will check my notes, *“lessons learned of FAO’s programme implemented at the country level to the Governing Body.”*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have now three subparagraphs. Can we agree to subparagraph (o), because as I understood from Thailand, it wants to maintain subparagraph (o), but would like to have an additional subparagraph, which is now subparagraph (p). Is that correct, Thailand? Can we agree on subparagraph (o)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (p). Can we agree to subparagraph (p)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je regarde avec attention et intérêt ce nouveau paragraphe (p), et pose tout simplement la question, finalement, quand ces leçons ont-elles été présentées aux Membres et quelles sont-elles? Quels sont les résultats aussi, au niveau des pays? Est-ce qu’il est possible de nous indiquer une référence de document particulier pour que l’on puisse regarder le contexte de ce paragraphe?

Il me semble en effet qu’à certains égards, il est redondant avec le paragraphe (o). C’est d’ailleurs le cas aussi du nouveau paragraphe (q), pour lequel également je serais intéressée par des précisions supplémentaires parce que n’ayant pas été présente à la réunion du Comité financier, je ne vois pas exactement la différence entre ces paragraphes et le paragraphe (o).

En tout cas pour le paragraphe (p), si un document particulier, préparé pour cette session du Conseil, peut être consulté, ce serait très utile de voir de quoi il s’agit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As far as I understood the proposal from Thailand, it is not a specific document on this, but he is looking forward to it in the future. I give the floor to Thailand to explain.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Regarding subparagraph (o), we know that the regular reports that FAO, the Management give to the Governing Bodies, most of the time it is a written report, which actually most of the time, we know, sometimes is very boring to read.

As I mentioned this morning, we started our session this morning with the video of youth action as a food hero and that is why we know that the Organization has implemented several activities, projects and programmes at the country level, and that is why we would like to encourage the Management to give us some highlight of success stories or achievements and lessons learned of the project implementation at the country level. Not only the document, but also maybe use video or any other visual things that we can understand or we can see it clearly.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Based on your remarks, the Secretariat added some wording. Is that what you are aiming for?

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Yes, it is okay.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I believe now the text reads well. It is better put this way because the wording highlighted was not appropriately used there. Now, for the difference between (o) and (q), I said it earlier that the difference here is what are the outcomes and results. They are at country level for (o), but for (q) I asked you whether it is appropriate the wording there to Ms Beth Crawford who is someone used to the planning process, because we are looking forward to those two reports next year, and it seems in



those reports that we give account on the performance of FAO in the biennium, so probably you may ask Beth to tell us whether it is appropriate to use it this way or not.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I think now the subparagraph proposed by Thailand reads better. I am just wondering because in terms of highlighting the success stories, one way is through communication products, but I think also that in the regular reporting and through the Mid Term Review Report and the Programme Implementation Report, the stories can also be included somehow in the report in an innovative way. Therefore, I am just wondering whether it probably can be reflected somehow in the subparagraph, just by moving the subparagraph into the subparagraph after the new (q), so that we can have a better understanding on probably what is requested in this particular subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Looking to the subparagraphs, I think, at least, and listening to the discussion, I think the subparagraph (q) is, of course, the most polished. I think with that we could delete subparagraph (o) because it creates confusion, and what is now in subparagraph (p), although the Secretariat is going very fast. Let us first discuss it before we combine them. My suggestion would be to delete subparagraph (o) because it is also reflected in, I would say subparagraph (q), since in the Mid Term Review and Programme Implementation Report we reflect on the results and outcomes of the work of FAO, so that we avoid duplication of wording and make our life a little bit easier at the end of the day.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was going to try and combine them, but I think what you have just proposed is fine from our perspective, so dropping (o) and keeping (p) and (q).

**Ms Stefania COSTANZA (Italy)**

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We also wanted to react to the previous version of subparagraph (p), which started with “highlighted”, but now with this proposal, we think it is much better, but maybe we would like to propose in order to merge subparagraph (p) and (q), we can say that at the end of subparagraph (q) to say, “*highlighting the success stories, achievements and lessons learned.*” Just a proposal for consideration, but we already like the text as it is now. It is much improved.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We were going to propose the same thing, to combine those two paragraphs, as the Representative from the European Union (EU) has just suggested.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have now combined the two paragraphs by adding “highlighting the success stories, achievements and lessons learned of FAO’s programmes and implemented at the country level to the Governing Bodies.” Would that be agreeable?

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

We would like to support and also would like to thank colleagues from the European Union for helping us improve the text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We do not need to use “to the Governing Bodies,” because the Report is already going to the Governing Bodies.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

EU has proposed to merge those two subparagraphs, but I would prefer to have a slight modification because I believe that we have a template for each of the reports, the Mid Term Review Report and the Programme Implementation Report, and unless we say, okay, we change the template and we put

“highlight the success stories.” We could request Management in their reporting to produce, I do not know, flyers or whatever that highlights the success stories, so it should be an element of including to those reports and documents “highlighting the success stories,” because we do not want to push too much on the changing of the template, as this has been going on for years now. How the reports are presented, we are conscious on that. We can see they use both, but I prefer this proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As the text is now, can we all agree to the further improved text? Of course, it means that we delete subparagraph (p).

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Following what I believe our colleague from Thailand had said earlier, was to move beyond just documents, I think, so perhaps “*and other communications products*,” just to broaden the scope, which could include documents as well. And just editorially, perhaps two commas, “*looked forward, following the planning process, to regular reporting.*”

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Il me semble que la notion de “*regular reporting to the Governing Bodies*” va au-delà des rapports et c'est bien la raison pour laquelle on met “*including*”, qui veut dire que ce n'est pas limité aux rapports.

Nous étions à l'aise avec le langage initial, mais à présent que les collègues ont rajouté un autre langage, je pense que “*other products*” serait suffisant parce que les autres produits ne sont pas forcément de la communication. Surtout s'il s'agit d'enseignement, “*lessons learned*”, si jamais certaines de ces leçons n'étaient pas très positives, je ne sais pas s'il y aurait une communication très forte.

Donc à ce stade, je pense qu'un langage neutre serait peut-être préférable. Ma délégation est flexible; nous pensons que le langage initial était suffisant pour tout couvrir, mais si d'autres délégations insistent pour avoir quelque chose de plus, je pense que “produit” est suffisant.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree with the deletion of “*communication*?” I think with that, we are almost at the ideal subparagraph for this.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

My delegation is quite flexible to remove “*communication*,” but anyway, we know that right now we have talked a lot about innovation and that is why I would like to propose, if other Members agree, that we can add “*other innovative products*.” At least it opens for all kind of means and communications and others, as we can think about it. How to deliver message to Members and also other Bodies, to understand the work of the Organization and also to highlight all the success stories, achievements, and others.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At least one of those innovative products could be dance, as children were doing on the video, so could we agree now to this language? I do not see any objections. I even see nodding, so we have an agreed subparagraph, we delete subparagraph (o), and we continue with subparagraph (p).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I believe that here we have to approve the revised budgeted post establishment. We can just add to the table: *Table 3* and next 8, and *Table 4* down, because what we approve down, the updated estimate of the budgetary resource, is not in paragraph three. So, let us see how we can deal with the budgetary resources, because that was my problem. We have not approved that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will turn to Ms Beth Crawford to help us out of this.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)**

Thank you, Chairperson, and of course, the Legal Counsel may wish to speak on this as well, but as the Members will see in the suggested action in the beginning of the document, indeed, Council is requested in line with Rule XXIV.3 (d) and (l) of the General Rules of the Organization and Financial Regulation 4.5, to approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter, as reflected in *Table 2*, so that is the paragraph 3. The other items the Council is requested to review are the revised budgeted post establishment and to take note of the other elements.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Here I wish to specifically address the subparagraph that reads, “*took note of the revised budgeted post establishment*”. In this regard, I refer to the General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXIV on the functions of the Council, paragraph 3(l), in which it states that “*the Council shall review action by the Director-General in regard to new posts established in the professional category of staff for which prior authority did not exist*”. This is as compared to other elements where it addresses the functions of the Council, such as subparagraph (d), where it refers to Council approval. However, as in this particular case as far as the budgeted post establishment, given that this referred to the action by the Director-General to establish new posts, this is why the text proposal was made to reflect this as “review” or “took note” as opposed to “approval”, but of course, I am in your hands.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this explanation, Cameroon, can we keep the text as it is?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The subparagraph (p) will read “*reviewed*,” because “*took note*” is not enough. So “reviewed”, that is the action which is requested from the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this change in the subparagraph (p)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (q).

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

We agree with the paragraph as it stands, but I would propose to add another element which also is what we actually said in our intervention. So in the second line, “invited Management to explore alternative funding modalities,” we would propose to start that as “invited Management to keep building trust with resource partners and to explore alternative funding modalities.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the changes in the text?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I understand perfectly where Sweden is, what is the thinking. Probably with absolutely good faith, because many Parliaments, they want to hear where their money is, but I think it is not elegant, “to keep building trust.” However, we might find a better way or in another sentence that we may work on, but keep building trust, it not very elegant, that is the way I look at it, but it is a good, I understand perfectly what she is saying, but we may find a better way or a more elegant way to put it. Thank you. I have no suggestion for the time being. Let us see if we can have better language, but the initial subparagraph can stand.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nosotros tenemos una dificultad con la palabra “*Flexible Funding*” porque lo que nosotros siempre utilizamos en todas las discusiones en la FAO es “Etiquetados o No Etiquetados”. Entonces yo creo que no hay que usar conceptos confusos y tratar de ser claros. “*Flexible Funding*” es “No etiquetados”. Entonces creo que lo que tendríamos que incluir allí es la expresión “*Not Earmarked*”.

Pido, por favor, tratar de ser claros con respecto a esto para que no haya dudas. No tengo objeciones en tratar de buscar una alternativa de consenso, como mencionaba Suecia y Camerún con sus diferentes aproximaciones, pero creo que debe ser claro que estamos hablando de “No Etiquetados”.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

En la misma línea de Argentina, quisiéramos que se reflejara más la posibilidad de que fueran “No unmarked contributions”.

*Continues in English*

I wonder if we could have “encourage Members to provide voluntary contributions, preferentially unmarked, to support the priorities.” That will probably cover both sides. We need more contributions, but we are asking to be preferentially unmarked.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To remind everybody, the Conference spoke in its Report, or is speaking in its Report, about the Medium Term Plan (MTP), about flexible, lightly earmarked and unearmarked voluntary funding. I think that is the agreed language in the Conference Report.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'allais justement rappeler le langage de la Conférence sur ce point, langage qui a été rappelé durant la Réunion conjointe, au paragraphe 9, alinéa d) de son rapport, et qui comporte également la notion de “*more flexible voluntary funding*” («davantage de financements volontaires»), figurant à l'écran. Ainsi, peut-être que pour gagner du temps nous pourrions reprendre le paragraphe 9 d) de la Réunion conjointe pour avoir les différents langages proposés par les États.

S'agissant de la proposition de la Suède, je souhaite la soutenir. Personnellement, je pense que c'est une proposition élégante et que la notion de confiance est quelque chose d'extrêmement important et bien connu. Naturellement, ma délégation est flexible, mais je voulais faire part de son soutien au langage proposé par la Suède; en fin de compte, chacun sait bien que pour attirer plus de financements volontaires, il faut nécessairement, qu'on le veuille ou non, qu'il y ait une confiance et je pense que c'est ça l'idée que le langage de ma collègue Suédoise capture de manière excellente.

Mais encore une fois, ma délégation est flexible sur le langage précis.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we put the subparagraph (d) of the Joint Meeting Report under the current subparagraph (q) as an alternative?

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

Regarding subparagraph (q) to help resolve the issue mentioned by Cameroon, could we perhaps say “invited Management to strengthen relationships with resource partners?” I would like to offer that as a suggestion.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

As I was saying earlier, our suggestion is to have a separate sentence, a separate paragraph that may read as follows “*reiterate the need for continued trust building between FAO and voluntary fund providers.*” Because trust is a two-way traffic. If we say, “invited Management,” that, therefore, should be done by Management. I do not know how our colleagues feel about it. We could also use the wording of the United States, “to continue strengthening relationships.” In that sense, there would not be “building trust,” so the wording between FAO and voluntary providers, “strengthen relationship with voluntary fund providers.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we first, because I think if we have it in a separate sentence, could we not first replace subparagraph (q) with the alt, which was agreed at the Joint Meeting, which also used the agreed language of the Conference? I do not see any objections. We have Cameroon, and then we go to the separate sentence.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It appears that there is a very important word, which is a segment of the sentence, which is missing there, “*to support the Priorities in the integrated Programme of Work.*” How can we go to where we should be, that should be reflected somewhere, because here is the Strategic Framework. We are not discussing the Strategic Framework in this sentence. We are discussing the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Building on the point just now from Cameroon, I think, perhaps it is a matter of replacing “*of the Strategic Framework,*” with “*Programme of Work.*” That also leaves open then to add the separate sentence, so that the end would read, “*budget resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Work and reiterated the need for continued trust building between FAO and voluntary.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that do the trick? I see at least nodding from Cameroon.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci aux collègues pour leurs remarques très constructives, je crois que nous allons vraiment dans la bonne direction.

Notre préférence serait de s'en tenir au langage adopté avec le rapport de la Réunion conjointe il y a quelques jours et qui mentionnait le Cadre stratégique. En effet, l'idée est vraiment de suivre notre feuille de route à tous qui est le Cadre stratégique. Voilà donc pour le premier point, avec une préférence pour la mention, telle qu'elle figure au paragraphe 9 d) du rapport de la Réunion conjointe à propos du Cadre stratégique.

Deuxièmement, sur la question de la confiance ma délégation est flexible; nous pouvons soutenir le langage des États-Unis et/ou le langage du Cameroun. Donc, nous nous en remettons à la salle sur ce point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think what I see is that many supported the language proposed by Cameroon, so if there is flexibility I would like to see whether or not we can maintain “*reiterate the need for continued trust building between FAO etc.*” because that was the original proposal. Then the only question would be whether or not to refer to the Strategic Framework or to the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think if we use the strategy we are jumping the gun. We are discussing here the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 and then we have to report on that. We are asking to report on the PWB, not on the Strategic Framework. I do not know if I understand perfectly that the Joint Meeting, as France is mentioning it, the Joint Meeting discussed the Strategic Framework and reflected on that discussion of the Strategic Framework. Or we can add “*for effective implementation of the Programme of Work on that Strategic Framework*”. We can add, “*for effective implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-23 on that Strategic Framework 2022-31.*” Probably that can play the trick.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be an agreeable compromise?

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

We can support the proposal by colleagues who have now improved the text. I have one question and that is actually the end of the sentence. It now says, “*voluntary fund providers.*” I think what we are thinking of... I mean, my English might not be as good as others, but is “*providers of voluntary funds.*” So, in the first text I do not know if we have but at least what we said was “*resource partners.*” If that is not acceptable, we can have some other wording, but I think it has to be the ones who are providing the voluntary funds.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Replaced by “*providers of voluntary funds.*” Would that be agreeable? I do not see any requests for the floor, so I think we have finalized this subparagraph and we can replace this subparagraph.

Then we go to paragraph 3, which we more or less already, I think, agreed to. Now as promised, I think in the earlier discussion when we “*welcomed,*” now we have to put the endorsement in. Cameroon, I think it should say “*recommendations*” because it is more than only an observation.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

If we flip-up, we will not see that we endorse all those observations from the text that we have now because it does not reflect what we have discussed earlier. We endorse some of the observations but not all, because we still have the discussion on the Blue Economy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, of course, but it is under the understanding that we find a compromise on those two subparagraphs. We can keep this pending until tomorrow, but at least we should adjust the subparagraph where we had the discussion... Sorry, we had the discussion. We start with “*welcoming*” and then at the end, we will say what we endorse from the reports. That is what this is reflecting.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Perhaps shifting accordingly with these considerations, “*the Council endorsed*” and then taking away “*the observations*”. Overall, what we are trying to get through today is the acceptance or the endorsement of the Report. So, “*with these considerations the Council endorsed the Reports of the*” and then the rest.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could you include the proposal of Canada, “*with these observations*”?

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

My observation on the endorsement, we are talking about the endorsement of the Council? I thought the Council will have conclusions that will be endorsed. So, are we endorsing at this point in time, or we will endorse them after the conclusions?

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Council will, if we have gone through all the conclusions, adopt the Report with all the conclusions but here we finalize the Agenda Item 3 on the Programme of Work and Budget and that is why we reflect the endorsement of Reports with regards to the Adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

It should be “*welcoming*” at this point so that we endorse the conclusions of the Council itself. Is that not normally what happens? I just wanted clarity.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Because we addressed the Reports of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, Joint Meeting – when it comes to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and in the beginning of the subparagraph or the beginning of this section, we said “*welcomed those proposals*”, and here we say, “*we endorse with the considerations above these recommendations*”. Of course, not the whole Report but only when it relates to the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

I think I was getting it from what Cameroon had said earlier, talking about the Committees with fewer members. The Council has more Members, 49, so I thought the one endorsement should come at the end of the Council – the conclusions of the Council. I was just reflecting on what Cameroon and Canada had said earlier. I think it is something we need to reflect on.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

If I reflect back on some of our earlier conversations, I recall one of your proposals was for us to welcome this information here and then seek to endorse these reports in full when we get to the items. So, we would endorse in full the recommendations of the Programme Committee under Item 8. This might avoid some of the confusion we are getting into here, whereby we are making comments here. It may reopen the discussion under Item 8 and Item Finance Committee and Item on the Joint Meeting, but it may be worth a go.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

That was an earlier suggestion, to make sure that to avoid confusion. Perhaps listening to this discussion, also listening to the Chair of the African Group, perhaps it is better not to make a concluding remark here but do it when we have the full Reports of the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting in a revised order. Would that be the best way forward?

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Yes, when it comes to the Reports of those Committees, I think it will be another ball game, but for now I am very uncomfortable with this wording here. As the Chair of the Africa Group said, it is not the time here to endorse anything, but I believe that the Legal Counsel can tell us what is supposed to be done at the Council for the Report of those Committees.

I know perfectly that the Council should reach its own conclusions. We are using those Reports as advisory to the work of the Council. So, if we can go along with you, with this paragraph 4, because we do not see the importance of it here.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal would be to have a subparagraph per report of the three Committees and later on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to endorse the conclusions of those reports. And for this section we said we welcomed the reports and later on we will endorse.

However, I look to Ms Donata Rugarabamu on how we can find a way forward. Otherwise, we have to go back to the beginning of paragraph 3 because that was the understanding, why we agreed to welcome that at a certain amount in the text, we would endorse what was said in those reports. Of course, with the considerations which we have done now on the Programme of Work and Budget.

#### **Ms DONATA RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

The Council's role is set out in Article V of the Constitution and the role of the Committees of the Council is also described in Article V of the Constitution. Here I would read Article V, Paragraph 6(a), which states "*in the performance of its functions, the Council should be assisted by a Programme Committee, a Finance Committee, and a Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which shall report to the Council*". Consequently, as many Members have earlier noted, the role of the Council Committees is to advise and assist the Council.

In this context, as you are more aware than me, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), the Council then considers the reports, the outcomes of the discussion, often taking various elements on the same subject from a number of different reports and reaches its own conclusions.

The Council could choose to endorse, which implies approval, in effect then taking on the reports of the Council Committee as a decision, or it can decide to depart, as has occurred in some instances, or it can decide to note, in which it is not endorsing, it is not approving but it is not rejecting.

I hope that helps, but endorsement of the report as a whole is not a requirement unless the Council decides it wishes to endorse.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

My suggestion is to take up the suggestion of Australia, and to keep this paragraph as it is, without paragraph 4, and later on, when we discuss the full Report of the Joint Meeting as well as the Report of the Programme Committee and the Report of the Finance Committee, that we then include the sentence about the endorsement. Would that be agreeable?

Of course, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. My proposal is to take up the proposal of Australia, which has already said earlier that we keep the text as it is now. We do not include paragraph 4, but then, when we have dealt with the full Reports of the Joint Meeting, the Programme Committee, and the Finance Committee, that we per committee will state a sentence or paragraph about what we do with the endorsements of the, I would say, recommendations of the Committees. That means, of course, that later on, when we continue, probably tomorrow, with the Report of the Programme Committee and later the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting, that we include in each of those sections, a sentence referring to the endorsement of the recommendations or not endorsement, of course, if we do not endorse it. However, like what was said and proposed by Canada, with these reflections. So, we will prepare a text for that later on and come back to those paragraphs when we discuss the Joint Meeting, Programme Committee, and Finance Committee Reports. Is that agreeable?

With that, I think, we have besides two paragraphs on the Blue Economy, Blue Transformation and a paragraph on the poverty, we have concluded our work on the Programme of Work and Budget. And my suggestion is, because it is 19:20 hours I do not think it is feasible that we can reach at this moment, an agreement on both paragraphs because what I understand is on poverty, we have to work together with the Chief Scientist and the text with the World Bank to going forward with the paragraph, and it was reflected to me that several delegations have to go back to Capital for getting instructions to see how to find a compromise on the Blue Economy.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que no es necesario que explique la voluntad constructiva que siempre mi delegación tiene para tratar de buscar, solucionar y acomodar las posiciones. Cuando hay sensibilidades importantes, se requiere más tiempo, estamos en permanente contacto con nuestros queridos colegas que tienen posiciones distintas.

Estamos dispuestos y vamos a conversar y a trabajar juntos para encontrar alguna salida de consenso. Por lo tanto, a veces es bueno trabajar rápido y a veces es bueno tomarnos el tiempo necesario para lograr la mejor solución. Así que gracias, Presidente, por otorgarnos la posibilidad de continuar nuestro diálogo, que lo haremos después de esta sesión y el curso de mañana para poder tratar de volver con una solución de consenso. Y, también, gracias a la paciencia del resto de los colegas.

**Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)**

Before getting to the Capital, for consideration tomorrow, with regard to the blue issue, I see some confusion about this discussion and with your indulgence, I would like to propose one solution, if we could find the way out.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I ask the Secretary to put the text on the screen.

**Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)**

I hope it could be a solution, but it could be another option to be discussed with Capital. I have some sympathy with the proposal by Argentina, and at the same time, it is true that we also have adopted this concept in the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) as a Committee. So, my suggestion would read, the first line from the bottom and two, that comma after that. Sorry, in the third line from the bottom. Yes, after that comma while noting "through transformation" and "Blue Economy" are defined comma. Delete "the concept of". Yes.

Blue Food Systems under Programme Priority 2 (PP2) that is not well defined. The term "Aquatic Food Systems" was for the sake of clarity. That is my suggestion because this is not the issue about Blue Transformation or Blue Economy. This is about Blue Food Systems and actually Blue Food Systems has not been used by other organizations and here what is very important is the Blue Transformation as one of the PPAs.

I see some compromise by Argentina in terms of the usage of "Blue". I want to see some compromise between the two positions.



**CHAIRPERSON**

I always very much appreciate each Member if they try to help everybody here in this room to find a compromise.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero agradecer especialmente a mi querido colega de Japón por sus sugerencias que van a ser muy tomadas en cuenta en nuestras conversaciones con los otros colegas para tratar de lograr encontrar una salida de consenso como siempre lo hemos logrado, así que no tenemos por qué pensar que no va a pasar en esta oportunidad.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

Thank you very much to my colleagues who supported us in this. We will talk and see how we can arrive at a consensus after consultation with my group together with Argentina. We hope to come up with some solutions by tomorrow.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this very positive note and the willingness of all to find consensus and to unite our positions to a compromise position, I know for sure that we will arrive at a consensus on both paragraphs tomorrow morning because I think that is very much what we need. I think we have had a long, but excellent day today. I think we almost finalized the very crucial and very important issues of the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Solamente quisiera señalar que el concepto de Economía Azul no tiene el mismo estatus del de Transformación Azul. Transformación Azul es un concepto que ha sido aprobado y usado en el Comité de Pesca (COFI). Está en el Informe y justamente en el documento *C 2021/LIM/4* se da la explicación específica al respecto. En cambio, el concepto de *Blue Economy* es un concepto que no está multilateralmente acordado, sino que se toma del uso que hace el Banco Mundial de él, por lo tanto, no tienen el mismo estatus.

Nosotros quisiéramos saber si cuando se habla de *Blue Food Systems*, si se quiere hablar del origen de los *Food Systems* o de qué... se refiere a océano o acuático, justamente como se ha sugerido reemplazarlo o también al concepto de sustentabilidad, talvez podría ser "*Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems*". Nos parece que serían conceptos más claros y quisiéramos ponerlos en la mesa para consideración de los Miembros también.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, also your remarks will be taken into consideration if we try to finalize the compromise which we are surely getting nearer to where we have to be on this issue. Before closing, I would like to give the floor, because we also have a new colleague from the United States. We have the new Ambassador of the United States who could only address the Council today. So, I would like to give her the floor for addressing the Council.

**Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)**

It is an honor for me to speak to you today. I am delighted to be sworn in on November 5 as the United States Ambassador to the UN Agencies in Rome. I look forward to meeting you all in person and working with you all in confronting our shared goal of ending hunger and improving food security and nutrition throughout the world.

It is clear that our work to help the world overcome and recover from the grave impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. Alongside it, we face unparalleled challenges, from extreme weather to climate change impacts and water scarcity, to intense conflicts and emergencies, all contributing to rising food insecurity.

The United States stands ready to work with other FAO members to address these urgent challenges. I am also confident this Organization has put itself on solid footing to confront these challenges with

agility, renewed emphasis on innovation, elevated attention to climate change, and energized public-private partnerships through its Strategic Framework adopted earlier this year.

I am also pleased to announce today that the United States is finalizing plans for additional voluntary funding to support FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Program. That funding, to be announced in the coming weeks, will support increasing action among One Health surveillance, early warning, and risk assessment tools with other health information systems as well. It will also fund One Health Tripartite risk assessments at national levels to help inform the future direction of work in disease prevention and control in countries. I look forward to sharing more information related to this new support soon.

At the UN Food Systems Summit in September, the United States committed USD 10 billion to support the transition to more sustainable food systems, both domestically and internationally. Half of that is dedicated to assisting other countries through Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global food security and nutrition initiative. We are already incorporating the "systems approach" to food security in our national security documents and strategies.

I also want to thank the FAO for assistance in the run-up and participation in the Summit, and we look forward to a strong cooperative effort by the FAO and the Rome-based Agencies to jointly assist in the implementation of Summit follow-on work.

As highlighted by our leaders who met recently in Glasgow, the climate crisis threatens to disrupt food systems, exacerbate food insecurity, and destroy livelihoods. All food systems stakeholders need to be at the table to develop solutions that reduce emissions, sequester carbon, and help food systems adapt to a changing climate. Together, we can do more. Agriculture must be part of the solution. And that is why we encourage FAO to be ambitious with its climate change strategy. We have no time to lose.

Investments in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation and technologies can enhance existing approaches and deliver new ways to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, conserve water and biodiversity, and adapt and build resilience to climate change.

That is why the United States and the United Arab Emirates officially launched the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, at COP26, alongside 38 countries and more than 48 non-state partners, including FAO.

We encourage FAO to be equally ambitious with its new Science and Innovation Strategy. The innovative approaches we champion must be as dynamic as the shifting challenges that farmers face.

I would like to highlight the Program Committee's discussion of the important work that FAO is doing in implementing its new Private Sector Engagement Strategy. The private sector is a crucial link in the global food supply chain to develop and scale solutions for meaningful and lasting benefits. The United States urges FAO to continue pursuing a portfolio of strong, transformative, and diverse partnerships and welcomes plans to improve geographical representation.

I would also like to take a moment to comment on substantive matters that were raised.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Madame, apologies to interrupt because I normally will not do this, but we are running out of interpretation time.

**Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)**

No worries.

**CHAIRPERSON**

And I think your statement should be heard in all languages. If you could finalize... if you could conclude?

**Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)**

What I would like to say I look forward to working with all of you. I am anxious to get on post and this is an area on progress in the world I have been very involved in. Therefore, I look forward to working with everybody.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It is great, Ambassador Cindy McCain, to have you here already in a Virtual Room and listening to your statement. And of course, as I said also to the Ambassador of Canada, the new Ambassador, we all look very much forward to working with you in close cooperation for the benefit of all. I very briefly give the floor to the Chair of the Africa Group.

#### **Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

Sorry to come back. It is actually because I forgot to compliment you for accepting to remember our dear sister, the late Ghana Ambassador who was very instrumental. I just wanted to say the appreciation for the entire Council for accepting to give one minute observation to her and for all of us who are here. Thank you so much for that, we recognize her and may God rest her soul in eternal peace.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think we started remembering her in all our work today, this week, and in the future, we live with her spirit and her dedication. And I think with that, we had an excellent day with strong input from all of you, very positive input working together, showing that we can work united to find a way forward for our biggest challenges, trying to find new ways, sometimes perhaps taking some more risk. It was a great first day. It is time for rest.

I would like to thank the interpreters for giving us a little bit more extra time. I would like to thank the technicians, the messengers, all of us whom made it possible for us to work here both in person as well as the Virtual Room. Re-energize yourself. I very much thank you.

I applaud you for the day of today. I am already looking forward for the day of tomorrow with new challenges, new compromises, and new way forward. Thank you so much. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 19:36 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 36*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.36*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session  
Cent soixante-huitième session  
168.º período de sesiones**

**Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021  
Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021  
Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021**

**THIRD PLENARY SESSION  
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**30 November 2021**

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:33 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 33  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.33  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (continued)**  
**Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023 (suite)**  
**Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23 (continuación)**  
(CL 168/3)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished Members of the Council, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, great to see you back in person in this room and great to see you back in the virtual room. I have to say not only good morning, it is also good afternoon and for some it is even good evening already.

I hope you had a very good rest and that you are re-energized for, hopefully, again a very positive meeting of the Council today. It is a beautiful morning. It is cold but luckily it is warmer now inside than yesterday. We could heat up a little bit the room.

Let us try to have a positive start because what I understand is that we have had informal consultations on the two outstanding paragraphs on Item 3. I would like first to give the floor to Argentina for presenting a compromised proposal on the issue on everything what is called “blue”. I already would like to thank Argentina, the Chair of the Africa Regional Group and all others who participated in finding this compromise.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Permítame decirle que de acuerdo a lo que hablamos ayer, como era lógico que iba a ocurrir, nos juntamos con la Presidente del Grupo Regional de África, con la cual en dos minutos y medio acordamos cuál era la forma de resolver esta cuestión. Permítanme agradecerle a algunos colegas, Brasil, Camerún, Chile y Japón. Creo que varios colegas han hecho un gran esfuerzo por ayudar y facilitar este consenso, pero sobretodo un colega que es observador, pero que es, creo muy importante y ha sido muy útil y muy importante en este proceso de acuerdo que es el Sr. Siragi Wakaabu de Uganda y que es observador, pero que igual trabaja aunque no sea Miembro en este momento.

Voy a leer a velocidad de dictado en inglés el texto que hemos acordado. “*Recognized that the blue terminology used in FAO’s Strategy Framework, Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 and its Results Framework refer to all aquatic systems, including aquaculture systems, and requested this to be reflected in the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 and its Results Framework.*”

El acuerdo también es que este texto no sea una *footnote* sino que esté dentro del documento porque lo que estamos haciendo es que estamos reabriendo lo que hemos acordado en el Comité del Programa, entonces queremos que esto esté en el documento. Este es el acuerdo, si interpreto correctamente, y creo que con la colaboración de todos los demás colegas, podremos tener una salida exitosa de esta conversación.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, and all those who have participated in finding this compromise language. I will try to get an agreement on this compromised language for the issue on blue and then we clean up subparagraph (e). We have a separate subparagraph starting with “*recognized that*”. Can we agree to this compromised language? I do not see any objection. Thank you so much. It is a very good start.

We can clean up subparagraph (e) because I think we can delete the sub-subparagraph (ii) and, of course, also with the proposal that we start with SDGs. Can we now also agree on subparagraph (e)?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Tengo una pregunta para la Secretaría, me gustaría saber si exactamente el término, lo que hablamos aquí, la terminología azul se refiere al origen de los alimentos o a la naturaleza de los sistemas y que se refieren a acuáticos, terrestres, marítimos o se refiere, más bien, a la sustentabilidad. Me gustaría que me aclararan esto porque me parece que se está usando en diferentes sentidos, asociado a diferentes conceptos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Because the question was directed to Management. Can I give the floor to Ms Maria Helena Semedo?

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director- General)**

I think it can go like this because aquatic is exactly this, it is the ocean and aquaculture. We can accept the formulation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps Chile could put the question forward again.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Justamente la pregunta es si es que la terminología de "Azul" se refiere al origen, ¿no? O sea, si es origen acuático, marino, de aguas interiores, oceánico o se refiere más bien o está asociado al concepto de sustentabilidad.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director- General)**

It is the origin and the sustainability.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this answer, can we agree to subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objections.

Can we then also agree to subparagraph (e)?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

El concepto de sustentabilidad está implícito en el término "Azul", entonces preferiríamos que se quedara explicitado en este párrafo F, porque no solamente se refiere al origen de todos los *Aquatic Systems*, sino que *Sustainable Aquatic Systems*, ¿talvez? O sea, prefiero para claridad, justamente, cuando estamos hablando de la terminología Azul que es nuestro problema con el uso de los colores, es que sea claro de qué estamos hablando. Así es que, en este caso, no solamente se refiere al origen de los sistemas en términos acuáticos o de acuicultura, sino que además incluye en el concepto sustentabilidad, preferiríamos que quedara explícito.

Y en ese sentido podríamos hacer referencia a "*To all Sustainable Aquatic Systems*", por ejemplo. Y tal vez deberíamos hablar también de "*Including Sustainable Aquaculture Systems*".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Entiendo el punto de Chile. Creo que tengo entendido que la sostenibilidad está incluida en el texto, por lo tanto, creo que no parece necesario tener que expresamente decirlo. Creo que es así, por lo menos es lo que yo interpreto. Estoy tratando y, si es necesario para ser más preciso, pero ahí sí le tengo que consultar si está de acuerdo también con quienes hemos hecho el acuerdo, es en todo caso usar el lenguaje de Comité de Pesca (COFI) que es "*Sustainable and inclusive*". Que creo que ese es el lenguaje que se usa en el COFI y quizás eso pueda acomodar la preocupación de Chile en la medida que los colegas en particular, mi querida colega de Kenya esté de acuerdo, pues no quiero tocar un párrafo que hemos acordado.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us make our ultimate attempt to get an agreement and a consensus on this subparagraph. The suggestion is to insert "*to all sustainable and inclusive aqua systems*".

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

I would like to echo what Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo has said. We recognize the terminology used in the FAO Strategic Framework, which is already inclusive and inclusive of sustainability. I think the addition that has been put forward by Argentina still reflects what we are also looking at. Because it will just be an overemphasis, as reflected by Management, that blue terminology already includes sustainability. We are just repeating sustainability and inclusiveness for purposes of accommodating Chile. It is acceptable to us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Listening to this answer and the flexibility of both Argentina and the African Group, can we agree to the text as now proposed “*sustainable and inclusive aquatic systems*”? I see no objections.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director- General)**

I just wanted to say that sustainable is already inclusive. But if there is an agreement, we can move forward with it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this is agreement because it is overestimating that it is inclusive. At least, repeating that it is both “sustainable and inclusive”. I think we have an agreement now in the room with the Membership, so let us continue.

I hope that we also have an agreement on subparagraph (e). Thank you so much and thank you for all the hard work done. We have solved one of the two remaining issues.

Now let us go to the other remaining one, the issue of extreme poverty. Informal consultations have been taking place to find a solution and thanks to Costa Rica for supporting us in this, the subparagraph reads now as follows: “*In relation to paragraph 11 of CL168/3, note the importance of eradicating poverty, not only extreme poverty, to reflect a different strata of the population in least Developed Countries, Small Island Development States and in other developing countries.*” That is the compromise which is now put forward. Can we agree to this language, this compromised proposal? I see nodding. Thank you so much. With that, we have reached a very good start of the morning, reached on agreement on all the conclusions of Item 3.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change**

**Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique**

**Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático**

(CL 168/21)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we continue our work on Item 8, *Reports of the 131st Special Session and 132nd Sessions of the Programme Committee* held on 29 July and 8 to 12 November 2021.

You can find the document in CL 168/8 and CL 168/19. The idea is that we will start first with the two crucial strategies and taking them one by one and then do the rest of the conclusions. We will start with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

The introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ambassador Yael Rubinstein, have been circulated to you and we already discussed the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and later on we will speak about the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

**Introduction to Item 8: Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

*H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Programme Committee*

Mr Chairperson, Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.

The 132nd Session of the Programme Committee was held from 8 to 12 November and its Report

was adopted on 12 November 2021, which is submitted to the Council in document CL 168/8.

The Programme Committee had 17 items on its agenda, including four items for information. The session was conducted in a hybrid modality due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Committee confirmed that participation by designated representatives through virtual modality constituted attendance at the Session, which was convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Committee reviewed the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 in accordance of Rule XXVI of General Rules of the Organization (GRO), and welcomed the reviewed number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and allocation of budget between the *four betters*. The Committee further welcomed the updated results framework and supported the proposed approach to results planning, monitoring and reporting.

The Committee welcomed the designation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative as one of the 20 PPAs and encouraged FAO to continue working to develop the HIH Initiative as a transparent and accountable initiative that supports transformation of agri-food systems and rural development.

The Committee welcomed the updated Due Diligence mechanisms and procedures under the new Framework for Risk Assessment and Management for Engagements (FRAME), and the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the informal Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG).

The Committee appreciated the comprehensive approach of the Proposal to address the key recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO Statistical Work, and reiterated the importance and critical role of the Organization's statistical work and the data for its elaboration.

The Committee welcomed the outlines and roadmaps for the new strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation, recommended the Council endorse them and looked forward to continued engagement in the development processes of these two strategies.

The Committee appreciated the timely and comprehensive Evaluation of FAO's role and work on the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus and the first phase of the Real-time Evaluation of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, including the proposed actions and commitments by Management. The Committee approved the rolling work plan of evaluations 2022-25.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first start with the Item 8.1, *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change*, document CL 168/21. Last Friday, we had excellent informal consultations with the Membership, with about 180 participants in the virtual room. I think we got excellent inputs on the Strategy on Climate Change.

### **Introduction to Sub-item 8.1: Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change**

*Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General*

At its 127th Session in November 2019, the Programme Committee commissioned an Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action, including an assessment of the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change, adopted in 2017. The Evaluation report - together with its Management Response - were presented for discussion to the 130th Programme Committee in March 2021 and to the 166th Council in April 2021.

A key recommendation (Recommendation 2) of the Evaluation report urges FAO to formulate a new Strategy on Climate Change to improve its contribution to SDG 13. The 166th Council requested regular updates to be provided to Governing Bodies and inclusive consultations ahead of the 168th Session of the Council to start the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Based on this request, which was adopted by the Conference, an [update on the development of the new Strategy on Climate Change](#) is presented for consideration by the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee (8-12 November 2021), followed by the 168th Session of the



Council. This introductory note will be updated, if needed, following the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee to reflect the guidance provided by its Members.

The new FAO Strategy on Climate Change currently under development will guide FAO in providing strengthened support to countries in their raised ambitions on climate action and achievements of their Nationally Determined Contributions. The Strategy will be prioritized by science, innovative solutions and inclusiveness, and aligned with the Agenda 2030 and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.

FAO organized a first informal consultation with FAO Members on 8 September 2021 to respond to the Council's request for inclusive consultations. Building on the views of FAO Members and inputs of the established Review Task Force, the Council document CL 168/21 outlines the content and roadmap for the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. It presents an Annotated Outline with a suggested vision, guiding principles, three main pillars and related outcomes. The Council is invited to provide guidance on the Annotated Outline of the new Strategy at its 168th Session.

The final draft of the new Strategy on Climate Change will be submitted to the 169th Session of the Council in June 2022 for its consideration.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we start, as was stressed also by our colleague from Thailand, let us have some innovative opening on this Item and I will show you a video.

#### *Video Presentation*

#### *Présentation vidéo*

#### *Videopresentación*

I think it is a good start for our discussion on the update on the Strategy on Climate Change. You see that also United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working now with innovative communication issues.

I open now the floor for Members to reflect on the Update on the Strategy on Climate Change.

### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo tenía otro orden del día, ¿estaba previsto de tomar ahora la estrategia de cambio climático o es una modificación?

Me parecía que teníamos Informe de la reunión conjunta primero, ¿se adelantó por alguna razón, o me estoy equivocando?

### **CHAIRPERSON**

We are still finalizing the conclusions for the Joint Meeting. We dealt with that yesterday, but, before finalizing the Joint Meeting conclusions, we want to start with Agenda Item 8. Of course, later on we will deal with the draft conclusions.

### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

It is always nice to start in a positive way and I wish us all a very productive day today.

With regard to the Climate Change Strategy, Australia is pleased to endorse the recommendations made by the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. We support the need for a well-articulated Strategy that, harnessing the commitments made at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), will take FAO climate action beyond "business as usual" and generate concrete action on the ground.

Australia broadly supports the proposed Vision, Guiding Principles, Theory of Change, and Pillars outlined in the document. We particularly welcome the focus on helping the groups that suffer most from the impacts of climate change, as well as the emphasis on embracing technology and innovation. We note that FAO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and

others are converging in terms of their work on the agriculture, food security and climate nexus and strongly encourage on-going collaborative effort for mutually supportive outcomes.

Australia highlights the importance of ensuring that the Strategy, particularly Pillar of Action 2, is reflective of the diverse needs and realities of countries around the world including Small Island Developing States and land-locked countries, and that the Strategy's implementation can be tailored to national circumstances.

In closing, with regard to Principle IX, Australia respectfully requests further information on the development of targets, indicators and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. We emphasise the importance of ensuring indicators provide an accurate and complete reflection of country progress and we encourage the FAO to ensure the use of credible, high-quality, and methodologically sound datasets. Where relevant, for climate indicators FAO should note similar work underway through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the OECD's International Programme for Action on Climate (IPAC), and should look to complement, rather than duplicate, existing processes such as those established through the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have circulated the order of today and that is document *CL 168/OD/2*, where it is stated that we would start with Item 8 and we will come back to the draft conclusions.

### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Indonesia has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group welcomes the *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change*. This will guide FAO in providing strengthened support to countries in our race and missions on climate action and achievements of our Nationally Determined Contributions.

The Asia Regional Group also appreciates FAO's active engagement at 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow to make agri-food systems part of the solution to the climate crisis, to support countries in the climate negotiations, particularly for the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and on agri-food systems adaptation and resilience and to reinforce commitments to support countries in enhancing emissions and accelerating action, particularly on Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, national action plans and climate finance.

The Asia Regional Group takes note, with great interest, on the outcomes of COP26 and calls on FAO to continue giving emphasis on the linkages between biodiversity, food security and climate change in the new strategy and action plan. While we value the existing 2017 FAO Strategy on Climate Change, we opine that the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change must essentially complement the agri-food system transformation and contain concrete actions to capacitate Members towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As evidence-based science is a cornerstone in climate action, we would like to particularly call on FAO to increase support to its Members in this sphere so as to enable informed decision-making. The Asia Regional Group values that new FAO Strategy on Climate Change in its development will consider the diverse context, specificities, priorities and capacities across regions, countries and its localities.

In this regard, the Asia Regional Group wishes to add no one size fits all or fit for purpose as the guiding principle in the draft strategy and that this principle be elaborated as follows:

1. acknowledge that each nation has unique and particular needs for development;
2. respect the right of nations to develop relative to their culture and internal capacities; and
3. refrain from providing uniform types of assistance that do not match the grantees' needs.

As an example, grants in the form of technical assistance often accompany soft loans. What if the grantee needs technology instead of technical assistance? There is a tendency for multilateral agencies to provide similar forms of assistance to address problems that look similar but may have different origins and causes.

Furthermore, the guiding principle on taking an agri-food systems approach in the draft strategy can be elaborated as follows: ensure that all aspects of the agri-food system are healthy and functional and the participants in each aspect are empowered to deal with climate change. The agri-food systems are complex and consist of the natural resource base, the food production sector, post-harvest processing, transport and retail sectors and also the consumers.

The vulnerability of each aspect to climate change and other factors must be identified and addressed. The differences of the participants in each aspect of the system must be acknowledged accordingly. On the guiding principle, with regards to mainstreaming gender, equality and social inclusiveness, it can be further elaborated that inclusiveness should be promoted by adjusting policies to enable all nations to participate in local and global undertakings.

The Asia Regional Group appreciates this opportunity to provide inputs on the elaboration of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and looks forward to continued engagement in this process.

With FAO's support through this strategy and road map, the Asia Regional Group hopes that countries will be able to accelerate their responses to the climate crisis by transforming their agri-food systems to become more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, leading to improved food security and nutrition.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Please send in your written statements to the Secretariat, if you have them, because it will help us to draft the conclusions. I make that request to all Members of the Council who are taking the floor.

### **Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

At the outset, South Africa associates itself with the statement that will be delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on this Item. The update provided on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and the inclusive open-ended consultations already undertaken in this regard is much appreciated, which is timely and urgent in the context of the challenges faced with climate change.

We should be mindful that if our multilateral commitments are not honoured as made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, as well as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, our achievements to reach the Sustainable Development Goals would be reversed. The process to amend the FAO Strategy on Climate Change is complementary to these multilateral commitments and the new strategy should also be consistent with the agreements reached at the successful Glasgow Climate Change Conference.

Also, regional specificities need to be taken into account and a one size fits all approach that disregards the realities of developing countries should be avoided. Furthermore, the real principles in particular equity, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and respect of capabilities should be respected in the process to amend the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

South Africa believes that domestic measures, such as the development of a multi-hazard early warning system, including for small-scale farmers, capacity-building for the farming sector on climate change and full implementation of a Climate Smart Agricultural framework, including assisting the development and implementation of national legal frameworks should be a priority which could be usefully addressed in the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

Of importance is the upscaling of Climate Smart Agricultural approaches by enhancing the resilience of food and agricultural production systems through adaptation, reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding national food security while supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

The new FAO Strategy on Climate Change should also highlight the support to countries for climate actions and implementation of their international obligations under various outcomes and support of mechanisms from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

In conclusion, the lack of adequate and limited access to resources for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, climate change-related policies and action plans and direct unilateral access to advanced adaptation finance by the private sector remains a challenge. Just transition will require international cooperation and support, including from FAO.

With these remarks, South Africa stands ready to engage in the process of developing the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change in terms of the indicative road map and its draft outline as contained in Council Document *CL 168/21*.

**Ms Mietani CHAUKE (Zimbabwe)**

Zimbabwe is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Firstly, we appreciate Management for the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change which comes at a time when the world agri-food systems, including crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and related value chains are at peril due to global warming and climate-related crises.

Secondly, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the strategies incurred on the existing FAO Strategy on Climate Change from 2017 and FAO's general contribution to climate action, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13. We further welcome that the new strategy will build on FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031, which will soon be operational. The plan will build on the shared goals of Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Thirdly, the Africa Regional Group commends FAO for its inclusive approach in drawing up the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change as outlined in the document *CL 168/21*. We note that the consultative process will be extensive with many stakeholders, FAO Members, regional conferences, FAO decentralized offices, partners and experts.

Fourthly, the Africa Regional Group supports the three pillars of action stated in the draft strategy.

As we all know, Africa is the continent most dependent on land for livelihood and has been most vulnerable to climate change, despite it contributing the least to this phenomenon. Consequently, the people that suffer most from hunger and malnutrition is highest in our continent and it continues to grow. Without urgent action, the dire situation will escalate, resulting in our failure to eradicate hunger by 2030.

Food security is under threat from climate changes in Africa where governments require support to meet their national determined contributions in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Even 21% to 23% of the emissions could be attributed to food production.

In this regard, we call on all financial cooperating partners to provide smallholder farmers with the required funding and technical support to empower them to adapt to and mitigate climate change. It is imperative that African countries transform agri-food systems, not only to end hunger but malnutrition and poverty. Without urgent intervention against the vagaries of climate change, agri-food transformation will not be possible.

Regarding the ongoing stakeholder consultations, it is our hope that the process will be concluded timeously because urgent action is required to keep global warming below two degrees. The region is concerned that the continent continues to bear the increasing brunt of global warming, yet it is among the lowest emitters.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional Group supports the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

**Ms Ekaterina VYBORNOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to thank the Management for the information on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Combating climate change is of major significance for Russia too.

Like other countries, we are facing the negative impacts of global warming, in particular desertification and soil erosion. The average annual temperature in Russia is rising faster than the global average, 2.5 times faster, and in the last decade the average annual temperature has increased by

almost half a degree. In particular we are concerned about the thawing of the permafrost layer which underlies a significant part of our territory.

So, we believe that the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change should be based on the current FAO Strategy on Climate Change from 2017 and take into consideration the recommendations emanating from the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26). We expect that the new Strategy will be balanced and a particular focus not only on measures to reduce the volume of emissions, for example, from livestock but also on forest conservation as forests have a high carbon sequestration capacity.

It cannot be excluded that forest conservation measures in Russia or in Latin America may prove to be more effective than, for instance, investments in renewable energy sources in a number of countries. In the implementation of its climate related initiatives, FAO must be guided by uniform, equitable and transparent principles of climate management. This should encompass recognized models of monitoring and evaluation of both, emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases.

Combating climate change related issues must also be carried out in a comprehensive approach with close linkages to steps aimed at supporting economic growth so as to avoid the decline in living standards of people, in particular of agricultural and forestry workers.

On our side, Russia is adopting integrated measures to step up the quality of forest management, expand the surface area under reforestation, increase the areas of pristine untouched nature and introduce new agrotechnology methods.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

The Brazilian delegation would like to reinforce the observations made during the recent session of the Programme Committee and sent under written form to the Secretariat. We would like also to offer our feedback on some comments that emerged at the second informal consultation on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. We recall and renew our stance on the importance of using multilateral agreed language. In this context, Brazil does not favour any reference to the terms commodity-driven deforestation, green solutions and climate-smart agriculture.

Throughout history, Brazil has been, and continues to be, an active participant in multilateral negotiations on environment matters and we strive for well-built consensus. To that end, language is key and shall not be overlooked. Remaining in the field of well-established multilateral concepts, we highlight the utmost importance of our common but differentiated responsibilities in order to reiterate developed countries' duty to fulfill their commitment. Funding measures to be taken by developing countries, such as the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and other national plans that developing countries may voluntarily adopt.

Regarding the second informal consultation that took place on Friday, allow me to provide some comments on dimensions to interlinkage between the new strategies and the outcomes of 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) and other events. COP26 has only recently been concluded. No doubt we are in accordance with the perspective of mainstreaming its outcomes into future negotiations regarding climate change with FAO but before it happens, Members must take the necessary time to consider its results nationally.

Addressing more broadly the concept of interlinkage, we must have clarity on the extent in which different instruments will become intertwined with the present Strategy. Brazil deems paramount that FAO takes into account only those processes that are directly and objectively related to the issue of climate change. Cherrypicking other events is not an acceptable option.

During the second informal consultation, it was also mentioned as FAO's comparative advantage in monitoring the implementation of NDCs and in helping countries raise their ambitions in dealing with climate change. Brazil stresses once again that the NDCs are by nature internal determinants and reiterates that no reference to ambition-raising are supposed to be included in the new strategy.

Accordingly, FAO monitoring capacity must remain attached to FAO programmes and only to them. We do not support any kind of monitoring by FAO of the implementation of NDCs. As previously

stated by our delegation at the first consultation last September, Brazil does not favour the imposition of mitigation targets by sector. The idea contradicts the very nature of NDCs and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. There is no one size fits all solution. Cost-effective mitigation actions certainly vary according to national circumstance, priorities and timeframes.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

First, the United States would like to welcome the stimulating introduction to this Agenda Item. We commend FAO's Deputy Director-General Semedo, the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment and Director Eduardo Mansur for the excellent work that went into the drafting of this document and for the inclusive consultation process.

At the recent high-level side event on "Green and Climate Resilient Agriculture", jointly organized by FAO, China and the United States at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry said, "We must ensure that our agriculture and food systems are ready for and adapted to the impacts of the climate crisis."

To achieve that goal, we need to take a fundamental look at how we grow, distribute, and trade food, fiber, feed, and fuel. Momentum and support for innovation that offers climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities, and contributes to sustainable productivity growth, will be crucial to meeting these global challenges.

Agriculture has significant opportunities to mitigate its climate impact through practices and technologies that sequester carbon and reduce emissions. Ambitious investment in climate-smart agriculture, water, and food systems innovation will create a surge of solutions, enabling the world to meet nutritional needs, increase agricultural productivity, while improving livelihoods, conserving nature and biodiversity, building resilience to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and sequestering carbon.

Farmers and producers are on the front lines of climate change, facing changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, and more frequent and intense events like floods, drought, hurricanes, and wildfire. More than ever their planning efforts and decision-making need to account for the impacts of climate change.

This is why a new, updated and ambitious FAO Climate Change Strategy is so important.

The United States reiterates its full support to the development of FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change, which represents a unique opportunity for the Organization to accelerate its contribution to the achievement of SDG 13, and to enable more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems.

We acknowledge FAO's key advocacy role at global and regional level to make "food and agricultural sectors" part of the climate solution and we are glad this has been reflected in pillar I of the new Strategy.

We are pleased to see that technology, innovation, and data will all be cross-cutting accelerators. A prominent role for innovative technologies including biotechnology is essential both as a way to building climate resilience, reducing carbon greenhouse gas emissions, and sustainably enhancing productivity.

We support the nine guiding principles described in the Climate Change Strategy outline. We propose the addition of a 10th guiding principle: Scaling Actions to Enhance Ambition. While the background paper states that we need to avoid business as usual, we do not see this fully reflected in the strategy itself.

Finally, we strongly support the emphasis on the need to scale up partnerships and we are pleased with FAO's renewed commitment to engage with the private sector.

We look forward to continued engagement in the development of the Strategy.

**Ms Seta Rukmalasari AGUSTINA (Indonesia)**

Allow me to speak on half of the Government of Indonesia. Indonesia supports the statement delivered

on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Indonesia welcomes the update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and appreciates FAO's commitment and engagement during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

We highlight the need to align the new Strategy with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the shared goals towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We particularly support FAO's draft vision to the Strategy regarding strengthening climate-resilient and adaptive agri-food systems as well as contribute to low-carbon economies and ensuring food security. Those visions are aligned with our national development strategy in addressing the impacts of climate change.

Just recently, the Indonesian President issued Presidential Regulation Number 98 of 2021 on Implementation of Carbon Economic Values to Achieve Nationally Determined Contribution Target and Control of Greenhouse Gas Emission in National Development. The Regulation stipulates the implementation of carbon trading, levies on carbon emission, and performance-based payment for reducing carbon emission.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the COP26 Meeting in Glasgow reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to the global fight against climate change. Indonesia is committed to achieving Net-Zero Emissions by 2060 or later as stated in the Long-Term Strategies for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050 document.

Indonesia hopes that the expected outcomes will benefit Member Countries to accelerate their responses to the climate crisis by transforming their agri-food systems to become more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, leading to improved food security and nutrition.

Indonesia looks forward to further discussion of the New Strategy.

**Mr Md. Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)**

Bangladesh fully aligns itself with the comments made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group on the *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change*.

Bangladesh is making this statement, being a country when it ranks seventh in long-term climate risk index in terms of the countries that suffered most from extreme weather events from 1999 to 2019.

We are among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, which poses a long-term threat to our country's agricultural sector, particularly in areas affected by flooding, saline intrusion and drought.

Let me quote from the document presented to the Council. *"The FAO Strategy on Climate Change (SCC), will go beyond 'business as usual' options, addressing the root causes of climate change and opening new pathways paved with green and climate-resilient solutions."* We really expect to go beyond business as usual and to address the root causes, not repeating the trends that have been done by others. We need to concentrate on sustainable growth as well as finding ways to increase productivity, without adversely impacting the environment and adapting climate-smart strategies to develop climate-resilient food systems.

The 2021 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the world, SOFI 2021, once again pointed out the climate variability and extremes and economic slowdowns and downturns along with the conflicts as the major drivers of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition around the globe.

Having said this, Bangladesh would like to highlight the following two points. First, there should not be "one size fits all". The strategy should give priorities to the country context. Innovative local solutions should be captured with a strong emphasis on guiding actions for the disaster preparedness and anticipatory measures as well as adaptation. Main concern should be given on adaptation rather than mitigation.

Second, let me quote from one of the youth representatives who took part at the kickoff at Milan this year. Conservation of environment without finance is just a conversation. So, Bangladesh being the Chair of the 48-member Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and host of the Climate Finance Summit in the country a few months before, would like to emphasize that FAO Management should be creative

in identifying financing mechanisms and innovative partnerships to this climate challenge in the context of the transformative agri-food system.

We look forward to work more closely with FAO to make the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change inclusive and realistic.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change* and appreciates the extensive and inclusive consultations underway. We will not reiterate the comments provided in previous informal consultations and at the Programme Committee on issues such as barriers to adoption of existing solutions but rather offer three additional comments.

FAO has an important role in capacity-building to support transition to lower carbon and zero carbon pathways and under Outcome 1 we would recommend making explicit references to capacity-building to support lower carbon or zero carbon pathways. Related to this, we note the absence of the concept and risks of maladaptation as defined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and we strongly recommend elaborating on the risks of maladaptation and transition risks associated with moving towards low and zero carbon pathways.

Additionally, as we look towards the resource needs for adaptation and mitigation, we see opportunities to access innovative markets and deeper analysis would position FAO well ahead of 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on issues related to agriculture. In this regard, FAO has an important role in facilitating global dialogue and design of international carbon markets relating to the full breadth of agriculture. In this regard, under Outcome 2 we recommend adding consensus-building on the science and evidence for carbon sequestration in agriculture and for the design of inclusive carbon markets covering this sector.

We reiterate the proposal for adding a tenth principle, echoing the calls that more needs to be done, and reflecting the ambition that FAO has in this regard.

Finally, we look forward to seeing the first full draft in the coming months and collaborating on its further development.

**Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)**

Republic of Korea aligns itself to the Asia Group's Joint Statement which was delivered by Indonesia. We express our special gratitude to the Secretariat for reporting an update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change subsequent to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Needless to say, climate change is an urgent as well as comprehensive agenda that humanity is facing in their daily lives. It really forces us to take timely actions on the ground.

Against this backdrop, the Korean government recently announced updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the COP26 which is 40 percent reduction compared to the total amount of greenhouse gas emission in 2018. This target is raising the bar compared to the previous one, which was originally 26.3 percent reduction. For the agriculture and fisheries sector, measures for such results include reducing fertilizers and nitrogen in manure, increasing provision of low methane feed, improving water management in the paddy fields, and supplying carbon neutral fishing boat. Republic of Korea will seek future growth engines and job creation by fostering promising industries as well as boosting circular economy during its effort on carbon neutrality.

According to the Reports of the latest Programme Committees, Republic of Korea anticipates that the coming Council will discuss and approve several strategies and initiatives with regard to various sectors including the Strategy on Climate Change. Considering climate change issue's comprehensiveness, we encourage the Secretariat to take a careful consideration in order to avoid any contradictions and minimize trade-offs while designing multiple strategies. All strategies have to be in harmony under the overall picture namely, Strategic Framework 2022-2030. In this regard, the Republic of Korea sincerely requests Secretariat to conduct thorough analyses and continue sufficient consultations with Member States during the process.



Lastly, Republic of Korea looks forward to discussing the Climate Change Strategy in full version at the next Council with due consideration of the Programme Committee's recommendation.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

I wish, with your indulgence, to pass the floor to Slovenia, Presidency of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia)(Observer)**

Slovenia is going to comment on behalf of the European Union, its 27 Member States, but before commenting on the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, we would just like to ask for clarification, if we are going to have a discussion also about Item 8 on the Report of the Programme Committee?

**CHAIRPERSON**

We first discuss the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, then the Update on the Innovation and Science and Technology, and the third one is the full report of the Programme Committee.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We would like to comment on the FAO Strategy on Climate Change on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Climate change is a direct and existential threat to humanity that spares no country. There is a need for a global transition to climate-neutral, resilient, sustainable, circular, and resource-efficient economies and societies. Climate change is also an increasing cause and main driver of food insecurity and malnutrition in several geographies.

We welcome the outcomes of the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26) as a step in the right direction. The outcomes of COP26 have direct implications for FAO's work and for the implementation of its Strategic Framework.

We take note of the update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, which builds on the evaluation of both the implementation of FAO's existing climate strategy and FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13). We welcome the outline and the proposed roadmap towards the presentation of the Strategy for adoption by the Council in June 2022.

We acknowledge in general terms the proposed vision, the pillars, and the guiding principles of the new Strategy, which aim to improve its contribution to SDG 13. In this regard, recognising that the fifth guiding principle addresses partnering and collaborating with all sectors, including institutional partners, FAO should focus on its comparative advantages, in line with its mandate, avoiding overlap or duplication with the work done by other international organisations. The Strategy should aim at transforming agriculture and food systems with a view to contributing to the Paris Agreement and the COP26 outcomes.

We welcome the consultation process launched. We look forward to further discussions with FAO Members, in particular in the context of the Regional Conferences, and to hearing FAO Management's views on how to incorporate the new developments from COP26 into the Strategy's outline and the planned consultations.

Considering that there is no 'one size fits all' solution, the Strategy should duly recognise the specific needs and special circumstances, particularly of Small Island Developing States that are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change – with some of them even threatened in their very existence.

We commend FAO for promoting within the proposal for the new Strategy the best available science and evidence-based decision making, and for promoting solutions, innovations and best practices that can be scaled up and have a lasting impact to achieve Zero Hunger and comprehensively address climate and sustainability goals throughout food systems transformation. FAO should also ensure that the Strategy is socially inclusive and that gender considerations related to climate change are integrated.

We stand ready to contribute to the development of the new Climate Change Strategy.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Esperando que no hayan tenido problemas con la entrada del dinosaurio ahí al plenario y que aunque los vi un poco asustados, y me llamó la atención que el extinto tiranosaurio rex usó la palabra "pobreza" y no la palabra "pobreza extrema" en ese video, lo cual va acorde con lo que hablamos en el párrafo anterior.

Pero viniendo al tema que nos ocupa ahorita, en mi intervención de ayer hablé sobre este tema, la estrategia de la FAO con relación al cambio climático y me voy a referir nada más a ese punto, a repetirlo, para asegurarme de que lo incluyan en el borrador.

Dice, en el párrafo 26 referido a la estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático, mi delegación agradecería que en el texto se puedan ver resaltados los esfuerzos multilaterales en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP26), particularmente en protección ambiental y compromiso de descarbonización de la agricultura y la ganadería.

Enviamos a la Secretaría un texto sugerido para ser incluido, para asegurarnos de que esté incluido cuando revisemos el borrador.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You can be assured that we have received your text proposal.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Nous remercions la FAO pour la révision de la Stratégie relative au changement climatique et tout particulièrement la Directrice générale adjointe, Maria Helena Semedo. Nous souhaitons que les discussions se poursuivent de manière aussi constructive que pendant le dernier Comité du Programme et la consultation de vendredi. Nous apprécions particulièrement l'aspect transversal prévu pour cette Stratégie importante, à savoir que toutes les politiques de la FAO seront alignées.

La France appelle à une Stratégie ambitieuse, alignée sur l'Accord de Paris et tenant compte des résultats de la COP26, et qui ne vise pas seulement à développer des économies sobres en carbone, mais également à réduire l'impact des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires sur les émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Lors de la COP26, les travaux du groupe de Koroniviasur l'agriculture ont permis des avancées en termes de recommandations pour l'adaptation et l'atténuation. La FAO y a participé comme observateur et nous comptons sur son suivi des discussions.

Nous saluons l'objectif de la FAO d'accélérer sa contribution à la réalisation de l'Accord de Paris et de l'objectif de développement durable 13, notamment en aidant les pays à mettre en œuvre leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national, y compris leurs engagements en matière d'action climatique liés aux systèmes agricoles et alimentaires. Nous apprécions également la prise en compte à la fois de la lutte contre le gaspillage alimentaire, ainsi que de la lutte contre la déforestation. La France rappelle l'importance d'une approche équilibrée, permettant de renforcer à la fois l'adaptation des systèmes alimentaires au changement climatique, c'est le volet résilience, et leur contribution à la réduction des gaz à effet de serre, c'est le volet atténuation. Cette approche équilibrée entre les deux volets de résilience et d'atténuation de l'action climatique doit se refléter aux niveaux programmatique et budgétaire de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, la France salue la volonté de la FAO de renforcer les synergies entre le changement climatique et les autres questions environnementales traitées par les trois Conventions de Rio: biodiversité, restauration des écosystèmes, gestion intégrée des ressources en eau, lutte contre la déforestation et la désertification, etc. À ce titre, nous soulignons l'importance de mettre en œuvre sur le terrain des projets autour de solutions fondées sur la nature et de promouvoir l'agroécologie et l'agroforesterie. La France rappelle également le besoin d'appuyer l'action non seulement sur les approches scientifiques, mais également sur les preuves empiriques.

Enfin, dans le cadre de l'élaboration de cette Stratégie puis de cette mise en œuvre, la France appelle la FAO à appuyer la mise en œuvre des produits du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), et notamment les recommandations politiques sur l'agroécologie et les autres approches innovantes, ainsi que les directives volontaires sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition.

**Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)**

Nicaragua agradece la estrategia sobre el cambio climático enfocada en hacer los sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes y resilientes con el medio ambiente y la presentación de los resultados de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP26).

Destacamos en particular la importancia de la participación activa de los Miembros en el proceso de elaboración de la estrategia con miras a asegurar que su contenido pueda abarcar para todos los aspectos y expectativas relacionadas a los tres pilares de acción: fortalecimiento de las políticas y gobernanzas sobre el clima, ampliación de la acción por el clima sobre el terreno y el desarrollo de la capacidad para proveer soluciones innovadoras.

Consideramos que para lograr un verdadero impacto en el terreno, la nueva estrategia debe tomar en cuenta las especificidades de las diferentes regiones, subregiones, países y también a nivel local, ya que existen diferencias significativas tanto en el grado de vulnerabilidad y exposición a las crisis climáticas así como en su capacidad de respuestas.

En la COP26, no hemos conseguido resultados perfectos, pero hemos logrado un entendimiento de reconocer el problema en base a la ciencia. Hemos reconocido que estamos ante una crisis climática sobre la cual debe prevalecer el espíritu colaborativo y constructivo para avanzar en acciones concretas, usando los pilares de la convención como son la adaptación, mitigación, pérdidas y daños, transferencia tecnológica, innovación y creación de capacidades.

Sin duda se han logrado avances en [XX] y éste debería allanar el camino en servir de base para el desarrollo de la nueva estrategia. Esa puede ser una oportunidad para que la Organización contribuya aún más en el logro del Objetivo de Desarrollo sostenible (ODS 13). Exhortamos a la FAO a que trabaje con base a sus ventajas comparativas, centrando su trabajo como organismo de conocimiento en el ámbito de la agricultura y de la seguridad alimentaria y acompañe con su estrategia a los países para identificar mecanismos de financiación y elaboración de sus estrategias para la acción climática del sector agrícola.

A la vez, a que tome en debida cuenta la importancia de establecer asociaciones, aprovechar las sinergias evitando duplicaciones, apuntando que la estrategia que aún se encuentra en su proceso de elaboración, pueda seguir perfeccionándose por los aportes de todas las partes interesadas en consonancia con las necesidades nacionales y regionales y garantizar tanto su incidencia sobre el terreno, como la protección nacional.

Seguimos comprometidos con el desarrollo de esta herramienta, animamos a que se sigan involucrando a los Miembros y a la Secretaría mediante futuras consultas informales.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

I think this morning our very old friends Tyrannosaurus, or T-Rex, came to visit and address us at this plenary. What we choose today will reflect our future tomorrow.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group, delivered by Indonesia, in appreciating the effort of the Secretariat for the inclusive process adopted to develop the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Thailand would like to offer a few brief additional comments to contribute to the ongoing discussion and consultations of the new FAO Strategy.

First, with regard to the proposed visions, we think that the focus should be on sustainability since some food systems already are sustainable, and do not need to be transformed, but that system can be scaled-up and duplicated in other areas and countries.

Second, with regard to the innovative packages of solutions, we propose to add concrete examples of the practical and innovative solutions proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions stemming from agri-food systems.

We also suggest to elaborate more on how to ensure that innovations are fit for purpose and tailored to context specifics since innovation is a means and not an end by itself.

Third, with regard to the proposed communication strategies, we recommend to focus on dissemination of knowledge that is already available to promote the widest possible adoptions of the best practices that have already been envisaged.

Farmer to farmer knowledge sharing on agri-food innovation and adaptation to climate change should be strengthened and included in the new FAO Strategy, and the power of communication is very crucial. Fourth, impact of soil erosion and the degradation on water resources is very crucial and FAO and its Members need to take action to prevent further consequences.

We would like to remind you that the World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December. This year, on Friday 3 December at noon, the FAO Global Soil Partnership in collaboration with Russian Federation, Thailand and other members will jointly celebrate the World Soil Day in reminding us that soil degradation in ecosystem is one of the most important problems at national and global level for agri-food productions, food security, and sustainability.

We encourage FAO to continue providing policy advice and technical support on climate-smart agriculture and climate-smart livestock production, that can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and improve agricultural and livestock productivity and efficiency.

Lastly, let me conclude by underlining that climate change is a multifaceted crisis, which requires a multifaceted, coherent and collaborative response where the private sector can greatly contribute with knowledge and also innovation. The private sector is part of agri-food systems, that is why the private sector needs to make strong commitment and take action to solve this problem together with others.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement. I want to begin by thanking FAO for the consultation last week and the opportunity to give detailed comments at that time.

The Nordic Countries welcome the outline of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and call for an ambitious Strategy that highlights the urgency of addressing climate change. Climate change must be a top priority for FAO and be translated into action at global, regional, national, and local levels.

Sustainable management of natural resources including of forests, oceans, biodiversity, water, and soils for sustainable food systems as well as the reduction of food loss and waste, is key. Climate action should be implemented with the most vulnerable groups in mind. Nature-based solutions and landscape approaches should be prioritised.

We welcome that both mitigation and adaptation are included in the document and underline the need for both. FAO needs to work with all relevant actors on climate action and coordinate within the UN system.

We would like to see a clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the Goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly the long-term global goal to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and underline the need to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. Further, the Strategy should take due account of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) outcomes as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In the strive towards sustainable food systems, we welcome the focus on innovations, for instance, in the areas of soil management and climate smart agriculture.

Advancing the climate agenda related to food and agriculture requires FAO to focus on its comparative advantages, providing technical knowledge and expertise, considering context-specific solutions. The Strategy should have a systemic approach, be based on the principle of leaving no-one behind, making gender equality a prerequisite to achieve our goals.

We look forward to continuing the discussion on the Strategy once we see the first draft.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Gracias Doctor Eduardo Mansur, director de la Oficina de Cambio Climático, Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (OCB), y a su equipo por la presentación de este documento clave, cuyo contenido deberá seguir siendo analizado por los Miembros para que su propio equipo tome debida nota de nuestras preocupaciones y sugerencias.

Algunos comentarios generales, creo que es muy importante hacerse eco de lo expresado por el Embajador Beukeboom, Representante Permanente de Países Bajos el viernes pasado en la consulta informal que usted lideró, Presidente. La nueva estrategia debe elaborarse sobre la base de la estrategia anterior que no fue implementada completamente.

Tomando las palabras del Embajador de Países Bajos, la construcción de la nueva estrategia no puede hacerse a partir de un papel en blanco. Y yo agregaría, tomemos los elementos positivos de la estrategia anterior y los enfoques del Marco estratégico de FAO tomando los cuatro mejores, particularmente, para crear un documento útil para alcanzar nuestros objetivos comunes.

En esa línea, solicitamos cautela a los responsables del documento en cuanto a lo expresado en la consulta informal respecto de la idea de alinear el contenido del documento con las conclusiones de la Conferencia de las Partes (COP26) en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC) y los llamados resultados de la Cumbre de Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios. Cuando expreso "cautela", de manera diplomática, me refiero a que como sabemos, no se alcanzaron acuerdos o consensos entre los Miembros en la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios porque no hubo un proceso de negociación. Simple conclusión: no es posible alinear la estrategia con algo no consensado entre los Miembros.

B, con respecto a los acuerdos alcanzados en la COP26, muchos de ellos muy valiosos que pueden orientar esta estrategia, sobrepasan ampliamente el mandato de la FAO, por ejemplo, en materia de biodiversidad. Simple conclusión: la nueva estrategia se podría nutrir únicamente de los acuerdos relativos a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. Para los demás temas tenemos a la CMNUCC, al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) y otros componentes del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Elaboración del cambio climático debe ser encauzado de forma responsable con base científica, con espíritu colaborativo, asumiendo que existen diferentes responsabilidades. Estaremos muy atentos al intento de instalar cualquier narrativa negativa sobre los sistemas agro-bio-industriales y su influencia sobre el cambio climático.

Creo que no es necesario que reitere el compromiso de mi país con la lucha contra el cambio climático, nuestro compromiso multilateral nunca cambió. Está claro que Argentina es tomador más que un generador en materia de cambio climático. Hoy solo representamos el 0,7% del total de las emisiones mundiales, como fue reconocido expresamente por la CMNUCC.

También la CMNUCC sostiene que la mayor parte de las emisiones de gases efecto invernadero del mundo han tenido su origen en actividades ligadas al desarrollo industrial y energético más que agrícola. Reiteramos lo acordado en la Cumbre de Río y capturado por la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible 2030 en cuanto a la importancia de observar el principio de responsabilidades comunes, pero diferenciadas.

La agro-bio-industria ve fuertemente afectada por el cambio climático, es un hecho, por ese motivo para países como Argentina con baja participación en las emisiones globales, la prioridad es la adaptación a fin de quitar vulnerabilidad a nuestros sistemas productivos y poder continuar suministrando los alimentos que se necesitan para erradicar el hambre y fomentar el desarrollo social y económico. Pero para ese objetivo es imprescindible acordar mecanismos de financiación internacional como, por ejemplo, el pago de servicios ecosistémicos o la capitalización de las externalidades positivas de los sistemas agro-productivos sostenibles, entre otros.

En el documento no se menciona llamativamente el comercio internacional. Recordemos que las distorsiones existentes en el sistema de comercio global de alimentos afectan principalmente a los países en desarrollo productores de alimentos. Hacemos nuestras las conclusiones del Comité del Programa sobre la referencia al tema de considerar los diversos contextos e insistimos que no hay un modelo único de desarrollo que les sirva a todos, por lo que se requiere sostener una visión inclusiva,

plural, de la sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios. Y en ese sentido, la alusión al enfoque "*Nature Based Solutions*", no cuenta con definición consensuada a nivel multilateral, solo ha sido discutida claramente en la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN), de la que muchos Miembros no somos parte.

Sería más correcto entonces utilizar el concepto "*Ecosystem Based Solution*", que sí ha sido acordado multilateralmente en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) en su decisión 14/5 *Diversidad biológica y cambio climático (CBD/COP/DEC/14/5)*, específicamente en el párrafo 9, nos oponemos a los conceptos "*Modification of food choices*" y/o "*Commodities relating to deforestation*", por no tener base científica y representar una visión desbalanceada. Si usamos lenguaje acordado multilateralmente o con interpretaciones acordadas, nos evitamos discusiones innecesarias conforme lo expresa el subpárrafo 12(e) del documento *CL 168/8 Informe del 132.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa*.

Página 2, segundo párrafo, no compartimos la visión de que los sistemas alimentarios sean todos fallidos y que, por ende, deben ser transformados de manera integral. Depende de cada realidad, por favor, incluyan de una vez y para siempre la cuestión contextual para evitar discusiones innecesarias.

Párrafo 8, segunda parte, solicitamos que se incluya el principio de responsabilidades comunes, pero diferenciadas y la prevalencia de la seguridad alimentaria y transición justa.

Párrafo 10, primera parte, solicitamos que el documento no se refiera a perturbaciones y tensiones relacionadas al clima y en su lugar diga, "Cambios y variabilidad climática" o "Efectos adversos del cambio climático", ese es el lenguaje de la CMNUCC.

Párrafo 28.4, los indicadores deben ser revisados para evitar que se tornen difíciles de medir y por lo tanto inútiles para los países. En el mismo párrafo 28, por el principio de soberanía de los Estados, sobre sus respectivos recursos naturales, corresponde a los gobiernos nacionales proveer esos datos.

Creemos que los mecanismos de financiación innovadores deberían ser complementarios de los compromisos de financiamiento asumidos por los países desarrollados en favor de los países en desarrollo que aún no se han materializado. Creo que es importante como cuestión de procedimiento que las consultas informales realizadas que son muy importantes, pero no son suficientes. Se necesita que sigamos discutiendo para que se puedan capturar los mensajes de los Miembros y también evaluar la importancia de pasar por el Comité de Pesca (COFI) y el Comité de Agricultura (COAG) para las cuestiones técnicas específicas.

Ahora ya estamos en una segunda estrategia, más que rápido, hagámoslo bien.

**Mr Ahmed Mohsin AL TAMEEMI (Iraq) (Observer) (Original Language Arabic)**

I am pleased to take part in this meeting today, and it is a pleasure for me to present this statement on behalf of the Near-East Regional Group, while extending thanks to FAO for its efforts to ensure that ecosystems provide welfare to human beings, we welcome the reforms and the recommendations and we attach a great importance to the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (FAO SCC). The environment, including air, water and soil represent the main elements of life in this world and they have been affected by major threats due to anthropogenic activities leading to climate change.

This has led the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, to play an important role regarding these threats among populations and it has led also to the approval and adoption of international conventions and agreements for the environment and the achievement of the SDGs. We believe that there is a lot of action at the theoretical level and we need more concrete action on the ground, we need to move fast towards the application and implementation of all instruments in the area of the environment and climate.

The impacts of climate change represent a major threat to the environment and to natural resources. These threats are on the increase and it is jeopardizing life on earth. A large number of our regional group countries are affected by climate change. We have recorded major events, extreme temperatures over 50 degrees Celsius, and the desertification, the water scarcity, and the move and migration towards the urban areas, with high levels of food insecurity.

We believe in that respect that FAO should be engaged in the area of climate change at the international level and should continue to communicate with and between the decentralised and regional offices in order to expand the sphere of activities to include sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change. This is closely related to the SDGs, specifically SDG 13 which emphasises the need for urgent action on the level of climate.

In conclusion, we will continue to work with FAO to reach our common goals and to ensure development and sustainability for everyone, with all due respect to all.

**Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

Italy aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union (EU) and welcomes the commitment of FAO in outlining a new Strategy on Climate Change. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), that Italy co-pressed with UK, showed us that we have to reverse course, and we have to do it now. Global awareness on the climate emergency is a first step, but it is not enough: it must turn rapidly into concrete actions.

We need to frame our efforts towards sustainability within an effective and inclusive multilateral approach. Multilateralism is the only way to proceed along together and address a challenge that has its appalling effects on the younger generations. Concrete action and multilateralism are the guidelines that set the course of the climate agenda that Italy is convincingly pursuing at international and national level.

In this regard, let me recall some of the steps that, in the framework of the G20 Presidency that we held this year, paved the way to the COP26.

In Naples, in July, a joint G20 Climate and Environment Ministerial meeting was held for the first time ever.

In Milan, in October, during the *Youth4Climate* event, 800 young people from all over the world had a chance to explain their view of their future to Ministers of 50 Countries.

In Rome, at the end of October, during the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit, critical issues such as the containment of global warming and climate finance have been discussed.

On all these topics, we must move forward together and with bold ambitions.

Climate change is a long-term threat to food security and nutrition. Therefore, Italy welcomes the consultation process that FAO launched on its new Strategy on Climate Change, and it is ready to do its part to have an ambitious, forward-looking, and comprehensive Strategy, thus allowing FAO to act in a more effective way in combating hunger and malnutrition.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Italy, also for your Presidency of the G20.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

México suscribe muchas de las ideas ya compartidas, pero también quisiera decir que México aprecia mucho los esfuerzos de la FAO para dar atención a uno de los problemas más urgentes de nuestro tiempo.

Recibimos con beneplácito la propuesta de esta nueva estrategia de cambio climático que nos parece muestra un mayor esfuerzo de coordinación y de alineamiento con los objetivos de desarrollo sustentable con otros procesos internacionales, como la COP26.

Coincidimos como país, en lo general, con los principios planteados en esta estrategia y resaltamos la importancia de los tres pilares propuestos. Insistimos, sin embargo, en la gran relevancia que se tiene en diseñar estrategias para dar respuesta a las necesidades de cada país, de cada región, de cada territorio y de cada productor, respetando sus soberanías, su historia, su cultura y sus tradiciones.

En este sentido, quisiéramos respetuosamente solicitar que en la implementación de esta estrategia se ponga especial cuidado a estas particularidades y se busque no hacer imposiciones innecesarias. Creemos que el éxito de esta estrategia dependerá también de la participación coordinada de todos los

actores y en particular de la inclusión de los pueblos originarios o *indigenous people*, como lo conocemos en el lenguaje inglés.

Consideramos importante insistir en que cualquier esfuerzo que se lleve a cabo bajo esta estrategia no debe resultar en mayores exclusiones ni mayores desigualdades. Finalmente, quisiera reiterar el compromiso de mi país para avanzar en la implementación de acciones concretas, creemos que lo que estamos viviendo en materia climática nos afecta a todos por igual, que la urgencia no nos permite esperar. Y que la agricultura y los sistemas de base agrícola incluyendo los sistemas alimentarios son parte de la solución.

En este sentido, México invita a todos a trabajar como una sola familia y no perdernos en intereses individuales.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

To ensure food security, it is key to establish climate resilient food systems. To this end, it is important to maintain enhanced productivity potential and sustainability in a compatible manner by properly conducting adaptation and mitigation measures on climate change.

Japan launched a strategy for sustainable food systems called MeaDRI in May. The strategy aims to enhance productivity potential and to ensure sustainability in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors through innovation.

This strategy includes the response to climate change, such as zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and promotion of efforts to respond to climate change, including long-term and mastered technologies for carbon in forests, timber, agricultural land and oceans.

From this point of view, we support the mainstreaming of climate change in the Guiding Principles 8 in paragraph 28, which states “*the importance of effective integration of climate change in FAO Members’ agri-food systems policies*”. Japan has been cooperating with FAO and disseminated forest conservation and utilization measures for strengthening local regimes in maintaining ownership through strengthening disaster prevention and mitigation functions, and climate change adaptation measures.

Cooperation is also conducted in other areas, including the capacity building for carbon sequestration in [XX] and developing countries. Japan would like to request FAO to note in the Strategy that there is no one size fits all solution for climate change. As our Asia Regional Group representative, our Indonesian colleague, has already explained, I will not say this in detail.

But from this point of view, we support the ideas of the Guiding Principles 2 in paragraph 28, stating that “*put farmers, fishers, foresters, pastoralists and vulnerable people at the centre*”. We also support embracing innovation in Guiding Principles 3 paragraph 28 as the promotion of innovation is necessary for sustainable food system transformation.

FAO has already conducted consultation with Members on adopting a new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. As such, coordination with Members, is important. Japan requests that FAO continues to conduct such consultative activities. We support these activities based on our efforts and experience.

Japan would like to also request that the new Strategy should be consistent with relevant international frameworks and strategies, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

We would like to emphasize that the Strategy should be tested on the latest scientific evidence. With these comments, Japan supports FAO’s efforts on adopting FAO’s new Strategy on Climate Change, given the discussion on the UN Food Systems Summit and negotiation with 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and expects the acceleration of this work.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je salue tous les participants qui nous suivent en ligne et ceux qui sont dans la salle. Monsieur le Président, après la consultation que nous avons eue vendredi, si nous prenons encore la parole c’est



parce que la question est d'importance. Nous tenons à nous aligner sur la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe Afrique par le Zimbabwe et nous nous associons aussi à toutes nos pré-opinions.

Nous remercions la FAO pour cette initiative et pour les consultations qu'elle a entreprises. Au moment où nous réfléchissons sur cette nouvelle Stratégie, il faut que nous ayons à l'esprit les petits producteurs qui sont victimes des changements climatiques et qui, en même temps, sont obligés d'agir contre la nature, dans un instinct de survie.

L'agriculture au sens large est en même temps la cause et la victime des changements climatiques. La nouvelle Stratégie doit donc être pragmatique, moins élitiste, élaborée et mise en œuvre suivant une approche participative et inclusive, en prenant en compte les spécificités de chaque région et de chaque territoire, notamment pour déterminer les actions d'adaptation ou d'atténuation à mener. Au-delà des particularités, la Stratégie doit mettre en place un cadre normatif, incitatif, afin que le producteur, dans l'ensemble, et les petits producteurs, surtout, puissent suivre la nouvelle dynamique. Ce cadre normatif doit être susceptible de les préparer à être éligibles au paiement des services écosystémiques et leur permettre aussi d'avoir accès aux marchés rémunérateurs des produits écoresponsables.

Mon pays, qui a déjà affirmé son engagement à travailler dans ce sens, va continuer à travailler pour que l'agriculture intelligente face au climat soit au cœur de nos priorités.

#### **His Excellency Kaba URGESSA DINSSA (Ethiopia)**

We align ourselves with the statement of the Africa Regional Group. I am speaking for the first time. I really appreciate the opening speech of the FAO Director-General in that he has covered the important topics that have to be covered in achievements and also clearly identified the focal areas in the future.

I specifically appreciate the importance he gave to the impacts of climate change, as a country who has been affected by drought, flood and army worm very frequently. In spite of the country giving a special emphasis to climate change by developing climate resilience, a green economic strategy, and working its level best to implement the strategy by the Green Legacy Initiative and the soil and water conservation activities through public mobilization, and the sustainable land management programmes, it still remains the main challenge. This needs the rebuilding of our climate change in which adaptation and mitigation go hand in hand, to overcome the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of our people.

Mainly, I think we need to focus on developing a new strategy, but more specifically on the implementation side. Although countries are doing a good job at their capacity level, the fight against climate change needs regional and global cooperation. I am grateful for all the countries who have supported us to face the climate in this challenge so far, and hope they will continue to do so as their efforts are bearing fruit.

The innovative approach towards food system development, especially in increasing production and productivity through intensive agriculture is very important, but to achieve that one has to really consider all the possible challenges that we are going to face in our endeavour, the most important being climate change.

Climate change is one of the issues that we have to take seriously to overcome the problems of food and nutrition security. I have participated in both the discussions taking place to revise the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. The inputs the Members are giving at this stage I feel will very well enrich the new strategy. This in turn is going to be a very important input for the regional and individual Members on strategy revision, or even developing one if we do not have it earlier.

After saying this short remark, my country supports and contributes to the development of the new strategy and is working for its proper implementation.

#### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Agradecimiento que extendemos tanto a FAO por esta iniciativa como a los oradores que me han precedido en la palabra, muchas de cuyas ideas compartimos.

Dicho esto, quisiéramos manifestar en cuanto a todo lo que tiene que ver con el desarrollo de esta nueva estrategia de FAO sobre el cambio climático, nuestro apoyo a lo expresado por la Unión Europea (EU). España está dispuesta a contribuir al desarrollo de la nueva propuesta de estrategia de cambio climático.

El cambio climático es una amenaza global, que requiere una transición mundial hacia economías climáticamente neutras, resilientes, triplemente sostenibles en lo social, lo económico y lo medio ambiental, circulares y eficientes en el empleo de los recursos naturales, siendo como es el cambio climático causa constatada de la inseguridad alimentaria y malnutrición en diferentes partes del planeta.

Por ello, acogemos con satisfacción los resultados de la Conferencia de las Partes sobre el Cambio Climático de Glasgow, la COP26, como un paso en la dirección correcta que hay que mantener con rumbo firme. Los resultados de la misma tienen implicaciones directas en la implementación del trabajo de FAO y en su Marco estratégico, al ser la producción agroalimentaria y los sistemas alimentarios parte también de la solución frente a los efectos del cambio climático y de nuestras posibilidades de adaptación al mismo.

Valoramos por ello la actualización sobre el desarrollo de la nueva estrategia de FAO, así como el esquema y la hoja de ruta propuesta hacia la presentación de la estrategia para su adopción por el consejo en junio del próximo año.

A fin de contribuir a estos objetivos, FAO debería centrarse en sus ventajas comparativas, evitando el solapamiento con el trabajo realizado por otras organizaciones internacionales y perfectamente coordinada con las mismas.

Aplaudimos las consultas iniciadas ante las conferencias regionales en el ánimo de conocer cómo incorporar los mensajes derivados de la COP26, considerando que no existe una solución única y que han de ser aplicables a todas las circunstancias y realidades, especialmente a las más amenazadas.

Finalmente, elogiamos a FAO su intención de basarse para ello en la mejor ciencia disponible y en la innovación.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement presented by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

At present, climate change is a common concern of humankind. Therefore, parties should take action to address climate change while considering their respective obligations on human the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, children, as well as gender equality.

In addition, we need to ensure the integrity of all ecosystems, including forests, oceans and the protection of biodiversity. However, the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient. I stress that finances remain insufficient with respect to the worsening of climate change impacts in developing countries.

Hence, fast action is required so that developed countries urgently and significantly design a long-term fit-for-all strategy and that FAO scale up the provision of climate finance and implement as fast as possible. Therefore, Eritrea endorses the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and recommends and appreciates FAO to provide technical assistance in an upgraded manner in a sustainable way, to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

China aligns itself with the joint statement of the Asia Group delivered by Indonesia. China welcomes FAO's efforts towards promoting the development of the new Strategy on Climate Change in line with its mission, with a focus on the impact of climate change on agri-food systems.

I have three comments. First, the new Strategy should focus on the severe impact of natural disasters on agricultural production, as well as the livelihoods of smallholder farmers with a view to strengthening vulnerable groups' resilience to climate change, including those of smallholders.

Second, FAO should continue to promote synergies among policies and strengthen cooperation at the regional and national level, with a view to providing technical support to those countries that frequently suffer from the effects of natural disasters.

Third, the language of the new Strategy should acknowledge that agri-food systems play a positive role in guaranteeing food security and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and that the agri-food sector is playing a positive role *vis-à-vis* tackling the negative impacts of climate change.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

We support the statement read by Iraq on behalf of the Near-East Regional Group. We welcome the efforts made by the Organization to develop the new Strategy on Climate Change within the context of the Strategic Framework. Our region is one of the worst affected by the impact of climate change. It is foreseen that the temperature will increase at the regional level and that, as a consequence, we will suffer drought.

The 26th Session of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) has told us that developing countries will bear the brunt of climate change, especially smallholder farmers and those who need regular rainfall to guarantee their agricultural activities. It also emerged that 65 countries will suffer most from climate change and will see their GDP decline by 2050, if the temperature rises by more than two degrees. My country will be at the head of this list, Sudan.

Sudan will be suffering most, given the foreseen decline of its GDP. Last year, we saw flooding at a significant level and the report sets out that we need significant aid to strengthen these countries' resilience to tackle, not only drought, but also flooding.

That is why we welcome the efforts behind this new FAO Strategy and applaud the pillars of the Strategy, namely strengthening farmers' capacity, innovative solutions to adapt to climate change, the importance of partnerships with different regional, international and national organizations, and so on.

We should also highlight the fact that funding is the key to implementing this strategy at national and regional level.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We strongly lend our support to the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. Having said this, can you please kindly give the floor to Zambia to speak on this agenda item?

**Mr Kayoya MASUHWA (Zambia)(Observer)**

Zambia will speak on Item 8 for both the 131<sup>st</sup> Special and the 132<sup>nd</sup> Programme Committee Sessions. For climate change we will reserve our comment and speak when we are consolidating the two reports.

**M. Rafik AINI (Tunisie)**

Tout d'abord, juste une petite remarque, car on parle uniquement de l'Objectif de développement durable (ODD) 13, mais d'après mon expérience de plus de 20 ans dans le domaine des négociations sur le changement climatique, l'ODD 13 est tellement transversal qu'on ne peut le prendre tout seul; c'est là un conseil pour améliorer cette Stratégie.

La Tunisie s'aligne et appuie la déclaration du Zimbabwe au nom du Groupe Afrique et se réjouit du processus inclusif d'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO, partenaire de la Tunisie en matière d'agriculture depuis 50 ans. Elle est disposée à contribuer efficacement à l'enrichissement du contenu de la Stratégie en fournissant les spécificités de l'Afrique du Nord, un «hotspot», point chaud, en ce qui concerne les changements climatiques.

La Tunisie a remis à la COP26 de Glasgow la révision de sa contribution déterminée au niveau national (CDN), où elle a relevé sa contribution et son ambition de 41 à 45 pour cent, afin de montrer sa bonne volonté de contribuer efficacement à l'atténuation et à l'effort international.

Ceci dit, le volet adaptation est très important aussi et la Tunisie croit fermement qu'à moins d'arriver à un équilibre de 50/50 pour cent de financement, on ne pourra parler ni de concept, ni de mise en œuvre sur le terrain.

Parlant de la science, la feuille de route de Koronivia avec les six ateliers prévus dans la feuille de route, ainsi que les cinq effectués depuis 2011, nous ont montré que si l'on veut, on peut. La science est là, mais comment transformer ses résultats sur le terrain et comment les concrétiser efficacement pour et par l'acteur principal qu'est l'agriculteur?

Finalement, la Tunisie propose que cette Stratégie s'organise sur le renforcement des capacités, sur tout ce qui est réglementaire, institutionnel et organisationnel, qu'elle s'attelle à la problématique du commerce alimentaire international, qui affecte beaucoup les moyens de subsistance des agriculteurs, ainsi qu'aux moyens pour la mise en œuvre du rapport qui sera élaboré à la COP27, des ateliers et tous les travaux réalisés dans le cadre de l'Action commune de Koronivia.

Finalement, travailler plus sur comment sortir les agriculteurs de leur pauvreté pour pouvoir mettre en œuvre ces nouveaux concepts innovateurs.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now give the floor to the Observer, United Kingdom. I will come back to United Kingdom after I have given the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for some very brief remarks.

### **Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

I would like to highlight that the Joint Meeting when reviewing the Adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-2023 appreciated FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation being developed in full alignment with the Agenda 2030 and fully implemented within the overall Strategy Framework 2022-2031.

I would like, however, to highlight some points. The discussion on this Agenda Item was very productive and very rich. The Committee appreciated the inclusive and the transparent process followed in the elaboration of the document focused on FAO's advantage and mandate with the aim to avoid duplication and overlapping with other organization's ongoing processes.

The Committee underlined and appreciated the document's consideration of the diverse context, priority and capacities across regions, countries at the local level and the contribution and potential of sustainable agri-food systems in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions while safeguarding global food security.

The Committee highlighted the importance of identifying further financial mechanisms to tackle climate change in the context of agri-food systems to support developing countries. The Committee also welcome Management's willingness to take into consideration all the comments from Members, oral and written, in the development of the Strategy.

The Committee recommended to use multilaterally agreed concepts and language in the Strategy. The Committee recommended that Council endorse the outline and road map of the Strategy and looks forward to reviewing the full Strategy during its 133rd Session.

### **Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Observer)**

First of all, apologies from Ambassador Kelly who was not able to make the audio work to be able to convey this statement on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the the 26th Session of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) host, the United Kingdom would like to thank Dr Eduardo Mansur and his team who attended COP26 in Glasgow along with colleagues from the other Rome-based Agencies.

The UK welcomes the development of FAO's new Strategy Climate Change, building on evaluation findings and reflecting the outcomes from COP26 as well as other fora, including the Food Systems Summit. The UK and Italy worked hard at COP26 to put agriculture and food systems at the centre of efforts to confront climate change.

At COP26, the sector was recognized as key for emission reductions, protecting nature and strengthening adaptation and resilience. New instruments like the Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture cut across all three areas by driving investment in research and development and innovation.

COP26 also highlighted the critical value of science and innovation in fighting the climate crisis. We now need to sustain momentum, agreeing metrics that capture adaptation, mitigation and resilience. Building delivery and accountability mechanisms is essential. That will allow us to convert the substantial commitments made at COP26 on agricultural innovation into real world action. We welcome the approach that is being taken in the Strategy. We underline the importance of including nature and biodiversity. While there is reference to the nature element in the first guiding principle, we look forward to this being expanded in the Strategy, along with a need to address biodiversity loss.

We also look forward to further strengthening the theory of change, linking this to changing diets and explicitly referencing nature, which would help to build a stronger narrative around FAO's role along the people, nature and climate nexus.

We also encourage linkages between policies, including, for example, FAO's new Strategy on Science and Innovation, particularly when we move to implementation. This approach would help to bring scale, innovation that works, adapting to local contexts, as Bangladesh noted. In this respect, we also support comments made by the US on the importance of scaling good practice for early and sustainable impact.

FAO also has a key role to play on land issues and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines. We encourage FAO to ensure its climate change strategy reflects this and works with indigenous peoples.

We strongly support the Strategy's focus on adaptation. Mitigation also remains vitally important and we hope the Strategy will give full consideration to addressing mitigation and the impact of sustainable agricultural intensification.

Finally, we hope that the United Nations Food Systems Rome Coordination Hub will also prioritize how the Rome-based Agencies are tackling climate change threats in the context of their work. It is the one issue that spans all agency mandates and responsibilities and links our efforts to build better early warning systems and improve resilience.

As Mexico noted, food systems can also be part of the solution. The scale of the challenge calls for the Rome-based Agencies and all Membersto work together as effectively as we can. And we look forward to continuing to work together on finalizing this strategy and ensuring its implementation.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly we would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom for hosting the 26th Session of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26). I now turn to Ms Maria Helena Semedo to give some brief remarks as an update and an input tool for the further development of the Strategy. I hope you can be very brief in your remarks, given the pressure for time.

### **Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director- General)**

I will try to be very brief, but I will start by thanking all the distinguished Ambassadors and Management representatives for your comments, your contributions. As it has been said, it has been a participatory and inclusive process and we hope to continue counting on your contributions as we move forward in the drafting of the Strategy.

Let me just summarize some of the recommendations, of the guidance we received, and they have, clearly, been considered by FAO. First, the Strategy needs to be context-based. It cannot be one size fits all. We need to consider the region, the country and local level specificities and the ecology of the different regions.

We need to also to consider the different vulnerabilities and the exposure and response capacities. We need to be ambitious, but I just wanted to clarify that when we refer to ambition, it is the ambition towards the Secretariat. Ambitious in the way we support countries in integrating agri-food systems in their Nationally Determined Contributions. Ambitious in the way we support countries to implement them, bringing the best of science and knowledge but also considering the local level. When we refer to ambition, it is to FAO as to the Secretariat in the way we support the countries and the way we will be designing the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

We will be supporting countries in their requests and in agri-food related sectors, using FAO's comparative advantage and supporting the synergies, avoiding duplication with other UN agencies and we will be bringing a systemic approach. It was clear in the evaluation of the current FAO Climate Change Strategy that it was very much agricultural sector related. But we did not consider how climate change interacts with food, agriculture and other related sectors, directly and indirectly, meaning that we need to have a systemic approach.

We will be in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and with COPs. I would also to reiterate that when we talk about COPs, the COPs for us are for policy direction, for policy decision. We have a decision on COPs-related files, for example, Global Environment Facility (GEF)-Green Climate Fund (GCF), and those are important for FAO, how we consider our support to countries. This is how we really connect to the COP and its recommendations regarding the policy direction to the FAO mandate.

I will not reply the questions one by one, but let me refer that the Climate Change Strategy will be linked or supported by an implementation plan and this implementation plan will be building on clear indicators, a capacity development plan and a resource mobilization plan. They will be all fit for purpose and be integrated elements of the FAO Strategy.

We heard from various countries that we need to focus on the most vulnerable. We need to focus on the support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as well as smallholders. While agriculture is one of the best sectors to combine solutions for mitigation and adaptation, we talk about core benefits, but we recognize that you have voices from the Members that FAO should prioritize adaptation to climate change and is a point well taken.

We are happy to provide capacity development, technical and policy advice, knowledge and data and capitalize financial opportunities and partnerships as requested by the Members and all will be integrated in our Climate Change Strategy.

Thank you, again, for your comments. Please share with us by email your statements today, your comments, in order for us to be sure that we capture your recommendations well and they will be fully integrated in the FAO Climate Change Strategy.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly you were focused and concise and thank you. I would like to reiterate your request to send in all your comments and remarks to the Secretariat because it will enrich, I think, the finalization of a first draft of the Strategy.

This morning we had a very rich, constructive and substantive discussion and input to the finalization of the first draft of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. I think there were many elements which can go into the strategy and I think we need a strong strategy which can support countries in implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national plans.

We are going to try to capture the main elements in the conclusions. Of course, we cannot capture all those elements because then we have four or five pages of conclusions. I do not think we should go into that but, again, thank you very much to the Secretariat because they are more than welcome in further work on the Strategy on Climate Change.

#### **Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

#### **Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

#### **Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

#### ***Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the "FAO Science and Innovation Strategy"***

#### ***Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation***

**Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación**

(CL 168/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this, I would like to conclude this Agenda Item and continue with Agenda Item 8.2, *The outline and roadmap of FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy*. The document before you is CL 168/22. The introduction by the Chief Scientist, Ms Ismahane Elouafi, has been circulated to you as well as the introductory remarks of the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

**Introduction to Sub-item 8.2: The outline and roadmap of the "FAO Science and Innovation Strategy"**

*Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist*

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 identifies science, technology and innovation (STI) as having enormous transformative potential, while also recognizing that STI presents risks. Science underpins all four accelerators (technology, innovation, data, and complements [governance, human capital, and institutions]) of the Strategic Framework and will be integrated into the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) to maximize FAO's efforts in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and realizing the four betters. To rise to the challenge of harnessing the benefits of science and innovation, FAO must transform itself into a more innovative organization, an organization that is capable of assisting countries to scale up the most appropriate innovations for their contexts, based on science. Therefore, to hone FAO's vision and strategy on science and innovation, FAO's Director-General requested the development of a targeted Strategy to provide guidance, coherence and alignment for impact at country level through better use of science and innovation.

**Outline of the Strategy**

The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy will be a living document, regularly monitored and periodically updated to reflect important developments. The Strategy will be informed by science and evidence and build on the foundations of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**A. Introduction**

The introduction will recap the importance of science and innovation for agri-food systems, as well as recalling FAO's role. Relevant global frameworks will be included and their relevance to science and innovation described. Key concepts, including science and innovation, will be clarified.

**B. Vision**

The vision will be inspired by FAO's comparative advantages and will support FAO's leadership role in providing guidance to countries on science and innovation for agri-food systems through effective communication – both internally and with external partners.

**C. Objectives**

The following objectives are tentatively proposed:

- a) enhance FAO's technical interventions and normative guidance by translating science and innovation into tools for development, thereby supporting the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31;
- b) strengthen the science- and evidence-base of FAO's technical interventions and normative guidance;
- c) provide guidance, coherence and Organization-wide alignment on science and innovation, cutting across all sectors and components of agri-food systems;
- d) promote access to, affordability and uptake of innovation (including indigenous and local knowledge) in a way that leaves no one behind and ensures the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups, including women, youth, small-scale producers and Indigenous Peoples,

in decision making to ensure impacts that benefit them; and

e) ensure that FAO contributes to relevant regionally and internationally agreed frameworks and that it informs research priorities and agri-food systems policies at country, regional, and global levels.

#### **D. Scope**

The Strategy will include indigenous and local knowledge as important sources of innovation. It will consider all types of innovations, i.e. technological, social, policy, financial and institutional. It will also consider operational innovations insofar as they are relevant to the Strategic Framework 2022-31. The full range of scientific disciplines (for example biological, social, behavioral and economic), as well as the importance of inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research to address systemic challenges in a holistic manner, will be promoted.

#### **E. Theory of change**

The theory of change will briefly outline existing challenges and opportunities, provide a vision of the ultimate desired outcomes, and briefly describe the pathways to achieving them while maximising impacts and minimising trade-offs.

#### **F. Guiding principles**

A focused number of clear and well-considered guiding principles will ground the Strategy in globally accepted principles, including the five basic principles that underscore the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the ‘five Ps’: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership.

#### **G. Pillars**

The Strategy will be based on pillars that define its thematic/programmatic priorities, including at the global, regional and country levels. They have been defined in the Strategic Framework 2022-31 (including the PPAs, accelerators and cross-cutting themes), the regional priorities, country priorities, normative priorities and other FAO strategies (e.g., on climate change, nutrition, biodiversity mainstreaming, and the private sector). New and emerging issues will be incorporated through foresight exercises. The pillars will cover key issues such as strengthening the evidence base, assessing innovation impacts, assessing and mitigating risks, increasing uptake (adaptation and scaling), identifying and addressing trade-offs, internal (FAO) capacity building, coordination, resource mobilization and partnerships.

#### **H. Action Plan**

The Strategy will be complemented by an Action Plan which will be informed by the guiding principles, objectives and pillars. The Action Plan will be aligned with the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, and will include a communication plan for both specialized and general public audiences. Development of the Action Plan will be initiated following the endorsement of the Strategy.

#### **I. Accountability framework**

The accountability framework will ensure that the Strategy contributes directly to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, linking its monitoring to the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the four accelerators of the 20 PPAs. In addition, linkages will be made with relevant SDG targets and indicators. FAO Country Programming Frameworks will indicate country-level results that are related to science and innovation and link them to specific SDG targets and indicators.

#### **J. Roadmap**

The Chief Scientist, supported by the Director of the Office of Innovation, will facilitate an inclusive process of engagement for the development of the Strategy, observing the timeline proposed. Consultations with Members will be organized as needed to respond to Members’ queries about the Strategy under the guidance of the Programme Committee and the Council and through regional consultations on science and innovation. A group of external experts, balanced across regions, gender and discipline, will review the draft Strategy before its finalization.



**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like to open the floor.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Kindly give the floor to the Chair of the Africa Regional Group to speak on our behalf.

**Ms Jackline YONGA (Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group)**

I am giving this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. It is a very important Agenda Item. FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy, its outline and roadmap is very important for us and at the outset we appreciate FAO's Management for this outline and roadmap of the Science and Innovation Strategy, which comes amidst unprecedented complex challenges.

Despite increasing global food production, in 2020 we had as many as 161 million more people that were undernourished than in 2019. Africa recognizes the challenges facing sustainable agri systems, that they are very considerable and interlinked. These are further exacerbated by the current Coronavirus pandemic and climate change. Therefore, a wide range of approaches, solutions, technologies and practices are necessary to mitigate this situation.

Science and innovation are a very integral part of finding solutions to these complex problems and can best be harnessed for impact when risks and tradeoffs are identified and mitigated. We note that science, technology and innovation are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and appear in numerous sustainable goal targets. We appreciate that the development of the new FAO Science and Innovation Strategy will be a key driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it aims to boost the value chains of special agricultural products to ensure food security, improved nutrition, increased income and preserve the environment.

This roadmap aligns itself very well with the fundamental principles of the African Union's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for 2024 which emphasizes and places science, technology and innovation at the epicentre of Africa's socioeconomic development and growth, and in achieving the overall vision of the eradication of hunger and achieving food security. That is how significant we value the Innovation and Technology Strategy.

We appreciate that this Strategy includes a Theory of Change component which recognizes that countries are at different levels of harnessing science and innovation and have different needs. To rise to the challenge of harnessing the benefits of science and innovation, FAO must transform itself into a more innovative Organization, an Organization that is capable of assisting countries with the most appropriate innovation for their context based on science.

We appreciate that the new Strategy will build on FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031, which is soon to be operational. We recognize that the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 identifies science, technology and innovation as having a normal transformative potential, particularly emerging technologies, while also recognizing that SDI [XX].

The Africa Regional Group commends FAO for its all-inclusive approach in drawing up the new strategy outlined in the document. We note that the consultative process will be extensive with FAO's Members in the Regional Conferences, FAO decentralized offices, partners and experts. The Africa Regional Group supports the guiding principles in the draft strategy which is the importance of the scientific and evidence based, effective governance, adaptation to local, country regional context and partnerships, equity and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

As the lead UN specialized agency for food and agriculture, we call upon FAO to be at the forefront of facilitating solutions that support the transformation to a more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for the better production, better nutrition and better environment.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional Group supports the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that we have to conclude and adjourn our meeting for lunch. It is 12:00 hours. I really would like to thank you for your strong and substantive input this morning. We certainly need to improve our

work, the input for a strong Strategy on Climate Change and starting now with a strong Strategy on Science and Innovation.

We will come back to this Strategy after lunch at 14:00 hours sharp and then I will give the floor to the United States, followed by Australia. Have a very good lunch, re-energize yourself. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:02 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 02*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.02*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session</b> <b>Cent soixante-huitième session</b> <b>168.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021</b> <b>Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021</b> <b>Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b></p>
<p><b>FOURTH PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>30 November 2021</b></p>

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:02 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 02  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.02  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)*

*Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)*

*Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)*

(CL 168/22)

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, hope you had a very good lunch and that you are re-energized and inspired for the continuation of our discussions on Item 8.2: *The outline and roadmap of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*. We already had a very good and productive morning on the Climate Change Strategy, and we started with the input of the Regional Group on this second Strategy.

I am looking forward to the discussions this afternoon, the continuation of the discussions on the Science and Innovation Strategy, and it is good that we have our Chief Scientist in the room and not virtually in the room – very much appreciated!

### **Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

The United States congratulates Director General QU and Chief Scientist Elouafi on the initiative to elevate science and innovation in FAO’s work, and even more importantly among actors around the globe. We see that reflected in the resources dedicated to both the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Innovation.

The United States is supportive of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and encourages FAO to be ambitious in drafting the Strategy especially as innovation and technology are identified as accelerators within the Strategic Framework. Our capacity to innovate will determine our success in the sustainable transformation of global food systems.

The recently launched Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) seeks to turbocharge investment into food systems innovations and 60+ countries and organizations, including FAO, have signed onto AIM for Climate in this global effort to accelerate investment in innovative, science-based solutions to help agriculture mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We believe that the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy must recognize and incorporate the benefits of biotechnologies, genome editing, and synthetic biology. It is imperative that policymakers and farmers have access to all of the available tools. And the Science and Innovation Strategy must recognize this. Restrictions that are not based on science and seek to discriminate against particular production practices stifle the development of new technologies needed to address the challenge of feeding a growing population on a smaller environmental footprint. We also think the Strategy should look at how the private sector can support science and innovation at FAO as well as consider how the Strategy can impact on regional work in addition to impact at the country level.

The United States encourages FAO to collaborate with fellow UN organizations to leverage ongoing innovation activities.

The United States is ready and willing to engage with FAO and partners who can work together to advance science in achieving the SDGs, and in envisioning and achieving a world with a brighter, food secure, climate-resilient, and greener future.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on the Strategy and look forward to further consultations in 2022.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia strongly supports the FAO's renewed focus on science and innovation and agrees that an over-arching corporate Strategy is an important way to target and align the work of the Organisation, especially at a country-level. We endorse the recommendations made by the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee on the outline and roadmap of the Strategy.

Australia is pleased to see that a pillar of the FAO Strategy will address increasing uptake of innovation, as we believe overcoming barriers to access existing technology is a critical step in the process of digitalising agriculture. In line with this position, Australia has a National Agricultural Innovation Agenda that provides direction for improving the innovation system that will drive sustainability, productivity, and resilience across our agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors. Importantly, insights and needs of farmers and other end users are used to guide our action and investment.

Australia is also pleased to see emphasis on using systems and multi-disciplinary approaches to solve food challenges; the critical role of the private sector as development partners; and the intention for a learning and improvement loop in the accountability framework.

While scaling up at a country level is essential, we suggest FAO use its unique position to also deliver impact at the regional level by, for example, connecting and amplifying country agendas where it makes sense to work across borders, especially in landscape level interventions and governance, and to increase regional capabilities.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

The Philippines has the honour to deliver the statement on behalf of Asia Regional Group.

We express appreciation to FAO Management, the Chief Scientist and the team for providing the very comprehensive document on the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. We welcome the Strategy which enhances access to science and innovation by small scale producers, including women and youth.

The Strategy must recognize that there are a number of formal and informal institutions at the national level (such as self-help groups, farmers' organizations, agricultural extension, non-governmental organizations, and commodity groups) contributing to enhancing access. The Strategy should also include areas related to promoting and strengthening these national and local institutions to achieve access to scientific knowledge and innovations, and their uptake, adaptation and scaling up.

There is a wealth of knowledge, science and innovation available at the global level. The main issue is the access and affordability of science and innovation to those most in need. It is important to recognize the importance of partnerships and sharing of best practices and knowledge management for the benefit of all Members, and that all these must be area specific, and problem focused.

In relation to strengthening the science and evidence base of FAO's technical interventions and informing research priorities and agri-food systems policies, as stated in the objectives, the Strategy must highlight that there are a number of national agricultural research and higher education institutions contributing to promote science and develop evidence. This should be acknowledged. On this, the Strategy should also focus on strengthening these institutions by analyzing their gaps and initiate, or strengthen, partnerships for exchange of best practices.

We appreciate the roadmap and timelines prepared by the Chief Scientist and the team. This will facilitate an inclusive process of engagement for the development of the Strategy. We are very

happy to see this Strategy as a living document with a clear vision, objectives, scope, theory of change, guiding principles, pillars, action plan and accountability of framework.

With these observations, the Asia Regional Group supports the Outline and Roadmap of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

**Ms Ekaterina VYBORNOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We support the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. We believe that the use of new scientific and technical developments will open additional possibilities to ensure food security, including through effective bringing into use and management of agricultural lands, the restoration of soil fertility, digital transformation, the development of applied microbiology and biotechnology, etc.

In addition, as in the case of all cutting-edge areas where humanity is following a rather uncharted path, many complex questions arise, purely scientific ones as well as legal, humanitarian and social ones. We believe that in promoting the use of innovation in agriculture the new Strategy must guarantee compliance with ethical standards. These must be understood and recognized by all stakeholders, both beneficiary countries and partners of the FAO from business and scientific and academic circles.

In this regard the development of this strategy must include a system to assess possible risks of the use of new technology, particularly from the point of view of possible negative impacts of their use on human health and well being. This will allow us to be sure that they will be accepted by society and garner the trust of those who we will call upon to implement and use them.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan endorses the implementation of the Science and Innovation Strategy within the Strategic Framework of the Organization. We acknowledge its importance in order to overcome all the challenges in agriculture and in the sustainable use of resources.

We believe that this is one of the main accelerators that would lead to the transformation of agri-food systems, making them more efficient and sustainable according to the Strategic Framework of the Organization and also, along with the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The main points of the Strategy must be given due attention based on the various options along the value chains of the agricultural system, with due respect of the national priorities and with focus on vulnerable populations, vulnerable areas and the importance of capacity building through science.

Of course, the Strategy should also shed light on innovation and technology related to local knowledge, while providing the necessary protection thereof. It is also important for the strategy to facilitate access to technology and innovation, and ownership of technology with due consideration of the high cost of such technologies, while preserving intellectual property rights. The role of women and youth should be clear and we believe that this is highly important. The role of the regional bureaus and national offices must be taken into account for the implementation of the Strategy.

Sudan endorses the Outline and Roadmap of the Science and Innovation Strategy.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, Presidency of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Albania align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the initiative to develop a targeted strategy that should help FAO to make better use of evidence, science and all forms of innovation, with a view to achieving impact on the ground in a coherent manner. This needs to be based on the 2030 Agenda and aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. We consider that evidence, science and innovation are fundamental for supporting informed policy decisions so as to achieve effective and durable effects on agriculture and food systems, including at national level.

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit stressed the need to transform food systems through a holistic approach, including by ensuring a strong science-policy interface at global, national, and local levels. We request that Management provide more information on how it will ensure proper linkage of the Strategy with the follow-up to the Summit and the role of other UN agencies and Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).

Moreover, we would like to invite Management to pay due attention to the following key elements in the development of the Strategy: (i) the role of science in supporting a large diversity of innovations in order to address a range of pressing challenges (economic, social, environmental, etc.), including through the valuing and application of local knowledge; (ii) the accessibility and affordability of innovations for smallholders and marginalised groups in order to avoid a digital divide; (iii) the need to support an agricultural innovation system perspective, which should include a wide range of actors and in which research plays a pivotal role; (iv) the need to ensure clear links with the development of FAO's policy on data protection and intellectual property rights.

Furthermore, we wish to stress the importance of promoting all forms of innovation, not only technological innovation, in order to ensure that solutions are context-based and adapted to the variety of food systems actors' needs, with a special focus on smallholders and family farmers.

The EU and its Member States can support the outline and roadmap of the Strategy. We call on Management to ensure the full and inclusive involvement of the Membership in the development of the Strategy. We look forward to discussing the first draft of the Strategy before the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 169th Session of the FAO Council.

We would like to get clarity on when the first draft will be available for the Membership.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Chinese delegation agrees with the intervention made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Science and Innovation is the highest priority for FAO.

As the most authoritative international inter-governmental organization on global food and agriculture, FAO plays an irreplaceable and important role in leading global science and technology innovation in food and agriculture. China welcomes the launch of FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy formulation process and appreciates the Outline and Roadmap of the Strategy.

We would like to emphasize three points: First of all the strategy should promote the digital technology in agriculture in your areas. The application of agriculture, data science, artificial intelligence and other disciplines, has brought new boosts to agriculture and broad development. The Strategy should be developed with high priority on the application of digital technologies.

Second, the Strategy should take full account of the gaps in science and technology for fast-developing countries. The Strategy of FAO should serve all member countries, especially focusing on the developing countries with relatively low levels of agricultural development, and all their real needs.

The actual situation of developing countries should be fully taken into account while formulating these Strategies and support should be provided to developing countries to promote digital technology and improve the conditions of facilities and equipment.

Third, inclusive consultations should be conducted to include small farmers in the innovation strategy. China supports FAO to carry out the formulation process in accordance with the timeline of the strategy, and encourages FAO to incorporate the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission Meeting to include small farmers, fully reflecting the support for small farmers.

Finally, China has many useful experiences and successful practices in promoting digital development, innovation and all areas and are willing to continue to work with FAO in science and technology, and through FAO we would like to share our experiences with Members in need.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Extendemos nuestro aprecio y agradecimiento a la Científica Jefe de la FAO, Doctora Ismahane Elouafi. Argentina considera a la ciencia y la innovación como herramientas fundamentales para mejorar la calidad, sustentabilidad y resiliencia de nuestros sistemas agroindustriales. Mi país, a través de sus

instituciones públicas y de sus productores privados, en acciones sinérgicas, trabaja incansablemente para el mejoramiento de las técnicas agroproductivas y realiza un enorme esfuerzo por impulsar el uso de soluciones digitales, enfoques tecnológicos, análisis de datos y sistemas satelitales para producir más alimentos con menos recursos naturales.

Estamos convencidos de que el complejo público-privado es el camino para optimizar los sistemas agroalimentarios. La ciencia debe ser el faro que guíe el trabajo y las estrategias de la FAO. Por ejemplo, la siembra directa, los cultivos de cobertura, la ganadería orgánica, los ecosistemas agrotech, la intensificación sustentable, la biotecnología, la modificación genética de semillas y los bioinsumos, entre otras propuestas, son soluciones disponibles en la actualidad que no solo nos pueden ayudar a erradicar el hambre, sino también permitir mejorar nuestra armonía con el medio ambiente.

Recuerdo, en otro punto el *Informe del 132.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, CL168/8* sobre el tema de considerar los diferentes contextos para no empezar a reiterar lo que siempre hablo sobre la cuestión contextual. Como bien señala el documento, la FAO no es una Organización de investigación, pero sí puede contribuir a fortalecer el vínculo entre la ciencia, la investigación y el desarrollo. Para ello, además de crear una estrategia dinámica y transversal, la FAO y la Oficina de la Científica Jefe deberán nutrirse de los conocimientos del Codex Alimentarius, de la Organización Mundial de Salud Animal (OIE), de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y de las instituciones científicas donde se hayan consensuado, a nivel multilateral, elementos de carácter científico.

Por otro lado, como indica el documento, es fundamental que la estrategia contemple el impulso de la financiación y la construcción de capacidades, especialmente entre los micro, pequeños y medianos productores y los esquemas de agricultura familiar de los países en desarrollo. De otra manera, el programa podría acrecentar aún más las brechas digitales que hoy en día existen.

También es clave que la estrategia incorpore un capítulo especial destinado a atender la situación de las mujeres rurales y de los pueblos indígenas, ya que estos grupos, dada la complejidad de sus colectivos, necesitan apoyos específicos para poder beneficiarse de las innovaciones y tecnologías disruptivas. Creemos que sería fundamental que la propuesta de estrategia prevea una estrecha articulación con la Plataforma Internacional para la Alimentación y la Agricultura Digitales, para tratar que la FAO no trabaje de manera separada y en silos.

En cuanto al aspecto procesal, más allá del mandato existente de los Órganos Rectores, insistimos en la importancia de que los futuros borradores de la estrategia sean consultados con los Miembros de forma amplia, inclusiva y transparente.

Solamente unos puntos muy específicos. En el punto II, párrafo 5 del documento CL 168/22, lamentamos volver a encontrar el llamado a la transformación hacia sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, ignorando una vez más las diferentes realidades, contextos y capacidades.

En el punto V, párrafo 11, nos llama la atención que se indique que la estrategia será un documento dinámico. Queremos entender qué significa eso y cuál será el proceso para pensar las futuras modificaciones. Nuevamente hacemos hincapié en la necesidad de utilizar lenguaje acordado de manera multilateral.

En el párrafo 25 se aborda la cuestión de la rendición de cuentas. Sobre este aspecto nos gustaría recordar que cualquier iniciativa para la creación de metas o indicadores, debe ser discutida por los Miembros y en todo caso usar como marco de referencia los acuerdos de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Finalmente, en el punto VI se habla de la creación de un grupo de expertos para examinar el proyecto. Queremos recordar que los países serán los usuarios de este plan y que, por lo tanto, a ellos les corresponde discutir el contenido del documento más allá del asesoramiento de los expertos.

### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo referente al Esquema y al calendario de la Estrategia de FAO para la ciencia y la innovación, cuya iniciativa agradecemos muy especialmente a la doctora Elouafi y a su equipo, quisiéramos destacar los siguientes aspectos, además obviamente de mostrar nuestro apoyo y acuerdo con la declaración efectuada por la Unión Europea.



En primer lugar, Acogemos con beneplácito el desarrollo de una estrategia específica para hacer frente a los desafíos que encuentran los sistemas agroalimentarios y pesqueros.

Destacar la necesidad de promover las tecnologías disponibles y, particularmente, de la innovación basadas en la ciencia y en los datos empíricos con miras a lograr un impacto sobre el terreno de manera coherente, pues son elementos esenciales en la consecución de soluciones para problemas que son complejos.

Prestar la debida atención a la accesibilidad y a la asequibilidad de las innovaciones para los pequeños agricultores, a fin de evitar la brecha digital en el desarrollo de esta estrategia.

Solicitamos que se proporcione más información sobre cómo se garantizará la vinculación adecuada de la estrategia con los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible de la Agenda 2030. El seguimiento de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios y el papel de otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, así como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y su Grupo de alto nivel de expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

Esperamos poder discutir el primer borrador de la estrategia antes del 133.º periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

México está convencido de la importancia que se tiene de contar con una renovada agenda de ciencia e innovación en la FAO, ya que la ciencia y la innovación han sido una parte muy importante de la columna vertebral de la Organización a lo largo de su historia y sus contribuciones a los países han sido, yo diría, casi siempre bien recibidas.

Consideramos que la implementación de la estrategia propuesta debe contar con tres, voy a utilizar la palabra, "pilares", sin que esto sea adecuado. El primero es el de trabajar con los países para que estos puedan contar con un ambiente conducente para desarrollar más eficientemente la ciencia, favorecer el desarrollo y la gestión del conocimiento y fortalecer los sistemas de innovación en el sentido amplio del concepto de innovación.

La segunda es atender el reto de hacer llegar las tecnologías y el conocimiento a los productores y a otros actores de los sistemas de base agrícola, para que puedan detonar las innovaciones que les son necesarias en sus actividades.

Ambos procesos, realizar investigación y lograr su adopción por los actores, son complejos pues requieren de marcos de política pública, arreglos institucionales y de una moderna gobernanza. Requieren también de creación de capacidades que, dicho sea de paso, muchos países han olvidado en fortalecer. Se requiere de infraestructura y sus correspondientes inversiones. Lamentablemente, en muchos países ha existido un abandono en el campo de la ciencia y de la educación agrícola y se han desmantelado los sistemas de extensión. Creemos que la nueva estrategia propuesta por la FAO deberá de ayudar a dar respuesta a estas necesidades.

El tercer componente que sugerimos sea incluido en esta estrategia, es el de hacer de la FAO un ente articulador del diálogo respecto a temas científicos, tecnológicos, de adopción y de innovación que afectan a la agricultura en su sentido amplio.

Se requiere de un puente que facilite el análisis en el intercambio de visiones y de puntos de vista entre todos aquellos que generan conocimiento, ya sea científico o empírico. Convertirse en esta plataforma de convergencia y diálogo es algo que no puede esperar y que le permitirá a la FAO recuperar su espacio en la esfera del conocimiento. Aquí es importante instar al desarrollo, como lo sugirió nuestro colega de Tailandia el día de ayer, de nuevos mecanismos de difusión del conocimiento y la vinculación con las plataformas de datos y conocimiento de la FAO, como ha sido sugerido recientemente por Argentina.

Existen otros temas que nos parecen deben ser abordados en esta estrategia, pero hoy solo quiero referirme a uno de ellos, y es el que tiene que ver con la investigación como bien público y su relación con la protección de los recursos naturales y el patrimonio de los pueblos y las naciones. Es importante que la estrategia dé prioridad a la generación de conocimiento como bien público y que esta estrategia se alinee y respete los principios de relación con el sector privado.

Debemos de tener cuidado en evitar que sean solo unos cuantos los que se beneficien del conocimiento o, lo que es peor, se beneficien del recurso de las naciones y de los pueblos. Quisiéramos poner a consideración de la Administración, la posibilidad de desarrollar en nuestro país un programa piloto que nos permita avanzar la ciencia, la innovación y encontrar novedosos enfoques de cómo hacerla llegar a los productores y otros actores de los sistemas de base agrícola, dando respuesta a los múltiples retos que enfrentamos en el país y en el mundo bajo un concepto sistémico y transformador.

Para México, fortalecer el proceso de generación de conocimiento, desarrollo tecnológico, adopción y generación de innovaciones es prioritario y central para nuestra soberanía.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Thank you, Chief Scientist, for your hard work. As this is my first time taking the floor as the Israeli Ambassador I would like to thank the Secretariat and the management for the organization of the Council and to you Chairperson, for your leadership, and to congratulate all of our new colleagues and I wish them great success.

Israel welcomes FAO's initiative to develop a Science and Innovation Strategy since it strongly believes that Science and Innovation can play a vital role in the transformation of our agri-food systems, stress in capacity, and provide solutions to complex problems.

With numerous start-ups and companies in the fields of food, agriculture and climate, Israel possesses an innovative ecosystem. Israel also relies on these developments for the benefits of its economy and its citizens' nutrition. In light of this, the state of Israel encourages FAO to become an innovation oriented Organization, one capable of assisting other countries in scaling up the most appropriate innovation for the context.

The vision of the Strategy is to translate science and innovation into affordable and of course innovative solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are ready and looking forward to help and assist and to help ensure that the impact of the Strategy is felt on the ground.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Nous souhaitons remercier la Scientifique en chef et son équipe pour ces premiers éléments de cadrage de la Stratégie en matière de science et d'innovation qui est en cours d'élaboration.

La France promeut une vision humaniste d'une science éthique et responsable au service d'un développement durable et d'un monde plus juste. Vous le savez, Madame Elouafi, qui nous avez fait l'honneur de participer aux côtés de représentants des principaux centres de recherche français à notre première édition internationale de la Fête de la science le 16 novembre dernier.

Je souhaiterais évoquer trois points. Premièrement, l'importance d'avoir une approche équilibrée des innovations, non pas seulement technologique, mais aussi organisationnelle et sociale. C'est pourquoi la transition numérique doit être couplée aux transitions agroécologique et alimentaire pour réussir la transformation des systèmes alimentaires et atteindre les objectifs de développement durable. Cet impératif va évidemment de pair avec une approche transdisciplinaire et systémique des sciences et savoirs traditionnels. La France invite à ce titre la FAO à avoir une approche plus équilibrée dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de sa Stratégie en particulier en faveur des innovations fondées sur la nature.

Deuxième impératif, celui d'une science et d'innovation responsable et éthique au service de tous et destinée à aider la FAO à atteindre les objectifs de développement durable et les pays, tout en renforçant la transparence et la redevabilité de ces activités. Il convient à ce titre d'être vigilant sur les conditions de collecte, d'usage et de conservation des données, mais aussi sur l'absence de conflits d'intérêts.

Nous invitons la FAO à élaborer et mettre en œuvre conjointement sa Stratégie sur la science et l'innovation, et une politique sur les données couvrant notamment la gestion, la gouvernance, la protection des données, en concertation étroite et avec l'implication pleine et entière de ses Membres. Cet impératif éthique est d'ailleurs en pleine cohérence avec l'Appel de Rome pour une éthique de l'intelligence artificielle que le Directeur général de la FAO a signé en avril 2020. Et à cet égard, j'ai

une question: la FAO peut-elle nous indiquer quels mécanismes éthiques elle a mis en place ou envisage de mettre en place, et suivant quel calendrier ?

Cette question est essentielle pour l'intégrité, l'impartialité et la responsabilité de l'Organisation, elle est essentielle pour nos concitoyens. Donc, cet aspect doit avancer au même rythme que la future Stratégie science et innovation. Comme on dit en français, "Science sans conscience, n'est que ruine de l'âme."

Enfin, et troisième point, le troisième pilier sur lequel doivent s'appuyer cette Stratégie est celui d'une approche collective et multipartenaire dans le respect du mandat de chacun.

La FAO n'est pas une instance de recherche en tant que telle, et donc l'expertise scientifique et le mandat des interfaces sciences politiques tels que le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), l'interface sciences politiques des trois Conventions des Nations Unies - la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux (IPPC/CIPV), la Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (IPBES), la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification (UNCCD) -, et celles d'autres comités d'experts internationaux, notamment le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur l'approche «*One Health*», «*Une seule santé*», ces mandats et cette expertise doivent être respectés. La FAO devra s'appuyer sur ces travaux et en assurer la diffusion.

La Stratégie doit aussi insister sur le renforcement des partenariats avec d'autres acteurs, recherche et enseignement, société civile, etc. pour promouvoir et diffuser les savoirs et connaissances scientifiques. Il importera donc que le projet puisse faire l'objet de commentaires écrits de tous les Membres dans un délai suffisant et je remercie la FAO de nous indiquer un calendrier plus précis à cet égard.

Pour conclure, la France attend de cette Stratégie qu'elle promeuve davantage une approche équilibrée, humaniste et multipartenaire de la science et des innovations. Il nous faut créer l'envie de science au service d'un monde meilleur et plus juste.

#### **M. Mohamed Cherif DIALLO (Guinée)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter pour la manière remarquable dont vous conduisez nos travaux. La République de Guinée s'aligne sur la déclaration faite plus tôt par le Kenya au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 8.2, intitulé «*Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation*». Nous tenons également à féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour l'élaboration et la présentation de cet important document, qui donne une vue d'ensemble de la Stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d'innovation.

La science, la technologie et l'innovation sont au cœur de tous les programmes de développement, notamment le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, car elles constituent de véritables tremplins pour la réalisation des objectifs ambitieux que les États du monde se sont fixés.

La Guinée note avec satisfaction que la science, la technologie et l'innovation sont au centre des activités de la FAO depuis des années et se réjouit qu'elle soit considérée dans le Cadre stratégique 2022-2031 comme des éléments moteurs, essentiels pour parvenir à un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Nous saluons l'initiative de la FAO d'élaborer une Stratégie en matière de science et d'innovation en vue de renforcer la capacité de l'Organisation à réaliser les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et à mettre en œuvre le Cadre stratégique. De même, nous apprécions la démarche adoptée dans le processus d'élaboration de cette Stratégie, marqué par l'inclusivité et la participation de toutes les parties prenantes à travers les différentes consultations.

La Guinée apprécie le contenu envisagé de la Stratégie et invite le Secrétariat à mettre un accent particulier sur l'accessibilité aux innovations, y compris aux connaissances autochtones et locales. Nous exhortons également la FAO à prendre en compte dans sa Stratégie le risque d'aggravation du fossé déjà existant entre pays développés et pays en développement en matière de science et d'innovation.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, nous estimons qu'il serait aussi important que des mesures idoines soient envisagées pour valoriser les innovations locales des petits producteurs, qui ont l'avantage d'être mieux adaptées à leur réalité.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Brazil thanks the Secretariat for the Outline Roadmap for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. We thank FAO's Chief Scientist for her great willingness to dialogue and her openness to suggestions from Members.

As we mentioned during the discussions on the Adjustments of the Strategic Framework of the debates within the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting, we think the Strategies on Climate Change and Science and Innovation represent both a new broad vision of FAO's mandate and an important adaptation of its mandate to a new global challenge. As such, the production of this document shall not only be extensively shared with Members, but also designed in an appropriate manner for Member consultation.

Taking into account that we are debating an outline which will evolve probably, Brazil would like to make some very general comments based on the document *CL 168/22* and the consultations we have undertaken previously informally and through the Programme Committee. Brazil believes that the emphasis of the new strategy shall lay upon building real effectiveness to the neglected concept of transfer of technologies.

It is paramount that the dissemination of science and having that space for practise and innovation. However, we must be careful about building structures that in the end only serve as a bridge between agents, countries, companies or universities to produce the most advanced technologies and those ones who are supposed to simply set and buy expensive technology, often not adapted to different national or regional realities of sustainable food systems.

In this sense, the new Strategy must be very clear on how its activities are going to be done in order to avoid any sort of conflict of interest. Finally, for further debate on the Strategy, Brazil would emphasize the need to make use of multilateral agreed language and concepts to give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by the Philippines. We would like to express our appreciation to the FAO Chief Scientist for her efforts and Thailand welcomes the FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy. In addition to what has been stated by our colleagues of the Philippines, we would like to briefly add some points.

First, the final objective of innovation in its adoption and adaptation which is best achieved when innovation concretely responds to the practical needs of end users and is tailored to both the human and financial capacities and capabilities at the country level. We would like to stress that farmer to farmer sharing of knowledge on agri-food innovation should be strengthened and included in the new FAO Strategies.

Second, FAO has an important role in brokering science and innovation by reducing assymetries of information flows and integrating the academic and productive spheres. Also we would like to highlight the importance of traditional and local knowledge and community based innovations in agri-food systems, through intellectual property laws, to help shape sustainable futures for our farmres and producers. We need to strengthen knowledge sharing mechanisms, as our colleague from Mexico mentioned earlier, of the best practices of using science and innovation and technology in agri-food systems.

Third, regarding the new strategies, we should also ensure that the data and digital technologies can support trade in agriculture and food products and also strengthen agrifood systems of developing countries. We also expect that the ongoing Committee on World Food Security (CFS) workstream on data analysis would complement and support the work of FAO. In addition, the work of CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) would benefit the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

Lastly, communication and dissemination of available innovations is as important as the creation of new innovations. We look forward to the next Informal Consultation of FAO Members planned for March 2022 and also to the Draft FAO Strategy on Science and Innovation to be presented to the Programme Committee in May 2022.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the Outline and Roadmap of the FAO's Science and Innovation Strategy as an important tool for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and we welcome the conclusions of the 132nd Programme Committee. Canada encourages FAO to be ambitious in this strategy and underlines the essential role of innovations, science and technology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We note that an innovation mind set is essential and that that requires time to develop internally.

We are pleased with the specific references to innovation, such as biotechnologies, digital tools, neo-technology, big data and artificial intelligence which ensures this document is useful and tangible, and we support that it covers a wide range of solutions both technological and organizational, that Member States might consider.

Underscoring FAO's unique ability to support members in the strengthening of national policy frameworks for science and innovation, and echoing the demands to strengthen science policy interfaces to ensure the development of evidence based policies, Canada proposes that science and evidence based policies be featured prominently in the elaboration of the guiding principles, the pillars and the action plan of the strategy.

Finally, as accelerators of the Strategic Framework, we emphasize the importance of connecting this Strategy to other Strategies, including the Climate Change and Private Sector Engagement Strategies, and encourage seeking to maximize the synergies between these important products. We look forward to continuing to work with the FAO in the future.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU Statement.

The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy is an important initiative to improve science and innovation within the FAO areas of work. We believe it is important that all forms of innovation should be considered: social and financial innovation is as important as digitalisation and technology.

The Strategy should include a system-wide perspective that recognises that need for inter- and transdisciplinary research and FAO should seek broad stakeholder involvement in developing, updating and implementing the Strategy. It will be important to further elaborate on how FAO plans to implement Open Data and Open Science practices and align their work with other international processes. Partnering with global programs such as Horizon Europe could be a good way of increasing efficiency and impact. The Strategy should reflect that FAO has an important role to play to ensure that the uptake of innovation and technology is adapted to address local needs and contexts.

On the technology component of the Strategy, it will be important to link the work with technological innovation and digitalisation to the UN-backed principles for digital development. We underline that data protection and integrity as well as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are at the heart of science and innovation and call for clear links with the development of FAO policy on data protection and intellectual property rights. We expect the highest UN standards in this regard.

We support the outline of the Strategy and look forward to continuing the discussion once the first draft of the Strategy is presented.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group Joint statement provided. Japan appreciates the Chief Scientist and her staff for developing the outline of this document. Japan makes two points.

First, utilization of science and innovation is very important to strengthen the FAO's central role. From this point of view, Japan appreciates that the new Strategic Framework for 2022-2031 includes innovation as well as the full accelerators for science.

Second, on the other hand, based on embracing the diverse range of evidence, science and innovation can be applicable differently depending on the regions and countries. Given this, Japan would like to ask FAO to develop the Strategy and action plan that benefits as many countries as possible.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I think we have concluded our deliberations on the state of play and the input for the new Science and Innovation Strategy. I now pass the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ambassador of Israel in her other capacity, to make some remarks.

#### **Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

Dear Council Members you can find the deliberation on the Item from the Report of the Programme Committee document 168/8 paragraph 13. However I would like to highlight some points: the Committee welcomed the initiative to FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy, underlying the broad scope of the Strategy as responding to the complexity of agri-food systems, covering all relevant scientific disciplines, science and evidence based practice, and types of innovations.

The Committee highlighted the need to adapt to national and regional contexts, access and affordability for small scale producers and family farmers in developing countries, acknowledging the role of inter- and trans-disciplinary research to address systematic challenges. Committee members commended Management's openness to dialogue and suggestions from Members and encouraged FAO as the leading inter-governmental organization in food and agriculture, to continue to undertake an inclusive and transparent process in the finalizing of the strategy.

Further, it recommended the endorsement of the Outline and Roadmap of the Strategy by this Session of the Council.

#### **Ms Ismahane ELOUAFI (Chief Scientist)**

First of all, let me really thank all Members for their support for the Strategy and for confirming the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation as we are engaging all and we agree that we need to transform our agri-food systems. We take note of all the valuable comments and we will address them.

As you know FAO indeed has technology and innovation as two accelerators for impact and for producing more with less, while preserving and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity, and keeping a balance between environmental, economic and social development. For sure, it cannot be one size fits all, but rather context-specific, and this is very important and that is what we have been hearing from the regional consultation as well. It has to be context-specific, it has to adapt to the needs and priorities of the countries, and yes – at the local level there is a lot of knowledge that we need to harness, and we need to mix with what we have learned and the success stories in other places.

Science and evidence based are very important and can be two main pillars of the Strategy, and innovating FAO mindsets and enhancing our capacity as an organization to better assist countries - and all countries - with science and technology, is another main pillar. We hope to have the first draft by February 2022 and we are very committed to an inclusive process whereby we are planning different consultations in the first quarter of 2022.

The Strategy is going to be dynamic because we are looking at reviewing it within the first years; it is going to be a five year Strategy with a review and accountability plan. I noted that many of the countries stressed accessibility and affordability, I think it is a very important component, we want to make sure that really the know-how, the innovation, the solutions are available for everybody, but particularly the least developed countries, and that is where it is very important for us really to look at the intellectual property (IP) issues, the data production and we are planning to really align ourselves with a strategy that is under development for the data policy and the IP.

We will develop guidelines to avoid any conflicts of interest and I noted the ethical framework that we need to also develop to make sure that we are inclusive and we are open. Science research and development are very important and it is a continuum that is really not working well in many countries, and we see ourselves as a conduit to make that connection working well and making sure that it allows us to really make change on the ground at the country level. The regions are carrying out the regional consultation in every region with the support of my office. There are some very rich discussions that are taking place and are identifying the priorities and gaps for each region.

Last week we had the Africa Regional Group meeting and it was an amazing discussion that is going to be followed with another second consultation in Africa with the broader stakeholders.

It is going to be an inclusive process, we want to make sure that it does really allow us to focus on small scale producers and family farmers in countries. We will be reinforcing the gender and the indigenous people aspect in this strategy. So we hope having an early informal consultation with the Members, and then as we are developing it, making sure that we bring in your ideas, your priorities, and maybe just to close – for us co-creation with the local and the country level is very important. It is not about bringing the technology for them to adopt, it is about co-creating it, co-developing it and making sure that it is fit for purpose.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais remercier la Scientifique en chef pour son exposé et ses remarques très complètes.

Je voulais simplement savoir, s'agissant de ma question sur la mise en œuvre de l'Appel de Rome, quelles ont été les mesures concrètes de mise en œuvre de l'Appel de Rome sur les aspects éthiques de l'intelligence artificielle, signé l'an dernier par le Directeur général de la FAO avec l'Académie pontificale?

**Mme Ismahane ELOUAFI (Scientifique en chef)**

En fait, il y a deux choses, l'Appel de Rome pour une éthique de l'intelligence artificielle, mais aussi la discussion que le Vatican a organisée et à laquelle j'ai participé sur la science et les religions. Dans les deux cas, l'Appel est bien de mettre en place des éthiques et de s'assurer que la science est vraiment bonne pour toujours et pour tout le monde.

En somme, tout peut être utilisé pour le bien, comme pour le mal, et l'on doit mettre en place les "frameworks", les cadres politiques et rechercher le consensus général pour s'assurer qu'elles sont effectivement utilisées pour le bien.

L'intelligence artificielle, les développements technologiques sont une réalité que l'on doit prendre en considération et il faut veiller à leur bon usage, comme je l'ai dit, mais aussi à ce que tout le monde ait accès à l'information.

Que ce soit l'Appel de Rome ou la déclaration science et religion établie lors de la COP26, tous deux sont en discussion, tout comme l'est la Stratégie, au fur et à mesure qu'on la développe.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You can clearly see that we are all looking forward to the first draft of the Strategy. With that, I think we have really finalized our deliberations on this Agenda Item.

Now we will take up the final elements of the Report of the Programme Committee, as we have all seen yesterday and today. We have already discussed the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget*. We have discussed the *Update on the Development of a new Strategy on Climate Change* as well as *The Outline and Roadmap for the "FAO Science and Innovation Strategy"* and we will discuss tomorrow *The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*. Therefore, I put forward now to you the remaining elements and recommendations of the Programme Committee. Are there any reflections on the remaining recommendations of the Programme Committee?

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

With regard to this Item, Japan has two comments on the proposal for inclusion of statistical activities. First, Japan highly appreciates the activities on this issue, Japan considers the development of

statistics, which enables international comparison, is under the responsibility of international organizations.

In particular, it is important to strengthen the statistical ability of FAO Regional Offices and Country Offices to properly capture the needs and challenges of each country and provide necessary assistance in response to these needs and challenges.

Second, it is also crucial to utilize data, based on scientific evidence in a transparent manner, improving the reliability and accessibility; that is also crucial. We are expecting further development. From this point of view, we feel that we will collaborate with others and thereby a harmonized, systematic approach will be conducted. With this statement Japan endorses this.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Are we considering the two Reports at the same time? Could you kindly give the floor to Zambia to speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group?

**Mr Kayoya MASUHLWA (Zambia) (Observer) (On behalf of the Africa Regional Group)**

I have the honour to deliver the statement on behalf of Africa Regional Group on this Special Report of the 131st Session of the Programme Committee held on 29th July 2021 and on the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee held for the period from 8th-12th November 2021.

The Africa Regional Group takes this opportunity to express support for the work done by the Programme Committee on the preparation of the appointment of the Director of Evaluation. The Group attaches great importance to the Office of Evaluation because it improves the effectiveness and informs programming decisions for the Organization.

Regarding the 132nd Session, the Africa Group commends and encourages the continuous effort in the pursuing of a portfolio of active strategic and transformative partnerships with focus at country level on proposing the importance of implementation of strategy for private sector engagement and compliance with FAO's policy and data protection.

Finally, Africa Group endorses the report of the 131st Special Session of the Programme Committee. We however recognise the value added in the discussions of the findings and recommendations of the Report of 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

As we have already commented extensively on most of these, we will focus our comments on some of the outstanding issues. The United States of America appreciates the robust discussion in the 113th Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee on Statistical Governance and Data Protection, two issues FAO Secretariat highlighted as inextricably linked.

It is unsurprising in the 21st century as we are regularly reminded by prominent public legal challenges, hacks, whistle blower accounts and service disruptions involving State and non-State actors that Members should be actively interested in data governance and data protection. We therefore support the CCLM as the appropriate governing body to consider the legal and policy aspects consistent with its mandate of corporate data protection principles.

We recommend all other FAO work related to this topic, including work on statistical governance, Geospatial platforms and other data management handled by FAO programmes and initiatives align, comply with and fall under the Data Protection and Intellectual Property Policy being developed.

Finally, with ambition comes responsibility. We appreciate FAO's more consultative approach with Members over the past year. Good governance, resource stewardship, accountability and transparency are important to the United States and have been hallmarks of our international engagement. We welcome opportunities to robustly discuss how FAO can be a leader within the UN system and strengthen electoral procedures, effective data protection and governance in an efficient, organizational manner.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**



Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, Presidency of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Albania align themselves with this statement.

Firstly we would like to welcome the holding of the Programme Committee in hybrid modality, which enabled substantial progress to be made in communication between Members and in efforts to reach consensus. We encourage FAO to return to in person meetings at its headquarters as soon as possible.

The EU and its Member States wish to record the importance of effective and meaningful involvement by Members in the development and implementation of FAO strategies and policies, such as the Science and Innovation Strategy, Private Sector Engagement Strategy as well as the FAO Data Policy as recommended by the Programme Committee, for informal briefings and consultations with the Governing Bodies. We also record the necessity of respecting the mandate given by the Governing Bodies. We stress the need to maintain a constructive and respectful dialogue both among Members and between Members and FAO Management in order to achieve sustainable food systems, Zero Hunger, Global Food Security and better nutrition.

Regarding the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23, we take note of the adjustments implementing the Conference's recommendations, aiming to ensure a better balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. We encourage Management to continue in this direction. We also reiterate the need to ensure stronger linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and *the four betters* as requested by the 42nd Session of the Conference.

Regarding the FAO Data Protection Policy, we welcome this Item to be added to the next Programme Committee Agenda and invite the Council to address this Item noting that data governance, data protection and intellectual property rights are interlinked and should be addressed together. We encourage FAO to provide additional technical details and to address the ethical information related to data regarding this issue.

We also recall the request made by the Programme Committee at its 130th Session to receive as soon as possible an updated outcome of the Mapping Exercise undertaken by the IT Services.

We call on FAO to make sure that all its activities ensure protection of data and intellectual property rights and record the request of the 165th Session of FAO Council to develop a crosscutting data policy to ensure data governance, data integrity and privacy, as well as intellectual property rights.

With these comments we endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

Australia would like to congratulate the new Chairperson of the Programme Committee on the successful 132nd Session and we endorse the recommendations made by the Committee.

As we did under Item 3 *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*, Australia highlights with appreciation the Committee's recognition of transparent markets and the role trade can play to ensure food security as well as address malnutrition, as reflected in paragraph 6 (e) and we welcome the recognition of the importance of partnerships in paragraph 6 (d). We also emphasize the recommendation made in paragraph 7 (h) regarding the importance of the FAO's programmatic work, avoiding prescriptive language and recognizing there is no one size fits all approach to achieving sustainable agrifood systems.

Further, Australia welcomes the progress on the Strategy on Private Sector Engagement and we encourage continued diversification of private sector entities. Given significant food insecurity levels in our region we would especially welcome the establishment of more partnerships in the Asia Pacific to support Small Island Developing States.

In addition, Australia appreciated confirmation that entities from high risk sectors are not excluded from engagement when they also present high opportunity, and as such engagement will not be limited

but rather managed appropriately. This is critical for agricultural sub-sectors including livestock farming, seafood production and agriculture.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our satisfaction with the Organization's enhanced dedication to science and evidence based approaches as demonstrated on recent updates on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the new corporate strategies for Climate Change and Science and Innovation, and the Improved Governance of Statistical work.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the five Nordic Countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden. The European Union (EU) Countries Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the EU statement.

The Nordic countries would like to start by thanking the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ms Yael Rubenstein for a firm and friendly leadership. We want to highlight a few issues that are particularly important for the Nordic countries.

On the proposal for the improved governance of FAO Statistical Activities, the Nordic countries believe it constitutes an ambitious plan that will demand resources and work for its development. It is important that FAO follows international standards in the entire statistical value chain. The alignment with the Policy on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights is important in this regard.

The Gender Action Plan is a key priority. We highlight the importance of not only focusing on women, but on the gender dimension and the barriers and opportunities for Gender Equality.

The objective for FAO's work should be to achieve Gender Equality in all institutions and areas that deal with food security. To this end, Management at all levels must be held responsible.

On the Evaluation of the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, we note that the HDP Nexus is of utmost importance in implementing more collaborative and complementary humanitarian development and peace actions. A rights-based framework is essential in this regard, as is building understanding of the links between food insecurity, conflict and climate change. We welcome FAO to continue developing its competence, programming and conflict-sensitive analysis in order to contribute to HDP outcomes in line with the Organization's comparative advantages.

With these remarks we endorse the Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Antes que nada, quisiera agradecer a la señora Presidenta del Comité del Programa, la Embajadora Yael Rubinstein, por su excelente conducción de la reunión, al igual que a la Secretaría y a todo su equipo por su extraordinaria labor en estas dos sesiones del Comité del Programa.

También, permítame felicitar a mis colegas del Comité del Programa por el gran trabajo realizado juntos. Sin lugar a dudas, aprendí y aprendo de sus ricas intervenciones y valoro enormemente el intercambio de ideas, a veces contrapuestas, pero que, en definitiva, apuntan al objetivo común de tener una mejor FAO que nos permita acercarnos al objetivo de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición en todas sus formas de la faz de la Tierra. A todos ellos, realmente gracias.

Bajo este punto de agenda, no tenemos más que rubricar cada una de las recomendaciones realizadas en ambos informes, solicitando al Consejo que tenga en cuenta como suya sus recomendaciones. De todas formas, quisiera destacar un par de cuestiones que para nuestra Delegación resultan importantes. En la mayoría de los documentos del Comité, como para este Consejo, se utiliza el concepto "transformación". Al respecto, quisiéramos recordar que en el informe del 166.º período de sesiones del Consejo se incorporaron sendas notas al pie de página en las que recuerda que la transformación debe fomentarse de manera coherente según proceda, de acuerdo con los contextos y capacidades nacionales y en función de ellos.

Por la omisión de esta consideración repetidamente en la mayoría de los documentos puestos a consideración, a nuestro punto de vista sumamente relevante, solicitamos que ello sea incorporado en el informe de esta reunión.

En materia de la Estrategia de la FAO para la colaboración con el sector privado, alentamos que se realicen mayores esfuerzos para lograr un conjunto de asociaciones colaborativas más equilibradas en términos de cobertura geográfica. Asimismo, apoyamos la recomendación del Comité del Programa de que la estrategia otorgue prioridad a aquellos sectores temáticos de la FAO con financiación insuficiente, ya que ello contribuye a un desequilibrio en la labor programática de la Organización.

En cuanto a los planes de acción sobre género y relativo a la juventud rural, damos la bienvenida a ambos dada su pertinencia y función especial en el Marco estratégico para 2022-2031. Y me gustaría recalcar la importancia de respetar el *bottom up approach*, de respetar a los procedimientos, donde los comités técnicos deban intervenir en aquellas iniciativas, que por su contenido técnico, deban ser analizadas bajo esas perspectivas y que el Comité del Programa no renuncie a discutir todo aquello que involucre cuestiones programáticas.

El respeto a las reglas nos permite ser más respetuosos entre nosotros, y los acuerdos logrados en nuestros debates en el Comité del Programa deberían ser la plataforma para lograr los consensos en el Consejo. Ser respetuosos de esos consensos es una buena práctica.

Para terminar, quisiera decir que, con estos comentarios, solicitamos que el Consejo haga suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité del Programa en su totalidad.

### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord soutenir la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres. Je remercie également de nouveau la Présidente du Comité du Programme, l'Ambassadrice Yael Rubinstein, pour l'excellence de la conduite des débats. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de rebondir sur plusieurs sujets, je n'y reviendrai pas. De même que j'aborderai plus tard au titre des points pertinents de l'ordre du jour, certains aspects des travaux du Comité du Programme.

Je voudrais évoquer en particulier trois points.

Premièrement, s'agissant de la Stratégie relative à la mobilisation du secteur privé, ma délégation voudrait féliciter la FAO pour le portail CONNECT. Nous avons à cet égard une question et une suggestion. La question: est-ce que des collaborations ou des projets sont menés avec des entreprises qui ne font pas l'objet d'un protocole d'accord, «*memorandum of understanding*», ou d'une lettre d'intention? Et la suggestion: au vu de l'excellence de cet outil, ce type de portail pourrait être développé pour les Accords avec les Membres, mais aussi avec les autres organisations, notamment internationales. Je pense que cela contribuerait à la transparence.

Deuxième point, la France souhaite rappeler toute l'importance que nous attachons au sujet genre et jeunes et donc aux documents qui vont être élaborés sur ces sujets. Ma délégation sera vigilante.

Troisième point, la question des données. Je souhaite rappeler le mandat que ce Conseil, lors de sa 166e session, au paragraphe 24, alinéa k) de son rapport avait donné mandat à la FAO de développer je cite: "Une politique transversale des données pour garantir la gouvernance, l'intégrité, la confidentialité des données, ainsi que les droits de propriété intellectuelle, le respect des normes et protocoles internationaux."

Nous souhaitons que ce mandat soit entièrement respecté. Le sujet des données est un sujet transversal, qui touche au domaine juridique, bien sûr, mais aussi aux domaines programmatique, budgétaire, et donc il doit être traité par l'ensemble des organes directeurs de la FAO. Je souhaite rappeler à cet égard qu'il s'agit de l'un des quatre accélérateurs de notre Cadre stratégique, ce qui montre bien toute l'importance que la FAO, et donc ses Membres, accordent au sujet des données.

Nous avons pris note à ce sujet des propositions de la FAO sur les politiques de protection des données et des droits de propriété intellectuelle, d'une part, ainsi que sur la question de la gouvernance des données et statistiques. Je souhaite à nouveau insister sur la légitimité pleine et entière du Comité du Programme aux côtés du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour traiter de ce sujet. C'est un premier pas et nous souhaitons, comme je l'ai dit, qu'une politique transversale soit développée par la FAO, couvrant tous ces sujets, et deuxièmement qu'elle soit soumise aux Membres.

In fine, il s'agit essentiellement de données provenant des Membres, en effet, et j'aurais les questions suivantes à ce sujet.

Premièrement, le Comité du Programme a invité les Membres, au paragraphe 11, alinéa g) de son rapport, à transmettre des commentaires écrits. Est-ce que la FAO peut nous indiquer quand l'invitation formelle à tous les Membres, conformément à ce rapport, sera transmise sur le portail?

Deuxième sujet, la 130e session du Comité du Programme avait demandé les résultats de la cartographie effectuée par les services informatiques. Je me réfère notamment à son paragraphe 13, alinéa e). Est-ce que la FAO peut nous indiquer de même quand cette cartographie nous sera transmise? Je vous remercie.

Je souligne de nouveau les aspects éthiques et toute l'importance de les prendre en compte et nous suggérons une *task force* sur ce sujet.

S'agissant de la gouvernance des données et statistiques, comme je l'ai précédemment indiqué, un rôle des Membres serait particulièrement utile pour donner un avis sur cette gouvernance des données et statistiques que la FAO développe.

Enfin, nous soutenons la demande du Comité du Programme que le projet d'ordre du jour de sa 133e session puisse évoquer les politiques de données de la FAO. Nous demandons également, comme d'autres délégations, que le Conseil se saisisse expressément du sujet de la politique des données lors de sa prochaine session.

Avec ces remarques, nous approuvons le rapport du Comité du Programme.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Rubenstein for your excellent leadership. The issues discussed at the Programme Committee have established an excellent foundation for our work and we support the Programme Committee.

China encourages the Programme Committee to strengthen its work and we also believe that we need to follow the Basic Texts when we are convening the relevant discussions in accordance with the responsibilities assigned in the Basic Texts, so that we can avoid any replication of work.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Gracias extensibles a la labor extraordinaria de la Embajadora Rubinstein en la dirección de este Comité.

En lo que respecta al mismo, además de suscribir plenamente la intervención de la Unión Europea, quisiéramos manifestar brevemente lo siguiente:

En primer lugar, tomamos nota de los Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2022-23 y felicitamos a FAO por la orientación tomada para conseguir un mayor equilibrio entre los tres pilares de la sostenibilidad: el social, medioambiental y el económico, esperando que mantenga su coherencia con las recomendaciones de los Órganos Rectores.

En segundo lugar, animamos a la FAO y al Consejo al desarrollo de una política de datos que aseguren la privacidad, la integridad y la gobernanza de los datos en su ámbito. Con todo ello, señor Presidente, apoyamos las recomendaciones de la sesión 132.º del Comité de Programa.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan has the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Near East and North Africa Region. We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for her excellent work.

We welcome the Strategy on Private Sector Partnership as agriculture in our area has been faced with a number of challenges and the private sector may be a good driver of agriculture if the right policies are in place, especially when it comes to trade innovation and competition. Of course, our region is also aware of the importance of youth in terms of development as we have a great number of unemployment, especially for the youth.

The human capital of the youth must be invested in and they need to be guided through putting in place unconventional safeguards and guarantees that would involve them in managing the risks and that would help us invest in the youth that are the entrepreneurs in agriculture along the food chains.

We need new incentivising practices and we need to create a platform for the exchange of successful practices for the rural youth.

The region also endorses the Gender Action Plan and we stress the importance of consultations at regional and local level to understand the needs of women and gender gaps in addition to the obstacles that prevent them from enjoying their rights as they still lack the right to own lands and access to finance, in addition to other challenges, due to social standards that hamper their empowerment.

Of course, the region attaches great importance to the agricultural practices at country levels and the data stresses and highlights the importance of protecting data and intellectual property rights, while resources need to be devoted and funds collected for that purpose.

The region also commends the strategies related to climate change and science and innovation. We highly value the work that is conducted on the Memorandum of Understanding on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the importance of national monitoring of AMR and the use of anti-microbial medicines and drugs in order to empower and enhance the implementation of the action plan.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Mi delegación agradece la presentación de los informes de los períodos de sesiones 131.º y 132.º del Comité del Programa. Como en ocasiones precedentes, nos referiremos a asuntos muy formales y puntuales.

En lo que se refiere al subpárrafo 7 (a) Costa Rica desea resaltar la importancia de seguir involucrando a los países de diferente nivel de desarrollo en la Iniciativa Mano de la mano, tomando en cuenta realidades de pobreza multidimensionales y brechas existentes a lo interno de los países de renta media, tal y como fue acordado en la Sesión 164.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO.

Respecto del párrafo 9, sobre el plan de acción sobre género y el párrafo 10, plan de acción relativo a la juventud rural, mi delegación respetuosamente se permite recomendar, para ambos planes, tomar como referencia el Plan de Acción Mundial del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Agricultura Familiar, que tiene como ejes transversales tanto el empoderamiento de la mujer rural, como la juventud rural y puede servir de gran provecho y guía en ambas áreas. En lo que respecta al subpárrafo 12 (f), que destaca la importancia de hallar mecanismos de financiación adicionales para hacer frente al cambio climático en el contexto de los sistemas agroalimentarios con el fin de apoyar a los países en desarrollo, deseamos resaltar los mecanismos de cooperación internacional, tales como la propuesta de Costa Rica para establecer el pago por servicios ambientales para la recarbonización de suelos mediante agricultura sostenible.

Finalmente, con respecto al subpárrafo 15 (g), donde se subraya la importancia de la cooperación entre los organismos con sede en Roma, así como con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE), entre otros, con vistas a intensificar su labor en el contexto de sus respectivos mandatos y competencias, mi Delegación considera prudente mencionar y recordar una vez más al Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica (OIEA), visto que el Centro Conjunto FAO/OIEA también elabora conocimiento en materia de enfermedades zoonóticas.

Con estos comentarios, mi delegación aprueba el informe que estamos discutiendo.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

Regarding the 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the Programme Committee, I would like to thank the Members for their trust in me, my colleagues and friends, His Excellency the Ambassador of Argentina, Mr Carlos Cherniak to be in the panel for the selection of the Director of the Office of Evaluation in accordance with the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation.

I would also like to underline that the Committee welcomed the update on a due diligence mechanism and procedure under the new framework for risk assessment and management for engagement with non-state actors and the Terms of Reference of the Informal Private Sector Advisory Group and recommended the endorsement by the Council.

Although the agenda was packed with many important topics we managed to timely complete all items with precise and concise conclusion. For that, I really would like to thank my colleagues and

congratulate again the Committee Members for their constructive approach and the friendly spirit as well as all the support provided by FAO. I invite the Council Members to consider and agree with the recommendations from the Programme Committee.

**Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Thank you to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for her support of two very important aspects, along with the Members of the Programme Committee of ensuring finalization in a sense of our Private Sector Engagement Strategy including the Annex of a due diligence mechanism known as FRAME, which very much takes on an important aspect of risk mitigation and risk management to our future private sector engagements and partnerships, and also the terms of reference for the Informal Private Sector Advisory Group.

I would just offer a few reflections based on what I heard from a number of the Members' interventions, which is that we are very pleased with the continued support that Members are offering to us about the very diligent, the very strategic and very intentional way that we are taking on implementation of the strategy since our year ago meeting of the Council when the strategy was endorsed.

As I shared with the Programme Committee, we are very much looking at engagement as a first step, partnership as a second step, and that really is I think a very critical aspect of our continued approach to how we find these right collaborations and right opportunities at all levels – regional level, types of partnerships, whether that be business type, structure of a private sector entity, or even placement inside the agri-food system or value chain.

We recognize the importance of ensuring that we continue to better balance the portfolio of engagements and partnerships as I said among regions, among types of entities and among placement inside the food and agricultural system and look forward to continuing to update Members on our accomplishments there.

The last thing I would just say is that I am pleased also with the recognition of the value and the progress that we have made around the connect portal. This is indeed a very important step for FAO as an Organization adopting a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) style system, that ultimately brings transparency and placement of the partnerships to the Members and to our colleagues and to the public at large, but also ensures that FAO internally has the tools to create communication and coordination about engagements and other types of relationships with private sector actors all around the world.

I do think that to the point of the French Delegation about the potential expansion perhaps of the connect portal to other entities, clearly, we have shared with all of you that it will take us a good part of 2022 to ensure that this portal is indeed appropriate for the commitments we have made around private sector engagements.

Should this model and this platform be deemed as an appropriate, transparent way of sharing other types of arrangements and being able to communicate transparently a number of other opportunities, I think we will have to work together to learn whether this is indeed the sufficient and tool to do that.

I appreciate the vote of confidence and the support in the way that we are proceeding with this activity, and again thank you to not only the Programme Committee Members but all Members for their continued strong words of encouragement and their support in the way forward that we are proceeding with these engagements.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Thank you very much to all of you for the comments, and especially for the great importance that you are giving today to data. As you mentioned it is one of our key ancillary areas and is crucial for FAO work to have the best possible best quality data respecting all elements of property rights, privacy, intellectual property rights and adhering to the international standards.

Let me briefly respond to some of the comments. First, let me clarify in terms of the mapping exercise, the only thing that was presented in the document for governance for data and statistics was the mapping in terms of the data for statistics. My understanding and the mapper can complement on that,

is that the Programme Committee (PC) recommended mapping was not approved by the 166th Session of the Council, which is subparagraph 24 (k). The Legal Counsel can comment on that.

Of course, as all of you know, FAO is developing a cross-cutting data policy to ensure governance and privacy as well as intellectual property rights and adhering to international standards. Innovation, right now. While this process is being followed, we are following all the different UN data policies that are existing today.

For example, we are following the UN Secretarial Road Map for Incorporation, the Deed of Public Standards and Public Goods Alliance, the UN Secretarial Deed of Strategy 2020/2032, the UN Global Principles on Data Protection and Privacy, the UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy, the Principles for Digital Development and FAO Data Licensing for Statistical Data Analysis - and I am referring in all these cases for data for statistical purposes, which is the one I am responsible for. Of course, when the new policy is being finalized, we will adhere in all the statistical data that we work, or for data purposes, we will adhere to the policy and follow it completely.

Secondly, in terms of submitting comments, this was already done in the conclusions of the Programme Committee, and we are waiting for any written comments in terms of the document that was submitted of data governance for statistics, so that we can keep improving and updating the information in that document.

Essentially, we will keep on updating the document on data for statistics based on the comments that we get, and we will continue with the process in consultation with all the Membership so that we comply with all that has been requested.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Coming back to the question of France when it comes to formal invitation for written inputs, my question is, is that still coming?

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

No, that was already in the Programme Committee (PC) document in the conclusions, there is a mention there that we will be receiving any comments from the Members in terms of the document that was shared in the PC in the Committee on the Data Governance for Statistics, which is the document that was shared and because of the discussion between the data policy and the document, we did not receive detailed comments on that document. That is what was called in the conclusions of the Programme Committee, I think subparagraph 11 (g).

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je pose la question parce que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques avait procédé de même et dans son rapport avait invité les Membres à fournir des commentaires écrits sur la question de la protection des données. Cela s'est traduit ensuite, 15 jours ou trois semaines après, si ma mémoire est bonne, par une invitation formelle à tous les Membres à transmettre leurs commentaires pour aujourd'hui. Donc, par parallélisme des formes, je pensais que la FAO ferait de même s'agissant du document sur la gouvernance des données et statistiques. Peut être que pour la bonne compréhension des Membres, il serait utile aussi de donner une date. Je pense que le travail des capitales serait ainsi facilité.

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

In the appointing of the Programme Committee (PC), because I think there are two different elements, the document that is going through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which is on data policy protection, and in the Programme Committee document, subparagraph (g) says, "*Invited members to provide written inputs in a timely manner on the proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activity*" – so data for governance, for statistics.' We do not have any problem, if it is needed, we can send a formal request for comments to all Members, with a deadline if that is preferable. We can do that immediately if preferred.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I saw nodding in the room, so it would be very much appreciated. With that, I think we have finalized our deliberations on the two Reports of the Programme Committee. Thank you so much.

We will work on concise Draft Conclusions for the three elements 8.1, 8.2 and the wrapping up of all the conclusions.

**Item 9. Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (28-29 October 2021) and 188th (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee**

**Point 9. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-sixième (7-9 juin 2021), cent quatre-vingt-septième (28-29 octobre 2021) et cent quatre-vingt-huitième sessions (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité financier**

**Tema 9. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 186.º (7-9 de junio de 2021), 187.º (28 y 29 de octubre de 2021) y 188.º (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité de Finanzas**  
(CL 168/9; CL 168/16; CL 168/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like to now proceed with Agenda Item 9, *Reports on the 186th, 187th, and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee* which you can find in documents CL 168/9, CL 168/16 and CL 168/20, C 2023/5A, C 2023/5B and CL 168/LIM/2.

I draw your attention to the document CL 168/LIM/2 that sets out the State of Contributions as of November 2021. The introduction has been circulated by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Ms Imelda Smolcic.

**Introduction to Item 9: Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee**

*Ms Imelda Smolčić Nijers, Chairperson of the Finance Committee*

I am pleased to present the Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 168/16, CL 168/20 and CL 168/9, respectively.

The Council is requested to approve the Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee. While the 188th Session dealt with FAO issues, the 186th and 187th sessions were convened to deal with WFP matters. Our reports on WFP matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration.

The 188th Session of the Finance Committee examined the financial position of the Organization, budgetary, oversight and other matters within its mandate. These are presented in detail in document CL 168/9. I would like to highlight the following matters for which action is requested by the Council, except for those matters referring to *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*, which are covered separately under item 3 of the agenda of this Session of the Council.

On the Committee's review of the *Financial Position of the Organization*, the Council is requested to urge Members to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions.

On the Committee's review of the *Audited Accounts - FAO 2020*, the Council is requested to endorse the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2020 as presented in paragraph 12 of document CL 168/9.

Finally, the Council is requested to note the Committee's guidance to Management on all other matters within its mandate and covered during the Committee's considerations at its 188th Session.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our Reports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to open the floor for Members. I would like to take the whole Report and all the elements of the Report together, to save some time. I consulted on this with the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, who very much concurs with this request, to take all the recommendations of the Finance Committee together.

With that, I would like to open the floor for Members to reflect on those Reports.



**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia is more than happy to break the ice on this particular Item and in that regard, our comments are in relation to the 188<sup>th</sup> Session only.

Australia congratulates the Finance Committee on its effective and constructive work at the 188<sup>th</sup> Session and endorses recommendations made. In particular, Australia highlights the following points:

We commend the FAO for the undeniably challenging, but much appreciated task, of achieving a nominally flat budget while maintaining the technical work of the Organization and we appreciate the advice on the Organization's financial health through to 31 December 2021. However, we remain concerned about the impact of After Service Medical Coverage as a major structural deficit of the General Fund. Recalling the request made by the 42nd Conference, we highlight subparagraph 9(e) of the Finance Committee Report which encourages Management to continue to review options to address this issue.

We also highlight the importance of timely payment of assessed contributions and draw attention to subparagraph 9(c) of the Report which reiterates the request of the 42nd Conference for a comprehensive review on the process for reinstating voting rights for Members in arrears.

And finally, noting subparagraph 17(d) of the Report, we highlight the importance of promptly addressing the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report recommendations relating to the process and modalities for allegations of misconduct against the Head of an Organization.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Trataré de ser tan conciso como nuestra querida colega de Australia. Agradezco especialmente a la Presidenta del Comité de Finanzas, Imelda Smolcic por su trabajo, su rol eficaz, respetuoso y sumamente profesional en el Comité, lo cual es motivo de orgullo de mi región, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

Por ello, a nuestra Delegación solo le resta acompañar favorablemente los informes del Comité, tomando nota particularmente de la situación financiera de la Organización. Al respecto, y solo para matizar un poco la recomendación incluida en los subpárrafos 9 (b) y (c), del informe del reciente Comité y teniendo en cuenta mi rol como presidente del G77 y China, solo me gustaría expresar que la situación financiera de la FAO, en gran parte, es un reflejo de la situación financiera de la mayoría de sus Miembros, mayoría de los cuales son países en desarrollo y no tienen los márgenes de política monetaria y fiscal de algunos países para tratar las consecuencias trágicas de la pandemia por COVID 19. Por ende, confío en que futuras discusiones sobre esta temática tengan en cuenta esta particular situación.

Por otro lado, la Argentina toma nota de la urgente necesidad, en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), de incrementar los límites de los préstamos internos para los proyectos y del mecanismo de gestión global de los productos. Al igual que lo hiciera el Comité de Finanzas, estamos disponibles a considerar el asunto en el futuro a partir de una propuesta conjunta.

Con estos comentarios, solicitamos que el Consejo haga suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité de Finanzas en su totalidad.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We will focus our comments on the Report of the 188<sup>th</sup> Session. The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Albania, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

Firstly, we share the Finance Committee's appreciation for the report of the External Auditor for 2020, both regarding the unqualified audit opinion and for the valuable long form report. We therefore agree that the Council should forward the Draft Resolution to the Conference for Adoption.

Overall, we welcome the Report which addresses a number of important issues where work is ongoing, or which needs to be strengthened to improve government's effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the FAO. Unfunded employee benefit obligations remain a long-term risk and we encourage management to continue its effort in finding a solution to address this issue.

We encourage management to take a systemic approach to handle the rising numbers of complaint cases. We welcome the commitment of the Director-General to ensure sufficient resources to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). We share what was expressed in terms of controlling weaknesses especially in the centralist offices and urge management to strengthen this even further.

Finally, given the large falling of voluntary contributions we encourage Management to explore different funding modalities and build trust with resource partners with more flexible funding. With these remarks we fully endorse the Report of the Finance Committee.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France souscrit à la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres. Nous souhaitons féliciter la Présidente du Comité financier, l'Ambassadrice Smolcic, pour la conduite de ces travaux. Je souhaite ajouter les remarques suivantes à titre national. Nous souhaitons tout d'abord saluer la qualité de l'audit financier et de performance réalisé par le Bureau du Contrôle National de l'Inde en tant qu'auditeur externe de la FAO et nous appelons à la mise en œuvre diligente et intégrale de ses recommandations.

Par ailleurs, nous notons dans le Programme de travail et budget qui a été adopté par la Conférence, qu'il est prévu que 70 pour cent des ressources de la FAO proviennent de contributions volontaires. Cette évolution requiert un renforcement des mécanismes de transparences et de redevabilité financière. Nous estimons en particulier que la FAO devrait se doter d'un portail d'information financière publique tel qu'en possède la plupart des organisations des Nations Unies, fonds et programmes, par exemple, le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) ou encore l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI) pour n'en citer que quelques uns. Cela permettrait aux Membres, mais aussi aux citoyens de disposer d'une information complète et mise à jour sur les contributions volontaires. La France tiendra compte de la mise en œuvre de tels outils de transparence et de redevabilité.

De même, s'agissant du personnel, nous estimons qu'il y a lieu pour chaque Membre de pouvoir disposer de la liste complète et actualisée, tous statuts confondus sous la forme d'un portail informatique accessible aux Membres sur le modèle du portail «*HR Insight*» du Secrétariat des Nations Unies. Là encore, pour ne prendre qu'un exemple parmi d'autres.

Enfin, nous souhaitons, comme il a été proposé par le Bureau juridique, que l'ensemble des accords et arrangements de toutes natures, conclus par la FAO avec des tiers, organisations ou Membres, soit rendu accessible aux Membres sous la forme d'un portail dédié, comme je l'ai dit précédemment. Tous ces éléments nous semblent avoir vocation à être examinés avec attention à l'occasion de l'évaluation de la gestion de la FAO que doit accomplir le Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies (JIU).

Nous serions reconnaissants à cet égard, au Secrétariat de la FAO d'informer les Membres sur l'état d'avancement de cette évaluation, ses étapes préparatoires, ses modalités et son calendrier. Avec ces remarques, nous approuvons le rapport du Comité financier.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Pakistan has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Following the regional statement, I would with your permission like to make a brief comment on behalf of Pakistan.

First of all, the Asia Regional Group would like to commend the excellent work carried out by the Finance Committee under the able leadership of its Chairperson. We also note with appreciation the work carried out by FAO, in particular its efforts to meet its commitments towards increased transparency and effectiveness despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As regards the audited accounts 2020, we are pleased to note that the external auditor had issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Financial Statements of the Organization for the year 2020, which

have been prepared in accordance with International Public Accounting Standards, IPSAS. We would like to also commend the external auditor on the quality of his Report, we would highlight that the external auditor's report is not only of assistance to the Governing Bodies, but in a sense is also an aid to Management as it contains a number of valuable recommendations for improvements in various areas.

In this respect, we note the progress made by the Organization in implementing recommendations of the external auditor and other oversight bodies and would encourage it to implement recommendations in the present report within the time frames suggested by the external auditor. We would suggest that particular importance be given to recommendations which ensure compliance with IPSAS because this impacts quality, comparability and credibility of financial reporting.

We also note with appreciation the Director General's comprehensive statement on internal control, we are pleased to note that the Organization has put in place an effective mechanism to enable the preparation of the Director General's statement on internal control. This mechanism ensures that the statement has been prepared based on a thorough and organization-wide review of internal controls by managers, as well as recommendations of FAO's internal and external oversight mechanisms.

The key to effective internal control is an understanding of risk, because risk management links accountability and internal control. This is important because a sound and effective system provides a reasonable assurance on: a) effectiveness and efficiency of operations including the Organization's resources; b) reliability of financial reporting including the financial statements, and c) compliance with applicable rules and regulations. In view of this it is essential that the system of internal control is kept under constant review so that measures can be continually undertaken to strengthen it. As regards some specific recommendations we particularly support the recommendation to fill vacant positions in Regional and Country Offices and we highlight the need for capacity building training based on identified skills gaps to ensure the effective delivery of the Organization's programmes and activities at local level.

With regard to the monitoring and evaluation of small projects under USD 4 million, by acknowledging the existing limitations of human and financial resources we nevertheless encourage project managers to further enhance their monitoring and evaluation systems to harness the benefits of lessons learned and further improve the impact of small projects on the ground.

With regard to the status of current assessments and arrears the Asia Group took note of information provided in document *CL 168/LIM/2*. The Asia Regional Group recognizes that FAO's cash flow health depends on the timely payment of assessed contributions and records the attention of Members to the Finance Committee's recommendation on this particular point. It urges Members to make payments of assessed contributions in time and in full.

With these comments we note the report of the Finance Committee.

I would now like to make some brief comments on behalf of Pakistan regarding this question of arrears. The Finance Committee has over the years and quite rightly so urged nations to make payments of assessed contributions in time and in full. Despite this, the results have not been very positive.

It was because of this that the governing bodies had instituted an incentive scheme whereby countries which paid their contributions before 31<sup>st</sup> March of the year when the call for payment was made, would receive a discount of a fixed percentage. This scheme also did not prove successful because the only countries which paid before 31<sup>st</sup> March were the ones who paid by that date anyway and in the process, got a discount. Consequently, this scheme just meant a reduction in the Organization's contributions and was therefore abolished by the Governing Bodies.

Perhaps we should explore other possible methods. One way of proceeding could be for the Secretariat to consider leveraging the use of local currencies to facilitate prompt payment of assessed contributions.

For example, in countries where there is an FAO office instead of FAO acquiring local currency the country could give the local currency to FAO and FAO could credit the corresponding amount in dollars to that country's account. Any loss on currency exchange would have to be borne by the

country concerned. Perhaps the Secretariat could provide some comments as to the feasibility of such a scheme.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Mr Khalid Mehboob, it is good to see you in your new capacity and role. Certainly with all your experience, it would not be a problem to fulfil this capacity.

#### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En primer lugar, el agradecimiento de España a la labor de la Sra. Doña Imelda Smolcic en la Presidencia de los períodos de sesiones 186.º, 187.º y 188.º del Comité de Finanzas.

Además de lo ya expresado por la Unión Europea (EU), quisiéramos destacar muy brevemente dos aspectos de singular relevancia para España.

Uno, valoramos positivamente el informe en el que se hace referencia a los aspectos a mejorar de la gestión financiera de FAO, sobre todo en los aspectos de gobernanza, transparencia y rendición de cuentas. Dos, animamos a FAO a mejorar el control en las oficinas descentralizadas y agradecemos el compromiso para dotar suficientemente la Oficina del Inspector General (OIG).

Con estas observaciones, España apoya el informe de los períodos de sesiones 186.º, 187.º y 188.º del Comité de Finanzas.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Kindly give the floor to Niger who will speak on behalf of the Africa Group on this Agenda Item.

#### **Mme TAHIROU RAHILA RABIOU (Niger)(Observateur)**

Le Cabo Verde et le Gabon s'associent au Niger pour s'exprimer sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous remercions la Direction pour la présentation des comptes vérifiés de la FAO 2020 établis conformément aux normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public.

Nous nous félicitons que le Commissaire aux comptes ait émis une opinion non modifiée concernant les comptes de la FAO 2020. Nous reconnaissons les efforts déployés pour réaliser ce travail malgré les restrictions sanitaires liées à la pandémie, c'est pourquoi notre Groupe régional félicite le Commissaire aux comptes pour ce premier rapport d'audit. En effet, le document fournit des informations complètes sur le travail effectué et un aperçu clair des améliorations recommandées, des priorités et des échéanciers.

En dépit de la nécessité de peaufiner certains aspects financiers, les questions de gestion, la gouvernance et les initiatives régionales, nous reconnaissons les efforts déployés pour améliorer la gestion dans le cadre de l'efficacité et des économies de coûts, afin de parfaire la prestation, d'accroître la délégation de pouvoir aux Bureaux décentralisés et les efforts visant à améliorer la transparence, ainsi que l'utilisation en temps opportun du Programme de coopération technique.

Pour l'Afrique, la priorité demeure les quatre initiatives régionales parmi lesquelles éliminer la faim d'ici 2025. Cette initiative requiert d'importantes améliorations en ce qui concerne l'établissement d'une mesure appropriée, l'examen du ratio de projet contribuant à l'intégration de la Faim « zéro », l'affectation des ressources nécessaires vers ces projets, tout en renforçant les politiques adéquates.

À cet égard, nous exhortons la FAO à prendre instamment les mesures recommandées. Dans le contexte mondial actuel, le statu quo n'est plus acceptable et les améliorations recommandées dans ce rapport devraient être mises en œuvre rapidement et efficacement sans entraver la responsabilité, la transparence, la réédition des comptes et le suivi.

Aussi, nous encourageons le Commissaire aux comptes dans le prochain exercice d'audit à privilégier dans la mesure du possible les exercices d'audit présentiels, spécialement pour le rôle pédagogique qu'il peut jouer, mais aussi pour permettre l'interaction avec les institutions des pays.

Nous nous attendons également à l'élargissement du processus d'audit à un plus grand nombre de pays et de régions. Les améliorations concernant, mais sans s'y limiter, le processus de gestion des projets et d'approvisionnement pour les biens des projets ou pour l'offre de postes vacants, ceux-ci doivent être

améliorés de toute urgence afin de pouvoir fournir en temps opportun les ressources nécessaires pour démarrer les projets et soutenir le fonctionnement efficace de l'Organisation.

Nous ne soulignerons jamais assez l'importance d'avoir un réseau de Bureaux décentralisés doté d'un personnel adéquat dans notre région, pour refléter la réalité et les défis de chaque pays et permettre ainsi à la FAO de fournir sous la forme la plus efficace son assistance technique.

Enfin, nous prenons bonne note des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations faites lors de l'audit précédent. Nous saluons les efforts déployés pour présenter ce rapport et ses recommandations et nous attendons avec impatience leur mise en œuvre et les améliorations qui en découlent. Nous recommandons donc la transmission de ce rapport à la Conférence pour approbation.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

The Russian Federation would like to align itself with the other delegations in thanking the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Ms Imelda Smolic, for her successful leadership of the work of the Committee. Russia is not against adopting the reports of the Finance Committee and we support its recommendations.

We consider it principally important in adopting decisions related to administrative and budgetary issues to be led by the systemwide principles, the guiding principles adopted at the level of the Chief Executive Board for coordinators on the UN. That will allow FAO, as a special body of the UN, to work within the frameworks of agreed upon approaches and principles. Separately, we would like to focus on the following points on the agenda of work of the Finance Committee.

We thank the External Auditor of FAO, the Inspector-General of India, for the professional assessment of the effectiveness of the activity of FAO in 2020 and the concrete recommendations on further improvement of administrative budgetary procedures of the Organization. We support the majority of the recommendations of the External Auditor, however we note that the proposal to write off arrears of Members, which are not going to be paid off, undermines budgetary discipline and is not in accordance with Financial Regulations of FAO.

We would like also to draw attention to some shortcomings identified regarding problems with procurement activity and work with staff on the ground, as well as the continued problem of the outflow of employees from the regional representations, for example, the Regional Office of FAO for Europe and Central Asia. We urge the Organization's management to take the relevant decisions in accordance with the recommendations of the External Auditor.

When it comes to issues of the employee benefit obligations, we note that, for the organizations of the UN, this issue is very important, it is still undecided, and it mostly has to do with the After Service Medical Coverage primarily, and given the considerable amount of these outstanding obligations, that leads to a structural deficit in the budget and the practice in this area of having the payments as a pay-as-you-go system, which is carried out in the UN, has shown its effectiveness, but it does not resolve the problem of the accumulated deficit.

In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the recommendations of the special group on management of the Chief Executives Board (CEB), which were the foundation for the Report of the Secretary-General of the UN, entitled *A/76/373*. This Report is to be discussed at the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. We consider it important to be led by the recommendations which will be adopted as a result of that consideration. We think that they should become the universal basis for resolving issues of accumulated employee benefit obligations.

When it comes to developing mechanisms for investigation, this was raised at the discussions in the Finance Committee. We support the idea of the zero tolerance culture when it comes to Abuse of Authority, and we note the work of the Secretariat on strengthening the ethical outlook of FAO personnel, taking into account the recommendations, including those of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, the JIU, Review of Whistleblower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations, JIU/Rep/2018/4, as well as the review of the state of the investigation function progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function, JIU/Rep/2020/1.

We consider it important not to take a rushed approach in institutionalizing the mechanisms for investigating any accusations of misuse of authority against the Director-General. We think therefore it is necessary to follow the best practices of the UN and to have a united approach as adopted by the CEB.

In the context of the question of the current situation of contributions and arrears, we consider it principally important to have timely and full payment of contributions by Members. We would like to thank the distinguished colleague who put forward the proposal on alternatives for resolving the issue of arrears from Members, which could potentially lead to their loss of the voting right.

We think it is necessary to develop further ways forward and finding a solution to this problem as a possibility of the payment of these arrears in the currency of the country of origin. It is also possible to spread the practice of plans to pay off the arrears which were proposed and agreed upon by the Organization and also by the Members in question.

In this context, we would also like to draw attention to the instruction of the Conference on the integrated reexamination of the procedure to remove the voting rights from Members with arrears. We consider that it is necessary to be led by Article 3.4 of the Constitution of FAO, which says that the Conference does have the right to permit a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.

In the context of this question, we would also like to draw attention to the principally important aspect of having the systemwide principles and approaches when it comes to questions of removing the right to vote. Therefore, we are in favour of following best practices within the UN system when it comes to carrying out this examination.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We agree with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan for the Asia Group. We recognize FAO's financial position and we are satisfied with the current level of liquidity. We agree with the Finance Committee's recommendation to address the overall deficit and emphasise that management should continue to review options to close the funding gap and address the cost of employee-related liabilities through a common approach with the UN system.

We endorse the External Auditor's Report and we agree with Management's response. We welcome FAO's fruitful efforts in internal controls and we encourage Management to continue to strengthen related efforts.

With regard to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to explain to us the way that the work is being done at the UN. If you can clarify this. With regard to implementation of the recommendations in the JIU report, we believe FAO should follow the ways of the UN system, to be aligned with the UN system, and to execute the recommendations of the Chief Executives Board (CEB).

We believe first of all we need, within the auspices of the UN, to achieve consensus and to establish a common working mechanism in order to implement the recommendations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is now 16:30 hours, we will adjourn the meeting for half an hour to re-energize with a cup of coffee, water or something else. After the break we have the last three speakers and that is United States, Egypt and Thailand. Meeting is adjourned until 17:00 hours. Thank you very much for, again, an excellent afternoon.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:29 to 17:03 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 29 à 17 h 03*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.29 a las 17.03*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Welcome back. I hope you are a little bit refreshed and re-energized after a long and intensive day. We continue now our deliberations on Item 9 on the Reports of the Finance Committee.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

The United States welcomes the work done by the Finance Committee since the last Council under the leadership of our Chairperson, Ms Imelda Smolčić, and we very much welcome the Finance Committee Reports that are presented to this Council. Regarding the Audited Accounts, the United States would like to congratulate FAO on its financial position, and specifically the increase in net assets.

The surplus for the period increased as a result of revenue from voluntary contributions. As expressed at the 188th session of the Finance Committee, the United States remains concerned about increasing expenses despite the decline in travel and training largely attributed to the pandemic. We encourage FAO to seek out cost efficiencies to further improve its financial position.

On the matter of arrears, we appreciate the 113th Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) discussion and findings that further consultations in line with the 42nd Conference's request are needed on the matter of establishing criteria for the restoration of voting rights by the Conference for Members in arrears, avoiding blanket waivers, considering timelines or deadlines for applications ahead of conference proceedings, and ensuring that Members provide as much information as possible to support their applications.

In principle, the United States opposes the granting of voting rights reinstatements to countries in arrears, a position that we have maintained across other UN agencies. We do of course acknowledge the deep and devastating effects of the pandemic as raised by the Chairperson of the Group of 77 (G77) plus China and by our Ambassador yesterday.

Nevertheless, Membership carries with it obligations and payment of dues is one of those obligations. Making regular payments is a fundamental aspect of UN organizations' good governance and Members' adherence to the rule of law. We as Members need consistency in our approach to rules across the UN system. FAO's operations rely on the timely payments by Members.

We welcome further Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and Governing Body consideration of this matter as requested in the Finance Committee Report, which is *CL 168/9* in subparagraph 9(c), as well as in the Report *CL 168/10* and the Conference Report from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Conference.

Next, I would like to echo Australia's point on the importance of FAO developing procedures for implementing the relevant JIU recommendations with regard to investigating allegations of misconduct against the UN agency executive head as called for in the Finance Committee report subparagraph 18(d).

Other UN bodies including The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which are specialized agencies like FAO, have already developed and adopted such procedures and others are convening working groups as there is currently no indication if or when a UN system wide approach will be developed. The reason we think that it is important to proceed is that a policy protects the institutional, reputational and legal risks should a complainant come forward. For example, if a complainant were to come forward today FAO would currently have no procedures in place to address it.

We believe that proceeding without such a policy or watching and waiting for an indeterminate amount of time for a systemwide consensus could put FAO and its leadership in an unacceptable position of risk.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

We are making this statement on behalf of the Near East Regional Group on this Agenda Item. Our recommendations have to do with Reports of the Finance Committee. We have sufficient cash flow to cover expenses through 2021 which is why we would appeal to all Members to ensure that they pay their contributions and arrears because the Organization is suffering from a lack of liquidity, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are non-funded commitments *vis-à-vis* staff, which is why we would encourage the Organization to ensure that they redress this situation as per commitments made in the UN General

Assembly. We should work together with other UN agencies to resolve this problem. We would like to welcome the high quality of the Report of the External Auditor.

On the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023, we feel they are acceptable as they fall within the global budget of USD 1.005 billion and there will be no additional costs over and above those which have already been approved. We welcome measures taken to implement the recommendations of the External Auditor. We urge that internal oversight measures be strengthened both at headquarters and in regional offices.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand supports the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by Pakistan. We would like to express our appreciation to the leadership of Ambassador Imelda Smolčić, Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

In addition to what has been stated by our colleagues of Pakistan, Thailand would like to have a brief comment regarding the assessed contribution and arrears. As mentioned earlier, Thailand supports that the Secretariat need to explore other innovative approaches to facilitate Members to make prompt payments of assessed contributions by regulating the use of the local currencies or other ways to pay off arrears.

Thailand endorses the report of the Finance Committee.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Since I have heard comments on the voting rights and this question of allegations of misconduct against heads of organizations, I would like to say that I agree with the comments made by the Russian Federation on the question of the voting rights and on the question of allegations of misconduct. I am sure that this Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report must have been considered by the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) before it goes to the Chief Executives Board.

If we have to follow the UN system, and the Finance Committee's Report also talks about the broader UN system efforts, we should wait for what the UN system says, and that is how we get the best practice instead of picking and choosing on one or two organizations.

For example, when we were talking about the mandatory date of retirement, which was extended from 62 to 65, there was no agreement and Friends of the Chair of the ICC was formed. There was this question of some organizations, and I remember World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and WHO were mentioned, that they had not implemented it immediately, and they were implementing it after one year, and some other Members wanted it implemented immediately. And there were quite a few Members who were saying, we are not in WHO or WIPO, we are in FAO, so we must follow the best practice.

If there is guidance that we must follow a UN system, then we should wait for what the UN system decides, instead of going for what organization X or Y may have decided. We are part of the UN system. So the JIU Report is addressed to the UN system. We should follow that. I would agree with what the Russian Federation said.

My submission to Members here would be that we should wait for the conclusions of the Chief Executives Board. After all, all the Chief Executives are there. They usually have comments from the HLCM before they conclude on issues, and it would be a well-informed decision, which then we would need to take account of rather than going for one or two organizations.

**Sra. Imelda SMOLČIĆ (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Quisiera resaltar algunos puntos de interés general para el Consejo más allá de la introducción al tema 9 publicado en el sitio web del 168.º período de sesiones del Consejo.

El Comité de Finanzas examinó la situación financiera de la Organización y acogió con satisfacción la información comunicada de que la liquidez de la Organización bastaba para hacer frente a las necesidades operacionales hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2021.



El Comité observó que la cuenta global del déficit correspondía fundamentalmente al pasivo no financiado relacionado con el personal. Alentó a la Administración a seguir examinando opciones para hacer frente al déficit de financiación en el contexto de la consideración de este asunto por parte de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

Tomó nota de la información proporcionada sobre las tasas de aprobación y gastos respecto del Programa de cooperación técnica (PCT) e hizo hincapié en la importancia de mantener un nivel de gasto que permitiera garantizar la plena ejecución de la consignación para el PCT aprobado por la Conferencia.

Examinamos en el Comité las cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2020, incluida la exposición del auditor externo sobre su informe detallado de la auditoría de las operaciones financieras de la FAO, en la que destacó las principales recomendaciones y observaciones presentadas en su informe.

El Comité tomó nota de las respuestas de la Administración, a las recomendaciones del auditor externo y alentó a la Administración a aplicarlas en los plazos por él sugeridos. Se elogiaron las mejoras en la estructura y el contenido de la declaración sobre el control interno y alentó a la Administración a seguir adoptando medidas para fortalecer los controles internos en la Organización.

El Comité tomó nota de la ejecución del presupuesto previsto respecto de la consignación para el bienio 2020-2021 y de que se solicitaban las transferencias aprobadas previamente a los capítulos, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 y 10.

En cuanto a la supervisión, el Comité acogió con agrado los progresos realizados en la aplicación de las recomendaciones del auditor externo y del Comité consultivo de supervisión y alentó a la Administración a aplicar las recomendaciones que aún seguían pendientes. Hizo hincapié en la importancia de atender las recomendaciones relativas al fortalecimiento del Marco de Control Interno tanto en la Sede como en las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

Se alentó a la Administración a proponer procedimientos adecuados para aplicar las recomendaciones formuladas en los informes de la dependencia común de inspección. Sobre la tramitación de alegaciones de falta de conducta contra el Jefe de la Organización, en coordinación con los esfuerzos más amplios en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y solicitó a la Administración que presentara estos proyectos del procedimiento junto con opiniones pertinentes del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

En conclusión, en términos generales los periodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas fueron muy fructíferos. Gracias al trabajo y al espíritu de cooperación de los miembros del Comité, se hizo un uso eficiente del tiempo estipulado como ya es costumbre en el Comité de Finanzas. En nombre de los miembros del Comité, quisiera expresar nuestro aprecio a la Secretaría por la asistencia prestada a nuestras deliberaciones y nuestra gratitud a los Miembros de la FAO por brindarnos la oportunidad de contribuir a la importante labor de la Organización.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I would like to turn the floor to brief comments by Management.

#### **M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur général adjoint)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier chaleureusement les membres du Conseil pour leurs commentaires, orientations et recommandations en ce qui concerne le rapport et les recommandations du Comité financier. Nous avons pris bonne note de toutes ces recommandations. Quatre points principaux sont revenus dans les interventions, pour lesquels je pense qu'une réaction en séance de la part du Secrétariat est appropriée.

Premièrement, la question du suivi des recommandations du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies, recommandations des rapports JIU/REP/2018/4 et 2020/1, en ce qui concerne les allégations de faute susceptibles de viser le chef d'une organisation des Nations Unies. Pour ce point, je demanderai à Madame la Conseillère juridique de répondre brièvement aux questions qui ont été posées par les Membres.

Deuxième point, la question des obligations non financées relatives au personnel et, en particulier, en ce qui concerne l'assurance maladie après cessation de service. Pour ce point, je demanderais au Directeur des finances de fournir les éléments sur les actions prises et envisagées d'une façon concise.

Troisièmement, la question des arriérés de contributions et des moyens pour les réduire au minimum. Encore pour ce point, je demanderai au Directeur des finances de vous donner un aperçu très bref sur ce qui est envisagé et ce qui a été fait.

Enfin, le quatrième point, les commentaires sur la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts en termes de contrôle interne et de bonne gestion des ressources et des risques. À cet effet, je voudrais rassurer les membres du Conseil sur notre engagement à accélérer les progrès réalisés afin de mettre en œuvre les recommandations de nos organes de gouvernance et de contrôle.

Cela en application de la déclaration du Directeur général, déclaration publique sur les contrôles internes jointe aux comptes certifiés 2021. Le Directeur général après avoir déclaré 2019, année de l'efficacité, 2020, de l'efficience, nous a annoncé que l'année 2022 serait l'année de l'extraordinaire. En ce qui concerne l'administration, il s'agira d'accélérer la mise en œuvre des recommandations. Nous allons le faire avec des organes de contrôles, tel que le Commissaire aux comptes, l'Inspecteur général, le Comité consultatif de contrôle de la FAO.

Nous avons fait des progrès en termes d'accélération, en particulier en ce qui concerne les recommandations pour lesquelles le niveau de risque est le plus élevé, mais ce n'est pas suffisant, nous devons accélérer encore. Le Commissaire aux comptes a exprimé une opinion non modifiée sur les comptes. C'est le minimum que l'on attend d'une organisation bien gérée, mais il a aussi noté dans le rapport beaucoup de points nécessitant des améliorations en termes de gestion et de contrôle interne.

Nous ne pouvons donc être complaisants et nous nous assurerons que nous mettrons en œuvre ces recommandations aussi bien en ce qui concerne le Siège que les Bureaux décentralisés, c'est une condition essentielle pour pouvoir atteindre les résultats que vous nous avez demandé d'atteindre dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023.

Pour conclure, nous apprécions le dialogue avec le Commissaire aux comptes, très riche, avec l'Inspecteur général, avec le Comité consultatif de contrôle de la FAO, et nous pensons qu'au travers de ce dialogue, nous arriverons ensemble à faire en sorte que cette Organisation soit mieux gérée.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, si vous me permettez, je souhaiterais que Madame la Conseillère juridique intervienne tout d'abord sur la question des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

With respect to paragraph 18 (d) of the Finance Committee's Report, I wish to just update you because the last time that the Finance Committee looked at this matter was at its 183rd Session in November 2020, and at that time, having noted the Recommendation 7, the Committee then came to the following conclusion.

It further noted and here I quote *“that in accordance with usual practice, consultations were ongoing on the response of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) to that report to be submitted to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and that FAO would participate in CEB processes for a coordinated and harmonized implementation of Recommendation 7 as set out above”*.

Since that time, and since that last consideration within the framework of the CEB, the Secretary-General has submitted a note to the General Assembly. This may be found in document *A/75/719/Add1*.

With respect to this specific recommendation, firstly, and once again I quote, *“notes that this recommendation is addressed to their legislative bodies, underscoring the tight deadline in cases in which the proposed procedures are not yet implemented”*. It then went on to say, *“a consultative process for a harmonized implementation approach would be sought in carrying out the proposed recommendation.”*

Thus, the CEB, under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary-General, is initiating a consultative process for a harmonized implementation. In that regard, to respond specifically to the query of China, how is this sort of work normally done, indeed, the UN system Chief Executives Board is the main, internal highest level Coordination Forum of the UN system.

It is chaired by the Secretary-General. It is attended and participated in by 12 funds and programmes of the UN, the 15 specialized agencies and the three related organizations, with the objective of ensuring internal coordination at a high level system-wide strategic guidance. It is intended to promote coherent guidance, promote shared vision and enhance cooperation.

It is within that framework the proposal to consider this recommendation on how to proceed with a coordinated approach has been made. Of course, as Members are aware, this is the approach normally taken across the UN system in addressing matters of this nature.

I wanted to provide that update to you, bearing in mind that we have not reported to you in this level of detail, since the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee.

**Mr Aiman Ibrahim HIJA (Director of Finance Division)**

Briefly, about the main points raised about the After Service Medical Coverage, the deficit, as noted by the distinguished Members, it is a UN-wide issue, as well as for FAO. The amount of FAO, one of the oldest organizations in the UN system, reached almost USD 860 million. This affects the future liquidity and sustainability of the Organization, especially where we have a very much stagnant budget or flat budget in the last several years.

FAO Management, the Finance team and the Human Resources (HR), we explored all possible means and worked with other UN agencies to find possible solutions but this is actually beyond the ability of the Organization. It is almost a biennium budget for the Organization to deal with. Therefore, as it really requires a special study and decision by Members to take a decision on this. This resulted due to the under budgeted expenditures of the Organization in the past, and now it is time to revisit to settle it.

In 2003, the Conference approved USD 14.2 billion every biennium to help bridge the gap but unfortunately it was stopped in 2017. I encourage Members to reactivate this amount. It will help the partial resolving of the issue.

As the Russian Federation stated, the pay-as-you-go solution, this is really the optimal one, but in the context of FAO, in the dimension of the deficit of USD 860 million, it should be budgeted outside or on top of the regular budget. Because in this biennium, if the budget is USD 20 million for the medical costs, in 2040 it will be over USD 60 million, and that is with a flat budget or lower than the least amount increase.

This will affect the ability of Management to manage this big issue. FAO, size-wise, we have USD 860 million. Other agencies, like World Food Programme (WFP), has only less than USD 100 million now because of this USD 14.2 million coming to their budget every biennium, as well as the fact that their number of staff is lower.

About arrears, it is a big challenge. As we speak now, 70 countries have not paid anything from 2021 contributions at all. It is very much like last year, not much different, due to COVID-19.

Total arrears to the Organization is about USD 250 million between this year and previous years. This is about half a year's budget. So basically six months budget is in arrears now.

In some of these areas I know it is not collectible, because from countries like Yugoslavia, where we still wait a decision from the UN in order to write it off.

But I hope that the Council does really stress asking those countries to pay all these amounts.

Analyzing the amounts, we have about 20 countries who have not paid since more than 15/20 years and they have not attended the Conference during the last 20 years and never voted and never attended any evaluation, and continuing allocating budget to them without any response from them to the calls for funds that we sent to them.

About the question on receiving in local currency, there is a Conference resolution in 2007 where it allowed to receive the annual or the current contributions in local currency or what we call non-convertible currency in cases of severe difficulties in the country. And it is only allowed for current contributions, it is not allowed for arrears. And there is another restriction that it does not state or it keeps silent about the financial exchange loss, which was raised by Pakistan.

If the Council really takes action on this, where we amend the Resolution 14/2007, to allow paying in local currency for the current contributions and arrears and where countries receive it bear the exchange difference on this, or risks, so the Organization remain harmless of the currency fluctuations. But this has to be still applied always in the context of every country separately because there has to be limits to what we need in the local currency and the flow of the local currency in the country, otherwise it will be just adding up in inconvertible currencies in the country that will not be of major use to the Organization.

One point raised by the United States if I may, about the cost increases. I have to clarify here the misconception. The cost increases are purely related to an increase in project expenditures. For the operating expenditures of the Organization there is a severe reduction, mainly due to the reduction in travel, and operating expenses due to partial closure of the building and lack of travel. But all increases, in the financial statements, in note 21, I encourage every Member to look at it, it is all related to project expenditures, all of them.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan endorses all the recommendations in the Report of the Finance Committee 188th session. That means, of course, which include paragraph 18 with regard to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report.

Of course, I understand there are many opinions for this issue and also I understand the UN-wide consultation is necessary. Having said so, just waiting is not a good attitude. I really wish that FAO Management are in line with the recommendations in this report.

Management of FAO presented the draft procedures for the relating document for the consultation at the next session of the Finance Committee. I think it is necessary to ensure and improve the trust and credibility of FAO to the outside world.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

A couple of short points just to add to what I said earlier. I understand that the JIU recommendations are to the Governing Bodies, the various agencies, and not for the UN system as a whole.

And I want to say I appreciated the update by the Legal Counsel on where things stand but, at the same time, it is important to recognize that each specialized agency has its own legal status and governance procedures. And so each UN specialized agency, notwithstanding strategic guidance from the CEB, would need to decide on its own and incorporate such procedures based on its own governing body mechanisms, legal basis and policies.

And so the responsibility lies with us as Governing Body Members to ensure that our specialized agency, FAO, is doing this.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Très brièvement puisque nous sommes arrivés à la fin de notre discussion, je voudrais revenir sur deux points.

L'un concerne les arriérés parce que ma délégation avait l'intention de l'évoquer au titre du point suivant de l'ordre du jour. Simplement pour souligner sur cette question, le fait qu'il est un minimum indispensable que la FAO traite ce sujet et les demandes de restauration des droits de vote de la même manière que celle appliquée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et son Comité des contributions. Je me réfère notamment à sa dernière résolution sur ce sujet, la résolution 76.2.

Cette pratique impose que les demandes de restauration soient individuelles, faites par écrit, étayées par des preuves, d'une manière conforme à la résolution 54.237.C de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et soumises dans un délai précis.

Ce sont des exigences mises en œuvre par l'ensemble des Nations Unies, définies par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et qui sont régulièrement satisfaites à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, comme c'est le cas encore cette année. Nous souhaitons que la FAO suive, de ce point de vue, la pratique des Nations Unies.

Par ailleurs, et puisque mes collègues précédents en ont parlé, je souhaiterais soutenir ce qui a été indiqué sur les recommandations du Corps commun d'inspection et donc soutenir le langage adopté sur ce point par le Comité financier dans son rapport au paragraphe 18, alinéa d). Il nous semble important, comme le Directeur général le souligne souvent, que la FAO montre l'exemple, l'occasion lui en est donnée. Nous souhaitons donc qu'elle aille de l'avant sur ce sujet et qu'elle nous présente quelque chose avant le prochain Comité financier.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We believe that the United Nations system is where the Organization and the specialized agencies are based for a common approach to dealing with the issues of administrative and budgetary nature. And if we speak of the fact that organizations may exist separately without a uniform approach, then we would have the situation of separate organizations in the world. We are part of the United Nations system.

As a minor illustration of this, I could give an example of the recent decision of the Geneva organizations regarding the post adjustments, and it is a specialized agency, which establishes the salaries for staff working in different duty stations. And the adjustments to the salaries are based on the compensation of the ICS, International Civil Service, but the adjustments were adopted based on the United Nations Geneva Organizations' decision.

As a result of this, there was a consideration of the matter and it went all the way to an arbitration judgment. So we would not want a situation in which each organization makes its own decisions in its own platform and would take initiatives that would not have the consensus and support of the Chief Executives Board (CEB).

This would undermine the unity of the United Nations system and this is what guarantees the strength and the possibility of achieving the 2030 Agenda. We think that the principle of coordination is important. It must be followed carefully and complied with.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have four speakers on my list, and I do not want to turn the Council into a Finance Committee meeting. Let us be very brief, because I think we have addressed the recommendations of the Finance Committee and we have to draft our conclusions.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I think it is very important to avoid any form of duplication of work within the UN system. And as FAO is the bursar of the UN system, it is important to seek a harmonized implementation approach for the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

I support the statement made by Pakistan and the Russian Federation. What I want to say here is that the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)'s recommendation does not come from the Management of FAO, it is from the UN system and we must stay consistent within the UN system.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I just want to say again that I support what the Russian Federation said on the UN common system. In fact, we have proof of that. That is why the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) was established, to deal with issues which concern the whole UN system.

That is why the International Accounting Standards were approved by the UN system, not individually by each organization. That is why the staff benefits are being handled by the UN system. In fact, the Finance Committee and the Council keep supporting that, that it should continue to be handled that way. It just supports what the Russian Federation said.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me also add my voice to those who supported the statement of the Russian Federation and I totally agree with what Pakistan just said now. However, if I go back to the Report of the Finance Committee, I am wondering if it did not go too far by requesting the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to look into an issue because I am not so sure that the Finance Committee should table issues to another committee. I am not so sure of that. We may be guided by the Legal Counsel on that.

But given the nature of this issue, it is brought on an examination by an Advisory Committee unless the Council itself takes this up as a matter of consideration. So, I really want to know if the Finance Committee wants in its job to request the CCLM to look into that. In that I need to be guided, probably.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I pass the floor for this last question to Donata and then I would like to conclude.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Indeed, both the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), as I noted yesterday, assist the Council, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution. Nevertheless, the provisional agendas of those bodies are developed by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairpersons of those Committees.

Those Committees in turn, when they meet, deliberate and then produce a report, they only make recommendations to the Council. Indeed, as currently noted by the distinguished delegate of Cameroon, it is when and if the Council chooses to endorse a specific recommendation, that that becomes a decision. Until such time, it is simply a recommendation to the Council.

The Council could, of course, and is entitled to request its Council Committees to take up certain matters but, yes, this would need to be a decision of the Council.

**Item 7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021) (continued)****Point 7. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-deuxième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-huitième session) (novembre 2021) (suite)****Tema 7. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2021) (continuación)**

(CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will carefully reflect on this discussion in the draft conclusions, which you will be seeing probably tomorrow morning. With that, I would like to conclude this Agenda Item 9 and take up now the conclusions of the previous items.

We start with Item 7, and that is the *Report of the Joint meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee*.

We will put it on the screen, and I would like to remind all the Members of the Council that, of course, two Agenda Items are still pending, which were addressed in the Report of the Joint Meeting and those are the Agenda Items on the COVID-19 item: Building to Transform and the Progress Report on the Rome-based Agencies, because hopefully we will discuss those tomorrow.

We have reflected on the conclusions which were addressed in the discussion in the Council and, of course, I will keep paragraph 2 pending because we cannot endorse a report unless we have discussed all the Agenda Items in the Report.

I now read out the draft conclusions.

1. The Council welcomed the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee*, and in particular:
  - a) commended the progress accomplished in the process to refine the approach for Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), resource shares, including the importance of a context-specific approach, particularly for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and looked forward to the continuation of the inclusive and transparent approach in 2022; and
  - b) appreciated FAO's efforts in the prevention of and protection against harassment, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, highlighting the importance of the victim-centred and gender sensitive approach and encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its policies in this regard.
2. The Council endorsed the Report of the Joint Meeting.

As I said, I do not bring this conclusion forward yet because we still have to discuss the other two issues. So, now I start with paragraph 1, the chapeau, can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

Then I go to subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any requests for the floor.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

Regarding the third line, when we say particularly for Least Developed Countries, we believe that many delegations, when intervening, mentioned the importance of the context-specific and priorities when approaching, so we do not know if it would be correct just to underline Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

We could say something like "*country-specific approach, including developing countries*", in order to encapsulate all the particular situations of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing states. It is just a proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So the proposal for subparagraph (a) is to replace "*particularly for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States*" by "*including developing countries*".

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci au collègue argentin de sa proposition. Je pense que pendant les débats, il est revenu assez fréquemment l'idée que les pays les moins développés et les petites îles, qui font d'ailleurs l'objet d'une attention particulière de la Direction, et à raison, devraient avoir une attention plus spécifique dans le cadre de ce Programme de coopération technique.

Cela a été dit par de nombreuses délégations et je pense qu'il est important de le refléter. Aussi, la proposition du collègue argentin est trop générale de ce point de vue-là, même s'il y a bien la mention du contexte et simplement un accent sur la situation des pays les moins développés, je crois que cela ne s'y limite pas, mais montre bien la priorité que nous portons à cette catégorie de pays particulièrement fragiles.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we not combine both proposals? Could we not say, "*especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States*"? Would that be a way forward and would that be agreeable?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

If I am not mistaken, the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is only applied to developing countries. Therefore, I think the precision of including for developing countries perhaps does not add value in this context.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

In the same line as what is mentioned by Canada, we would prefer to maintain “*developing countries*” as a term that can include all. But I understand that for other delegations, it could be important just to be precise on mentioning “*Least Developed Countries*”. If we include “*developing countries, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States*”, we could go along,

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would also like to add “*net food importing developing countries*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us be careful not to specify groups of developing countries because then it will be a very long evening.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

We are very flexible. We would like to support the focus on developing countries. In addition, we really pay more attention to support the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We will always try to be positive and try to accommodate many things. We know perfectly the purpose of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and, if I may, probably we can read “*commended (though I do not like very much this wording but we can leave it), the progress accomplished in the progress to refine the approach for TCP resource shares, including the importance of context-specific approach in developing countries with special focus on least developed countries and small island development States*”.

I believe that with the indulgence of our colleague from Egypt, we may not want to add all those because if you have “*net food importing*”, you have all the categories of the developing countries. Let us focus only on those two, “*Least Developed Countries*” and “*Small Island Developing States*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Before we have a long discussion, would the compromised proposal of Cameroon, “*in developing countries with a special focus on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States*” be a good compromise?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe that we are reaching a very good text here. I believe that Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) should also focus or include “*the Least Developed Countries or Small Islands Developing States*”, but I believe that our colleague from Cameroon was right. We do not see this specific category, “*net food import countries*”, as something that is multilaterally agreed. If you delete this last category, I believe we are in a good way to finish this wording.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia for the European Union, please?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to support the proposal from Cameroon.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Cuando hablamos del Programa de cooperación técnica (PCT), hablamos de un proceso de modernización, de reinventar el PCT y en el Consejo pasado los Miembros, este mismo Consejo, aprobaron siete criterios para pensar en una nueva redistribución del PCT entre los Miembros que se sumaban a dos criterios ya existentes, el de Universalidad y el de *Least Developed Countries (LDC)*.

Entonces, tenemos siete criterios que fueron aprobados por este Consejo, que ya tuvimos dos consultas informales y que son parte del ejercicio que se está realizando para ver cómo redistribuir los fondos del PCT. Entonces verdaderamente creemos que no hace falta mencionar aquí en este párrafo el LDC



y *Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* porque ya es parte de uno de los criterios, de los siete criterios que ya aprobó el Consejo para tener en cuenta a la hora de distribuir el PCT.

Entonces, si queremos ponerlo, por supuesto esta Delegación está abierta, pero tenemos que entender el contexto de lo que estamos discutiendo. No estamos siempre discutiendo de cero las cuestiones, aquí, estamos discutiendo criterios que ya fueron aprobados y que al momento ninguno tiene una ponderación sobre el otro. Entonces, tenemos Universalidad, tenemos LDC, tenemos Biodiversidad, Pobreza Rural, Inequidad, entonces me parece injusto que aquí con este párrafo estemos dando la idea de que ya los Miembros están decidiendo una ponderación, porque como hemos dicho en nuestra intervención y fue acordado también en el PCT, la idea es que prosiga la discusión.

Entonces, solicitamos por favor a los Miembros que tengan en cuenta lo que estoy diciendo porque si aquí en este párrafo ya incluimos un criterio por sobre los otros seis que todavía están en análisis, ya estamos prejuzgando sobre la negociación. Entonces la propuesta que hacemos y pedimos la indulgencia de los Miembros en función de que es una discusión que tiene que seguir en 2020, es que el párrafo cuando decimos "*Context Specific Approach*" que además es un enfoque que se aplica a todas las regiones, siga con "*And looked forward*" y no pongamos ninguna categoría por sobre la otra.

Porque si no, además, quisiera recordar que este ejercicio de reinventar el PCT fue porque los Miembros pidieron que se piense en criterios más allá del ingreso per cápita y si nosotros ponemos "*Least Developed Countries*" estamos volviendo de alguna manera al criterio... a ponderar un criterio que dijimos que no era exacto, que era obsoleto y que no reflejaba la realidad.

Entonces hacemos este último pedido a los Miembros en función de contextualizar lo que estamos discutiendo de no priorizar aquí en este párrafo uno de los criterios que este Consejo aprobó entre otros seis la vez pasada.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do want to remind all Members of the Council that we are in the Conclusions, reflecting on what was said during the Council meeting. I think many Members of the Council made a reference to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States and not prioritizing one criteria above the other, but at least made reference to the focus on the Least Developed Countries as well and the Small Island Developing States.

That is why I was seeking a compromise which was presented by Cameroon, which could meet a consensus of many Members of the Council.

#### **Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

It is getting a bit late. I have two points I would like to make, one that you just actually made, Chair, that many countries did indeed highlight "least developed countries" and "Small Island Developing States" and the report should, of course, reflect what was said during the interventions.

My other point is on the resource shares that is mentioned in line two, which to me is a little bit unclear what that actually means. So I would just like to propose an alternative for your consideration, which could be "resource allocation within regions" to replace "resource shares". I think that is more clear, what we are talking about.

#### **Sr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

En primer lugar, en esta ocasión permítame diferir con usted, el día de ayer se nos indicó en este Consejo que no necesariamente teníamos que aceptar 100 por ciento cómo se redactó en los Consejos individuales. Por lo tanto, yo creo que no tenemos que cerrarnos las puertas.

En segundo lugar, me parece que Argentina tiene mucha razón. Nosotros hemos insistido claramente que no solamente los pequeños Estados, sino todos los Estados y los Estados de renta media. Esto no quiere decir que no reconozcamos la necesidad prioritaria y nuestra solidaridad con los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID) o con los menos desarrollados; al contrario, la ratificamos.

Quizá valga la pena proponer que pudiéramos terminar hasta donde dice, y voy a pasar al inglés.

**Continues in English**

“On context-specific approach, according to the results generated by the methodology being developed”. We are developing our methodology and that methodology and indexes that we are calculating will determine the way that resources are allocated. So, Argentina has reasons in saying: “we have been working on these methodologies”. That does not mean that we do not want to show solidarity, that we do not care about the less-developed countries. We actually care. But that is what we are doing today.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

I hope that we will have a compromise, as you wish. As our colleague from Cameroon already provided his language, which Thailand is open and flexible to get along with that text. Also, regarding the proposal made by our colleagues from Egypt, we know that once we add any other additional category of the country, maybe it is very difficult to have a consensus and that is why the proposal from Cameroon, I think it should be okay for us.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentin RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Nosotros nos manejamos en esta Organización a través del consenso como eje principal para poder lograr acuerdos, entonces creo que talvez la metodología de contabilizar cuántos hablaron a favor de un tema y cuántos a favor de o en contra de ese tema, creo que talvez no sea la metodología.

Yo recuerdo perfectamente que muchos países, especialmente de mi región, hablaron la necesidad de que el Programa de cooperación técnica (PCT) sea distribuido en todas las regiones con un criterio uniforme y esa es la decisión del Consejo en su 166.º período de sesiones. Entonces manejémosnos por el consenso, tratemos de encontrar el acuerdo y no imponer porque si diez países dijeron tal cosa y solamente ocho tal otra, imponer a esa minoría un lenguaje que no representa el espíritu que por lo menos es de esta región. Desde mi región, de América Latina y el Caribe, hemos siempre tratado el tema del PCT que les recuerdo es muy importante para mi región, como país, como región de países de ingresos medios.

Nada más quisiera con esto apoyar la propuesta de México que es muy pertinente, no haríamos un prejuizamiento de los criterios que han sido propuestos y que hemos hasta el momento a llegado a buen puerto en esas discusiones y dejamos abierta esta discusión para seguir, como dice el párrafo, en 2022 a partir de consulta, seguir discutiendo sobre el tema.

Así nos hacemos un árbol de Navidad respecto a todos los países que hay que incluir, sino que es un approach específico a los contextos que se aplica a todos y veremos a partir de los criterios que se están elaborando en la metodología si damos o no mayor ponderación a *Least Developed Countries (LDCs)* que recuerdo es uno de los criterios que debemos de terminar si va a tener mayor ponderación o no que los otros criterios.

Por favor ajustémosnos a las discusiones en esta materia.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

There is one French expression that I sometimes love to use: *‘pédaler dans la choucroute’*. I do not know whether that is what we are doing now, but I think the issue of consensus is a good one.

Consensus is not an elastic word also. Either you agree, all of you, or you do not impose your own ideas. As our colleague from Argentina used to say, ‘the least common denominator’ on this. That is why when people are supporting our first proposal, it looks like the least common denominator, in this context. Adding things up and up may again probably distort a little bit the understanding that we want to give here.

What are we discussing here? USD 2 million per country? USD 2 million per biennium per country? Sometimes I begin to ask myself if it is worth all that discussion. We are here. Every developing country has the right to get those USD 2 million upon request. USD 2 million in a biennium, that is what it is. Let us be really frank among ourselves here.

If it were something like USD 100 million or so, yes, we can fight, but every developing country has a right to ask for those USD 2 million every biennium. But we are saying with a special focus. First, I

like the idea of allocation within regions, yes, and a special focus within each region on the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States.

This is something that we have to agree on as a least common denominator.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Tratando de ser constructivos obviamente estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de cambio en "*Allocation within regions*", pero la pregunta es, lo que estamos hablando es "*Allocation among regions*", todavía no entramos en la etapa de discusión respecto a la distribución dentro de las regiones. Así que creo que lo que estamos hablando acá es de una primera fase, entonces la propuesta sería "*Allocation among regions*", que es lo que estamos discutiendo en esta primera fase de la reinversión del Programa de cooperación técnica (PCT).

Segundo, vamos a tratar de acomodar obviamente lo que han dicho muchos países, es verdad, pero obviamente con gran flexibilidad porque vuelvo a reiterar que no quisiera que estuviésemos prejuzgando el resultado de las discusiones que tenemos en 2022 para ver las diferentes ponderaciones de los criterios, entonces después de "According to results generated by the methodology being developed", sugiero con la indulgencia de usted y de los colegas si sería una propuesta aceptable agregar la siguiente frase después de "*Being developed*", "*While considering the particularities of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States*". Aquí podemos mencionar los cinco criterios que hacen a esta fase de estudio, que creo que estaban en la decisión del Consejo en su 166.º periodo de sesiones que era "*Inequalities, rural poverty, biodiversity laws*" y tendría que chequear el informe, pero repitamos aquí los cinco criterios que este Consejo ya aprobó en el Consejo en su 166.º periodo de sesiones.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)**

Actually we have only one hour left for today's session, so for the compromise and with the principle that the small is beauty, Bangladesh would like to propose the following.

I am not proposing any new language, I am trying to shorten the paragraph: "*Commended the progress accomplished in the process to refine the approach for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and looked forward to the continuation of the inclusive and transparent approach in 2022*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

This is a fairly short text. But we miss a lot of the discussions which have been taking place in the Council, so let us see whether or not the latest proposal for the compromise of the compromise is "*while considering the particularities of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) inequality, relating to Climate Change and biodiversity*", whether or not that would fly?

I do not see any objections so I put the text as it would read.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'avoue que le texte est un peu complexe. Notre proposition est de s'arrêter après «*LDC and SIDS*», et ne pas rajouter la liste. Ensuite: «*and looked forward to the continuation of the inclusive and transparent approach*». Ma délégation trouve que la liste ajoute à la confusion.

Mon point était que puisqu'on parle déjà de la méthodologie qui est en train d'être développée, pourquoi dire «*while considering*»? Soit ce sont les critères, qui sont reflétés dans la notion de méthodologie, et cette liste, de notre point de vue, est trop longue; donc soit on est d'accord pour mettre l'accent, ce qui est notre cas, sur les pays les moins avancés et les petites îles, considérant leurs besoins, soit on n'est pas d'accord et à ce moment-là il faut raccourcir. Mais je trouve que la formulation est trop complexe à l'écran.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Estamos siguiendo con interés este debate, para nosotros sería importante mantener la lista, nos parece que es muy importante explicitar estos criterios. Sirven para dar cuenta de las disparidades que no

solamente existen entre países, sino también adentro de países. En ese sentido creemos que es muy importante mantenerla.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We submit another attempt without developing anything: “*commended the progress accomplished in the process to refine the approach for Technical Cooperation Programme, resource allocation among regions*”, because that is what we are talking about, “*including the importance of a context-specific approach, especially for Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and looked forward to the continuation of the development of the methodology on an inclusive and transparent approach in 2022*”.

We get the idea that Mexico reflected, as we are moving. We get rid of what we believe is already considered in another report of the Council. We can always refer to that, but as France said, we may not necessarily come back to it. This is the other attempt that we are bringing on board.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could the Secretariat put it as an alternative? Otherwise it is too complex to read.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Agradezco al colega de Camerún por su propuesta y por tratar siempre de ser flexible. Lamentablemente creo que estamos volviendo a uno de los párrafos que ya habíamos dicho de parte de nuestra delegación y que teniendo en cuenta lo dicho por Chile y por México que nosotros preferiríamos tener la numeración, al menos tener... no prejuzgar sobre una negociación que tiene que ocurrir el año que viene respecto a cómo ponderar los diferentes criterios.

Teniendo en cuenta que creo que la preocupación de Francia era que el párrafo era muy largo, tal vez después de “*While considering the particularities of Least Developed Countries (LDC's) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*”, para no hacer la lista muy larga, lo que puede llegar a confusión según dijo la Embajadora de Francia, podríamos poner “*And meet criteria approved by the 166th session of the Council*”, y citamos el párrafo donde están incluidos los criterios y se hace mucho más sencilla la lectura sin una lista muy larga de los criterios.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If the Secretariat could remove the criteria then? The text would read, after the context-specific approach, “*according to the results generated by the methodology being developed, while considering the particularities of the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and by the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the Council, CL166/Rep subparagraph 20(c)*”, and then we delete “*in developing countries with a special focus on*”.

Sorry, we delete also the last sentence “*the development of the methodology*”.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

With all good faith, what I see now does not do justice to the statement of the Africa Group. The Africa Group mentioned the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their statement. We are here to Report on what we said during the plenary, not what we think. Other people said this, and I agree, it is doing them justice. At the same time, other groups also said something and we should do justice to what they said. If we do not do that, the report cannot be balanced.

I may give the alternative another try in case that may do the trick: after “*and looked forward to the continuation of the development of the methodology as approved by the 166th Session of the Council,*” and you give the name of the report. This is another attempt to accommodate, so that everybody is on board.

What I see in subparagraph (a), as it is now, does not do justice to the Africa Group because we are discussing the ‘particularities’. This is not the terminology that we used and it is not doing justice to Africa.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Entiendo perfectamente lo que dice el colega de Camerún. Volviendo al subpárrafo (a), en todo caso quisiera saber si sería aceptable para el colega de Camerún. En vez de reemplazar "*While considering the particularities*" que entendí es la preocupación del estimado colega, reemplazarlo por la frase original "*a special focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the Council*"

Y sugiero después del subpárrafo 23 (c) poner un pie de página donde haga un listado de los criterios. Con eso estaríamos de acuerdo.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Going back to the Report of the Council, when we discussed this matter during the last Council, I noticed that there was no reference to categories of states. The idea, as I recall, and I can see it here in the Report, is that we should try to improve the methodology and improve how we distribute resource and so on. I see, as our distinguished delegate from Argentina mentioned, we have previously mentioned these kinds of categories or criterias that we should use, instead of using just per capita income.

That was the debate that we had a few months ago. So, the idea of mentioning very specific categories is something new. Of course, countries are allowed to include that. But we should concentrate on the mandate that we discussed and approved a few months ago.

The text right now mentions this idea of the criteria approval and that is the focus of our attention. If all Members are comfortable in specifying Least Developed Countries (LDC's) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), it is fine for Brazil. However, I remind everyone that mentioning categories of countries was not the purpose of the exercise we are involved in right now. The idea was to approve new criteria for the allocation of resources.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord indiquer que ma délégation est bien sûr flexible, mais que par ailleurs nous accordons beaucoup d'attention à la position exprimée par le Groupe Afrique. Même de manière générale, je pense qu'il est important, dans les travaux de nos organisations, de porter une attention particulière aux besoins des pays les moins développés et des petites îles. Ce sont un objectif et un principe importants à garder en tête.

S'agissant de la dernière proposition du Cameroun, ma délégation peut la soutenir, et en ce qui concerne la dernière proposition de l'Argentine, je suggère une reformulation qui serait, à la quatrième ligne: "*with a special focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and based on the criteria...*".

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to echo the voice of the Africa Group, as presented by our colleague from Cameroon. I would also like to highlight our interest in adding the Net Food Importing Countries to the paragraph, especially since we are speaking about the Technical Cooperation Programme and this language is approved within the Hand-In-Hand Initiative. It is also approved terminology in other FAO documents and in the WTO. That is why adding this category is important to Egypt.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will keep this subparagraph pending because we are spending too much time and with the last addition, I do not see any possibility to reach a consensus at this moment in the room. I will try to work on a compromise, having listened to all the positions in the room. I will come back to it tomorrow.

I would like to continue now with subparagraph (b). Can we agree to subparagraph (b)?

**Sr. Guillermo Valentin RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Se que cerró el tema anterior, nada más quisiera agregar para que usted trabaje en su propuesta de compromiso que a los criterios que hemos aprobado Con respecto al subpárrafo del tema anterior, estaría faltando uno de los siete criterios mencionados que sería la universalidad. Nos gustaría que, en

todo caso, el criterio de universalidad también esté incluido en el subpárrafo que usted propondrá mañana, que obviamente estoy seguro logrará el acuerdo de todos.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, please?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

If we are moving to subparagraph (b), we would like to propose an additional subparagraph, after subparagraph (a), where we would like to request that FAO put the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs)'s Joint Evaluation Report, including its recommendations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, may I intervene Slovenia? Because we are going to discuss the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Report tomorrow as a separate Item. I do not want to now include any conclusions on the RBA collaboration because we still have to discuss this issue.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

If I may, we know we are going to discuss the Progress Report. At this point, we are talking about the Evaluation Report. We talked about this Report under this Agenda Item. We are flexible. We would be ready to propose this under Agenda Item 12. But we are not sure if mentioning this in our comments for Agenda Item 12, would be acceptable to the delegations.

However, we are flexible. We are in your hands. We just want to propose that FAO put the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs)'s Joint Evaluation Report on the Agenda of the next Programme Committee and FAO Council.

We are flexible regarding where we would like to see it. This is just for your consideration.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Slovenia for your flexibility. Let us keep this pending. We will make due note of it and we will make sure that it will be reflected when it come to the discussion of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration.

With that, I would like to continue with subparagraph (b). Can we agree to subparagraph (b)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai une suggestion d'ajout à ce paragraphe (b), à la troisième ligne, après "*gender sensitive approach*", il faudrait rajouter un extrait de langage agréé de la Réunion conjointe, à savoir : "*...encourage FAO to further improve the effectiveness, independence and fairness of sexual harassment investigation and...*"

Ce sont des mots importants, repris du langage du rapport de la Réunion conjointe, à rajouter dans notre rapport.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We are a little bit reluctant to keep "*gender sensitive*". It is a little bit weak. As regards "*victim-centred*", crystal clear, but "*gender sensitive*", it seems that somebody is suffering more. I shall not be putting that in these words but I think "*gender-centred*" will be self-explanatory and sufficient to explain that we shall not be tolerating any sort of unacceptable behaviours. Thank you. We are not in favour of using "*gender sensitive*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

What is your proposal?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We would propose delete "*gender sensitive*" because we do not think this provides us with a clear guidance and clear understanding of what it is meant there. We shall not be differentiating between the sexes, whether it is a man or woman, when it comes to these unbearable and unlawful behaviours such

as harassment, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. We propose to delete “*gender sensitive approach*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us take up the brackets. Can we agree to delete “*and gender sensitive*”? Is that agreeable?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Si j'ai bien compris, la proposition de mon collègue russe, que je remercie, est de supprimer les mots "*gender sensitive*" pour ne pas singulariser une catégorie particulière. Je ne sais pas quels sont les chiffres, mais je suppose qu'il y a quand même dans les chiffres rapportés sur les cas présumés de harcèlement ou d'exploitation sexuelle, une majorité de cas concernant le sexe féminin. J'ai donc des doutes quant à la suppression de ces mots et je pense malgré tout qu'ils reflètent la réalité des chiffres.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

Well, I just wanted to explain to our colleague from Russia what “*gender sensitive*” means. It means that you are aware that there are differences in how men and women are treated and therefore, when you apply strategies or policies, they are, of course, supposed to be equal because men can also be victims of sexual harassment, naturally.

They can be different. The expressions of it can be different. And, as France also mentioned, generally speaking, the numbers do indicate that women are more exposed to this kind of treatment. “*Gender sensitive*” basically just means that you are aware of the differences and that you make sure to review your policies and strategies with those ‘glasses on’, so to speak.

Perhaps that is an explanation that you can accept and that we can keep “*gender sensitive*”. We believe it is important because it quite often ends up with women being more exposed if you do not have that in mind.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just to express support for retaining “*gender sensitive*” and echoing the point just made by Sweden, that we recognize that the needs of men and women are different and when issues of sexual exploitation and abuse occur, the treatment should also reflect those different needs, and so we would propose retaining the term.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We would also like to retain “*gender sensitive*”, supporting what our colleagues from other delegations have already said.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We may have decided to hijack the word “*gender*”, because I heard what France has to say, that everything is related to the numbers. If we consider that gender is already women-inclined, then we have no problem to keep it there.

**Sra. Maria De Los Angeles GOMEZ AGUILAR (México)**

También nosotros apoyamos que permanezca la referencia a género. Todavía podría ir más lejos la sensibilidad hacia las Lesbianas, Gais, Bisexuales y Transgénero (LGBT), pero con que quede la referencia a género, está perfecto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To avoid a lengthy discussion, is there flexibility by the Russian Federation to accept or maintain “*gender sensitive approach*” in the text?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We are not talking about the statistics. We are talking about the policies and practices and the centre, the focus of these policies, is the victim, whether it is a man or a woman. We shall be protecting the victim. We are not going to differentiate who is the victim. The rationale is clear, but given that the

“sensitive”, and in many countries there are not only two genders, as the distinguished representative of Mexico mentioned, the LGBT community that is, so to speak, a red line for us.

We cannot be accepting this “*gender sensitive*” because it is weak and in the first place it is the victim-centred policy that it is all about. Therefore, we cannot be accepting “*gender sensitive*” because it is ambiguous.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)**

**Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)**

**Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)**

(CL 168/21)

## CHAIRPERSON

I will keep all the subparagraphs pending. I do not think we will make much progress this evening. There is not the right mood on this Joint Meeting Report, so let us keep it pending and perhaps with a fresh new look tomorrow, we will come back to this Item 7.

So, hopefully we will have more luck with the discussion on the Climate Change Strategy. I always remain optimistic and positive looking, on the bright side of life, and I will now present the conclusions for Item 8.1. Of course, we had to make a choice. We could have a very brief conclusion, just reflecting that many elements were tabled for the update and for the Climate Change Strategy, but it was a very rich discussion and I think it is important we have an excellent, rich, and substantive discussion that we try to reflect it as much as possible. I will read out the conclusions and I do hope that we can have a speedy approval of those conclusions.

Sub-item 8.1: *Update on the development of a new FAO Strategy on Climate Change.*

1. The Council noted document CL168/21 *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change* and the associated, inclusive and consultative process.
2. The Council:
  - (a) welcomed FAO's development of the new strategy *inter alia* within the context of the evaluation of the existing Strategy, alignment with the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and recognized the multilateral commitments agreed by Members at the Glasgow COP26 to boost efforts in enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation, adaptation and finance in order to overcome the challenges of climate change;
  - (b) stressed the need to align the new Strategy with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, its PPAs and other related FAO Strategies and initiatives for the Organization's contribution to the achievement of SDG 13 and for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems;
  - (c) underlined the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach but rather adopt a fit-for-purpose principle concerning the diverse contexts, specificities, priorities, synergies and capacities across regions, countries and the local level in developing the new Strategy, which should include recognition that each nation has unique and particular needs for development; the respect for the right of nations to develop relative to their



- culture and internal capacities; and refrain from providing uniform types of assistance that do not match the grantee's needs;
- (d) stressed the importance of supporting all developing countries in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions and national plans, including via capacity building, technology transfer, and financial resources *inter alia* to strengthen resilience building and adaptation;
  - (e) recalled the importance in the Strategy of the Rio Declaration principles, in particular of common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities (CBDR);
  - (f) highlighted the central role of sustainable agriculture and agri-food systems as part of the solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change;
  - (g) underlined the need for a coordinated approach with all stakeholders, including the private sector, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
  - (h) highlighted that the focus of the Strategy should be on FAO's comparative advantages in line with its mandate, to avoid duplication with other international organizations in terms of the relevance of agri-food systems, while addressing and responding to climate challenges in line with FAO's mandate;
  - (i) requested the use of multilaterally agreed language in the Strategy;
  - (j) highlighted multilateral efforts on environmental protection and commitments to decarbonize agriculture and livestock;
  - (k) welcomed the attention in the Strategy to sustainable forest management, nutritional needs, oceans, biodiversity, food loss and waste, soil erosion and ecosystem-based approaches;
  - (l) exhorted the promotion within the new Strategy of the best available science- and evidence-based decision making for prompting solutions, innovations and good practices, including those which may be scaled up and have lasting impact to achieve Zero Hunger and comprehensively address change and sustainability goals;
  - (m) stressed the value of ensuring that the Strategy is socially inclusive and that gender considerations related to climate change are integrated;
  - (n) requested that due priority is given to Disaster Risk Reduction, Early Warning Systems, and resilience to climate change;
  - (o) highlighted the importance of identifying further financing mechanisms and innovative partnerships, including with the private sector and institutional partners, to tackle climate change in the context of agri-food systems to support developing countries, including Small Island Developing States; and
  - (p) encouraged Management to enhance its ambition when formulating the Strategy and implementing its deliverables.

3. Accordingly, the Council supported the outline and roadmap of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and looked forward to continued inclusive process with Members on the development of this thematic strategy.

These are elements which were tabled and referred to by several Member States. We go now to paragraph 1 to see, hopefully, that we have a different mood in the room for agreeing to these paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.

Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any request for the floor, it is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph 2(a).

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

We can accompany on the paragraph, just a slight modification. After the second verb, when we say "*recognize a multilateral commitment*," I think the technical word should be "*understanding*",

because according to the content of the Glasgow Climate Pact, which is the main outcome, the negotiated outcome, of the 26th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries agreed on using “*understanding*” and “*commitment*” when referring to national contributions. With that modification we can accompany all the text.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I was going to say the same thing. I believe that the wording here is “*understanding*” and we support the proposition made by Argentina.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we, with these remarks, agree to this text? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Ma délégation souhaiterait que le langage soit allégé dans ce paragraphe. Après “*...needs for development*”, “*the respect for the right of nations to develop, relative to their culture and internal capacities...*” nous proposons de supprimer cette mention, dont nous ne comprenons pas exactement la portée. Il nous semble que l’idée, si nous la comprenons bien, est reflétée dans le langage au-dessus, donc nous proposons la suppression depuis “*respect*” jusqu’à “*capacities*”.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVİK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

In our statement on the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, we drew attention to the fact that for our delegation it is important that the new Strategy and ambitious measures that are considered in the Strategy be linked and be agreed and go along with economic development and not instead lead to a decline in the well-being and a loss of jobs in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

We think that our proposal here would help to balance, on the one hand, the interests and the goals the international community has in terms of combating climate change, while at the same time, ensuring economic development. So our proposal would be to add text that would take into account the economic factors of development in letter (c) or in the letter (a) which we have already gone through.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us edit here because we agreed to (a) and I like agreed subparagraphs. So, what would be your concrete suggestions for (c)?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVİK (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

After the text “*a one size fits all approach*” in the first line, we could add “*and taking into account the goal of sustainable economic growth.*”

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Just wanted to support France’s intervention for deleting the language on supporting the rights of nations to develop relative to their culture and internal capacities.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

Firstly, we would like to support the proposal made by the Russian Federation. Then, regarding the bracketed text now, we understand that maybe here we are repeating the concepts of priorities, specificities and context but I would like just to explain why for us, it would be important to keep culture, because in our country we have different and diverse group of indigenous people and for them, culture is important because they refer to land as ‘motherland’ and in our legislation, for instance, we provide to them the opportunity to develop and adapt and mitigate according to their beliefs.

That is why we are trying to defend the word culture because although, of course, specificities, priorities, and synergies can cover the main aspects, there are some, let us say, immaterial elements that contribute to climate change efforts. So that is why we would like to.

Maybe we could delete “*internal capacities*” because we will be reiterating the same concepts of the first line. But the cultural thing for us is very important, especially again, related to our indigenous people.

**Ms Ida Ayu RATIH (Indonesia)**

Indonesia would like to support the insertion of our colleagues from the Russian Federation and also support the comment by our colleagues from Argentina.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us take up different brackets. Could we agree to the insertion of “*and taking into account the goal of sustainable and economic growth*”?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je remercie ma collègue russe pour sa proposition. Je vois évidemment l'idée. La seule difficulté, c'est qu'en fait d'autres éléments doivent être pris en compte: une transformation durable des systèmes alimentaires, le respect des droits de l'homme, etc.

Donc, je pense que ce n'est pas seulement cet objectif qu'il faudrait prendre en compte, mais de manière générale les objectifs de développement durable. Si on veut les mentionner, je n'ai pas de difficultés, mais je pense difficile de mentionner un seul objectif de durabilité. Voilà pour le premier point.

S'agissant du deuxième point, je pense que vous voulez peut-être séparer les discussions, mais j'ai bien pris note de la volonté de couvrir les populations autochtones. Il me semble qu'elles sont évoquées plus loin dans le projet de conclusion. Aussi, je propose que le point sur la culture soit évoqué plutôt lorsque nous parlerons plus loin dans le texte des populations autochtones.

Cela évitera de créer des catégories de droits qui ne sont pas exactement définies, je pense, au niveau international. Je comprends l'idée, mais je crois qu'on peut la prendre en compte plus tard.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I was actually going to say a similar thing to what my French colleague said about the sustainable economic growth. We also agree, of course, that we need to make sure that there is sustainable economic growth but we would prefer to have all dimensions of sustainability mentioned and not just pick out one. They are indivisible and I think we all agree on that, so we could refer to all three dimensions of sustainability here. That would be excellent for us, and I also thought that the French proposal on taking care of Argentina's concern further down is a good one. This is quite a heavy paragraph and although a lot of what is here is important to many countries that spoke, it is after all, not a very readable paragraph so if there are things we can do to make it a bit clearer, I think that would be preferable.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to the Russian Federation and the others, if we say, “*taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development?*” Would that be agreeable?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We understand the comments of our colleague and the proposal to reflect the three components of sustainable development, but we have the impression that in the context of the discussion within FAO and not the broader context of the General Assembly, for instance, here the focus is on agriculture and I think, therefore, we should refer specifically to economic growth because measures in the area of climate have an impact on agriculture, and the people working in agriculture and on their income, and on livestock and other areas of crop culture.

We would like to maintain the focus in this context, the context of climate change, and economic growth.

Referring now to the proposal from France. To deleting “*respect for the right of nations to develop*,” we think that is an important aspect and we would prefer to retain the text there. In this case we share the position of Argentina and Indonesia.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending as otherwise it will take too much time. We go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to subparagraph (d)?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with regular contributions around using multilaterally agreed language, we would propose “*technology transfer upon mutually agreed terms*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (d)? I do not see any objections.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

We agree with the proposal of the colleague from Canada, however, we understand that we are addressing National Determined Contributions (NDCs) only as if those were applied to agriculture so we can maybe rephrase? To get some clarity on what we are meaning when introducing the Nationally Determined Contributions.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, but do you have a concrete text proposal?

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

If you give me one or two minutes, I can produce something.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We refer to the proposition made by the distinguished delegate from Canada. I am a little bit confused because here we are dealing with the text that we are going to produce inside FAO. In that regard, I do not believe that France does it, when Brazil and Canada are going to have a bilateral agreement. Of course, this kind of terminology is very useful, but in the case of FAO and the application, or the extension of technical capacity and assistance by FAO experts to developing countries, I am not sure if it is mutually agreed terms.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I look to Argentina. Do you have a proposal?

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

We can just use the super famous caveat “*as appropriate*”, after “*national plans, as appropriate, including the capacity building*”.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I am clear that with Argentina's proposal we are keeping the technology transfer or just stopping the phrase after “*as appropriate after capacity building*”? In any case, we would support Canada's proposal to add “*upon mutually agreed terms*”. We would also prefer to have the term “*voluntary*” included as well. “*Voluntary technology transfer upon mutually agreed terms*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see any other requests for the floor. Can we agree to insert “*as appropriate*”? I do not see any objections.

Can we agree to insert “*voluntary*”? I do not see any objections.

Then we have “*mutually agreed terms*”.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

As mentioned, this is a standard formulation that we see in many different bodies, so we prefer to retain “*on mutually agreed terms*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility to maintain “*upon mutually agreed terms*”?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Now we have “*voluntary*”. I think that the term “*voluntary*” covers everything. That is why we can delete “*upon mutually agreed terms*”

“*Voluntary*” covers the concerns raised by Canada and the United States.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there any flexibility to delete “*upon mutually agreed terms*”? I think so because they delete everything. Wait a minute. We have to correct the screen because for me it is unreadable.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I do not know whether they are mutually exclusive “*voluntary*” and “*upon mutually agreed terms*” I believe that “*upon mutually agreed terms*” is much more convenient to us. So, I prefer “*upon mutually agreed terms*.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending.

We go to subparagraph (e). Can we agree to subparagraph (e)?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We would propose to delete this subparagraph. We do not think that FAO Strategy needs to be part of the implementation of the Rio Declaration. So we think that the basis for the Strategy is pretty well laid-out in the document we have now on the Strategy. Therefore, we would propose deleting this.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This is for me a little bit confusing because I did not understand what we want to achieve here. I think that I need to understand it better if this cannot be bracketed.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

Maybe I am just interpreting the writer of the proposal, but we are recalling the importance in the Strategy to include, or utilize terms, agreed on in the Rio Declaration Principles. Since now we are using “*in particular of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and respective capabilities*,” maybe we take benefit from the understanding of Glasgow in the Glasgow Climate Pact paragraph 18. This very phrase was used with this addition, after “*Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)*” it would be, “*and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty*”. This was agreed just a couple of days ago.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We believe that as far as the reference “*Common but Differentiated Responsibilities*” goes, without that it would be very difficult to go along with this Strategy. Regarding the proposal made by the distinguished delegate from Argentina, we can accept the suggestions. As my previous speaker said, this wording is included in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

I think we should keep this paragraph because Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBRD) is very important, and I also agree with the change proposed by Argentina.

**Ms Ida Ayu RATIH (Indonesia)**

Echoing what my colleagues have said from China and Brazil, we would like to also support the insertion by our colleagues from Argentina.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I think it is very clear that delegations have very different perspectives on Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) and its application in the context of the FAO Strategy. It is certainly not FAO's responsibility to implement CBDR. FAO can carry out its Strategy without reference to this particular Rio Principle, so we cannot accept the inclusion of the CBDR language in this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will keep the subparagraph pending, but we are adding a lot of work to tomorrow and we still have a lot of work to do. At a certain moment, we have to find compromises. I remember that we also have agreed on references to these principles in the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, but we shall look at that. We will keep this pending.

We go to subparagraph (f). Can we agree on subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (g). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (h).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I feel that "*comparative advantages*" may be redundant here. If we just highlighted the focus of the Strategy, it should be within FAO's Mandate. I think that "*comparative advantages*" says nothing. Therefore, I think that it is redundant.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (i). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (j).

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Regarding this idea of decarbonized agriculture and livestock. I believe we cannot go along with that. I believe that the correct term here is to use "*sustainable agriculture and livestock*."

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal is to replace "*decarbonized*" with "*sustainable*."

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVİK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Yes, in agreement with the comment, we would also suggest "*decarbonized*" with "*sustainable*." We support this change.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

I just want to echo my colleagues from Brazil and Russia. During the COP26 debate, the verb "*decarbonize*" or "*decarbonizing*" was used to address the car industry, not agriculture.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je remercie les délégations pour leurs remarques. Pour sa part, ma délégation souhaite maintenir le mot "*décarboniser*", je pense qu'il reflète ce que nous et d'autres délégations avons dit. Notre préférence est de maintenir ce terme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we put the paragraph in yellow because we cannot reach a compromise at this moment. We go to subparagraph (k). Can we agree to subparagraph (k)?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I was raising my hand on subparagraph (j), but if we have moved on, then I can let that go.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see any objections to subparagraph (k), then we go to subparagraph (l).

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

I will address subparagraph (k). We are only mentioning “*oceans*” here and we should say “*oceans, rivers, and inland waters*” in order to cover all the water biotypes. I am not trying to repeat the ‘Blue’ discussion, but the appropriate language would be that one.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (m). Sorry (l). Can we agree to (l)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (m). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (n). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (o). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (p). I do not see any objections.

We go to paragraph 3. I do not see any objections.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We are having a very hard time keeping up with the pace, and I cannot read quite as fast as you are going through these here and I am wondering if there is some way we can share the texts I have not seen these in writing? Have these been shared with the Members of the Council?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, we will send all the text from today via the Members Gateway to all delegations. But I do hope that you are going along with...

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

All I am saying is that we are moving very quickly here. Faster than I think we are capable of reading these and it is very difficult to ensure that we are giving these due consideration. There are certainly a few things we have seen already that give us cause for further reflection. We are in your hands obviously, but I do think we need a little more time to consider the language that we are being asked to agree to.

**Mr Guillermo Adolfo SPIKA (Argentina)**

I am sorry for coming back. I am not sure if we should use the term “*resilience*” or if we should use “*adaptation*” to climate change. Maybe that would be for the consideration of colleagues, but I believe that given the content of the phrase, we should use “*adaptation*” to climate change.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original language Russian)**

I support the comment from our distinguished colleague from the United States. We have been going too fast on the last subparagraphs. I have questions on subparagraph (n) because we mention Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems.

Does that mean we are referring to any international documents in this area? Adaptation to Climate Change? We are looking at the general issue, so I am wondering why we have capital letters for “*Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning System*”? Are we referring to the concept or to a specific document? Or, for instance, the last document on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in Japan.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think they should not be in capitals because otherwise, we have to refer to a specific document or a reference but given that the interpreters already gave us some more time, we have to conclude for today.

I was pushing you because we have so much work to do for the next three days, and it was a rich discussion. We are not finalizing at this moment the Strategy on Climate Change because these are

elements that have to be taken up by FAO in further concluding the draft for the Strategy on Climate Change. Therefore, if there are any remarks, please come back to it tomorrow.

With that, I would like to thank you all for your hard work today. We covered a lot, but we got stuck on Item 7, which I hope can be resolved tomorrow with the support of all of you and the sense of compromise in the room.

With that, I would like to adjourn the meeting. Thank you so much. We will start again tomorrow at 09:30 hours sharp and then we will try first to finalize the conclusions, otherwise we get into trouble with finalizing our conclusions. Then we take up Agenda Item 10, *Report on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)*, and Agenda Item 11, *Report of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*, before we go into the discussion on the UN Food Systems Summit.

I see Brazil asking for the floor, but I cannot give the floor as we do not have any interpretation anymore. If needed, address it tomorrow. I will come back to the issue. Thank you so much. See you tomorrow at 09:30 hours sharp. Meeting is adjourned.

***The meeting rose at 19:37 hours***

***La séance est levée à 19 h 37***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 19.37***



# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session</b> <b>Cent soixante-huitième session</b> <b>168.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021</b> <b>Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021</b> <b>Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b></p>
<p><b>FIFTH PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>1 December 2021</b></p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:38 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 38  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.38  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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- Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**
- Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**
- Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**  
(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)*

*Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)*

*Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)*

(CL 168/21)

## CHAIRPERSON

Members of the Council, dear colleagues, dear friends, very much welcome to the third day of our Council. I do hope you are re-energized after yesterday's long and intensive day.

First of all, you see perhaps less people in the physical room here, that is due to an accident with one of the metros at Piramide. I already got messages from some of the Members of the Council, they could not arrive at FAO and will now follow the meeting virtually.

Secondly, you see next to me a lady, but not Mr Rakesh Muthoo, because he has a cold and the medical advice is not to be present here. He did a COVID-19 test and he is negative, but based on the medical advice he is also following it virtually. He is with us, but not sitting next to me.

Yesterday we had a productive day. We agreed not to have night sessions, but we have to make good progress today. We are making good progress, but I have to press a little bit for time, to make sure that we will be not later than 19:30 on Friday evening, hopefully earlier. Obviously we had a bit of turn down on Item 7, the two subparagraphs of the Joint Meeting, we are working on compromised language in the course of this morning, so I will not start addressing these pending items yet.

I would like to continue now where we ended up yesterday with Item 8.1. I do recognize that there are many items in it, but we had a very rich important discussion. That was the idea of having at the Council the "State of Affairs for the Strategy on Climate Change". I think it is important that at an early stage, all Members, including the Members of the Council, can give their guidance and direction for the further development of the Strategy.

That was the idea of the list of Items referred to in Item 8.1. To list the most important issues, you addressed many in your statements, and it is not that we already agree on all those items, because the Strategy is still in the stage of further development, but the idea would be to address as much as possible under that Item.

I think we have a very good spirit in the room and I call upon your wisdom and your spirit of compromise today to see how we can work united to finalize our draft conclusions. I know for sure that we can do it; I have seen it yesterday and the day before. Yesterday, on Item 3, the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*, we arrived at excellent compromises. Let us continue with that atmosphere and that mood.

We all know a good compromise is a compromise where everybody is equally unhappy, nobody is fully happy, but everybody is equally unhappy. Let us bear that in mind if we are working on compromised language, which we certainly need for some of the subparagraphs.

With that, I would like now to put on the screen Agenda Item 8.1. We go to the subparagraph (m). Can we agree to subparagraph (m)?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I would like to make a consultation about how we are going to proceed. We are going to go back to the beginning of the text as yesterday I recall that some delegations also considered that we were moving too fast, the text is very long and maybe we need to reconsider some issues. Here, we have some pending subparagraphs to go back to. I would like your insight on how we are going to proceed this morning, because I believe that we have had a first reading of the text, first round of negotiation.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

As we have circulated the Order of the Day yesterday evening, we will continue with Sub-Item 8.1, then we take Sub-Item 8.2, Item 8 in general and Item 9, before going again into substantive issues. I first want to finalize this text and then I will go back to the beginning, where we have still some pending subparagraphs to see whether or not we can solve them, based on mutually agreed language. We go at subparagraph (m), and then we will go back to the pending items. Can we agree to paragraph (m)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (n), and there we had the insertion of “*adaptation*” instead of “*resilience*”.

#### **Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We certainly hope we can proceed today with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration on this important text, which we think is one of the most important workstreams that FAO will undertake over the next year, so we do think it is worth taking the time and effort to get this text right. With respect to subparagraph (n), we would like to propose a slight change at the very beginning. Instead of saying, “*due priority is given,*” we would like to say, “*requested the Strategy address*”.

Then, to address the issue about “*resilience*” versus “*adaptation*”, we would like to say, after “*early warning systems*”, “*strengthen resilience and adaptation,*” as we think both are very important to the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and we need to reflect a proper balance between resilience and adaptation, mitigation and adaptation.

#### **Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia, Presidency of the European Union?

#### **Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Regarding the subparagraph (n), we would like to suggest that we add, together with “*adaptation*”, also “*mitigation*”.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nos parece que es aceptable la sugerencia planteada por Estados Unidos de América con respecto a la primera parte del subpárrafo (n), pero luego quisiéramos hacer un agregado a lo que está en ese subpárrafo.

Después de lo propuesto por Estados Unidos planteando “*stretch tend resilience*”, nos gustaría agregar... Voy a leer en inglés a velocidad de dictado “*And reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priority and needs of developing country parties.*”

Si me permite, obviamente borrar el resto y decir que este es el párrafo 6 del pacto Climático de Glasgow. Por lo tanto, simplemente para tratar de utilizar algo que ha sido importante para todas las partes, para todos los Miembros.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we should speak about “*developing countries*”, not “*parties*”, because we are not within the Climate Change Convention. Secretariat, could you speak about “*developing countries*”? Let us first take up the first part, can we agree to the first three lines? I do not see any objections. Then we have the bracket, “*adaptation and mitigation*”. The request is to delete “*adaptation and mitigation*”.

#### **Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I would like to retain the references to “*adaptation and mitigation*” in subparagraph (n). We do not mind the addition of “*reducing vulnerability*”, but we do want to retain “*adaptation and mitigation*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility in the room to retain “*adaptation and mitigation*”? Of course, we are not drafting the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change just yet, because these are elements that should be addressed. We would tackle this issue the moment we have the Strategy itself. Can we agree to the text as it is on the screen? I see nothing, thank you so much. Then we go to subparagraph (o). France.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

En fait, j'avais demandé la parole sur le paragraphe (n). Je pense que tel qu'il est rédigé, “*adaptation*” et “*mitigation*” ne sont pas au bon endroit. Le paragraphe ne veut rien dire et il semble manquer un verbe, mais s'agissant d’“*adaptation*” et “*mitigation*”, il faut garder ces termes et les déplacer à un autre endroit du paragraphe, peut-être après “*resilience*”. Nous souhaitons donc garder ces termes, et je remercie les délégations qui ont accepté, mais je pense qu'il faut les mettre à un autre endroit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put it now after “*resilience*”, would that be agreeable? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (o).

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We just have a slight change in this subparagraph, we would like to strike the word “*further*,” as we think there is still a lot of work to be done to identify financing mechanisms, so the use of the word “*further*” here is not necessary and perhaps would create some confusion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (p).

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the Secretariat for all the explanations provided during the debate regarding the wording. I believe that it relates to the Management, and we appreciate that, regarding its position to provide support and assistance to Members who need technical support on this field, which is very welcomed and important. However, we would like to suggest some adjustments in the wording in the text “*encouraged to note Management’s disposition*” to change to “*enhance*”. I think with that we better reflect the intention of Management to collaborate, but I do not recall that all Members have expressed this idea of enhancing the Management’s ambition on the subject.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nos parece que tiene razón Brasil en lo que acaba de plantear y me gustaría agregar al párrafo (p), luego de “*Its deliverables, through its action plan*”. Yo escuché claramente que el Director General Adjunto, Señora María Helena Semedo, dijo que habría un plan de acción, así que me parece que sería lógico cerrar el párrafo con ello.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I think Ms Maria Helena Semedo made a very good statement yesterday on this. She did underline very much that what this is about is increasing the ambition for FAO’s work. We are asking FAO quite a lot, we want the work to be context specific, according to the country’s needs. It is quite demanding what we are asking FAO to be able to provide all of that support that countries want according to their differences and their different contexts and needs.

I think “*encouraged*” was very well put, I would even state “*welcomed*”. The Nordic countries did in fact call for an ambitious new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. I do recall many others calling for an ambitious Strategy as FAO has the tools to help everyone according to their needs in the very specificities that they have in their countries. I would very much want for the Council to be positive

and welcoming for Management's ambition to have an ambitious Strategy and be able to deliver on the needs of Members. Therefore, "*encouraged*" was fine for us, but "*welcomed*" would also be acceptable.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Our delegation supports the proposal made by Brazil and Argentina. We feel that we must encourage the Secretariat and the Management in this, but when it comes to developing the Strategy, it needs to be ambitious and they need to be ambitious. In addition, the ambitions of the Secretariat do not have anything in common with the ambitions of countries. Therefore, the ambitions of the Secretariat must be agreed upon and they must be in line with the willingness of countries to be ambitious, and to agree on their actions, to align them with the proposal of the Secretariat. In this case, we think that the proposals of Brazil and Argentina are more in line with the character of the interrelationship between the Secretariat and the Members.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme ma collègue de la Suède l'a indiqué, nous demandons beaucoup à la Direction de la FAO. En effet, le nombre de paragraphes juste au-dessus, que nous avons passés en revue, montre à quel point nous demandons à la Direction d'augmenter son ambition et je pense que c'est d'autant plus important après la COP26.

La préférence donc de ma délégation est d'utiliser le terme "*welcome*". Si les délégations dans la salle veulent faire un lien avec ce qu'il y a au-dessus, peut-être qu'on peut rajouter "*welcome accordingly Management's position*".

Par ailleurs, s'agissant de la fin de la phrase, nous souhaiterions rajouter "*including*" devant "*through its action plan*".

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you again to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Just to support, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the proposal made by Sweden and the alternative proposed by France.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar quiero decir que no, no estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de Francia de agregar "*including*", porque lo que estamos hablando es que es en el marco del plan de acción.

En segundo lugar, me parece que todos queremos reforzar la idea de que esta es una Organización de países, de Miembros que le indican al Management cuál es el camino a seguir. Por lo tanto, nosotros por supuesto tomamos nota de que la Administración va a avanzar de manera ambiciosa, pero no queremos prejuzgar sobre esa ambición.

Cuando tengamos los elementos, ahí podremos hacer valoraciones, ya que en este momento me parece es demasiado temprano. No nos olvidemos que venimos de una primera estrategia de cambio climático que no ha sido evaluada porque inmediatamente apareció una segunda estrategia; entonces, estamos en un momento muy temprano, yo diría, casi al inicio.

Creo que, lo primero que deberíamos hacer es tomar nota para luego, obviamente, en la medida que tengamos los elementos, poder ir subiendo nuestros niveles de adjetivos, pero los adjetivos se utilizan cuando tenemos los elementos necesarios. Entonces me parece que "*Noted*" está bien sin que eso signifique o prejuzgue ninguna posición negativa, todo lo contrario.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This is the Council Report, so I would rather propose a more neutral language, which could read: "*looked forward to an enhanced ambition when formulating the Strategy and implementing its deliverables*". Because in a Report of the Council, it is not so good to absolutely note somebody's

position or welcome somebody's position, be it Management, because we do not say the same thing for Members, that is why I am suggesting this more neutral language that I hope will bring us together.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We endorse to complement the idea, but let me go back to this subject of ambition. First of all, I respect the position that some delegations consider this ambition by Management welcome, but anyhow we have to reflect what was discussed in the Plenary and the idea to say that we encourage, it does not reflect the reality of the Members' position in this regard.

Secondly, we have to be very careful about the Management position because they are here to support, to assist Members, and it seems that we are trying to create a wording that says we are favouring a position that does not reflect the reality. Here, we are to discuss what Members want, desire and consider suitable for themselves, so in this case I stress the need to be very careful about the wording we are using. We are not in a position to say that we welcome this phrasing regarding ambition.

We can note the Management position, but that is it, we are not favouring any further progress, as the previous speaker told us, we had a plan, a Strategy on Climate Change on that, just for years, and we are passing for a new one, so we have to be very careful about the whole context.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us not get bogged down on this subparagraph. Perhaps the best way is to delete the whole subparagraph, because we know we are working on a Strategy, we know that there is ambition with the Management. If we get a long time for negotiating the wording, my proposal would be to delete subparagraph. Can we delete the subparagraph? I see nodding.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

First of all, I always have problems when we use adjectives because what is ambitious for me, it may not be ambitious for you. We tend to use too many adjectives and we have to be very clear. My suggestion is to change the entire subparagraph and say, "*encourage Management to finalize the Strategy and to clearly define the implementation process, deliverables and performance indicators,*" that is what we are asking. If we ask them to finalize and show us what they have to do, that is all that we can ask.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voulais remercier mes collègues, notamment du Cameroun. Sa proposition courte me semblait assez élégante. Peut-être qu'il y a moyen de la combiner avec la proposition de mon collègue mexicain, que je remercie aussi pour la fin de la phrase, mais je voulais apporter mon soutien à la rédaction de compromis du Cameroun.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for that compromise, it was unfortunately not flying. I give the floor to Sweden, Luxembourg, and then we have to continue because otherwise, we will take really too much time and time is not our friend anymore.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I also wanted to raise my voice in favour of the proposal made by Cameroon. I agree with Brazil that this needs to show what the discussion was about, I do recall, as I mentioned before, many Members of Council calling for an ambitious Strategy, including the Nordic countries, and the EU and its 27 Member States, and I think there were quite a number of others too. It was discussed, but I think also that Cameroon's proposal was very elegant and I can agree with France for a combination of the Cameroonian proposal and the one delivered here just recently on encouraging Management.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I make an appeal to all the Members not to reiterate their position but to see how to find a compromise because at this moment we do not have a compromise yet.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Just to support what Sweden just said on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We also recall that many, many Members called for an ambitious FAO Strategy on Climate Change, so we would like to keep the reference here in the conclusions. We find the compromise proposal from Cameroon a very good proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Again, I would like to say please see we are going to get a compromise, because at this moment there is no compromise.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros quisiéramos apoyar la propuesta de México. Nos parece una buena propuesta que puede dar una salida a esta falta de consenso que encontramos en este momento.

Nos gustaría agregar, al final del párrafo "A través de su plan de acción". Nos parece que mencionar la necesidad del plan de acción es fundamental. Vimos en la evaluación de la anterior estrategia que este podría haber sido uno de los problemas por los que justamente los Miembros consideraron que quedó corta, digamos, en sus logros. Así que nos parece que un plan de acción es algo importante y además da claridad a los Miembros del proceso de implementación, sus productos y sus indicadores de rendimiento.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No creo que ayude demasiado lo que voy a decir para cerrar este tema, pero debo decir que la propuesta de México con la inclusión de los elementos planteados por Chile a nosotros nos parece muy razonable porque en realidad lo que importa acá es el desarrollo de los indicadores en el plan de acción y nosotros necesitamos medir esos resultados y, por lo tanto, el plan de acción incluso es el instrumento que irá a los Comités Técnicos.

Yo creo que esto debe estar incluido, pero somos flexibles. Si esto no va, entonces creo que vamos por su posición, Presidente, que es que no llegamos a un acuerdo, esa es la realidad ahí. Algunos países que piensan de una manera, otros de otra y entonces deberíamos seguir avanzando en el trabajo, que tenemos mucho esta mañana.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

A proposal perhaps to combine, because I think the decision at hand is regarding the Strategy and then getting into implementation is perhaps looking too far ahead and we will have another moment to reflect on that, when we have another Council session and other meetings. Perhaps combining this with "*looking forward to an enhanced ambition when formulating the Strategy and encourage Management to finalize the Strategy*", with the remainder of this two, to leave aside the implementing and deliverables, we will have another chance to talk about that. Combining the idea of ambition for the formulation of the Strategy itself and clarity around the other products to produce.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will stop this discussion because we are not getting nearer to a compromise, Let us keep this going, let us go back to the beginning and see whether or not we can solve some other pending subparagraphs. We go back to subparagraph (c), and now I would like to ask everybody to be flexible.

I wrote yesterday evening, many agreed texts within the UN also got resolutions and taking into account the goal of sustainable growth and not only economic growth. I think if we speak about growth, it is sustainable growth, the three pillars of sustainable development. Could we agree to say "*sustainable growth*"?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

In order to speed up our work, we are prepared to agree to your proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have this subparagraph solved.

We go to subparagraph (d). I looked to mutually agreed language and I found a quite recent resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution of 17 November 2020 where it is speaking about, in paragraph 35, “*promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.*” Would it be agreeable to speak about “*technology transfer on mutually agreed terms?*” That is a mutually agreed concept.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe we are moving too fast, at least for me. I thank very much for the intervention made by the Russian Federation and we could go along with this insertion of taking into account the goal of sustainable growth. We believe it is a very good one, but we would like to make a proposition here regarding the brackets. We believe that we can accept the idea to remove the last part of the bracket, but we have to maintain the “*respect for the right of nations to develop*”. With the inclusion of “national circumstances” in the second line, I believe that we will have a balance and we could move along.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros tenemos una observación para la línea en el subpárrafo (c). En la línea 5, nosotros quisiéramos cambiar después que dice “*That each Nat”on*” we would like to change f“r “*Each coun”ry*”.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Con los comentarios de Brasil y de Chile estamos absolutamente de acuerdo.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We can agree with the insertion of “*taking into account the goal of sustainable growth,*” and the addition of “*national circumstances.*” We would though like to propose changing “*fit for purpose principle*” to “*fit for purpose approach,*” we think that is a more accurate reflection of the Strategy. More importantly for us, further down, when we refer to national plans, we would prefer to have that say, “*national adaptation plans.*” Finally, with respect to the bracketed language, we would prefer to delete the entire language in brackets.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please may I call upon your wisdom and your spirit of compromise, we are not defining the final Strategy, these are elements that we are asked to consider in further finalizing the Strategy, so let us work, because now I see that we are not getting closer to a compromise.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Tout d'abord je voudrais faire part de la flexibilité de ma délégation s'agissant du langage agréé que vous avez proposé sur l'objectif de croissance durable. Je pense qu'il est important, de manière générale, de s'en tenir au langage agréé au niveau multilatéral. S'agissant des autres propositions évoquées, je remercie mes collègues, mais je pense qu'elles ajoutent un petit peu de redondance.

Concernant la mention de “*national circumstances*”, elle est largement reflétée par les mots qui suivent. Peut-être pourrait-on tout simplement dire “*considering the diverse contexts, circumstances, specificities, priorities...*”, etc.

Je soutiens aussi la demande de mon collègue américain de supprimer le passage entre crochets puisque dans les mots juste au-dessus, on parle précisément des besoins des pays en développement. Je pense que cela aiderait à rendre ce paragraphe plus lisible.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I understand and I sympathize very much with the suggestion of our colleague of the Russian Federation, which in principle is a good one, but I am a little bit confused on the use of goal of sustainable growth. What kind of goal are we talking about here? Is it the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? I do not think it is any of those in the SDGs.



When we are talking about growth, it is the work and the economic growth. I do not know which goal we are talking about, so if we can have a clearer idea, to accept that wording, because there is a lot of confusion in my head regarding which goal are we talking about. The way it is stated, is that part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals?

I also think we that are respecting the suggestion by the United States of America to remove the section bracketed, because we will never come to a common understanding on this, so probably the best way is to do away with that part.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will keep the subparagraph pending because we are spending too much time and, again, we are only listing the elements. We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We would like to propose changing “*national plans*” to “*national adaptation plans*,” just for consistency and clarity. I think that should be capitalized. Then, at the end, we would like to add, after “*adaptation*”, *as well as mitigation*,” to again reflect the need for balance between adaptation and mitigation in the Strategy.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the United States delegation for the suggestion, and we have nothing against adaptation and assistance by FAO to Members’ national plans, but I believe there is some confusion here. There is no contradiction because sometimes developing countries do not have Nationally determined contributions NDCs, or even if they have NDCs, they may also include adaptation in NDCs, it is not mandatory, but can be included, so there is no contradiction and this is not exclusively related to mitigation.

I believe it is safer to say, as it was written before, national plans, without adaptation, we suggest to put it into brackets. Regarding the first sentence, implementing, of course, it is a good suggestion, but we can comment that we should add also the wording “*formulating*”, because many developing countries do not have so far the capacity to formulate national contributions, so I believe that it is a good suggestion, FAO helping developing countries in this sense.

Regarding the discussion we had yesterday, we believe, as a matter of compromise here, we suggest and I go back to my previous intervention made yesterday regarding the discussion about technology transfer, we could accept mutually agreed terms, but in this case we prefer to delete both of them. I apologize for the inconvenience but we believe that transfer of technology is something mandatory in many climates and texts, we believe it fits, in order to achieve a compromised solution here, we can maintain the terms and delete voluntary.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

On that, from our perspective, if “*upon mutually agreed terms*” is retained, we are okay with the deletion of “*voluntary*”. We would support the addition of “*adaptation*”, as proposed by the United States. I think these are recognized documents that we believe both merit listing. Perhaps for consideration, noting that it is upon the choice of each country to accept or not the support, taking out the “*all*” in front of “*developing countries*,” it does not necessarily add value. That it would read, “*stress the importance of supporting developing countries.*”

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais remercier les collègues pour leurs suggestions. S'agissant du début de la phrase, nous pouvons être flexibles. Je souhaite aussi marquer notre préférence pour le maintien du mot “*volontaire*”, et une petite suggestion tout à la fin du paragraphe, après “*mitigation*”, nous n'avons évidemment aucun problème à rajouter “*mitigation*”, mais nous suggérons “*mitigation to climate change*”, pour préciser de quoi il s'agit. Je pense que cet ajout ne posera pas de problèmes.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will keep this subparagraph pending because there is clearly no beginning of compromise. I was hoping that we could at least agree to *“technology transfer upon mutually agreed terms”*, because that is the terminology that is used in the other resolutions, and without the inclusion of *“voluntary”*. However, if Members want to maintain *“voluntary”*, we will not get a compromise.

We go to subparagraph (c).

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

After consulting with Capital, we just want to reiterate our position that this subparagraph should be deleted. In our view, this is not the appropriate place to be discussing common but differentiated responsibilities in the context of the Rio Declaration. We believe that the job of the Council here is to provide guidance to FAO in developing the FAO Strategy and FAO itself is not going to be responsible for monitoring the rights and responsibilities of parties to agreements and conventions, such as Rio or Paris or Glasgow.

We think the role of FAO is to assist countries in taking action to address climate change and not to review the responsibilities of parties to those other agreements in implementing their commitments under those agreements. We think this language really does not belong in the guidance that the Council gives to FAO and for developing its Strategy to assist countries.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Realmente a veces es complicado debatir o discutir cuando nos plantean, en un principio tan importante para los países en desarrollo que fuera acordado por todos los Miembros, y que nos digan, "Este no es el ámbito para discutir esta cuestión". Si no es este el ámbito para incluir el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, si no es este el momento, ¿cuándo es el momento?

Porque en muchas veces hemos discutido esta cuestión en términos generales, pero ahora estamos discutiendo el cambio climático. Estamos discutiendo exactamente la cuestión central de la estrategia de cambio climático y el plan que se va a elaborar por parte de la FAO. Y si los Miembros lo acaban incluso de acordar, a nivel presidencial, en Glasgow, ¿de qué estamos hablando? ¿Cuál es el problema de que haya coherencia y de que mantengamos absolutamente un principio acordado que claramente determina en términos generales una guía?

No estamos planteando cuáles son porcentajes, cuáles son el nivel económico, el nivel de contribuciones. Estamos hablando de una guía, de un principio general acordado que viene desde 1992, que fuera capturado por la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, y que fue nuevamente acordado. Incluso yo lo escuché, si por ahí me equivoco, pero creo que hasta algún representante que se ocupa específicamente de cambio climático lo ha expresado en varias oportunidades, ratificando estos principios.

Por lo tanto, yo invitaría a los colegas que tienen alguna resistencia a incorporar este principio a tratar de mantener la coherencia en términos de lo que decimos en un ámbito, mantengamos la coherencia también en este. Y repito, si estuviéramos discutiendo el Plan de acción relativo a la juventud rural, o el Plan de acción sobre género o el Plan sobre biodiversidad, quizás plantear o discutir este principio aquí podría ser "cuestionable", pero estamos discutiendo cambio climático. Si no es aquí y no es ahora, ¿cuándo?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I will not repeat the words of the Argentinian delegation, but I believe that encapsulates the whole problem here. We are talking about climate change, we are not talking about anything else. If we are not supposed to make mentions here and the verb is very, very clear. We are not creating, we are just recalling something that is adopted by all Members here at FAO. I believe that it is a matter of occurrence to maintain this reference to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities without that, I believe that it will be very difficult to move along with this Strategy. Without clear reference to the principles that we all Members here have adopted and respect.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

Here at the Council we are not talking about differentiated responsibilities. We are talking about the elaboration of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and give guidance. I think in the development of the Strategy we should respect the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). We support the intervention of Argentina and Brazil.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Again, I have to keep this subparagraph pending but I really would like to make everybody in the Council aware that in the context of FAO and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and CFS is a body of FAO.

We already agreed when we spoke about the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition, and then it is on page 31, the footnote, where we “*reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof*”.

It is agreed language and we, all Council Members, have said in the last two days, we should stick to mutually agreed language and concepts. I am not going to continue this discussion but think about it. We are now one hour underway, and we did not solve any paragraph on 8.1. Therefore, I will keep the whole 8.1 pending and we go to the conclusions of 8.2 because otherwise we will never arrive at a Report of the Council. I do hope that wisdom will come back in the room and also the spirit of compromise, because we have to make progress in order to go also to the other issues which are still pending.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)*

*Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)*

*Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)*

(CL 168/22)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I go to 8.2. It is a shorter version. I read them out, we review them and hopefully we get a speedy adoption of these draft conclusions. As we saw yesterday, there was a lot of consensus about the direction for *The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.”*

1. The Council reviewed document CL168/22, *The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy”*, and:
  - (a) welcomed the initiative to develop FAO’s first ever Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening FAO’s capacities to deliver the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Sustainable Development Goals through science and innovation, recognizing in this regard that science underpins all four accelerators of the Strategic Framework;
  - (b) appreciated the guiding principles and the proposed outline of FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, and commended the broad scope of the Strategy as responding to the complexity of agri-food systems, covering all relevant scientific disciplines and types of innovation, including those stemming from indigenous and local knowledge;
  - (c) encouraged FAO to continue to undertake inclusive and transparent consultative efforts with Members for its elaboration;

- (d) highlighted the need of addressing accountability and affordability in science and technology, especially for small-scale producers and family farmers;
- (e) highlighted that science and innovation should be adaptable to national and regional development contexts, addressing national priorities and circumstances;
- (f) underlined the need for due attention to youth and women, and supporting the strengthening of national and local institutions;
- (g) supported the scaling up of good practices in sharing of knowledge, technologies and innovation;
- (h) stressed the importance of using multilaterally agreed language and concepts, especially those agreed by FAO Governing Bodies;
- (i) supported the strengthening of the science policy interface at global, national and local levels;
- (j) noted the importance of increasing investments and strengthening financial resources, including via public-private partnerships;
- (k) look forward to strengthening cooperation with other UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as with the CFS and its HLPE;
- (l) stressed the need for Management to ensure clear links with the development of FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights; and
- (m) highlighted the need to consider all forms of innovation, including social, organisational and financial innovation.

2. With these considerations, the Council supported the outline of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and requested FAO to implement the proposed roadmap.

Let us now go to paragraph 1, the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau? Of course, the text is sent to all of you by email.

Subparagraph (a), can we agree to subparagraph (a)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'avoue que nous avons besoin d'un peu de temps pour lire ces éléments, que vous avez lus plus vite que notre capacité à les imprimer.

Deux suggestions: d'une part, intervertir l'ordre, "*sustainable development goals*" et "*strategic framework*" Je pense que, comme nous l'avons fait à d'autres endroits des conclusions, il faut commencer par l'objectif général que sont les objectifs de développement durable et ensuite décliner avec le Cadre stratégique de la FAO.

Quant à la fin de la phrase, nous préférons la supprimer. La science est évidemment importante, mais en examinant certains des quatre accélérateurs, notamment le dernier, on ne peut pas dire que la science soutienne l'ensemble des quatre accélérateurs. Je note d'ailleurs que cette fin de phrase n'était pas dans les conclusions, sauf erreur, du Comité du Programme.

Il nous semble que le reste du paragraphe tel que modifié nous convient et il est plus en phase avec ce qui avait été agréé au Comité du Programme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As we are not only discussing the conclusion of the Committee but also what the Council thinks and all the Members of the Council think about it. Any other remarks on to subparagraph (a)?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Podemos acordar con Francia la primera parte de su sugerencia de modificación, pero la parte donde se refiere a los aceleradores ya están acordados y habría que dejar los cuatro mejoras y el Marco estratégico, eso es lo que nosotros pensamos.

O sea, solamente corregir la primera parte de Francia que puede ser aceptable para nosotros, pero lo demás entendemos que deberían mantener como está el texto.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

The four accelerators were mentioned yesterday in Sudan's intervention we are therefore in favour of maintaining them.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility to go along with the text as it is?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous sommes évidemment d'accord pour rappeler les quatre accélérateurs, mais sans nouveau langage: "*Recalling in this regard all four accelerators of the Strategic Framework.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be a compromise? I see nodding. Thank you very much. We have an agreed subparagraph (a).

We go to subparagraph (b). Can we agree to subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

In Sudan's intervention yesterday, we mentioned "*the local knowledge and the protection of local knowledge*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Where do you want to include this Sudan?

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan)**

After "and provide effective protection".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lamento mucho que, con su indulgencia, podamos volver al subpárrafo (a). Pero estamos trabajando muy rápido, si podemos seguirle el ritmo a usted, lo hacemos, pero a veces necesitamos parar la pelota un segundo, como decimos en el fútbol, para pensar.

Me gustaría que quedara claro que la FAO trabaja fundamentalmente con la ciencia. Estoy tratando de ver si puedo mejorar el subpárrafo.

Estoy hablando de "*In this regard*", al final queda "*Innovation recalling in this regard*". Como quedaría tachado "*That science underpins*", yo creo que hay que dejar la palabra "Ciencia". En alguna medida tenemos que lograr que la parte de la ciencia esté. Me parece que sería mejor, "*In this regard science underpins all four accelerators at the Strategic Framework.*"

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Recuerdo lo que dijo ayer el delegado de Estados Unidos de América, que necesitamos ir con un poco más de lentitud. Entendemos que estamos contra el tiempo, pero nos parece importante tomar el debido tiempo para evaluar cada subpárrafo.

En ese sentido podemos apoyar lo que ha señalado Argentina en el subpárrafo (a), en cuanto a mantener la mención a la ciencia en este párrafo y tenemos un comentario también en el subpárrafo (c). No sé si vamos al subpárrafo (c) o terminamos primero con el subpárrafo (a).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us finish subparagraph (a).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais encourager les délégations à faire preuve de flexibilité sur le point (a). Ma délégation avait expliqué pourquoi nous n'estimons pas exact de dire que la science embrasse les quatre accélérateurs, car certaines activités de la FAO n'ont rien à voir avec la science.

Nous avons accepté de rappeler les quatre accélérateurs, dans un esprit de flexibilité, et nous espérons que les autres délégations feront preuve de la même flexibilité. Donc, je souhaite que notre langage initial soit conservé et je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Comme ma collègue chilienne, j'aurais aussi une remarque sur le paragraphe (c) à laquelle je reviendrai plus tard.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo sé lo que es hablar de flexibilidad, así que puedo perfectamente expresarme desde la posición constructiva que siempre hemos mantenido. Y creo que, en este caso, en lo que no hay que ser flexible es con respecto a tener en claro cuál es el rol que juega la ciencia en la FAO, que es el faro que conduce el trabajo de la FAO.

Se elabora trabajo normativo gracias a la ciencia. Sin ciencia no habría trabajo normativo, por lo tanto, minimizar o no incluir este elemento en el párrafo, a mí me parece que... a ver, pongámoslo en estos términos, creo que vamos en la dirección correcta de lo que trabaja la FAO, no debería afectar absolutamente a nadie porque es lo que hacemos en la FAO y, por lo tanto, a mí me parece que deberíamos incluirlo.

Pero eso no es una cuestión de flexibilidad o no flexibilidad porque no estamos cruzando líneas rojas de nadie, estamos simplemente planteando algo que entendemos es o refleja el trabajo de la FAO.

La idea es clara en eso.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we not find a way forward if we say we calling "*in this regard that science relates to all four accelerators*". Would that be agreeable?

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Estoy un poco confundido con algunas reacciones de algunos países porque si estamos hablando del título de este tema que dice, "*FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*", ¿por qué vamos a eliminar "*Science*" de los mismos textos? O sea, yo estoy claro, como lo dice mi colega de Argentina que es lo que impulsa a los cuatro aceleradores y me parece que debe permanecer ahí, no veo por qué se debe eliminar.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I would like to support the maintenance of the concept of science in this subparagraph. I would like to suggest an alternative, which may help us through avoiding repetition.

My suggestion would be that after the words "*Strategic Framework 2022-2031*" on the third line, we insert a comma, "*including all four accelerators,*" and then we leave it "*as through science and innovation*". We can then delete the rest of the sentence.

It reads: "*Strategic Framework 2022-31, including all four accelerators, through science and innovation*".

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I was raising my hand to agree with Costa Rica, but having now reflected on Australia's compromise, we can also accept that. We would feel strongly about including science as the other delegations mentioned in the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and do feel it underpins the four accelerators, but I do think that Australia's proposal is a good compromise so we can go along with that.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais rassurer mes collègues à propos de ce point 8.2, entièrement consacré à une Stratégie sur la science et l'innovation. Notre argument n'est évidemment pas de retirer le mot "science", il figure à tous les paragraphes. Je note simplement qu'à chaque fois nous parlons de science et d'innovation.

Ainsi, après avoir réitéré ces éléments, je voudrais remercier ma collègue de l'Australie, car je trouve que sa proposition couvre bien nos préoccupations. Nous pouvons accepter le langage de compromis qu'elle a proposé.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we now agree to the proposal for Australia, I think it is a good compromise. I see nodding. If you show the text on the screen now. I see nodding also from Argentina. Sudan can you also agree?

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

We do agree on this proposal from Australia.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have an agreed subparagraph (a).

We go to subparagraph (b), where we have the insertion of "*and provide effective protection*". Is that agreeable?

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

On subparagraph (b), Thailand would like to propose to add additional texts after "a local knowledge", "*as well as common community-based innovation*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the text on the screen? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c).

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Un pequeño cambio al final de la primera línea. Cuando dice, "*And transparent consultative*". "*Process*" en vez de "*Efforts*".

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous soutenons la proposition du Chili.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand would also like to support Chile.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this text Canada please?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

It should be either "*processes*" or "*undertake an inclusive and transparent consultative process*". So, add "*an*" in front of "*inclusive*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, can we have an agreement on subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

We wanted to add, because we did hear reflected in a number of statements not just about accountability and affordability, but also the benefits. We would like to add to (d): after "*affordability*", "*while also recognizing the benefits of*", and then delete "*in*".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Queremos hacer un agregado. Después de "*Especially for*", lo digo en inglés a velocidad de dictado "*Micro, small, medium producers, including family farmers and indigenous people*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we should maintain "*skill*", otherwise it could be about the length of the producers because normally says micro, smaller and medium produce.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

En la segunda línea quisiéramos agregar "Innovación". "*Benefits of science, technology, and innovation.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thailand can we agree to the subparagraph as it is now?

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

On the subparagraph, can we also include "*access*", so: "*highlighted the need of addressing accountability, affordability and access*", as mentioned in the Asia Group's statement.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this addition can we agree to the subparagraph? I do not see any requests for the floors; it is so adopted.

We go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (f). Argentina.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

It is "*national priorities and capacities as appropriate*" y sacaría "*circumstances*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to these additions? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (f).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Une petite suggestion à la fin, pour bien montrer que ce doit être à la demande des institutions et pays concernés, je proposerais: "*upon request*" après "*local institutions*", ce qui donnerait: "*and local institutions, upon request*".

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I am trying to be quick in my thoughts. I have nothing against the subparagraph. However, I think it is a little bit oddly formulated in the beginning: "*underlined the need for due attention to youth and women*". I would like to say maybe: "*pay due attention to the needs of youth and women in this context*". Otherwise, we are giving attention to women, but not in the about what so to speak. So, something along those lines, just to make it more understandable.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I do not think the final edit proposed by Sweden is reflected there, which was "*due attention to the needs of*" and we agreed to that suggestion from Sweden. There, we would also add "*the needs of indigenous peoples, youth and women*".

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think I may add to the list, from what Canada said. I cannot do otherwise. I was also discussing "*vulnerable people and people with disabilities*".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**



En primer lugar, quería agradecer a Francia por la propuesta de texto que incluyó que era algo que iba en esa misma línea, así que la apoyo. Y también me parece que en definitiva ser inclusivo con todas las sugerencias de los colegas, fortalece y mejora el texto, así que nosotros estamos de acuerdo con ello.

Lo único si pudiera ser que "Upon request", "Upon request of Members", si eso no afecta la propuesta original de mi colega de Francia.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I would like to ask for a bit of indulgence. We were not too quick to react. We would like to comment on subparagraph (e) if it is possible. Just a small comment for subparagraph (e).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first finalize subparagraph (f).

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (original language Russian)**

In subparagraph (f), we would like to propose a slight correction when it comes to "*vulnerable people*", in order to make that the text more in line with the language used in the General Assembly. We would propose to say: "*people in vulnerable situations*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Have we agreed to subparagraph (f) now with all the changes? I do not see any objections. Then I go back to subparagraph (e) for Slovenia.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. In subparagraph (e), after the word "*adaptable*" and after "*to local*," and the rest, is okay for us. To be consistent, we would like to propose in the other part of the phrase, after "*addressing*", since we are talking about local national and regional, to delete "*national*" and replace it with "*the related priorities*" and so on. This is our proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we always use "*national priorities and capacities*" in many conclusions of the Council. I do not want to change now wording we already agreed on. Could we not just stick to only the insertion of "*local*"?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Apoyo totalmente lo que usted dice, Presidente, porque, digamos, ya tenemos mucho para discutir. No discutamos lo que ya está saldado, tratemos de seguir sabiendo que trabajar sobre lo que tenemos acordado es la mejor plataforma para solamente enfocarnos en las pequeñas diferencias o grandes diferencias que tengamos, pero no en lo que ya hemos acordado hace mucho tiempo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we only agree to the insertion of "*local*" and maintain, "*addressing national politician capacities*"?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Juste une remarque de méthode, je pense que comme l'ont dit plusieurs collègues, les discussions vont assez vite. Plusieurs délégations sont revenues précédemment sur du langage dont nous avons parlé. Donc je souhaiterais que le même traitement soit appliqué à toutes les délégations, avec votre indulgence, aussi je souhaiterais soutenir ce qui avait été dit par l'Union européenne.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we put this subparagraph in yellow because we do not have an agreement? I think that could mean that we have to go back to many conclusions, which were already agreed. However, if delegations want to, it is up to the delegations.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No entiendo, ¿estamos discutiendo algo que hemos acordado en todas las sesiones del Consejo sobre el tema de "*Addressing national priorities and capacities as appropriate*"? ¿Eso es lo que estamos discutiendo? ¿Eso es en lo que no tenemos consenso? ¿Podríamos consultar a los colegas que pidieron incluir esta modificación en el texto si es eso en lo que no estamos de acuerdo? ¿En lo que siempre estuvimos de acuerdo?

**CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal would be to maintain the text of "*national priorities and capacities*". Would this be agreeable by Slovenia on behalf of the EU and France?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

For Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, this is agreeable: to keep "*local*" and delete "*the related*". It was just an editorial remark. "Local" is more important for us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have an agreed subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (g).

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Egypt would like to propose in subparagraph (g) that we replace "*supported*" with "*stressed the need for*". Also, after "*technology*", we would like to replace "*technologies*" with "*technology transfer*".

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand would like to propose to insert additional text after subparagraph (g) or it can otherwise be the new subparagraph: "*Highlighted that communication and dissemination of available innovations, technologies and best practices, is as important as the creation of new innovations.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first go to see whether we can agree on subparagraph (j).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Pedí la palabra para apoyar lo expresado por Egipto y, además, agregar después de "*Sharing*", "*Science, knowledge, technology transfer, and innovation.*"

**Ms Josyline (c). JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

If we could please add "*adoption*" or "*adaptation*". So: "*stressed the need for the adoption and scaling up of good practices*".

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

For us, in terms of what this is focusing on, it is focused on good practices of these things especially for being consistent with what the Strategy is, we prefer the original language of "*science, technology and innovation*".

Adding this, we are going back to the climate change debates. We would prefer to keep that at "*Science, Technology and Innovation*" for the reasons that, again, we are talking about the Science Innovation Strategy. I think that reflects broadly what Members said.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We support the change in the verb from “*supportive*” to “*stress the need for*” and the addition of “*adoption*”. However, I think that we agree with the intervention of the United States of America that the Strategy is about science, technology and innovation. We prefer that original language.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility to not insist on “*transfer*”? Egypt.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I think that the document should reflect the discussions regarding science and technology and the document of FAO. We believe that technology transfer and knowledge sharing are part and parcel of the discussions and we would like to see it as an important factor for bridging the gap between the developed and developing countries in the area of science and innovation and food security.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we to get out of this problem say “*of good practices in sharing and transferring of science knowledge, technology and innovation*”? Could that do the trick?

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think that we would prefer the “*in sharing of*”, because now I think again, I want to make sure that we are reflecting the conversation too. And transfer of not only technology now talking about science and innovation, I think, again, the sharing of good practices is something that we could all agree on. We would prefer to keep it as “*science technology and innovations*”. We had the debate in the previous item and we would prefer to keep it broadly.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have to keep this subparagraph pending because Egypt is insisting on maintaining “*transfer*”. We will not have a conclusion on this.

We go to subparagraph (h) proposed by Thailand.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Egypt would like to support the new paragraph proposed by Thailand.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No tenemos objeciones con el subpárrafo en sí, solo nos gustaría corregir “*Good practices*” y “*Not best practices*”, es un viejo debate que hemos tenido, por lo cual prefiero seguir manteniéndonos en la idea de que no existe un único modelo, por lo tanto, son buenas prácticas, no las mejores prácticas.

Y la otra es que es un tema de ignorancia mía que tiene que ver con saber si es correcto y eso quizá lo tendría que informar el Management. ¿Decir que “*The highlight of the communication and dissemination*”, o sea, si ese es un rol que la FAO debe cumplir así como está planteado en el subpárrafo? No sé si es correcto, si técnicamente es correcto, yo no tengo inconveniente con el subpárrafo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see how they can work it out in the development of the Strategy because I think we have an agreement on this subparagraph. We are pressed for time because we only have half an hour left.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to subparagraph (i).

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Just one slight comment on subparagraph (h), again, we are okay with the idea. I think the wording is as important as the creation of new innovations. We do not think that we should be making a value

judgment on that. I think our suggestion would be to add highlighted the importance of communication and dissemination and then delete after good practices.

Again, just because I think going back to the other things, that is more of a value judgment.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable? I see nodding so I think we go now to subparagraph (i).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I know that we have so much discussion on this language. However, we are in a very different context here. We are talking about science. Science has its own words that are not necessarily negotiated and it has evolved so much that if we put ourselves in this jacket here to limit the development of the Strategy on what is already agreed, then there is no Innovation there. I do not know if that sentence is necessary. I am much convinced that is putting ourselves in a straitjacket if we accept that sentence to be included here.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I was going to make comments on subparagraph (h) because I am confused with highlighting with respect to my colleague from Thailand. We said too many things here and highlighting is one thing but here we asking FAO to include some concepts in the Strategy.

My suggestion will be in (h) - and sorry that I came back to (h) - but we suggest that "*FAO's Strategy include innovative practice in communication and dissemination on available innovation technologies and good practices*". That is what we are doing. Because here it is not only about highlighting but we are asking FAO to include some concepts and I tend to agree with Cameroon on subparagraph (i) - if there is a field that can help us to develop new concepts it should be the area of science and technology.

If we put a straitjacket, it is going to be bad for the future.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What is your concrete suggestion for (h)?

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I suggested that "*FAO's Strategy on Science and Innovation includes innovative communications and dissemination methods, dissemination of available innovations and good practices methods*". Something of that nature, because if we strengthen or stress or highlight, it does not mean anything.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the alternative subparagraph please?

**Mme Espérance NDAYIZEYE (Burundi)**

Je propose que pour le point (h) on maintienne "*highlighted*" au lieu de "*suggested*" parce que je vois que le verbe "souligne", "met l'accent sur" ou "se focalise sur l'importance de la communication" est plus fort que "*suggested*". Je soutiens donc "*highlighted*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Burundi prefers to maintain subparagraph (h) so we may keep subparagraph (h) pending.

We go back to subparagraph (i).

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

With regard to subparagraph (h) we are fine with either formulation. They are equally good and just wanted to lend support to Cameroon's intervention on questioning the need for this subparagraph in this context and we would support its deletion as well.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

I really agree with the statement proposed by Cameroon. At this point of time, we are talking about Science and Innovation Strategy. I do not think it is very relevant to talk about the languages. I feel it is better if we delete that phrase.

**Mme Espérance NDAYIZEYE (Burundi)**

Je voudrais proposer de maintenir la phrase, parce qu'elle a son importance, et d'ajouter à la fin: "*FAO Governing Bodies and the United Nations*".

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

In this case, we reiterate our concern about the use of other kinds of language and concepts that are not mutually agreed. We prefer as in the other occasions and as we mentioned in our discussions about this Item that we should be very strict about that. Any document produced by FAO and its Member States should use multilaterally agreed language; it is a matter of principle here.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Our delegation also considers it extremely important to maintain subparagraph (i) in our decision when it comes to the use of agreed language and concepts in developing the Strategy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because we do not have an agreed position on this.

We go to subparagraph (j).

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Our delegation would like to propose an additional subparagraph in front of (j). Our proposal is based on our statement where we referred to the need to have timely assessment of possible risks from the use of new technology and innovation - risks to the health and wellbeing of human beings. So there is also the need to comply with ethical standards, which was highlighted by the Chief Scientist of the FAO. Therefore, we would like to propose the following subparagraph: "*To stress the need of appropriate assessment of possible risks from using the new technologies and innovations to the health and well-being of people*".

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Thank you, Russian Federation for this suggestion but I have a strong feeling that we are being too prescriptive for a strategy. In principle, a strategy lays down the general rules, principles and so on.

Then it is the implementation that may embody this sentence that was put up by Russia now, because it stressed the need of appropriate assessment. You are already implementing and then it is when you are implementing that you can, you can do. Let us put that in brackets for the time being, because I am not so much convinced of the importance of such a development or an element in developing the Strategy.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia would like to support the intervention just made by Cameroon in that it may be premature to include this level of detail at this point in time.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Étant donné que nous avons des conclusions assez détaillées, je pense utile que les approches soient reflétées de manière complète. J'aurais juste deux suggestions: remplacer "*people*" par "*populations*" et ajouter à la fin "*and to address ethical considerations*".

Je voudrais soutenir l'idée présentée par ma collègue russe, évoquée par plusieurs délégations et par la Scientifique en Chef également, qui toutes ont souligné la dimension éthique. Je rappelle aussi que la FAO a signé l'Appel de Rome pour une éthique de l'intelligence artificielle, c'est une dimension extrêmement importante en matière de science.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see no more speakers for the floor and I keep this subparagraph pending because we are not arriving at a consensus. We will come back to it, put the yellow but I do remind everybody with the lack of flexibility and at this pace, we are not going to get our work done.

Please see how we can speed up our work and work on flexibility but a certain moment perhaps if there are contentious subparagraphs you should just delete them and see how it will be covered in studies itself because we are not negotiating the Strategy at this moment.

I go to subparagraph (k).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que cuando uno habla de ciencia, en general, es muy importante darle la libertad al trabajo sin demasiadas prescripciones y sobre todo considerando y tomando en consideración la importancia del Codex Alimentarius, del *Country Programming Framework (CPF)*, creemos que lo que plantea Camerún, es correcto. En todo caso, creo que es una discusión que tendremos que dar quizás más adelante, en otro estadio de la discusión de la estrategia.

No veo mucha posibilidad de conseguir consenso, entonces creo que por ahí deberíamos tratar de avanzar en aquello que sí tenemos consenso.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

That was still on subparagraph (j) but I think you have closed that for the moment.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree on subparagraph (k).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme première remarque, à propos de ce paragraphe, je pense qu'il s'agit d'une recommandation issue du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires et qu'il faut soit modifier la formulation, soit la supprimer ici et la déplacer au point traitant du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires.

Deuxième remarque, plusieurs délégations disent qu'il fallait que la FAO travaille avec les interfaces existantes. Naturellement, ce n'est pas à la FAO de renforcer les interfaces sciences-politiques. Donc si l'on maintient le langage ici, je proposerais: "*Recalled that the Strategy should take into account the existing science-policy interfaces*" ("*interfaces*" with an "s"), et supprimerais le reste.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any observations on subparagraph (k)? Can we agree to the alternative language of France?

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think what France just said is perfectly in order and I think I can lend my support to it.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

Sorry for my ignorance but what does "interface" mean? In a strange definition, interface is where two systems interact. So you are saying here that science goes in one direction and policy goes in other direction and interacting at one point? Or are we talking about the strengthening of public policy frameworks to advance science and technology? That is a different terminology of interface, but I just do not understand what interface is. I have two neurons: one for reading and one for thinking, and these concepts sometimes become very difficult. What does interface really mean?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we just delete the subparagraph because we will see what will happen in the Strategy itself? I do not see any objections so we delete the subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (l). Can we agree to subparagraph (k)?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just for clarity, "strengthening financial resource mobilization".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this insertion? I do not see an objection.

We go to subparagraph (1).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nosotros proponemos eliminar el subpárrafo (1). Entendemos que no es el contexto para incorporar este subpárrafo aquí, tendremos otros lugares donde podremos discutirlo, así que preferiría que sea eliminado.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

We would support Argentina's proposal to delete this subparagraph.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We support Argentina but if there is a strong feeling that it should be kept here then we put a period after "*Programmes*".

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We would go along with the proposition by Argentina supported by the United States of America to delete this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

India, I assume you are speaking in your capacity as India. Sorry, in accordance with the Rules and Procedures I think the Chairpersons of Committees cannot interfere with the negotiations on the conclusions.

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

I will speak on behalf of India. I will just take a minute, I do not want to delay the lunch. Actually, many delegations have made reference to the National Agricultural Research Institution but no subparagraph is mentioned in the conclusions. I want to add one subparagraph: "*Supported the strengthening of the National Agricultural Research Institutions, and Science Policy Interface at global, national and local level*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are going to break for lunch because it is 12:00 hours and the interpreters have to take the break. I already thanked the interpreters for their hard work this morning. At the beginning of this morning I said I was not getting nervous or stress, but I am starting to get nervous and stressed, because at this pace, we are not going to end any of our conclusions during this week.

I have to give you some time not only to consume your lunch, but also perhaps consume flexibility and compromises in your lunch so that we can speed up our work this afternoon. We need to go to the conclusions of the rest of the Items 8 and 9, the Finance Committee before we can go to the important issue of Food Systems Summit, which will take certainly some time.

Please enjoy your lunch and make sure that you consume flexibility, compromise and wisdom. We will all back at 14:00 sharp in this room.

Thank you, meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:01 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 01*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.01*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session  
Cent soixante-huitième session  
168.º período de sesiones**

**Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021  
Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021  
Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021**

**SIXTH PLENARY SESSION  
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**1 December 2021**

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:02 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 02  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.02  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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- Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**
- Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**
- Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**  
(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)*

*Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)*

*Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)*

(CL 168/22)

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Members of the Council, dear colleagues, dear friends, I hope you had an excellent lunch, hopefully spaghetti with a sauce of wisdom, flexibility and compromise, because we certainly need that to speed up our work.

What I will try to do now is finalize Item 8.2 and finalize means not the pending issues but the text which was on the screen. I am already working on compromises for outstanding issues, and for some of them, we are almost there.

I would like to go to the remaining items on Item 8 and of course, the Report of the Finance Committee that, you will see, are much shorter conclusions.

Then, of course, I would like to go through the Reports, which we have to address on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In addition, I really would like to take up today the Food Systems Summit issue. Again, I hope that we will have a lot of flexibility and compromises in the room.

If there are items not concluded, I will keep them pending for compromised language, so that we have some substantive work to be done today as well on those three items.

With that, I put on the screen Item 8.2 and I go to subparagraph (m). We will keep (m) pending.

We go to (n). Can we agree on (n)?

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

May I kindly ask again for you to pass the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia)(Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to keep the reference or the paragraph on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and we wanted to propose an alternative language for this as a proposal for the Members.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

This subparagraph is pending, so I do not want to revisit those subparagraphs. However, please send your suggestion to me because I have to work on compromised language since there was no agreement on that subparagraph. Just send it to me, because otherwise, we go back and forth, and I will try to work on compromised language, which hopefully can suit all of the Members of the Council.

With that, I would like to continue to subparagraph (n).

I do not see any reflections on subparagraph (n), so good start that we have an agreed subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (o). Can we agree on subparagraph (o)? I do not see any objections.

Then, of course, we keep paragraph 2 pending because we have to first finalise paragraph 1. We will come back to it if we have agreed to everything.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee (*continued*)**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme (*suite*)**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would now like to continue to Item 8, *Reports of the 131st Session and 132nd Session of the Programme Committee*.

I will put on the screen the draft conclusions, which are much shorter than the last items.

1. The Council welcomed the *Report of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) Session of the Programme Committee*, and in particular:
  - (a) noting that the mandate of the incumbent Director of the Office of Evaluation ends on 31 January 2022, agreed with the high-level roadmap for the process of recruitment of the new Director of Evaluation, contained in *Appendix 2* of document PC 131/21, conforming with the Charter of the Office of Evaluation.
2. The Council welcomed the *Report of the 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Session of the Programme Committee*, and in particular:
  - (a) welcomed the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Private Sector Engagement, and endorsed the updated Due Diligence Framework for Risk Assessment and Management of Engagements (FRAME), and the Terms of Reference of the informal Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG);
  - (b) stressed the need for improved governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights being developed further to the guidance of the 166th Session of the Council, and the 42th Session of the Conference, and looked forward to their consideration by the Council at its next session through the Programme Committee and the CCLM in line with their respective mandates;
  - (c) approved the indicative rolling work plan of evaluations 2022-2025; and
  - (d) welcomed the Rural Youth and Gender Action Plans and their alignment with the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25.
3. With these observations, the Council endorsed the Reports of the 131st and 132nd Sessions of the Programme Committee.

Of course, the last one we keep pending because tomorrow we will address one other issue of the Programme Committee.

We go to the chapeau of paragraph 1. Can we agree to the chapeau of paragraph 1? We will go one by one. Only the chapeau of paragraph 1. Can we agree to the chapeau of paragraph 1? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph 1(a). Can we agree to subparagraph 1(a)? I do not see any objections.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I do not know whether we should talk of “*high-level roadmap*” or “*high-level panel*” because I agreed with the roadmap and the high-level panel put in place for the process of the recruitment. I think that is what I wanted to say because I do not see “*high-level roadmap*”. What does it mean?

**CHAIRPERSON**

When I was reading it out, I was thinking what is a “*high-level roadmap*”? I think it is “*a high-level panel and roadmap*”. You are completely right. Thank you for that, Cameroon. Can we agree to (a)? I do not see any objection.

We go to the chapeau of paragraph 2. Of course, the text is sent to you by email.

We go to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2. Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to subparagraph (b).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Cuando empezó el Consejo el lunes, 29 de noviembre de 2021, yo vine con una posición que era la de que íbamos a tratar de mantener sin abrir lo acordado en cada uno de los Comités. Usted sabe que esa era la posición que nuestra delegación tuvo, la cuales aprovechar los consensos que habíamos construido durante el Comité del Programa, y en su reunión conjunta con el Comité de Finanzas. Entonces, yo lo que quisiera, porque ahí tengo alguna duda sobre el texto y creo que hay alguna interpretación técnica que me gustaría considerar.

Yo no sé quién debería ser por ahí del Management, o digamos, quién podría darnos alguna clarificación. Porque hemos tenido una discusión complicada en el Comité del Programa vinculada a la diferenciación entre lo que es la cuestión de las estadísticas y la cuestión de la política general de datos. O sea, yo creo que está claro que hay una política general de datos que tenemos que discutir y por otro lado tenemos una cuestión vinculada al tema estadístico.

Yo quisiera saber si aquí estamos o a qué estamos refiriéndonos en este texto. Esto es lo que no tengo claro, quizás usted lo puede clarificar, Presidente. Porque usted participó como parte de esa sesión del Comité del Programa. Me gustaría por favor, si es tan amable.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Before I answer the question, I give the floor to Ms Donata Rugarabamu.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

In this context, the Programme Committee was addressing statistical governance at large and, as Members are aware, FAO is the leader in the UN system in the context of statistics related to food and agriculture. It was a broader matter. This is distinct from the data protection matters.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo entonces este tema lo veremos en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos seguramente como un tema central, y pido disculpas por haber interrumpida su gestión rápida y eficiente.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Just a small amendment. Of course, it is not a matter of substance, just to adapt the language proposed by the Secretariat. Here in subparagraph (d), just to be more precise, I think we are in the process of developing those action plans, so I suggest, and I quote, “*welcomed the ongoing process of*

*development of the Rural Youth and Gender Action Plan, with the full engagement of Member States, and their alignment with the Strategic Framework”.*

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estoy de acuerdo con lo que dijo el representante de Brasil.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (d)? I see nodding, no objections.

As I said, we keep paragraph 3 pending until we have dealt with all the issues. I think with that, we continue now with Item 9.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am not sure that the Secretariat is following you. It should be in brackets.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep paragraph 3 within brackets.

**Item 9. Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (28-29 October 2021) and 188th (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee (*continued*)**

**Point 9. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-sixième (7-9 juin 2021), cent quatre-vingt-septième (28-29 octobre 2021) et cent quatre-vingt-huitième sessions (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité financier (*suite*)**

**Tema 9. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 186.º (7-9 de junio de 2021), 187.º (28 y 29 de octubre de 2021) y 188.º (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité de Finanzas (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/9; CL 168/16; CL 168/20)

*Item 9.1 Audited Accounts - FAO 2020*

*Point 9.1 Comptes vérifiés – FAO 2020*

*Tema 9.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2020*

(C 2023/5 A; C 2023/5 B)

*Item 9.2 Status of Current Assessments and Arrears*

*Point 9.2 État des contributions courantes et des arriérés*

*Tema 9.2 Estado de las cuotas corrientes y los atrasos*

(CL 168/LIM/2)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to the conclusions of Item 9, the Finance Committee, and again, we try to be very concise. Item 9, *Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee*.

1. The Council considered the Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee, and in particular:
  - (a) urged all Member Nations to make payment of assessed contributions on time and in full;
  - (b) recommended the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2020 as presented in Appendix 10 to this Report;
  - (c) noted the concern expressed by the Finance Committee on the impact of unfunded employee benefit obligations on the financial position of the Organization and supported the guidance to Management to continue to review options to address the funding gap in the context of the considerations of this matter by the United Nations General Assembly;
  - (d) noting the intrinsic linkage between internal control and risk management, urged Management to keep the integrity, architecture and mechanisms of internal control under continual and due attention and review;

(e) encouraged the filling of vacant positions across the Organization, especially in regional and country offices *inter alia* for the effectiveness of delivery at decentralized level; and

(f) noted that the recommendations arising from the JIU Report, *Review of Whistleblower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations (JIU/REP/2018/4)* and JIU Report, *Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function (JIU/REP/2020/1)* on formal procedures for the investigation of complaints of misconduct by executive heads were the subject of an ongoing UN System-wide consultative process for a harmonized implementation approach and requested Management to keep the Finance Committee updated with respect to this recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit, and requested Management in accordance with the results of this consultative process to develop draft procedures to be presented to the Finance Committee for its consideration.

2. With these observations, the Council endorses the Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee.

We scroll up and we go to the chapeau of paragraph 1. Can we agree to the chapeau of paragraph 1? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

When it concerns the question of the Committee urging Members to pay on time and in full, which is quite right for the Committee to do so. I made a statement also regarding this question of FAO acquiring local currencies where there are FAO offices, perhaps FAO could accept local currencies from the country upto its requirements and credit with corresponding dollars, the country bearing any losses of exchange.

Maybe we should reflect that because that perhaps would positively address the question of arrears and I do not see anything. Although the Secretariat had responded that that was feasible, and I think from the floor, also some countries were in favour of it.

Would it be possible to reflect that aspect?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Pakistan, do you have a concrete text proposal?

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

May I come back on that?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, okay.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, para apoyar lo que acaba de decir el Representante de Pakistán. En segundo lugar, en el subpárrafo (a), quisiera decir "*Urge all Members*" y sacaría las palabras "*Nations to make payment*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is indeed correct that we speak about Members. We will replace Member Nations by Members.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

According to the Constitution, it is only Member Nations who make assessed contributions. Member organizations contribute but not in the context of the assessed contributions, which is why traditionally we have referred to Member Nations in this context.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Ms Donata Rugarabamu, for keeping us in accordance with the Basic Texts. I think with that, we should retain Member Nations. We wait for the suggestion of Pakistan, so we go to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We have a proposal to make as regards a new paragraph that, in our view, would properly address the issues raised by the Russian delegation and representatives of some other delegations, and that concerns the UN system-wide approaches. If you would allow me, I would make the following proposal.

The new paragraph is the following: “*stresses the importance of a coordinated and unified approach of the UN system organizations in overcoming common challenges by ensuring coherence in administrative and financial areas of their activities*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I did not see any comments on subparagraph (b), so let us now go to the new subparagraph (c). I will give you some time to read it. Can we agree to subparagraph (c) that is proposed by the Russian Federation? I do not see any requests for the floor. So adopted.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

With subparagraph (c), could we add to the end of activities, “*insofar as possible*”?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this insertion? I do not see any objections. Then we go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to subparagraph (d)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (f).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I believe you can shorten it a little bit because we mentioned Regional and Country Offices and then we talk of decentralized level. I believe that we can combine Regional and Country Offices in one word, especially in decentralized offices. In two words, I mean, decentralized offices integral for the effective delivery. At that level.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quisiera ver si en el subpárrafo (f) podríamos agregar al final y lo dicto en inglés a velocidad de dictado. “*Taking into account the importance of maintaining regional representation balance*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now agree to the revised subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (g).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The Africa Regional Group has always referred to the fact that there there are some concerns, especially when we are in the Regional Conference, of the distribution of staff in our region. I do not want to say it here, but this is, for us, a little bit ambiguous to maintain here.

When we say in the Decentralized Offices, so if we have to send people in our region, if there are ten staff members, we need to distribute those staff among seven regions. That is what I say – it looks a little bit ambiguous to us. I do not know if there is another way to overcome that ambiguity. Let us put that in brackets for now because it is not very clear in our mind, how that maintaining regional balance, for example, in our region can express itself concretely.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo creo que Camerún tiene un punto ahí. Y quizás en vez de "*Taking into account*", yo trataba de expresar algo que en general muchos Delegados, sobre todo no solo del Grupo Regional de África, pero en particular algunos han expresado en el pasado, entonces quizás podríamos decir "*Ensuring balanced regional representation*", pero no se si eso puede ser satisfactorio para mis colegas.

De todas maneras, estamos abiertos a buscar consenso sobre eso.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am not so sure that will do the trick. Let us give it a second thought because I am not sure that it is only the problem that we are expressing here. So, let us put it in brackets for the meantime. We will try to reflect on it.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to propose, "*ensuring equitable regional representation*" instead of "*balanced*" because balanced for us sounds a bit vague.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What was your concrete suggestion?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

"*Equitable geographical representation*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us chew on it. We go to subparagraph (g). We keep it pending and we come back to it. Subparagraph (g). I will give you some time to read it because it is a long subparagraph.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We would like to propose a small amendment to the fifth line of this paragraph. By executive heads, delete "*were*" and replace it: "*remains the subject of the UN system-wide consultative process.*"

**Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)**

Regarding this subparagraph, to be honest, we do not believe that this fully reflects the discussion that we had because this conflicts with the conclusions of the Finance Committee meeting, which was mindful of the possible UN system-wide consultative process but at the same time requested Management to keep developing the procedures.

I would like to suggest for this item to more adequately reflect the debate that we had on this item yesterday, that perhaps we revert to the language that we used in the Finance Committee Report conclusion, which was accepted by the Members of the Finance Committee. I have the language handy, if it would be helpful to read it out, unless the Secretariat has it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put it as an alternative but, as you know, we had quite an extensive discussion two times yesterday in the Council, which partly was in line with the conclusion of the Finance Committee, but partly it was also going beyond the discussion in the Finance Committee. That is why we reflected this in this conclusion, but we will certainly put the conclusion as an alternative in this subparagraph.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I support what the Russian Federation has proposed. I have difficulty in using the text of the Finance Committee's Report because, to me, there is a little contradiction there in the text. On the one hand, it is suggesting that the Organization should coordinate with the broader UN system efforts and, on the other hand, it is putting a limit to come to the next session of the Finance Committee. It is like wanting one thing and it is opposite as well.

I would have difficulty with transporting what the subparagraph in the Finance Committee is saying because I feel there is a contradiction there. You cannot have a coordination with the broader UN

system and then come to the next session when the broader UN system perhaps has not completed or has not had meetings, which were necessary for this coordination. I would in that sense support what Russia has suggested because it is a simpler way of completing this subparagraph.

**Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)**

Respectfully, we do disagree, as I noted during the discussion yesterday. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report recommendations were for the Governing Bodies of each Organization to develop their procedures and, as mentioned yesterday, even if the Chief Executives Board (CEB) should issue broad strategic guidance, each Organization will also need to come up with its own procedure. These two things can happen at the same time. The Organization can work on its procedures and adapt them as we go, in accordance with broader strategic guidance.

I also would like to note the addition of subparagraph (c) today by our colleagues from Russia, which already captures the spirit of a UN system-wide approach. So, mindful of that, perhaps we suggest deleting this paragraph altogether and keep the Finance Committee Report conclusions as they were.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

I agree with the representative from Pakistan regarding the conclusions of the Finance Committee. We would have the same concern, that we see a contradiction in the text and that would be a reason for concern. Yesterday, as I said, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report was not produced by FAO. We have our own Governing Bodies but we must respect the common approach of the United Nations, to be coherent, and therefore, my suggestion would be to maintain this paragraph in the Council Report. I think that would be the best conclusion.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Argentina no es miembro del Comité de Finanzas, por lo tanto, yo no participé en esas discusiones. Lo que sí tengo claro es que yo vine a esta sesión del Consejo el lunes, como lo dije en el Comité del Programa, con la idea que íbamos a tener los tres Informes de los Comités del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y la reunión conjunta con un Informe que se iba a mantener sin reabrir.

Por razones que no interesa en este momento discutir, todo lo discutido se ha reabierto. Entonces digo, este es un punto central porque si hubiéramos mantenido este principio... yo no estoy refiriéndome específicamente a este párrafo en particular, sino estoy refiriéndome a la idea de que deberíamos mantener lo acordado en cada uno de los Comités. Ese principio general, digo, ha sido no respetado en términos del criterio que algunos hemos propuesto. Por lo tanto, digo, está claro que todo se ha reabierto y todo está en discusión. Este es el principio general.

Luego voy a referirme específicamente a lo que expresé en mi intervención, que no está capturado en esta declaración, y que quizás podría ser incluido en este subpárrafo (g) o en otro, que tiene que ver con lo que yo planteé, que el escenario excepcional del COVID-19 estaba generando en los países en desarrollo dificultades enormes para poder pagar sus contribuciones y para poder honrar sus propias deudas.

Esto es un tema realmente importante, es un tema delicado para muchos de nuestros países, por lo tanto, no percibo en este Report que haya habido una incorporación de esta problemática concreta que afecta las organizaciones y que tienen que ver y que se debe explícitamente a las dificultades económicas y financieras que los países tienen en este momento, fundamentalmente, por el agravamiento de sus problemas estructurales debidos al tema de la pandemia del COVID-19.

No hay una normalidad única en cada país, hay diferentes normalidades. La situación del COVID-19 vino a agravar absolutamente todos los problemas que teníamos. Entonces, no me parece que en el Informe del Comité de Finanzas no haya un mensaje expreso respecto a esto. No sé si debería ser incluido en este subpárrafo (g) o no o en otro, pero digo, me parece importante. Yo no hubiera pedido la palabra para cuestionar o discutir estas cosas si hubiéramos sostenido la idea de que no se iban a reabrir los puntos en los diferentes Comités.

A partir de que esto no fue así, siento que entonces todo está reabierto y, por lo tanto, hago estos comentarios con un fin constructivo, que es reflejar la situación crítica de muchos países en desarrollo



respecto de la problemática del pago de contribuciones en las diferentes organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y, por supuesto, en particular en la FAO.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

If you want this reflected in the text, I invite you to come with a concrete proposal.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We would like to repeat the idea that was recently aired many times, that the Finance Committee is one of the Committees that advises the Council in its deliberations. It is up to the Council to decide what recommendation to take off and what to take on board. Many thanks to the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan for drawing our attention to this contradiction that stands in the Finance Committee recommendation.

We fully agree with the idea that we act within the UN system organizations, and we appreciate the development of common approaches to address common challenges. We cannot be introducing procedures without the common approaches, without the authorization of the Chief Executives Board (CEB). We cannot be preemptive as regards the CEB deliberations but at this very time we believe that it is far too early, to commission the Finance Committee to deal with concrete procedures during its next Session.

We would propose to keep the original subparagraph or, as a matter of compromise, we would propose to delete the last phrase of the Finance Committee decision that starts with “*requested Management*”. That is a compromised decision for your consideration, but our sentiment is to keep the original subparagraph (g).

#### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

To try to reflect the discussion that occurred last night, noting that the Council Members were not in unanimous decision by the way, I have a similar proposal to what the Russian Federation just put on the table in terms of working off subparagraph (g), not the Finance Committee Report, and deleting part of the final text.

Whereas Russia has suggested deleting in its entirety “*and requested Management... for its consideration*”, that was my understanding of their proposal, my suggestion would be that we start by deleting the word “*in*” on the third last line, through to “*process*”. It would read, “*and requested Management to develop draft procedures.*” I think this will probably go. I hope it will go some way to reaching a compromise, noting, Chairperson, your earlier comment that not everybody is happy with a compromise, and it is certainly not our preferred option but it is on the table for consideration.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Australia, for your spirit also to find a compromise. I hope it can fly.

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I entirely agree with what the Russian Federation said about the role of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee. They are advisory committees of the Council. The Council, made up of 49 Members, can have a different view than the Finance Committee or the Programme Committee. We do not have to accept blindly what each Committee says. They are advisory Committees of the Council. We are supposed to evaluate what they are saying, what they are recommending, what their findings are, and then the Council decides what its views are.

Secondly, even if the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)’s Report, the recommendation, is addressed to the Governing Bodies, the Governing Bodies must go for a process, which brings back to them, through the Secretariat, an informed position within the UN system. We have various topics and subjects, which the UN system as a whole is dealing with, and FAO is part of that.

Why is this single Item being taken out from that process? It will come back to us. Let the process go ahead and it will come back to the Council for decision. Why shortcut everything and not wait until the whole process is there and the consultation takes place, and we get an informed opinion back here, an informed opinion, in the sense, that it is the UN system opinion, and not one or two organizations.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me not come back to the argument we brought on this issue in previous sessions, but I would like to look at (g), because alt is a no go for us. People should know it. That is the red line. It is a no go.

What we can address in (g), from “*UN system-wide considered process for a harmonized implementation approach and requested Management*”, and I want to make an addition, “*requesting Management to keep the Finance Committee*” or “*to update regularly the Finance Committee on the outcome of the consultative process*”, period, and for the rest to be deleted.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I would like to make a couple of points but let me start by acknowledging, as it was said here, absolutely correct, the Finance Committee has its deliberations, the Programme Committee has its deliberations, and it falls to the 49 Members of this Council to decide what to put in the Report. However, one important point for consideration, I understand the points about the UN system-wide approach but, again, our Organization remains at risk. Our Director-General will remain at risk until there are procedures in place. I note that other UN specialized agencies, notwithstanding any ongoing are yet to start consultations on a system-wide approach, have gone ahead and developed procedures to avoid this type of risk and it seems to me, incomprehensible, that our Council would want to just take a wait-and-see approach and tolerate that additional risk.

That being said, since I think I have heard clearly that other Members of this Council do not wish to include the alt text, I can withdraw my suggestion for that. If we are to go with the text in (g), I appreciate the suggestion for a compromise. I do feel that we have the language up in subparagraph (c) on UN system-wide approaches, but I do have a question before we would agree to this, for the Legal Counsel, and that is, what is the anticipated timeline on this Chief Executives Board (CEB) discussion of these Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations? Has it, in fact, started? If the Legal Counsel could clarify that, I would appreciate it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first get the answer of the Legal Counsel because perhaps that helps us with our deliberations.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Indeed, with respect to the query as to whether or not deliberations or consultations have started, or whether there is a timetable, at this time there is no timetable. Nevertheless, of course, I am more than ready to contact the UN and ask for further clarifications in that regard.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I agree with the Russian Federation. I also agree with Pakistan regarding the Reports of the Committees. The Programme and Finance Committees present Reports and they are adopted by the Committees. However, the Council adopts the entirety of the Reports altogether.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps the suggestion made by Australia could help us out.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I promised yesterday to be brief when I comment on this important controversial matter. I have two points to say. I said yesterday that there is contradiction and parallel tracks regarding the treatment of this matter.

Second, I agree with Pakistan as regards to the wait-and-see approach. Until the consultative process is conclusive, we should not aim for an outcome of a process before the process takes place. Therefore, I believe that we should maintain the wording of this paragraph with just a few tweaks in order to find a compromise.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais, comme je l'avais fait durant la discussion, exprimer mon soutien au langage du rapport du Comité financier sur ce point, et de manière générale au rapport du Comité, que ma délégation peut approuver tel quel.

Sur cette question plus spécifiquement, de manière générale, il me semble que la FAO, comme toutes les institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies, se doit de mettre en œuvre les recommandations du Corps commun d'inspection (JIU), comme nous le faisons, sans attendre un processus consultatif sur le multilinguisme, par exemple, et je m'en félicite.

J'ai bien entendu les remarques des uns et des autres et si les délégations souhaitent attendre le processus consultatif, peut-être pourrions-nous demander que la Direction accélère le processus consultatif pour s'assurer que le calendrier ne sera pas trop long.

Ma délégation fera preuve de flexibilité, mais encore une fois je pense qu'il est très important de refléter les recommandations du JIU.

S'agissant, par ailleurs, de la remarque de mon collègue argentin sur les arriérés, j'y reviendrai plus tard, car s'il y a un nouveau paragraphe, nous voudrions y insérer les éléments dont nous avons parlé à l'oral, sur le respect des résolutions du JIU.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We have got a proposal to request the issue of the timelines of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) recommendations and their implementation, and for that reason, could I kindly ask you to scroll up the text to the new subparagraph (c)?

I would kindly ask to make the following amendment of this paragraph so that we could be addressing the issue of timelines of CEB recommendations, and the issue of keeping the Membership informed on the progress achieved so far.

My proposal would be to start the amendment from the phrase "*the activities,*" "*and invite in this regard the FAO Management to provide regular updates on the relevant decisions on the UN General Assembly as well as on the ongoing deliberations of the CEB concerning the development of common approaches to address managerial, financial and programmatic challenges.*"

In that sense, I believe that "*insofar, as possible, as soon as we are guided by the UN General Assembly on UN system-wide approaches*", this seems to be a little bit irrelevant. Insofar, as possible, as we understand could be less than proposed by the CEB, but it is not the idea that we strive for.

With that amendment, can I ask you to scroll down to the subparagraph (g), and delete the part starting "*requesting Management*" until the end.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Usually I do not want to argue when we are adopting conclusions because the tendency is that we come back to the discussion that took place in the Plenary, so we tend to be positive in adding language or removing language in the proposed text, and I think that is how we should go about. So here I am a little bit deviated from that, and offer something probably a bit different: how we treat the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Reports. I have seen it treated here on so many occasions that I am a little bit confused by the way we want to treat this specific Item in the Report. Usually, what we take out is what concerns the Organization. If we are in FAO, the JIU Report with regard to elements concerning FAO, JIU Report with elements concerning WFP and so on. That is how we treat it.

However, when it comes to a global common system, the way we treat it is we look at how it evolved within the system before we can engage in the discussion, but now we have nothing on which we should base it even if Management progresses the draft procedures today. How helpful will that be in the discussion that is taking place in the entire system?

It brings a bit of confusion about how we treat the JIU Reports and everything is around how we treat the JIU Reports here. The Russian Federation has offered to delete the part and I would also have requested that, to delete the last section of that subparagraph, but earlier I offered something a little bit different in one section, to accommodate some of the Members, and try to see how we can go from

there. I am tempted to agree with the Russian Federation that the last part of the paragraph is not operating in the sense of 'do no harm'.

I believe that we can do away with it.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

A few observations here. Just in hearing this discussion, you know, it strikes me that we selectively sometimes refer to FAO as a specialized agency with its own legal mandate, and other times we are very quick to assert it is part of the UN system – and it seems we pick and choose based on the topic, and I take some issue with that. I also would like to say with all due respect, the suggestion for subparagraph (g), to delete the entire end portion there would render this paragraph essentially meaningless. It would not reflect the discussion that was held. The discussion that was held reflected a difference of views.

Some Members of this Council want to watch and wait, other Members of this Council prefer that we have Management move forward to develop procedures, at the same time any system-wide process would continue. We need to reach a way to compromise that reflects both of those very different views.

I note that our Russian colleagues did propose subparagraph (c) which seems to address the issue of the UN system-wide approach, so if we are going to have subparagraph (g) I would suggest that we delete all of subparagraph (g), we revert to the Finance Committee conclusions, subparagraph (c) here would stress the UN approach. That is my suggestion.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Three points I would like to make based on my observation of the discussion. The first point, I very much appreciated the comments made by the Ambassador of Argentina. It is important not to open the discussion of the Committee, it is quite an important principle.

The second point is that having listened, I recognize there are many different barriers to different opinions in the Council Members about the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report issue. I think ideally, I understand that from a Member, it is different from the discussion at the Finance Committee, but there are other Members that are going along with the discussion at the Finance Committee. In this sense, if after the discussion of the Council in the coming meeting of the Finance Committee, we think about the decision very carefully and know that we incorporate both issues of the Council Members. In that sense, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the countries who have made the statements at this Council.

Last point, having said so, generally speaking, this kind of a procedure is important for the UN organizations to increase credibility and trust over the Organization. From such a point of view, I myself as a Member of the Finance Committee, it is not just waiting for an overall discussion but being as a Member of FAO, we should discuss other areas as much as possible and avoid unnecessary duplication of that discussion.

In terms of that, finally, the text of this draft decision of the Finance Committee, just subparagraph (d) of one of the options and the compromise suggestion made by Australia, I can also go with it. But just the final subparagraph (d) is enough for me to accept.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Firstly to address the comments by the distinguished Members from Cameroon. I did not try by any means to disregard the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador, and I just was guided by the intention to avoid any repetition.

As soon as the subparagraph(c) requests regular updates, I thought that it would be sufficient to delete this regular update request in the subparagraph (g). But to make this subparagraph stronger and more meaningful, I would kindly like to support the proposal by the distinguished Ambassador of Cameroon and to keep the request for Management to update regularly. Probably not only the Finance Committee on the outcome – so the consultative process – but the whole Membership. Because the Finance Committee is now the only recipient to speak of this information, and if and in case such procedures

could be developed, it is the matter of consideration of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the Membership.

As to the comments of the distinguished Member of the United States, we still strongly believe that if FAO is a UN family organization, we cannot be questioning their principles of certain issues. If so, if we are questioning them, the next step would be to question the Agenda 2030, because something might not be in line with the current or future FAO agenda. We still believe that if we are talking of a UN Organization, the coordination, and general and common approaches shall be guiding the activities of the Organization.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je pense que nous sommes tous d'accord sur l'importance des recommandations du JIU. Mon interprétation du débat, c'est simplement une différence sur le calendrier dans lequel nous devons prendre en compte ces recommandations. Je ne vais pas répéter notre position.

Sur le point (c), je n'ai pas sous les yeux le langage nouveau proposé par la Fédération de Russie, mais je pense qu'il est globalement acceptable pour ma délégation. De manière générale, il est très important que la Direction de la FAO débriefe régulièrement les Membres sur les avancées dans ce domaine à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et plus généralement dans le système des Nations Unies.

Sur le point (g), je pense qu'il est important de garder l'idée de "*requested management*". J'étais assez favorable à la proposition de mon collègue du Cameroun. Ma délégation sera flexible. Nous pourrions peut-être proposer: "*requested management to update regularly the Council*"? Il faut être précis, en effet, à qui va-t-on faire rapport? Ma délégation n'avait pas de problèmes avec le Comité financier, mais je m'en remets à la sagesse de la salle.

Je pense que l'essentiel, et je me félicite que l'on soit tous d'accord, reste le *tasking* à la Direction de la FAO; il faut que ce sujet reste à l'ordre du jour.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I have the following comments. First, here we are talking about draft conclusions. We should reflect our discussions at the Council and should also provide guidance to Management for future work and the rules should be followed. Therefore, we should provide Management with feasible guidance, which is in line with the relevant rules.

Secondly, FAO is a specialized agency within the UN system and, of course, it has certain sovereignty over the issues of food and agriculture. But here, we are talking about issues, which are common to the UN system, therefore, we need a coordinated consistent approach to solve these common issues.

Therefore, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report is not only limited to the Management of FAO, so we think we should be consistent within the UN system. Out of compromise, I support the proposal made by the Russian Federation. I think we can accept subparagraph (c) and delete the last part of subparagraph (g).

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I think we need to stop, take one step back since we opened the discussion.

My suggestion is for everyone to take one step back and look at what we are discussing in this subject, and when we have the 'what' then we can address the 'how' and I think what we are addressing here is the need for FAO to have a formal process to investigate complaint and misconducts.

I think that is the first message we need to send, and then how do we address this issue? In that sense, I would like to propose a new text: "*Stresses the importance for FAO to continue to work to address formal procedures to investigate complaints of misconduct by executive heads, and suggest that this process will be in alignment with procedures, in alignment with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, asking to keep the Membership properly updated on this consultative process.*"

We will tell them what we want, which is to have a whistle-blower protection or an investigative complaint on misconduct, and how do we want it? We want this to be aligned with the JIU Report.

And that is my suggestion, that it would be very short and concise, addressing the issue, what and how.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I have been following this discussion with great interest. Sweden is also a Member of the Finance Committee, and we were among the ones that agreed to the Report and, of course, we stand behind it. I just heard now the proposal from Mexico and I think that is a really good one, and if we could all agree to that one, I think we would be able to move on because that really captures what we want to say. I guess that means that we could delete (g), or we could keep parts of (g) because I guess that is important for someone, but I would really be behind that proposal and hope that we can move on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first go back now to the other subparagraph and see if we can solve them, otherwise we will keep these subparagraphs pending for final compromise. I go to the subparagraph where Pakistan would give us some suggestions.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I could slowly read out a suggested wording and then we see how we move from there. I would suggest after (a) where it says, “*urged all Members*” one could say, “*The Organization should explore the feasibility of leveraging the use of local currencies, whereby in countries where there are FAO Offices, instead of acquiring local currency, FAO could accept local currency from the country concerned and credit the corresponding amount in dollars to that country’s account. Any loss on currency exchange is to be borne by the country concerned.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I come to Argentina but let us first deal with this subparagraph whether or not we can agree with this subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradezco muchísimo a mi querido colega de Pakistán, porque el párrafo que, a partir de mi intervención, usted, Presidente, me pidió que le propusiera va en la línea de alguna manera parecida a lo que plantea el Representante de Pakistán, pero quizás me permito en el párrafo que vamos a proponer, darle contexto a esta situación.

Voy a leer a velocidad de dictado en inglés un nuevo párrafo.

Es que tiene absolutamente vinculación con este párrafo, pero en un marco de contexto respecto de lo que yo había planteado en mi intervención. Por lo tanto, si analizamos este párrafo y no evaluamos mi propuesta, quizás, digamos, yo preferiría incluir una propuesta alternativa al sugerido por mi colega de Pakistán para ver si refleja lo que hemos planteado en nuestra intervención.

Me parece que sería una buena práctica.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Because we are really pressed for time, can you propose your subparagraph?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Evalúe usted, después de que lo dicte, qué le parece. A velocidad de dictado en inglés: “*Recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted deeply countries’ economic, social, and health structures, in particular among and within the developing countries, which has reduced their possibility to honor their annual contributions to FAO and noted that this circumstance should be taken into account in order to offer flexibility, including the possibility of paying with local currencies and / or mechanisms to facilitate timely payments, for countries to meet their assessed contributions.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give the floor back to France and then my proposal would be to keep all the new subparagraphs pending because I think this must be considered, since they are quite lengthy in text and we will come back to it tomorrow as we have to address other Reports as well.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I think we need to be very careful because we are not experts and I used to work in an international organization and I know how difficult it is for an international organization to address these issues. We need to be probably less prescriptive, and more general and try to take into consideration the recommendation of Argentina and Pakistan.

My suggestion would be something of this nature: *“Recognizing the existence of arrears and economic impact caused by COVID-19, this Council asks administration of FAO to study options to address the payment of this arrears and current contributions including the possibility to use local currencies.”*

We will have them because it is a big issue in accountability when you start dealing with the law of other currencies and we are not experts. We just leave it that general, that would probably help on the solution. I suggest this, with all due respect.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I really caution all delegates because we are now going to use the whole afternoon in re-discussing the Finance Committee conclusions with new conclusions. We will put them on the table, but we have to continue our work also on the other Reports. I ask the other speakers not to reflect on these proposals but study them unless you have different text proposals.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme mon collègue du Mexique, je ne suis pas une experte de ces sujets et pense qu'il appartient au Comité financier, dont c'est le mandat, de les examiner. À ce stade, ma délégation ne peut pas approuver le langage concernant des sujets qui n'ont pas été expertisés de manière précise et conforme au système des Nations Unies.

Nous parlions à l'instant de l'importance de la cohérence avec le système des Nations Unies et je rappelle que s'agissant des arriérés de paiements, plusieurs résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies définissent les conditions et les critères suivant lesquels cette question doit être résolue. À ce stade, ma délégation ne peut pas entrer dans le détail d'une discussion sur ces trois paragraphes.

Je rappelle par ailleurs que la question des arriérés a été évoquée par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et nous souhaiterions pouvoir aussi l'aborder à ce point de l'ordre du jour.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will ask the other five speakers to be very brief because we are not seeking at this moment any consensus on this text as it has to be studied, and it is clear that we cannot arrive at a consensus yet.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Solo para agregar a esos tres subpárrafos, debo decir que el que más se adapta a la posición de Costa Rica es el propuesto por Argentina.

Pero quisiera agregar que el 22 de marzo de 2021, el Presidente de la República de Costa Rica, Excmo. Sr. Don Carlos Alvarado Quesada, le envió, e hizo una participación en las Naciones Unidas, una nota al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Sr. António Guterres, e incluso hoy también involucró al Banco Mundial, al Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI), al Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID), al Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF) y al Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE). Y esta nota fue enviada también en copia a nota verbal por mi misión al Director General de la FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu, en la que solicita justamente este tipo de arreglos de flexibilidad para los pagos de las cuotas, los pagos de las deudas, todo ligado a los problemas que, como bien lo dice el Embajador de Argentina, los problemas que la pandemia ha causado en los países en desarrollo.

El desempleo, los bajos ingresos fiscales, etcétera, han hecho imposibles hacer frente a este tipo de compromisos, por lo que creo importante que esto se deba reflejar en este documento y yo puedo compartir con la Secretaría la nota verbal que se envió, o la nota que hizo nuestro Presidente para que la tengan como una herramienta adicional a discutir porque sí es importante que se tome nota de esto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Costa Rica, please send in your note as well.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

First, we can support the proposal from our colleague from Mexico. Just had two small adjustments we would like to request – *“recognizing the impact of arrears on the Organization”*.

We prefer our Mexican colleague’s formulation, two subparagraphs currently listed as (b) and (c) and I would like to just caution this Council. We do want to recognize the impact of COVID-19 but at the same time, we cannot keep tying payment of dues and arrears to this or we could end up at the next Council Meeting with nothing being paid. We need to be very mindful of that.

Next, I note that one element of our discussion yesterday on this Item is completely not reflected in this Report. I suggest we could lift from the Finance Committee Report, *“the reminder of the Conference tasking on Management to continue consultations to establish criteria for reinstating voting rights for Members in arrears”*. We spent a fair amount of time yesterday on that and it should be reflected in this Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will add it to the work to be done tomorrow or on Saturday.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We would like to thank the distinguished delegations of Pakistan, Argentina and Mexico for their propositions. Of course, we are not an expert on that but anyhow, we see merit on that because of the current economic and social situation the world is passing through. Anyhow, we believe that it merits some study on that and to see how we can move forward.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask not all delegations to take the floor because we are coming back to this discussion as we cannot finalize it. Especially those who did not take the floor, because we have to move on if we also do not want to go into Sunday for discussion.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have just read the suggestion of Brazil, as much as it looks very attractive to some countries, we should be mindful of the fact that there is a resolution of the Conference to split the assessment by country and this resolution was taken in 2003.

For those who were not here, I can assure you it was a hot debate here. This is when some of the time we went up to 04:00 hours in the morning because those who did not want any euros to appear in the assessment and those who wanted, and some of those were classified, as you know, as usual. But how to deal with that if you ask countries to pay in their local currency. There should be a mechanism because there is a resolution that obliged countries to pay in euros and dollars.

Now if you get out of that, and you want to pay in local currency, there should be a mechanism that helps you to convert those local currencies. In my country it is the Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA), to be paid and to convert that in euros and dollars. There should be a mechanism so that the coffers of FAO should be accredited in euros and dollars. This is very good but we have to deal with that element of the resolution because it had to take effect from 2004/05 biannual. We have to take stock of that and see how, and the Legal Counsel can tell us how this resolution could be implemented, mindful of what has been suggested here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for your wisdom in recalling the 2003 Resolution of the Conference.



**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan, who proposed the original programme. We believe that the original idea was to address the issue of unpaid contributions and address the issue of repayment of arrears and COVID-19 adds a new dimension and a difference to this situation.

We have a new paragraph, a new alignment and a new amendment to make to the proposed paragraph by the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan. If you could allow me, I would try to be brief to make the amendment. I would generally take the first part of subparagraph (c) that starts with “*recognize that the COVID pandemic has impacted deeply countries’ economic, social and health structures, in particular among and within developing countries, which has reduced the possibility to honor their annual contributions to FAO.*”

This would be the first part of the detail, and then “*welcomed the Organization to explore ways to address the issue of repayment of arrears, including through conducting feasibility study*” and so on and so forth as the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan proposed. If you could also allow me, there was another proposal of the Russian Federation during the Plenary. We honour the proposal of the Pakistan Ambassador but we would also like to propose after the welcome – “*and welcome the FAO, the Organization to explore ways to address the issue of repayment of arrears, including through repayment plans and conducting a feasibility study.*”

That could be covering the best practices of UN organizations – so widely, revert to repayment plans to address issues of arrears.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

To be brief, I am in agreement with Pakistan and colleagues. Having said so, the utilization of the local currency is very much debatable from a viewpoint of the financial stability of FAO as an entity and this is another issue we did not discuss in the past.

From that point of view, with regard to this subparagraph, Japan would like to retain our position but, honestly speaking, hopefully, this issue is not a matter of recommendation but rather suitable for the record of the [XX] in recommendation with the Council.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me parece que todas las propuestas sugeridas van en una línea de tratar de rescatar algún grado de consenso que capture la problemática de los países en desarrollo y ese era mi objetivo cuando planteé esta cuestión, por lo cual nosotros vamos a ser flexibles.

Creo que lo último propuesto por la Federación de Rusia me parece que es una buena síntesis entre todas las propuestas planteadas por los colegas e incluso creo que da la idea de que se puede avanzar y la Organización puede avanzar en facilitar los mecanismos para que los países más vulnerables, en situaciones donde el COVID-19 ha hecho estragos, estén en condiciones de poder honrar en sus contribuciones.

Por lo tanto, creo que se puede llegar a un consenso. No veo que no se pueda. Me parece que la propuesta de la Federación de Rusia, realmente, creo que captura toda la discusión que estamos teniendo. Y, considerando que, yo agradezco mucho, sobre todo también a Estados Unidos de América, porque marcó claramente también su sensibilidad con esta cuestión, lo cual creo que es muy positivo y me parece que podemos llegar a un acuerdo sobre la base, en principio, de lo último propuesto por Rusia. Por lo cual, yo puedo bajar mi propuesta como manera de reducir las alternativas desde dónde trabajar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep everything pending. You asked for short conclusions, but you have doubled the text on the conclusions of the Finance Committee, so we keep this pending and somewhere in the next couple of days or weeks, we discuss these subparagraphs.

With that, now I would like to stop the discussion on the conclusion of the Finance Committee and we come back to it somewhere in the next couple of weeks, but hopefully before Friday. Of course, I always remain optimistic and look to the bright side of life.

**Item 10. Report of the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (25-27 October 2021)**

**Point 10. Rapport de la cent treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (25-27 octobre 2021)**

**Tema 10. Informe del 113.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (25-27 de octubre de 2021)**

(CL 168/10)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now, I would like to go to Item 10, *Report of 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*, which is contained in document CL 168/10. The introduction of the Chairperson, Ms Alison Storsve, has been circulated.

**Introduction to Item 10: Report of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 25-27 October 2021)**

*Ms Alison Storsve, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*

I am pleased to present to the Council the outcomes of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which was exceptionally held, in hybrid virtual modality, from 25 to 26 October 2021, with an additional 114th Session to be held virtually on 26 November 2021 to consider one item.

The CCLM had five substantive items for review and consideration at its 113th Session.

In addition, the Development Law Branch (LEGN) briefed the CCLM on its activities, new initiatives and Member outreach since the 111th Session of the CCLM and the General Legal Affairs Service gave an update of the on-going review of the jurisdictional set up of the United Nations common system.

Turning to the five substantive items:

- 1) The CCLM considered the document CCLM 113/2 entitled Standardized procedures for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans. Further to its consideration of this document, it recommended:
  - a) against the elaboration of a formal standardization procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies, and action plans; and
  - b) to the Council to invite the CCLM Secretariat to prepare a guidance note for Members providing an orientation in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development.
- 2) With respect to FAO's data protection and intellectual property (IP) rights frameworks, the CCLM considered document CCLM 113/4, which outlined guiding principles on data protection and intellectual property. These principles are intended to shape the development of the frameworks for the protection of data and intellectual property rights. The CCLM welcomed the principles and recommended to the Council that FAO Management be invited to elaborate several particular matters in more detail, as set out in the Report of the 113th Session of the CCLM (CL 168/10), when formulating the policy, paying due regard to the need to preserve the Organization's constitutional and legal status. The CCLM noted the high degree of Member interest in this topic and suggested FAO provide further opportunities for Members to provide input, through inviting additional written comments (as was subsequently issued by FAO, with a deadline of 30 November 2021) and further briefings.
- 3) The CCLM also reviewed a document, Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization. It noted the impact of the non-payment of arrears on the Organization's activities, Programme of Work and financial situation and recognized the timeliness of its consideration of this issue in view of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee suggested consideration of the practice of the Governing Bodies of some UN System organizations to request timely

submission of applications for the restoration of voting rights, accompanied by as much supporting information as possible. Consistent with the request of the 42nd Session of the Conference, the Committee looked forward to additional consultations led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) on the subject-matter, and recommended that these discussions address whether substantive and practical criteria are needed.

- 4) The CCLM also reviewed and concurred with the proposed amendments to FAO Staff Regulations 301.11.1 to 301.11.3, as set out in paragraph 12 of document CCLM 113/7 related to the FAO internal appeal procedure and recommended that the Council endorse them.
- 5) Noting the positive updates provided by the ICC to be able to bring the issue of the procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies to closure at the next Council Session, the CCLM praised the efforts of the ICC and FAO Management. It also expressed its readiness to hold an additional Session prior to the Council to consider the revised procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of Article XIV Bodies once the ICC had secured the agreement thereon between FAO Management and the three Article XIV Bodies.

The CCLM recognized that the Code of Conduct for Voting was still the subject of informal consultations convened by the ICC, and therefore no document was presented for review at the 113th Session. The Committee encouraged the ICC's further efforts to build consensus on the contents of a draft Code of Conduct for Voting and noted its readiness to consider a draft once complete.

With respect to the information provided by LEGN, the CCLM reiterated the importance of sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*. It encouraged Members' support for LEGN activities, in particular, its Programme on Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement of National Legislation, Strategy on Law and Climate Change, and its assessment of the social and economic impact of legislation. The Committee also recommended that the outcomes of the Regional Conferences be taken into consideration in LEGN's activities.

With respect to the update on the Review of the jurisdictional set up of the United Nations common system, following the update provided by the Legal Office, the Committee looked forward to being updated on further developments in this regard, and confirmed its readiness to consider any substantive proposals that may arise following completion of the review. The CCLM looked forward to being informed of upcoming developments in that regard.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Members of the Committee for their open and constructive collaboration at the 113th CCLM Session and the successful discharge of the CCLM mandate as established in the Basic Texts. I also wish to acknowledge, with appreciation, including their flexibility to meet in additional session to consider the selection and appointment procedure of secretaries of Article XIV Bodies item for this Council, the Secretariat, Legal Counsel and interpreters for all the support provided.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like now to open the floor to the Members for any comments or remarks.

### **Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)**

Japan has the honor to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Group expresses its appreciation to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Members, including the Chairperson, the FAO Legal Counsel, and the FAO Secretariat for their efficient work.

We support the preparation of a guidance note for Members on the development of FAO products that aims to avoid duplication of work, among others. We welcome the CCLM's recommendations in the consideration of FAO policies on data protection and intellectual property rights. We also underscore the importance of further involvement of Members in its development and request the Council to

recommend that FAO Management provide further briefings to Members once the policy is developed, as described in this Report.

The Asia Group underscores the importance of participatory processes and towards this end, welcomes the additional open and inclusive consultations by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) on the restoration of the voting rights of Members in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization, including discussions on whether substantive and practical criteria are needed.

The Asia Group appreciates the conclusions led by the ICC on the draft Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures. We also appreciate the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, guided by the Basic Texts. Further, we commend the additional session of the CCLM and its successful outcome that reviewed the consensus reached on it.

We encourage continued support for the activities, new initiatives and Member outreach of the Development Law Branch, stressing the importance of sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*. We take note of the updates provided by the Legal Office on the review of the jurisdictional set up of the United Nations common system. We look forward to being apprised on this matter.

The Asia Group also welcomes the proposed amendments to the FAO Staff Regulations, which take into account practical considerations.

Following this statement, Japan would like to make a brief national statement.

Japan is fully aligned with the Asia Group statement and in particular, would like to highlight the following points as to FAO's policy on the protection of data and intellectual property which is being developed.

First, Japan highlights that it is important for FAO to develop policies by consensus of its Members in a transparent way, articulating which data and how it is protected, what is the purpose of the protection, and who manages the data by which digital media and so forth.

Second, Japan would request that FAO consider consulting Governing Bodies from time to time if it faces a need of making critical decisions that could affect FAO's work on data protection and management.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

China aligns itself with the the Asia Regional Group's statement delivered by Japan. In view of the relevant provisions in the Basic Texts and the complexity of a standardization exercise, China agrees with the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)'s recommendation against the elaboration of formal standardization procedures for FAO policies, guidelines, strategies and action plans.

We agree with the CCLM's recommendation of the *FAO Data Protection Principles and Rules* related matters, to which particular attention should be paid and we believe that, when formulating the policy, the basic procedures established in the Basic Texts should be followed to avoid duplication of work of the Governing Bodies. Since the procedure of the Conference to restore the voting rights of Members in arrears involves their basic rights, and it will have direct impact on a number of developing countries, we request that the consultative procedures should ensure the wide engagement of Members and that a consensus should be achieved.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia is pleased to endorse the findings and recommendations of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). However, we do respectfully offer the following comment.

With regard to the item on *FAO Policies on the Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*, as detailed under Section 6 of the CCLM Report, Australia notes that this was subject to extensive discussion both during the CCLM meeting and under Item 7 on governance of FAO Statistical activities during the 132<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee.

While we note, and agree with, the recommendation in paragraph 19 for Management to provide further briefings to Members once the policy is developed, we suggest a dedicated informal briefing session with all Members on this issue should also be convened ahead of work being progressed.

We make this suggestion as discussions have revealed a lack of clarity about the purpose of this internal policy and its interlinkages to the important data and statistical work of the Organisation, resulting in heightened confusion and unease among Members.

**Mr Khaled Ahmad ZEKRIYA (Afghanistan)**

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group commends the excellent presentation of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Chairperson, Ms Alison Storz, as well as the efficient work of the CCLM Members, the FAO Legal Counsel, and the Secretariat.

The Report of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters is brief and focused. In endorsing the report, the Near East Group wishes to underline the following points:

We appreciate the preparation of a guidance note for Members and providing an orientation in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development.

We welcome the document on restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization and appreciates the ongoing and additional consultations by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on the subject-matter that these discussions address whether substantive and the practical criteria were needed.

We welcome the principles for FAO's development of an internal policy for data protection and intellectual property rights.

We commend the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for his continuing efforts and transparent consultations to finalize the draft Code of Conduct for Voting. We hope that the consensus will be achieved soon regarding this Code of Conduct.

We support the ongoing consultation by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on the procedure for appointment of the Secretary Bodies and the Article XIV of FAO Constitution and welcome the holding of a special CCLM meeting to further consider this Item.

We encourage continued support for the activities, Programme of the Development Law Branch and reiterate the importance of sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We take note of the update provided by the Legal Office on the review of the jurisdictional set up of the UN common system and we look forward to being informed on further developments on this matter.

With these comments, the Near East Group endorses the Council's approval of the Report of the 113th Session of the CCLM.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Can you kindly give the floor to Algeria to speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group?

**Mme Lamia BEN REDOUANE (Algérie)(Observateur)**

Comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole aujourd'hui, j'aimerais vous féliciter pour l'excellente conduite des travaux de cette session, une tâche que nous savons très ardue.

Chers collègues, je m'adresse à vous afin de vous faire part du retour des pays membres du Groupe Afrique, auquel appartient l'Algérie, sur le point 10 de l'ordre du jour, à savoir le rapport de la 113e session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ), portant la cote CL 168/10.

Avant tout, il y a lieu de féliciter l'ensemble des membres de ce Comité avec à sa tête la Présidente, pour le travail effectué lors de la 113e session. Le Secrétariat du Comité n'est pas de reste dans les efforts déployés pour la tenue de la session qui a eu lieu, il faut le noter, en présentiel pour la plupart des membres, et ce après plus d'une année d'absence, au Siège de la FAO. Et plus encore, pour l'élaboration du document qui nous est présenté aujourd'hui. Celui-ci retrace les différents points abordés par le Comité et nous permet de constater l'excellence du travail mené par les membres.

Cela se traduit par les nombreuses recommandations énumérées dans le texte en question. Le Groupe Afrique apprécie la rédaction exhaustive et claire des aboutissants de la réunion, auxquels nous souscrivons, notamment la recommandation de non-élaboration de procédures normalisées officielles concernant les politiques, directives volontaires, stratégies et plan d'action de la FAO, tout en indiquant qu'il conviendrait de continuer à consulter les membres et à les associer aux travaux; la recommandation relative à la rédaction de notes d'orientation au sujet des différents types de produits de la FAO et leur modalité d'élaboration; le résumé des discussions ayant trait au rétablissement par la Conférence du droit de vote des États membres en retard dans le paiement de leurs contributions, une question récurrente, qui prend une dimension toute particulière, au vu de l'actualité mondiale.

À cet effet, et à la grande satisfaction des pays de ma région, la manière dont les membres du Comité ont mis en exergue l'importance de se voir, dans un contexte jalonné par cette actualité si particulière, dont fait l'objet la planète tout entière, est hautement appréciable.

Il a été clairement souligné que la pandémie, dont on ne cite plus le nom, a des effets dévastateurs, pour reprendre le terme utilisé dans le document, et parfois cruels pour plusieurs de nos pays. Pour ce faire, nous restons à l'affût de toute proposition et de toute recommandation émanant de ce Comité, en vue d'arriver à un consensus.

Le point 5 de ce document a également son importance.

La politique de la FAO relative à la protection des données et au droit de propriété intellectuelle est l'un des points cruciaux de la 113e session.

La recommandation du CQCG afin que la Direction de la FAO soit invitée à porter son attention sur les huit points cités dans le document, tout en favorisant la coordination avec d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, acquiert notre totale approbation.

Dans le même sillage, nous appuyons les recommandations du CQCG, exprimées au point 8 à l'égard de la Sous-Division droit et développement, concernant la prise en considération des résultats des conférences régionales dans les activités de la Sous-Division.

À la lumière de ce qui précède, il semble qu'il ne nous reste plus qu'à remercier encore une fois l'ensemble des personnes ayant contribué à ce travail, ô combien important, et les exhorter à persévérer dans leurs noble mission.

Enfin, le Groupe régional Afrique reste à l'écoute de tout recours, position, recommandation du CQCG et approuve le document CL 168/10.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation supports the adoption of the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). We would like to thank the Chairperson for the preparation of this Report and the recommendations. We would like to make a few comments on some important points.

**CHAIRPERSON**

There is too much interference so the interpreters cannot follow your statement.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

If you could allow me, to have the floor again a little bit later.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will come back to you.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly give the floor to Slovenia speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU)?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia)(Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Albania, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey and Iceland align themselves with this statement.

We concur with the findings and recommendations made by the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and wish to reiterate several points.

We take note of the CCLM's view that elaborating a standardisation procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans would be highly complex. We would therefore support the CCLM's invitation to the Secretariat to prepare a guidance note providing an orientation in relation to the different types of FAO products and the means for their development and approval as guided by the provisions of the Basic Texts.

We also take note of the views of the CCLM on the restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contribution to the Organization. We believe that the current practice of restoration of voting rights should be revised in order to follow the practice of other Governing Bodies within the UN system, especially with a view to introducing the timely submission of applications for voting rights' restoration accompanied by the fullest possible supporting information. We encourage the Independent Chairperson of the Council to lead the consultations on this matter.

We welcome the outcome of the CCLM discussions on the principles for an FAO policy on data protection and intellectual property rights. We also agree to the list of matters identified by the CCLM and which should be carefully considered by Management when formulating such a policy, in order to establish a comprehensive data protection framework aligned with international and UN standards. We stand ready to contribute to that process and invite Management to provide regularly further briefings to Members. More broadly, we look forward to discussing a cross-cutting data policy, including protocols governing data security and data processing, governance, use and protection, in FAO's governing bodies, in order to ensure effective involvement of Members in FAO data policy.

We would like to encourage the work of FAO's legal department on "Legislative interventions for improved nutrition and sustainability". This could provide interesting insights on approaches and elements that could be considered in developing legislation to transform agriculture and food systems.

With these comments, we endorse the findings and recommendations of the 113<sup>th</sup> session of the CCLM.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

The United States of America joins consensus in endorsing the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Report.

The Committee carefully considered several issues we consider important to the ongoing work of the Organization.

The United States supports the development by Members, in coordination with the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and FAO leadership, of a meaningful Code of Conduct for Voting that ensures the secrecy of the ballot, protects electoral integrity, prevents potential conflicts of interest, and puts FAO among the best performers among leading UN agencies and institutions for its handling of elections.

We look forward to a more fulsome discussion that encourages not to lose ground rather to build on the tremendous work done so far.

As we mentioned in the previous item in the Finance Committee Report, we also look forward to further consultations, in line with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Conference request, on establishing criteria for the restoration of voting rights by the Conference for members in arrears.

Finally, it was clear both from the CCLM's robust discussion and recommendations on the data protection and intellectual property rights, and from the Programme Committee's related discussion of data and statistics governance, that these issues are complex and merit regular consultations and collaboration between FAO and its Members.

We welcome FAO's development of a data protection and intellectual property rights policy attuned to the feedback Members provided and the CCLM highlighted in its Report, and look forward to briefings to Members on how it will be implemented and how it will relate to and provide the framework for data and statistical governance matters considered by the Programme Committee.

We thank FAO for providing the additional opportunity for written feedback, and note this is a best practice for sensitive matters that garner significant Member attention.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais m'aligner sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres, et souligner notre appréciation à la Présidente du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, Mme Alison Storsve. La France soutient les recommandations et le rapport de la 113e session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Je souhaiterais ajouter les remarques suivantes. S'agissant de la question de la politique de protection des données, nous avons noté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les délibérations et recommandations du Comité. Comme je l'ai dit précédemment, il est important que ce sujet concernant les données soit intégré dans une approche couvrant les questions juridiques bien sûr, mais également techniques, programmatiques et financières, puisque ces questions sont inextricablement liées.

Je rappelle à cet égard que le Conseil de la FAO, lors de sa 166e session, au paragraphe 24, alinéa k), s'est donné le mandat de développer, je cite: "une politique de données transversale pour garantir la gouvernance, l'intégrité et la confidentialité des données, ainsi que les droits de propriété intellectuelle".

Il est également important au sujet des données, qui n'est pas uniquement un sujet interne de la FAO, que les Membres soient pleinement associés aux décisions politiques et stratégiques développées par la FAO.

S'agissant des arriérés de paiement, comme je l'ai annoncé dans mon intervention à propos du rapport du Comité financier, il s'agit d'une question importante et récurrente, puisque cela fait plus de 30 ans qu'elle se pose. Nous souhaitons que la FAO développe à cet égard les meilleures pratiques du système des Nations Unies.

Dans ce contexte, nous sommes d'avis que la FAO devrait traiter les demandes de restauration des droits de vote de la manière appliquée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et son Comité des contributions. Je me réfère à sa dernière résolution sur ce sujet, la résolution 76/2, adoptée le 11 octobre 2021, il y a quelques semaines pendant la pandémie.

La procédure s'applique selon des critères définis par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui sont les suivants: les demandes de restauration doivent premièrement être individuelles, deuxièmement, faites par écrit, troisièmement, étayées par des preuves de la manière prescrite par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies dans sa résolution 54/237 C, c'est-à-dire fournissant des renseignements aussi complets que possible à l'appui de la demande; quatrième critère, elles doivent être présentées dans un délai précis conformément à la résolution 54/237 C de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui décide que les demandes d'exemption doivent être remises au moins deux semaines avant la session du Comité des Contributions de manière à assurer un examen complet de la demande.

Ces exigences de base sont régulièrement satisfaites à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, y compris bien sûr depuis la pandémie, et donc, nous faisons confiance à la FAO pour adopter ces mêmes critères. Sur le plan procédural, compte tenu de l'importance du sujet, nous estimons qu'une résolution de la Conférence permettrait d'apporter une solution durable à la question.

Nous sommes également ouverts, le cas échéant, à des solutions plus ambitieuses, mais encore une fois, s'agissant d'une question qui touche au texte constitutionnel, précisément l'Article III,



paragraphe 4 de la Constitution de la FAO, nous estimons qu'une résolution de la Conférence serait le minimum à attendre pour régler cette question.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Last October, Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) reviewed CCLM document 113/2 on *Standardized procedures for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans*. It was a response to a request made by the Council.

After discussions, CCLM Members agreed that it was not necessary for the elaboration of a formal standardization procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans. The CCLM also stated the importance of retaining flexibility, consultation and Members' engagement within the parameters established in the Basic Texts.

The Brazilian delegation takes note of these comments, including the suggestion that the CCLM Secretariat prepares a guidance note for Members providing orientation in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development.

Brazil understands that this guidance note will be submitted to the Governing Bodies' approval, such as the Programme Committee and the Council. We remain convinced that in light of the Basic Texts, it is fundamental that Members are involved and take active part in all political documents produced by the Organization such as voluntary guidelines, strategies and plans of actions.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradezco a la Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, la Señora Alison Storsve, por su eficiente labor.

Con respecto al tema 3 del Informe del 113.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 168/10), nuestra delegación quisiera agradecer a los miembros del Comité por la discusión del asunto identificado por el 130.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa. Esto es la necesidad de contar con ciertas directrices en línea con lo que mencionó mi colega de Brasil, no solo para orientar a los Miembros, sino para que las mismas sean seguidas por la propia Organización, atento a las dificultades surgidas en las discusiones del Comité del Programa respecto a los diversos procedimientos seguidos para la elaboración de productos, incluso similares, como planes de acción o estrategias.

Segundo, agradecemos el abordaje de este asunto en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y ansiamos seguir la discusión en el próximo Comité del Programa como solicitado por todos sus Miembros en la última reunión, a fin de brindar al Consejo una recomendación al respecto desde la óptica de su mandato.

Tercero, agradecemos la intervención del delegado de China respecto de su sensibilidad a los problemas del pago de los países en desarrollo como consecuencia del COVID-19.

Y con respecto al tema de la cuestión del derecho de voto que aquí se ha expresado, tengo alguna confusión, porque en el marco del Comité de Finanzas o cuando nos referimos a los temas de dicho Comité, hubo intervenciones que plantearon que la FAO era un Organismo que debía tener su propia particularidad, su propia especificidad en el marco general del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, pero también en este Comité o al referirnos a sus temas, lo que estamos escuchando es argumentos en sentido contrario.

O sea, que lo que deberíamos hacer es adecuarnos en el caso del derecho de voto a lo definido y establecido por el propio sistema general de las Naciones Unidas. Creo que, en términos de la coherencia general, sería importante tener un solo criterio para analizar y evaluar este tipo de cuestiones en términos generales. Pero lo digo para facilitar incluso la propia construcción del consenso en nuestras discusiones, en nuestros debates.

Voy a referirme, como último punto, a la cuestión de las políticas de la FAO sobre protección de datos y derechos de propiedad intelectual. Reafirmamos la prioridad y la sensibilidad de este tema para nuestro país toda vez que los datos son de los Miembros y por ende deben ser resguardados, protegidos y tratados con la mayor celosía posible por parte de la Organización.

Así mismo, como hemos dicho en el pasado Comité del Programa, los datos son una fuente primordial para la labor de la FAO. A partir de ellos, la Organización puede sustentar su rigor científico y normativo, derrotar narrativas exógenas basadas en prejuicios ideológicos y brindar diagnósticos certeros para hacer frente al flagelo del hambre y la malnutrición en el terreno.

Por ello, pretendemos una FAO que esté a la vanguardia en esta materia dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, que sea la primera Organización con políticas que den cuenta de los desafíos, amenazas y brinde las seguridades necesarias en materia de datos. Sin embargo, para ir lejos, no siempre es necesario comenzar rápido y, en ese sentido, quisiéramos que todos los Miembros puedan participar y hacer escuchar su voz a partir del enfoque de abajo hacia arriba, mediante los canales formales y procedimientos correspondientes que, sin lugar a duda, en esta materia deberían ser seguidos sin excepción y siempre respetando los textos básicos de la Organización.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo a los progresos del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM), quisiéramos destacar los siguientes puntos, además de manifestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la Unión Europea (EU) y sus Estados Miembros.

Cabe destacar que acogemos con satisfacción, conclusiones y recomendaciones de esta 113.º periodo de sesiones del Comité a la vez que felicitamos a su Presidenta por la labor realizada.

En primer lugar, tomamos nota de la opinión del CCLM de que sería muy complejo elaborar un procedimiento de normalización de las políticas, directrices voluntarias, estrategias y planes de acción de la FAO. Por tanto, apoyamos la invitación del CCLM a la Secretaría para que prepare una nota que proporcione una orientación en relación con los diferentes trabajos de FAO y los medios para su desarrollo y aprobación, según las disposiciones de los textos básicos.

Tomamos nota igualmente de las opiniones del CCLM sobre el restablecimiento por la Conferencia de los derechos de voto de los Miembros en mora en el pago de su contribución financiera a la Organización. Creemos que la práctica actual de restauración de los derechos de voto debe revisarse para seguir la práctica de otros Órganos rectores dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, especialmente con miras a introducir la presentación oportuna de solicitudes para la restauración de los derechos de voto acompañada de la mayor cantidad de información de apoyo posible. Alentamos al Presidente Independiente del Consejo a dirigir las consultas sobre este asunto.

Acogemos también con satisfacción el resultado de los debates del CCLM sobre los principios de una política de la FAO sobre protección de datos y derechos de propiedad intelectual. También estamos de acuerdo con la lista de asuntos identificados por el CCLM y que la Administración debe considerar cuidadosamente al formular dicha política a fin de establecer un Marco Integral de protección de datos alineado con las normas internacionales y de la ONU.

Estamos dispuestos a contribuir a ese proceso e invitamos a la Administración a brindar más información a los Miembros una vez que se desarrolle esta política. Apoyamos el trabajo del Oficina Jurídica (LEG) de FAO sobre intervenciones legislativas para mejorar la nutrición y la sostenibilidad. Esto podría proporcionar ideas interesantes sobre enfoques y elementos que podrían considerarse en el desarrollo de legislación para transformar los sistemas agroalimentarios.

Con estos comentarios, España respalda las conclusiones y recomendaciones del 113.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

We would like to start by thanking the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) for her wonderful work. Israel would like to echo Australia in recommending to have a separate consultation on data protection and statistics to all Members. With this, Israel endorses the CCLM Report.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation does not object to the adoption of the Report, and we are grateful to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)'s Members for their work and recommendations. We would like to make a few comments on items on the Agenda of this Session.

All in all, we consider that it is imperative to achieve consensus of Members before developing the draft programmatic documents and before the transmission to the CCLM for its consideration and subsequent adoption by Council, and this applies to the text on the right to vote and the draft document on data protection rights and intellectual property rights.

We note that the document is voluntary in nature, and it applies to voting according to the mandate that we receive from the Conference. The distribution of this document and the decisions regarding it are not acceptable. We think that before the document of the *Code of Conduct for Voting*, it is extremely important to consider the precedence of the United Nations system regarding the advancing of [sound too poor for interpretation].

The Russian Federation supports the work of the document on elections and the voluntary *Code of Conduct for Voting*. We think that this document should exclusively deal with issues linked to the election of the Director-General of the Organization. It should not apply to procedures and administrative matters linked to other elections.

As regards the position document on the protection of *Personal Data and Intellectual Property Rights*, our premise is that this document should include universal and internationally adopted principles and practices. We would like to draw attention to the need to take into account the comments of Members in the preparation of this document; the deadline for the presentation comments was the 30th of November 2021. We submitted our comments and expected that they would be taken into account as guidance in the preparation of the final version of this document. We see the need for additional consultations with the participation of Members before the formal adoption of the position document in the Sessions of the Governing Bodies of the Organization.

Now as regards the review of the procedure regarding the loss of the right to vote of Members in arrears in accordance with the request of the 42nd Session of the Conference, we see merit in considering the best practices of the United Nations system in this area, and at the same time it is important to be guided by the FAO Constitution, and its Article III states that the Conference may “*permit [such] a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions that are beyond the control of the Member Nation*”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It is 16:30 hours and we have to break for the interpreters. After the break, I will give briefly the floor to Argentina, and to the Chairperson and Management. Then, I would like to continue with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Food System Summit.

With that, we break until 17:00 hours and we see each other back at 17:00 hours sharp. Thank you. Adjourned.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:30 to 17:02 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 30 à 17 h 02*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.30 a las 17.02*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I hope we can speedily conclude now the Item on the *Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)*.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Le puedo asegurar que nunca hablo de más. Cuando hablo es porque tengo que decir cosas y cuando puedo reducirlas o resumirlas, también lo hago así. Lo que quería preguntarle al final de la reunión de hoy era si el tema del Código de Conducta era un tema que iba a ser tratado de manera separada como yo interpreté en la agenda, por eso no me referí a ese tema durante esta reunión. ¿Es así? Okay, gracias.

#### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

El Ítem 3 del informe, este tema fue identificado por el 130 Periodo de Sesiones del Comité del Programa, con el interés de mejorar y transparentar la gestión de estrategias, planes de acción y otros productos de la Organización.

El tema fue redireccionado al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM), entendemos que con el objetivo de tener claridad sobre el Marco Normativo existente en la Organización sobre la materia. Vemos por lo señalado en el documento *CCLM 113/2* que no existe un Marco Normativo claro para la mayoría de los productos y que el procedimiento varía caso a caso dependiendo del órgano donde se origina y su temática.

Chile respalda la recomendación del CCLM en cuanto solicitar a la Secretaría del Comité la preparación de una nota orientativa para los Miembros en la que se ofrezca orientación en relación con los tipos de productos de la FAO y los medios para elaborarlos.

Chile solicita que esta nota orientativa se presente al Comité de Programa en su 133 Periodo de Sesiones para su discusión y que dicho Comité, o sea, el Comité del Programa, brinde al Consejo sus recomendaciones desde la perspectiva de su mandato.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

We will try to address this issue in the conclusions. I now give the floor to the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Ms Alston Storsve.

### **Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

Thank you to Members and to my Committee colleagues for your trust in me in chairing the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in October as well as our additional session just a few days ago.

With the thorough preparation of the Committee Secretariat and Members, we considered substantively a number of Items that you and Members have just discussed, as well as matters the Council will discuss later this week, including a Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures from our 113th Session and the revised procedures for the Appointments of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies from our 114th Session.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Members of the Committee for their open and constructive collaboration at the 113th and subsequent session of the CCLM and the successful discharge of the CCLM mandate as established in the Basic Texts. I also wish to acknowledge the flexibility and diligence of the Secretariat and Interpretation Support in pulling together our additional Session at short notice.

I do have two specific comments related to things Members have raised. A few Members raised the guidance note suggested by the CCLM Membership related to the Item on Voluntary Guidelines, Policies, and other documents the Organization produces. I can provide some clarification from my notes of the discussion that the CCLM had on this topic.

That Members asked that such a guidance note could serve to orient Members, but was not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive, but would list, much in the way a World Health Organization (WHO) guidance note lists, the types of products that the Organization typically produces in the means of elaborating them, and for reference, that - WHO guidance note after which Members discuss this model, is reproduced in the document *CCLM 113/2*.

I would also just like to note on the arrears item that the CCLM considered. I listened carefully to this Member exchange on this item and also with the preceding discussions of the Finance Committee (FC) and the Programme Committee (PC), and would like to take this opportunity to take note that it is clear there is some natural overlap in some of the work the various Governing Bodies consider.

Arrears is one of these, and I would note that the CCLM recalled in its Report the Conference tasking from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Conference, bringing forward that task in welcoming the further Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) consultations with Members in an inclusive way, and noted the CCLM's readiness to consider this matter again.

I offer this as a potential way out through this Item's draft conclusions, of some of the Report language from other Committees that could be covered here as a potential way forward, since we have heard many consensus views during this Item's discussion.

With that, I welcome the Council's opportunity to endorse the CCLM 113th Report and the recommendations contained therein and will consider the 114th Report later this week.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I briefly turn to Management.

#### **Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Firstly, I really would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM,) the members of the CCLM, for their tremendous work in the two Sessions that they have had, and their wisdom, they have provided us with valuable guidance. I also take the opportunity to thank the Members of the Council for their very valuable comments that they have made today on the substantive issues that were addressed in the CCLM Report and in the CCLM Sessions.

With respect to some of the specific issues that were raised, I can only add a couple of comments with respect to the restoration of voting rights, as noted by the Chair of the CCLM. Of course, these will now be coming to you for consideration in accordance with the guidance of the Council, and we will be ready to assist you in that regard.

With respect to the informal guidance note on the procedures and processes, it seemed apparent that these are guided by the Basic Texts. At this moment in time, what is understood is that what is not under consideration is the revision or amendment of the Basic Texts, but rather informal non-binding guidance that the Members may wish to use as to how a path may work in line with the Basic Texts.

Finally, my final observation is in respect to the Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights Frameworks. In this, I would like to thank all Members, and here I really do mean all Members, for the very valuable inputs and comments that they have made to us in the last months.

There has been a huge amount of very valuable information that will assist us in going forward. I would just note that we are continuing to discharge our function under the Constitution. That is- to receive, collect, disseminate information. We have a framework, which we note is fragmented at this moment in time and place, and what we are trying to do is improve and enhance that. The contributions that we have received are extremely valuable in ensuring that we have a fit for purpose framework to guide the Secretariat in its activities, in discharging these functions.

In that regard, I also would like to highlight that we are working, as we have been guided, very closely with our sister UN agencies. We are talking for example with the UN Secretariat, which is in the process of developing its own Data Protection and Data Privacy SGB. We are also talking closely with International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), many other organisations, so that we can have something that really is strong and solid.

Finally, I wanted just to say we are ready to provide an informal briefing, myself with my colleague Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, to assist in clarifying, as there seems to be some uncertainty as to what is progressing. Certainly, I am more than ready to do that. Then I just wanted to highlight that the interest is not just amongst the Members of the Council or the Members of the Governing Bodies. There is great interest in this also from beneficiaries, from donors, from all stakeholders who provide us with information. Therefore, we are mindful that time is of the essence in this connection. With those words, I would like to conclude but, of course, I am ready to respond to any additional queries.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I think we have finalized our deliberations on the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

#### **Item 11. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**

#### **Point 11. Rapports de la quarante-huitième session (session extraordinaire) (4 juin 2021) et de la quarante-neuvième session (11-14 octobre 2021) du Comité de la sécurité**

**alimentaire mondiale**

**Tema 11. Informes del 48.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (4 de junio de 2021) y el 49.º período de sesiones (11-14 de octubre de 2021) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial**

(C 2023/19; C 2023/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to continue with the *Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*, Item 11. The introduction by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security has been circulated to you.

**Introduction to Item 11: Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**

*H.E. Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*

The 48th (Special) Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-48) was held virtually on 4 June 2021 and featured the adoption of CFS Policy Recommendations on “Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition.”

The 49th Session (CFS-49) was held virtually from 11-14 October 2021, with its final report submitted for Council endorsement in document C 2023/20. Over 1,300 participants registered, including 10 Ministers and 7 Vice-Ministers, and representatives from 122 Members and 9 non-Members, and from UN agencies, financial institutions, civil society, research organizations, private sector associations, and philanthropic foundations.

The UN Secretary-General exhorted CFS to “drive change across food systems” urging it to “be a critical engine for economic recovery, ending poverty and reducing inequalities, for decent work, and addressing planetary emergencies”. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President highlighted that “global solidarity, multilateralism and cooperation are our greatest assets”, and commended “CFS’s approach to science and evidence-based policies and inclusive dialogue”. FAO’s Director-General highlighted the value of CFS policy products for accelerating the Decade of Action on Sustainable Development.

The Committee welcomed the High-Level Panel of Experts’ (HLPE) updated Issues Paper on impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition, noting concerns over the lasting impacts of COVID-19 which exacerbate existing weaknesses of food systems and impacts of conflicts, disease, poverty, inequalities, economic downturns and climate change. It noted the worrisome numbers from the 2021 Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI), acknowledged the need for food systems transformation, and called for a systemic, coherent approach.

Congratulating the Secretary-General and Special Envoy for organizing the UN Food Systems Summit, the Committee noted potential implications on CFS and its HLPE, and agreed to further deliberate in the CFS Bureau with key stakeholders.

Discussing uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) and welcoming activities already implemented, the Committee reiterated the VGFSyN’s contribution to policy coherence and to promoting healthy diets through sustainable food systems, highlighted the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit as an opportunity, and stressed the shared responsibility to ensure global guidance translates to context-specific action. The report on “Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)” presented by FAO and WHO recognized contributions and actions linked to the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

The Committee took stock of use and application of two sets of policy recommendations: (i) Food Security and Climate Change (CFS 39, 2012); and (ii) Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015). It agreed that climate change and water scarcity threaten food security and nutrition, pledged additional efforts to promote dissemination and application of CFS products, and encouraged those making pledges at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties to promote and advocate

CFS policy guidance and recommendations.

Regarding development of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE) expected for endorsement at CFS-50 in October 2022, the Committee reiterated the importance of inclusive consultation to strengthen ownership and implementation, as well as aligning priorities, initiatives and good practices in support of sustainable development.

Related to its Youth workstream, the Committee expressed appreciation for the work of the HLPE in preparing its 16th report on Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and recognized the importance of an inclusive process leading to the endorsement of consensus-based policy recommendations at CFS-50. Discussions underscored the need to put youth at the centre of the policy convergence process, to recognize diversity and promote context-specific policies, and to ensure youth have equitable access to relevant inputs.

The Committee updated its Multi-Year Programme of Work (2020-2023), including workstreams on (i) Food systems and Nutrition; (ii) Agroecological and other innovative approaches; (iii) GEWE; (iv) Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; (v) Data collection and analysis tools; and (vi) Reducing inequalities. It noted the need for continued attention to the impacts of COVID-19 across all workstreams.

The Committee noted that the MYPoW implementation is contingent upon available resources, and encouraged the Rome-based Agencies to share in an equal and timely manner the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget as agreed, as a symbol of joint ownership, commitment, and effective collaboration, and encouraged efforts by the Chairperson and Secretariat to diversify the CFS financing base consistent with its approved Strategy.

The Committee recommended that its Fiftieth Session be held 17-21 October 2022, and elected both a Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, of Spain, and a Bureau. It closed by adopting the CFS-49 report by consensus, contained in document C 2023/20, and available on the CFS public website.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I now would like to open the floor to the Members of the Council to reflect on those Reports before I give the floor to the Chairperson for giving comments on what was presented.

### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Can I kindly request you to pass the floor to Malaysia, who is also the Vice Chairperson of the Asia Regional Group, who will read the statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group?

### **Mr Abdul Rahman ABDUL WAHAB (Vice-Chairperson of Asia Regional Group)**

Malaysia has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would like to express our appreciation to the former Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Mr Thanawat Tiensin, for his leadership and efforts for over the past two years. We also wish to thank the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and CFS Secretariat team for their contribution and hard work.

The Asia Group congratulates the new appointed CFS Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio of Spain, and we also would like to welcome the new CFS Bureau Members. Please be assured of our continued cooperation. We would like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, you yourself Chairperson, former Chairperson of the open-ended Working Group on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food System and Nutrition, Ambassador Yaya Olaniran, Rapporteur of the Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, for their leadership.

We would like to encourage all Members, stakeholders, FAO, and other Rome-based Agencies to promote the use and implementation of CFS voluntary Guidelines and policy recommendations and in their policies and programmes on the ground, in accordance with the priorities and capacities of national contacts.

We encourage all Members and stakeholders to share lessons learned from utilising and disseminating the CFS work to the widest possible audience. With regard to the updated CFS Multi-Year Programme

of Work (MYPOW 2020 – 2023), we consider that the CFS MYPOW could be allowed some flexibility as appropriate, in order to be able to address any emergency and crisis that may occur in the future and thus, ensure the role of the CFS as a platform for timely coordination at global level.

We have experienced the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to our food systems and are greatly concerned about increasing numbers of hunger due to the effects of the pandemic on global food security as evidenced by the 2021 Report of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

Therefore, I would like to request that continued deliberation on the impact of COVID-19 on the agri-food system, food security and nutrition be guaranteed at all stages of implementation of the approved MYPOW workstreams. We encourage continued support for the implementation of the MYPOW 2020-2023 and to support the Chairperson and Secretariat in their efforts to expand and diversify the CFS financing base in order to allow for full implementation of the updated Work Plan.

We realise that the work of CFS and its work stream do not finish with the approval of its policy convergent processes. We have to move from commitments to action to achieve our shared Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. We stress the need to promote CFS updates and convert them into concrete actions at regional, national, and local levels.

With this statement, I see our group endorses the Report of the 48th and 49th session of the Committee on World Food Security and we look forward to the implementation of CFS policy products at all levels.

**Mr Andrian MCADAMS (United States of America)**

The United States thanks the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat for bringing the attention of the FAO Council and Conference to the Reports of the 48th and 49th CFS Plenary Sessions. We support the dissemination and use of the policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches, and encourage policymakers and implementers to draw upon this Member-endorsed document for designing sustainable food and agricultural systems.

As stated in the policy recommendations, there is no single approach for achieving food security and nutrition and all food systems have the potential to contribute further to sustainable agriculture and food systems to enhance food security and nutrition. This is why our efforts to improve the sustainability of agriculture must be evaluated on affordability and accessibility, farmer income and well-being, and environmental indicators.

We also extend a warm welcome to CFS new Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, and stand ready to work closely with CFS leadership and all Members in carrying out the Committee's Multi-Year Programme of Work. Consistent with the CFS mandate, comparative advantage and available resources, we reiterate the CFS can and should seek opportunities to facilitate the sharing of experiences while strengthening food systems within the agreed Multi-Year Programme of Work.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Kindly give the floor to Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Albania, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey and Iceland align themselves with this statement.

The steep rise in the number of people suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition and the alarming signs of a further aggravation are deeply concerning. The EU and its Member States are committed to working together with all partners and relevant stakeholders to address this extremely worrying trend, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We take this opportunity to reiterate our support for and commitment to the CFS as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental multi-stakeholder platform for matters of food security and nutrition.



We welcome the outcomes of the 48th and 49th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) plenary sessions, in particular the adoption of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches and the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. Both provide valuable input for the transition towards sustainable food systems. We emphasise the need to actively promote the uptake and implementation of these recommendations and guidelines and call on FAO – along with WFP, IFAD and other relevant UN agencies – to join the CFS members and stakeholders in this collective effort.

We wish to recall the important role the UN Secretary-General has given to the CFS and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) in the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of a CFS Group of Friends and the intention to have an open and inclusive debate on the implications of the summit for the CFS and its HLPE, involving all CFS members and stakeholders. The broad mandate of the CFS and its inclusive character make it particularly suitable to make a substantial contribution.

We urge FAO, together with IFAD and the World Food Programme, to involve the CFS and its HLPE from the beginning in the set-up and establishment of the RBAs Food Systems Coordination Hub, in order to take full benefit of the inclusive nature of the CFS, its HLPE and its important policy products and tools.

Finally, we wish to reiterate our commitment to and support for the work of the upcoming CFS policy convergence processes, especially on ‘Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment’ and ‘Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems’. We call on FAO to provide full support to these work streams.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

Egypt would like to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. We would like to congratulate Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, who was elected Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and we are going to certainly lend him all of our support. The Near East Group would like to insist upon the fact that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 is very closely-related to all of the other SDGs and that this a very urgent need at the policy level and we need support internationally and nationally, and we need to strengthen efforts of course in order to meet the challenges facing food security in the world.

The creation of Sustainable Food Systems is a global priority given the degradation of the environment, the increase in temperature, the scarcity of water resources and the degradation of soil, just to mention, and along with social and economic repercussions.

In addition to that, there are very difficult circumstances such as famine in our part of the world and that is why we need to act very effectively in order to protect our populations, especially children, because governments still do not have enough resources to meet the SDGs. We welcome collaboration between United Nations (UN) agencies in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) and we are very alarmed by the increase in the number of people that are threatened by hunger.

There are really 61 million more people compared to last year who are suffering from hunger which means that we need to bring about some radical changes in our food systems, otherwise the suffering of all these millions of people, hungry people, will continue. Then, of course, we are grappling with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Regional Group is very worried about the fact that there are many people who do not benefit from healthy diets. They suffer from acute malnutrition, children have stunted growth, and are really suffering.

Now with regards to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, we really support and appreciate the Open-ended Working Group established to this end and we hope that a draft text will be prepared in this area.

By way of conclusion, and in preparation for the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) in Egypt next year, our group wishes to truly emphasize the role of agriculture for climate adaptation within the framework of international efforts, and this ought to be part of CFS recommendations.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Permítame agradecer primero a mi querido amigo y hermano Thanawat por su trabajo y mi bienvenida a Gabriel en esta nueva responsabilidad que le toca.

Como es costumbre del Consejo y de acuerdo con las líneas de Reporte vigentes, entendemos que resulta clave tener la posibilidad de evaluar los avances del trabajo del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) en materia de diseño, de políticas voluntarias para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria nutricional a escala nacional, regional y global.

Respecto al informe de la 48 sesión extraordinaria del CSA, como lo hicimos en su oportunidad, queremos volver a destacar el trabajo realizado por el Representante Permanente de Nigeria, Yaya Olaniran, quien condujo de forma eficiente y transparente las negociaciones del documento sobre políticas relativas a los enfoques agroecológicos y otros enfoques innovadores.

Entendemos que la agroecología, efectivamente, representa un modelo para aumentar la sostenibilidad de los sistemas agro-bioproducidos, ya que incorpora nociones y conocimientos que pueden ayudar a los pequeños y medianos agricultores a mejorar su relación con el medio ambiente. Al mismo tiempo es preciso destacar que no existe un enfoque único para promover esquemas de producción sostenibles.

Así, estamos convencidos de que la agricultura de conservación, la siembra directa, la ganadería orgánica, la bioagricultura y los enfoques agrotech, entre otros, ofrecen soluciones superadoras para, de acuerdo a los contextos y necesidades de cada país, potenciar sistemas sostenibles que aumenten los rindes productivos de alimentos al tiempo que protejan los suelos y fomenten el uso sustentable de los recursos naturales. Es decir, producir más con menos.

Más allá de la utilidad conceptual del documento, pensamos que el producto final quizás carece de una visión amplia y plural sobre las herramientas que nos puedan ayudar a alcanzar nuestro objetivo central que es el Hambre Cero.

En forma paralela, reiteramos nuestro aprecio a la labor del relator y de todas las delegaciones que se comprometieron en el diseño del documento. Por otro lado, refiriéndome al informe 49 de la Sesión del CSA, quisiera manifestar nuestra satisfacción por el reconocimiento que se hace al contenido del documento "Directrices Voluntarias Sobre Sistemas Alimentarios y la Nutrición", ya que constituye un aporte clave para pensar en la sustentabilidad de los sistemas alimentarios en forma holística e integradora. ¿Quién mejor que usted, Presidente? Para refrendar lo que yo estoy diciendo.

Señor Presidente, gracias a su experiencia sumada a la participación de diversos actores, se logró encontrar resultados negociados que superan ampliamente las ambiciones de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios. Y, permítanme señalar que, justamente allí radica la riqueza y el valor del CSA. Es decir, en su plataforma participativa e inclusiva para generar productos negociados entre miembros que aporten soluciones concretas a los países que decidan aplicar sus recomendaciones. Que la sombra de una cumbre con falencias no nos impida reconocer cuál es el rol y la importancia del CSA.

En paralelo, el informe 49 del CSA, nos recuerda que el Comité aún tiene mucho trabajo por delante como lo marca su programa de trabajo plurianual. Se avecinan las negociaciones de dos documentos que también podrán contribuir a brindar respuesta efectiva en materia de empoderamiento de las mujeres y niñas en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y con relación a los jóvenes y su interacción con los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios. En estos dos procesos volveremos a tener la posibilidad de mostrar el valor agregado del CSA.

Bajo este marco, Señor Presidente, y para mejorar el proceso de trabajo, queremos recordar la importancia que la carga horaria de negociaciones esté balanceada para que todas las misiones, tanto las grandes de los países desarrollados, como las pequeñas de los países en desarrollo, puedan sumarse a los debates y ofrecer sus puntos de vista basados en contextos, capacidades y prioridades específicas.

Otro elemento a tener en cuenta es el uso del lenguaje acordado a fin de fortalecer el entendimiento mutuo como pilar esencial de cualquier negociación multilateral. Esto no lo debemos olvidar. Mismo comentario merece la función del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición

(GANESAN), recordemos que se trata de un grupo que debe proveer insumos al Comité y sus Miembros para orientar su trabajo, lo cual no quiere decir que los documentos del Comité deban basarse en sus postulados y contenidos ya que, desgraciadamente, sus enfoques y conclusiones no son negociadas por los Miembros.

Es decir, valoramos los aportes del GANESAN, pero marcamos la improcedencia de utilizar sus conclusiones como piedra angular de las negociaciones del Comité. En vez de ello, entendemos que existe una amplia gama de bibliografía científica indexada que puede contribuir, también, y robustecer el abordaje técnico del Comité.

Reiteramos, Presidente, los futuros documentos del CSA deberán elaborarse bajo el prisma que no existe una solución única para mejorar los sistemas alimentarios. Es necesario ser plural para incorporar múltiples enfoques productivos, soluciones innovadoras para fortalecer la relación entre la agricultura y el uso de los recursos naturales, temáticas relativas al comercio internacional de alimentos y sus aportes a la seguridad alimentaria mundial y los efectos negativos de los mecanismos de subsidios e incentivos en la insostenibilidad de los sistemas agrícolas en algunas regiones.

Yendo a mi último punto, Presidente, con relación a las llamadas potenciales implicancias de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios para el CSA, entendemos que este punto ya fue superado por el documento de la FAO en el punto 8.1 de la agenda donde se propone la creación de un centro de coordinación.

No estamos dispuestos a aceptar incluir en el Reporte ninguna referencia sobre la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios o a la idea de constituir un grupo de amigos en el CSA o cosas por el estilo. Por ello, como dije previamente, me gustaría manifestar que el valor y el futuro del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria no deben estar atados a la etapa de la post-Cumbre, sino debe tener como eje su actual programa de trabajo que contribuye con el desarrollo de documentos y políticas voluntarias para superar la inseguridad alimentaria.

En síntesis, Presidente, es fundamental que el CSA continúe desarrollando sus actividades en el marco de su mandato donde Thanawat nos ha dejado una vara muy alta y donde no tengo ninguna duda que Gabriel va a continuar y va a seguir trabajando por esa misma senda.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country, Sweden. The European Union (EU) countries: Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the EU statement. Like others, I would like to start by thanking the outgoing Chairperson and Bureau for all their work done, and welcome the new Chairperson and the new Bureau and wish them all the success.

First, we would like to reiterate our support for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its work as the most inclusive platform on global food security issues. We emphasize the need to actively promote the uptake and implementation of the CFS products and call on FAO along with the World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and other relevant United Nations (UN) agencies to join the CFS Members and stakeholders in this collective effort.

It is important to, as quickly as possible, identify the role for the CFS in the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit. We welcome CFS ongoing preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The transformations of our food systems towards sustainability is not possible without enhancing the position, rights and opportunities of women and girls. The Voluntary Guidelines will encourage countries to give women and girls equal opportunities, and access to resources and decision-making in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

However, we need to remember that women are not a homogeneous group. Their needs, constraints, and opportunities vary. Therefore, it is important that women and girls are considered in all their diversity throughout the guidelines. We also underline that the role in achieving gender equality is essential.

We welcome the inclusiveness of the guidelines ongoing consultation process and thank the CFS Secretariat and all stakeholders involved in the preparation. We encourage an open and constructive dialogue in the forthcoming negotiation process.

With these remarks, we reaffirm the Nordic countries commitment to reaching an ambitious outcome next year for this crucially important CFS workstream.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

Eritrea has prepared a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group (ARG) on the 48th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held virtually on June 4, 2021.

In the Session, the main points emphasized, and which drew attention, are the utilization of the policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches at country level, and enhancing FAO's coordination and coherence with respect to its strategies, policies and programmes on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

Definitely, agroecological approaches are increasingly prominent around the sustainability of agriculture and food systems because of their holistic approach and emphasis on equity. Hence the need for agroecological and other innovative approaches mentioned in the policy recommendations as a set of practices, technologies that look beyond single technological, social or institutional innovations, which could contribute to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition; including the importance of promoting the role of innovation in family farming, and strengthening the capacity of countries in line with agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

The main concern on World Food Security is the immense challenge posed by achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, with around 800 million people still suffering from hunger today; and time is running out to end hunger by 2030. Therefore, it is pertinent and necessary to promote agroecological approaches in agriculture and food systems and reduce inequalities for food security and nutrition particularly in developing countries. To confirm this ideology, financial and capacity building are primary words. To that extent, robust resource mobilization strategy is essential to help and support developing countries.

Hence, advancing agroecological and other innovative approaches at country level is critical to achieving the vision of ending hunger and ensuring food security and more nutrition for all, and for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of continued food security.

ARG, underlines the importance of agroecological and other innovative approaches, hence appreciates and requests the United Nations and in particular the three Rome-based UN agencies for their further support and consideration regarding supporting the utilization at country level, in line with country requests. The ARG appreciates and invites the Council to endorse the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, and attention is drawn in particular to the State of Food Security and Nutrition.

Therefore, the ARG recommends and appreciates FAO to provide technical assistance in an upgraded manner and sustainable way, as a whole for developing countries, so that all countries could involve actively in agroecological approaches to upgrade food security and nutrition and combating all forms of malnutrition.

**Mme Vincenza LOMONACO (Italie)**

L'Italie s'associe à la déclaration de l'Union européenne et souligne la valeur stratégique du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) et de son modèle unique, ouvert et inclusif. À cet égard, nous nous félicitons des résultats des 48e et 49e sessions plénières du Comité, en particulier de l'adoption des recommandations de politiques pour les approches agroécologiques et autres approches innovantes, ainsi que des directives volontaires sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition.

Faire progresser l'égalité des sexes et l'émancipation des femmes et des filles, ainsi que rendre les systèmes agroalimentaires plus attrayants pour les gens, sont des objectifs cruciaux pour assurer l'avenir de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition au niveau mondial. Nous sommes pleinement engagés dans le travail du CSA, en particulier par rapport aux directives volontaires sur l'égalité des

sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, ainsi qu'à la promotion de la participation et de l'emploi des jeunes dans le secteur agricole et les systèmes alimentaires. Nous sommes convaincus que les Membres de la FAO seront d'accord pour assurer le soutien nécessaire et essentiel à ces deux volets.

En tant que plateforme internationale et intergouvernementale ouverte, nous sommes convaincus que le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ainsi que son Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, pourront également offrir une contribution cruciale dans le processus de suivi au Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires, en collaborant à tous les niveaux avec les Centres de coordinations du Sommet.

L'Italie se félicite également de la création d'un Groupe d'amis du CSA et elle est prête à contribuer activement à ses travaux et résultats futurs. Nous souhaitons un bon travail à l'Ambassadeur Gabriel Ferrero.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We agree with the Malaysian statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. I want to thank the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Chairperson for his work. We also want to congratulate Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero on his election as Chairperson. We appreciate the policy document that was adopted. We encourage the follow-up consultations.

We are satisfied with the status of the CFS and request that the vision, scope, functions and organisational structure of CFS remain unchanged. We hope that the CFS will focus on the implementation of the approved Multi-Year Programme of Work, and take into account the bearable workload that the Organization and the Members can handle without adding new work modules so that we can avoid duplication, and that practical effects can be achieved through this.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La France réaffirme son engagement en faveur du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), qui est la plateforme internationale et intergouvernementale la plus inclusive pour discuter des enjeux liés à la transformation des systèmes alimentaires, pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition sous toutes ses formes.

En dépit de circonstances sanitaires exceptionnelles et de moyens limités, le CSA a tenu son programme prévisionnel pour 2021 et produit régulièrement des notes sur l'impact de la COVID-19 sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Il est également parvenu à adopter deux produits majeurs pour la transition vers des systèmes alimentaires durables: les directives volontaires sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition, et les recommandations politiques sur l'agroécologie et les autres approches innovantes, dont la France salue l'adoption. Il nous faut à présent mettre en œuvre de façon résolue ces deux textes, qui sont des outils précieux pour aider les gouvernements et les autres parties prenantes à améliorer la durabilité et la résilience de leurs systèmes alimentaires.

À ce titre, nous appelons la FAO, mais aussi le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA), le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) et les autres organismes des Nations Unies concernés, à renforcer leur appui à la diffusion et à la mise en œuvre des produits du CSA.

La France remercie l'ancien président du CSA, Monsieur Thanawat Tiensin, et félicite le nouveau Président, l'Ambassadeur Gabriel Ferrero.

La France salue la création d'un Groupe des amis du Président, qui permet à tous les membres du CSA qui le souhaitent de réfléchir ensemble sur les implications pour le CSA du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires.

La France est en faveur d'une collaboration étroite entre le pôle de coordination, piloté par les organismes romains et le CSA et son Groupe d'experts, le HLPE. Nous reconnaissons et apprécions le CSA comme l'enceinte la plus inclusive et la plus appropriée pour permettre aux Membres et aux parties prenantes de participer activement au suivi du Sommet.

La France salue le lancement des travaux, qui aboutiront l'an prochain à l'adoption de directives volontaires sur l'égalité de genre ainsi que de recommandations politiques sur l'engagement et l'emploi des jeunes dans les systèmes alimentaires. Ces travaux montrent à nouveau que le CSA est capable de se saisir de la pluralité des enjeux impactant les systèmes alimentaires.

Nous espérons que les négociations pourront avoir lieu sous la forme de réunions en personne dans les locaux de la FAO, afin notamment de favoriser l'inclusivité et le consensus qui fondent la nature des débats au CSA.

Je tiens également à remercier ma collègue italienne d'avoir fait vivre le multilinguisme dans cette salle. *Grazie mille.*

Avec ces commentaires, la France approuve les conclusions des deux derniers rapports du CSA.

**Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)**

The Republic of Korea aligns itself to the Asia Group's joint statement delivered by Malaysia. The Republic of Korea once again acknowledges the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as the foremost inclusive inter-governmental platform, which is comprised of various stakeholders including private, civil society, and academia. My delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to the CFS for its continuous as well as valuable outputs such as the "*Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*" in order to improve food security and nutrition.

My delegation is concerned about a sobering reality with regard to global hunger as articulated in the SOFI (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World) 2021 Report. Considering multiple challenges that we are facing, global solidarity is more crucial than ever. In this regard, the UN Food Systems Summit was held at the right timing, and now we are in the follow-up process. As mentioned in the document, we request the CFS to play its unique role and responsibility based on its distinctive characteristics. There can be diverse views on CFS's role, but we hope to see clear tasks for the CFS based on its previous outcomes and experiences along with sufficient consultations with Member States, Advisory Group and others participants.

Republic of Korea also welcomes the updated CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) which does show CFS' high ambition. Among various work streams, we particularly express our full support towards preparation of a CFS Voluntary Guideline for Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment considering women and girls as invaluable players in the context of food security and nutrition. We also encourage CFS' work on policy recommendations for Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment which is scheduled to report in the next session of the CFS.

Republic of Korea looks forward to seeing results of both works to contribute to regions and countries which are suffering from multiple challenges on the ground.

With these comments, Republic of Korea endorses the Report of the 48th and 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

**Sra. Amarilli VILLEGAS CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

En Costa Rica decimos que el tiempo es oro y, en esa línea, cortamos nuestra intervención para no reiterar las excelentes declaraciones que nos han precedido, seremos muy breves.

Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA), Embajador Gabriel Ferrero, por todo el apoyo que ha mostrado al Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura Familiar y su invitación para formar parte del grupo de expertos del Comité. Sin lugar a dudas, será una oportunidad para visualizar más el diseño, fortalecer la presencia de los Estados Miembros del Comité Directivo Internacional y también fortalecer la labor conjunta que tenemos con la FAO y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) en este sentido.

Al respecto también de los informes, agradecemos al CSA sus recomendaciones para que el Decenio tome en cuenta las conclusiones del informe del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (GANESAN). Por ello, Costa Rica desea respetuosamente motivar a un mayor compromiso a todos los grupos regionales que forman parte de este comité, especialmente a

aquellos que todavía no han renovado a sus Miembros y agradecemos siempre el gran interés y compromiso.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the adoption of the Committee of World Food Security's (CFS) Session Reports and wishes to once again congratulate Ambassador Ferrero on his election as Chairperson of the CFS.

We recognize the importance of the CFS ongoing work which is all the more relevant given the concerning findings outlined in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021 Report. As highlighted following the UN Food Systems Summit: food systems transformation is required to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition rates, address poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and CFS can clearly contribute to these goals through its ongoing work.

Canada is pleased with the progress of the CFS workstream on gender equality and we were happy to host a Regional Consultation for North America a few weeks ago on the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality, and Women's and Girls' empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition and we look forward to collaborating closely on this central theme: a key priority for Canada.

Finally, we look forward to participating in the ongoing policy convergence process on youth and the upcoming workstream on data and we know that both these processes underpin a systems approach to food systems which we encourage the CFS to continue applying.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo a los informes de las sesiones 48 y 49 del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA), quisiéramos destacar los siguientes puntos además de suscribir estrictamente lo que ha declarado ya la Unión Europea y sus 27 Miembros. Quisiera en primer lugar agradecer la labor del Presidente saliente, Thanawat, y felicitar muy afectuosamente, supongo que no les extrañará, al nuevo Presidente, Gabriel Ferrero.

Dicho lo cual damos la bienvenida a los debates exhaustivos que tuvieron lugar en las Sesiones 48 y 49 del CSA en los meses de junio y octubre del año 21 y aprovechamos esta oportunidad para reiterar nuestro apoyo y compromiso con el CSA como principal plataforma intergubernamental e internacional más inclusiva para asuntos de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

Agradecemos la adopción de las recomendaciones de políticas sobre enfoques agroecológicos y otros enfoques innovadores en la Sesión 48.a del CSA como un aporte valioso para lograr sistemas alimentarios sostenibles.

Enfatizamos la necesidad de promover activamente la aceptación e implementación de estas recomendaciones y hacemos una llamada a todos los Miembros y partes interesadas del CSA para que se unan a este esfuerzo colectivo. Dicho esto, lamentamos que el mecanismo de sociedad civil no haya podido respaldar las recomendaciones políticas durante el 48.º Periodo de Sesiones del CSA y después de los debates internos posteriores.

Instamos al CSA y sus Miembros a que continúen participando y mejorando el diálogo con la sociedad civil, imprescindible en las discusiones en el seno del mismo, en sus trabajos y en la aplicación de sus decisiones.

Damos la bienvenida al establecimiento de un grupo de amigos y al mandato acordado durante la 49.ª Sesión del CSA de tener un debate abierto inclusivo sobre las implicaciones de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de Naciones Unidas sobre el CSA y su Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (GANESAN), en el que participen todos los Miembros y partes interesadas del CSA.

El amplio mandato del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial centrado en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, así como en muchas dimensiones relacionadas con los sistemas alimentarios y su carácter inclusivo, hacen del CSA y su grupo de alto nivel, partícipes muy adecuados dentro del proceso de seguimiento de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de las Naciones Unidas.

Por último, reiteramos nuestro reconocimiento por los preparativos de los próximos procesos de convergencia de políticas del CSA, especialmente en materia de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas y en la participación y el empleo de los jóvenes en la agricultura y en los sistemas alimentarios.

Con estas observaciones, Señor Presidente, respalda España el informe sobre las Sesiones 48.a y 49.a del CSA, esperando que nuestros comentarios serán debidamente tenidos en cuenta.

**Sr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

Voy a hablar en mi lengua nativa, espero hacerlo despacio en esta ocasión. México comienza por reconocer el trabajo y liderazgo ejercido por nuestro amigo, el Señor Embajador Thanawat de Tailandia. No lo envidiamos en muchas de las decisiones que usted tuvo que trabajar, pero expresamos nuestro profundo agradecimiento y al Embajador Gabriel Ferrero, Gabriel, te expresamos desde México nuestro reconocimiento a ti y a tu equipo de trabajo.

Reiteramos nuestra disponibilidad para seguir colaborando en todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance. Para México es muy importante el trabajo de este comité y espera que a través de este Comité se pueda seguir avanzando en el desarrollo de propuestas técnicas y directrices voluntarias que atiendan las complejas necesidades de la agricultura en su concepto más amplio, no solamente la producción de cultivos, sino también la ganadería y la pesca.

Como lo expresó nuestro Jefe de Delegación en la reunión 49, el proceso de estas regulaciones voluntarias y, en particular, de la agroecología es un proceso muy importante para México y México se suma a adoptar lo que ahí fue discutido. México reconoce estos principios que son voluntarios y no vinculantes legalmente y que la interpretación que nuestro país realice será en el marco de nuestra legislación vigente.

Queremos reconocer los esfuerzos y liderazgos del Embajador Emadi, quien dio comienzo a estos trabajos, y del Embajador Yaya, quien los culminó con un enorme compromiso y profesionalismo. La implementación de prácticas agroecológicas y de otras innovaciones que permitan la producción agrícola, ganadera y pesquera, transitar hacia sistemas que usen menos insumos químicos y que se construyan con respeto a la biodiversidad, el suelo y el agua, es una prioridad de la más alta importancia.

Quisiera insistir en la necesidad que se tiene de seguir apoyando el trabajo de este Comité para alcanzar los objetivos propuestos en su plan de trabajo multianual y dar atención a los temas propuestos, en especial a los ya reiterados por este Consejo y a los que se puedan sumar en el futuro como es el caso de Jóvenes y Género y, me permitiría, incluir el tema de empleo en el campo. Sin embargo, al hacerlo debemos de tener cuidado de no asignar o esperar de este Comité productos y resultados fuera de su mandato, especialmente en cuanto se refiere a su participación en el seguimiento de la cumbre recién terminada.

No quiero decir que no participe, tampoco quiero dar una carta blanca que participe totalmente; tendremos que estudiar cómo va a participar y esto seguramente lo haremos cuando hablemos del seguimiento de la cumbre. Esperamos seguir contando con información oportuna sobre el progreso de las actividades de este importante Comité. México aprueba los Reportes de la 48 y 49 reuniones de dicho Comité y reitera su disposición nuevamente ante todos ustedes y ante el nuevo Presidente del Comité, nuestro compromiso de avanzar en resolver los temas trabajando con ustedes.

**Ms Ida Ayu RATIH (Indonesia)**

Indonesia wishes to align itself with the statement that was delivered by Malaysian delegation on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation for the hard work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Committee in preparing the report and successful performance of the 48th Session and the 49th Session of the CFS under the leadership of the former Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero and express our support for his leadership once again.



We would like to deliver two brief points.

Firstly, we reiterate the urgent need for FAO together with other UN RBAs to promote an effective utilization and uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (including through the platform of evidence and tools which launched during the 49<sup>th</sup> CFS Session) as well as the “CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.”

Secondly, we particularly underline the importance of using multilaterally agreed language and concepts in working on the development of any CFS policy products, including the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

With these few notes, we endorse the findings and recommendations from the 48<sup>th</sup> and the 49<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group delivered by Malaysia. Thailand would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Report of 48th and 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and my delegation also would like to echo our commitment to support the work of the Committee on World Food Security and also the new Chairperson of the CFS, His Excellency, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero.

We have gone through the policy conversions process, and also the difficult negotiations, and finally, the policy recommendation on agroecological and other innovative approaches, and also the Voluntary Guidelines were endorsed. But we still have a lot of things to do and that is why would like to encourage Members we support FAO and also other Rome-based Agencies, to promote the uptake and implementation of CFS agreed products at the local and national level.

Regarding the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up and coordination, we are expecting that the Coordination Hub led by FAO and the Rome-based Agencies will explore possibilities and feasibilities how the CFS and its High-level Panel of Experts will be able to assist, complement and also support the work of Coordination Hub. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Members and the Rome-based Agencies for your support during my tenure during the last two years.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give now the floor to the Observer Mali.

**Mme Halimatou TRAORE KONE (Mali) (Observateur)**

Le Mali prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique pour s'exprimer sur le point 11 relatif à la 49e session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA). Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite Son Excellence Monsieur Gabriel Ferrero, nouveau Président du CSA, à qui nous souhaitons beaucoup de courage et de succès pour affronter les nombreux défis de l'heure. Nos vifs remerciements et félicitations vont à Monsieur Thanawat Tiensin pour le travail remarquable qu'il a abattu à la tête du CSA durant ces deux dernières années.

C'est avec une attention particulière que le Groupe régional Afrique a examiné les recommandations issues de la 49e session du CSA. Nous voudrions exprimer notre vive préoccupation pour le nombre croissant de personnes qui pourraient encore souffrir de la faim en 2030, en raison notamment des effets durables de la pandémie de COVID-19 sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Cette situation est d'autant plus inquiétante qu'une tendance à la hausse est en train de s'installer depuis ces dernières années.

Cela interpelle toutes les parties prenantes, dont le CSA, qui devrait aider les pays et régions selon qu'il convient à établir les objectifs en voie de réalisation et voir aussi comment réduire plus rapidement et plus efficacement l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition.

Cependant, malgré notre inquiétude, nous exprimons notre satisfaction. À noter que l'appropriation des directives volontaires du CSA sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition pourrait contribuer à

promouvoir une alimentation saine grâce à des systèmes alimentaires durables. Le Groupe régional Afrique encourage toutes les parties prenantes à l'adaptation des directives volontaires du CSA.

Le Groupe régional joint sa voix à celle du CSA pour demander aux trois organismes ayant leur siège à Rome, dont la FAO, d'honorer leurs engagements dans le partage équitable des coûts afférents au budget du Secrétariat du CSA. Le Groupe accorde une grande importance aux directives volontaires sur l'égalité des genres et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, compte tenu du fait que ces directives peuvent faire la différence dans la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Le Groupe félicite le CSA pour le processus de consultation régionale qui a prévalu dans l'élaboration de ces directives. Nous sommes satisfaits des avancées obtenues dans l'élaboration des recommandations de politique générale du CSA sur la promotion de la participation et de l'emploi des jeunes dans l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires.

Nous encourageons vivement le CSA à conduire les travaux d'élaboration inclusive des deux directives afin de les présenter en 2022.

Nous approuvons les conclusions et recommandations de la 49<sup>e</sup> session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is just quickly to address why two people spoke on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. I want to confirm that Eritrea spoke on the 48<sup>th</sup> Session and Mali just spoke on the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Cameroon for clarifying this and of course it is important that we have both statements for both sessions. Before I give the floor to the Chairperson of Committee on World Food Security (CFS), we really would like to thank our and my dear friend Ambassador Tiensin Thanawat for his outstanding and excellent work over the last two years for CFS.

It was really outstanding it was more than a pleasure to work with you as you could clearly hear and also see in the virtual room that we applaud you for everything you did for CFS. We count on your continued support for both CFS as well as for the Council FAO. Thank you very much Thanawat. I now give the floor and of course congratulate the new Chairperson of CFS Gabriel Ferrero for his appointment as well as giving the floor for briefly reacting to the point made, but hopefully briefly.

**Mr Gabriel FERRERO (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)**

Excellencies, distinguished Members of the Council I thank you for your very rich comments and also for your kind words and very positive assessment of the relevance and impact of the Committee.

It is my pleasure to join this, my first, meeting of the Council of FAO as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) where the Report of two of the three sessions the Committee celebrated this year is presented for your endorsement. Allow me to underscore that this is an unprecedented record of meetings of the Committee held the same year in very difficult circumstances and I wish to express the Committee's gratitude and recognition to the Secretariat and of course to my dear predecessor Mr Thanawat Tiensin for your leadership and for your achievement.

These two sessions led to the adoption of two very important sets of CFS policy agreements. The policy recommendations for agroecological and other innovative approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems and that enhance food security and nutrition. This was based on the 14<sup>th</sup> Report of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts under the leadership of our dear Yaya Olaniran from Nigeria and on the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition under your leadership.

Particularly regarding the CFS 49, allow me to refer to some of the highlights, there were over 1300 registered participants including eight Ministers and eight Vice Ministers. The Session was attended by 122 Members and non-members of the Committee along with 16 UN Agencies and Bodies. 121 Civil Society Organizations. 83 Private Sector Associations and philanthropic foundations. The

International Agricultural Research Organizations and regional financial and international financial institutions.

The CFS also had the address of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He called for the CFS “to drive change across food systems with the full force of the United Nations family standing by,”. We also had the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) addressing the Committee for the first time and he stated that, “we have much to learn from the CFS approach to science and evidence-based policies and inclusive dialogue among all key stakeholder groups impacted by food systems”.

Finally, we had the remarks of the FAO Director-General and he referred to the CFS “as a crucial partner given its unique role as an inclusive global platform” and he underscored the opportunity for the CFS to strengthen its position and to support implementation of the UN Food Systems Summit outcomes. He said, “FAO remains committed to a strong CFS that contributes concretely to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will continue to partner with the CFS in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP)”.

With these very encouraging opening remarks, the Committee examined some figures for the 2021 Report on the State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) and acknowledged its emphasis on the need for food systems transformation.

The Plenary also welcomed the High-Level Panel of Experts updated paper on the impacts from COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. The Committee also requested a continued deliberation and due attention to the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems and agriculture and nutrition at all stages for the implementation of the approved Multi-Year Programme of Work.

The Committee also deliberated extensively on the potential implications of the UN Food Systems Summit on the CFS and its High-Level Panel of Experts. The CFS Members and stakeholders congratulated the UN Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit and the Plenary agreed to make further analysis and considerations of the next steps within the CFS Bureau in consultation with all Members, the Ambassador Group and other CFS participants.

We also took stock of some of the previous policy recommendations of the Committee and particularly the ones from Food Security and Climate Change adopted in 2012 and on Water and Food Security and Nutrition adopted in 2015.

Regarding the Multi-Year Programme of Work, the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment are expected to be endorsed at CFS 50 in October 2022 under the leadership of the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Panama as well as the policy recommendations on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems under the leadership of Permanent Representative of Switzerland. The Committee reiterated in both cases the importance of inclusive consultations to strengthen ownership for implementation linked with priorities, initiatives and with practices of countries.

The Committee updated its Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2023 and noted that implementation of this Multi-Year Programme of Work is contingent of resources and encouraged also the Rome-based Agencies to share regularly the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget as agreed as a symbol of joint ownership of commitment of effective collaboration.

To conclude, we have an intense and agreed Multi-Year Programme of Work with very critical contributions for the global debate and the global consensus on such an important issues as gender equality, women’s and girl’s empowerment or youth. And a bit later on inequality and food security and on data. This is all about the impact of our work and the work of the Committee on people, planet and prosperity.

Many of your comments refer to the uptake, or the critical uptake of the CFS Global Intergovernmental Agreements on a voluntary basis and it is indeed our primary responsibility as Member States also as a United Nations system and very especially of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), to do so within our countries, within our governments, within our capitals.

The CFS remains the intergovernmental and inclusive platform for achieving food security and nutrition through sustainable, inclusive, diverse and context-based food systems. The CFS offers this unique space for Members and non-members of the United Nations to share our efforts, our progress and challenges and indeed are continually agreeing on very complex policy issues that affect or are needed for achieving our vision of Zero Hunger.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Committee of Food Security for your words and I wish you all the success in your new job. With that we have finalized our considerations of this Agenda Item. We will work on the draft conclusions.

#### **Item 6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit**

##### **Point 6. Résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires**

##### **Tema 6. Resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios**

(CL 168/6)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now we continue with Agenda Item 6, *Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit* which is reflected in document CL 168/6 and the introduction for this item by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, has been circulated to you.

#### **Introduction to Item 6: Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

1. The United Nations Food Systems Summit was convened by the UN Secretary-General on 23-24 September 2021. Through a virtual format the Summit offered a platform for the mobilization of commitments by Heads of State and Government and other constituency leaders. It also served as a milestone after 18 months of process leveraging local, national, regional and global actors around an inclusive dialogue on food systems and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
2. The Secretary-General's Statement of Action promised a better future through food systems, and indicated five key areas for making progress on the SDGs. The five areas, informed by the Summit's Independent Scientific Group, Action Tracks, Levers of Change, and the Summit Dialogues are: (1) Nourish All People; (2) Boost Nature-based Solutions; (3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work & Empowered Communities; (4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and (5) Support Means of Implementation. It also describes the approach to follow-up from the Summit.
3. The Summit was guided by an Advisory Committee throughout the process with significant support provided by Members and various self-organizing constituency groups, as a result of which a number of outcomes were achieved. The process also created a UN system-wide follow-up process led by the Rome-based UN Agencies (RBAs) in close collaboration with the Summit Secretariat and the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General.
4. FAO, together with the RBAs and other UN Agencies, are tasked with taking a leadership role to take the follow-up process forward and ensure that the ambitious and urgent actions are successfully implemented. FAO will host a Coordination Hub, maintaining a lean structure by directly leveraging existing teams and capacities in the UN system, as well as potentially leveraging key partnerships in the wider ecosystem of support.
5. The Deputy Secretary-General's office, with the Secretariat and the RBAs, are ensuring a smooth transition of capacity, structures and knowledge to the Coordination Hub. The Hub is expected to be initially in place at the beginning of 2022 with new organizational arrangements to be rolled out in a phased manner.
6. A key role of the Hub will be to coordinate and facilitate the required technical and policy support from UN Agencies and other institutions to assist countries in further developing and implementing their national pathways. This would include *inter alia* linking the multi-

stakeholder initiatives that emerged from the Summit to the national transformation pathways implementation.

7. The Hub will work through Country and Decentralized Offices and will coordinate with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams for a coordinated approach to countries, and will organize biennial stocktaking events to ensure reporting to Members.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like to open the floor for the Member States to reflect on this Agenda Item.

#### **Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

I would like to pass the floor to Poland, speaking as Chair of the European Regional Group.

#### **Ms Iwona KRZESZEWSKA (Chairperson of Europe Regional Group)**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Regional Group. We would like to thank the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) for their work in contributing to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS). A genuinely systemic approach to food systems is essential if we are to rise to the challenge of making increasing levels of hunger and global food insecurity.

A UN system-wide approach should therefore be a foundation of renewed effort among the RBAs to meet the SDGs. We underline the importance of closely linking the results of the summit to the 2030 Agenda process including the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

We thank FAO for the paper on the results of the United Nations Food Systems Summit that includes some information on the UNFSS Coordination Hub. We look forward to hearing more details about it and how we will do the work. Early clarification about greater roles and responsibilities including reporting responsibilities will allow Member States to better understand how the Hub would operate in practice. Be assured on the UN system-wide approach of the hub and how we can best support its work.

#### **Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Regional Group welcomes the results of the United Nations Food Systems Summit including the United Nations Secretary-General's statement of actions during the Summit. The Asia Regional Group joined other Members in recommending to foster a global discussion that puts food systems in the centre of international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and we commit to continue and refer to development of sustainable food systems.

The Asia Regional Group looks forward to the continued support of the United Nations system especially the Rome-based UN agencies, the High-level Panel of Experts of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation in respect to national food systems transformation pathways.

We take note of the following process and establishment of a Coordination Hub. It is understood that the Rome-based UN agencies, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme will jointly lead this Coordination Hub to continue the work of this summit. However, we need to have more clarity on the modalities of operation. How the Hub will coordinate and facilitate Members in the terms of technical and policy support in the context of UN Food Systems Summit.

Also, the Hub must avoid redundant structure. The Asia Regional Group encourages to review the proposal more carefully and creatively and encourages the Hub to maintain a lean structure by directly leveraging existing capacities of the UN system, as well as key partnerships in the wider ecosystem of support. We welcome the suggested approach that this support will primarily be through country and decentralised offices in coordination with Resident Coordinators and UN country teams for a coordinated approach to the countries.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Kindly give the floor to Zambia to speak on behalf of Africa Regional Group.

**Mr Kayoya MASUHWA (Zambia) (Observer)**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa group welcomes the document *CL 168/6*. As we enter the last decade of the action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), COVID-19 in addition to other main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition such as conflicts, climate variabilities, economic volatility further exacerbated the poverty and high levels of inequality.

These shocks further revealed the fragility of Africa's food systems jeopardising the economic growth achieved over the last past two decades. Therefore, the power of leveraging food systems to drive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve the SDGs by 2030 as emphasised during the Summit is therefore critical.

The role of relevant stakeholders in transforming global food systems and significance of combined and coordinated efforts by all across the food value chain is needed for policy coherence and strengthening of the synergies for greater impact.

Transformative action for a resilient and sustainable food systems and the close participation of people who drive our agri-food systems on the ground, such as smallholder farmers, herders, food workers and fish folks would be welcome. The Group welcomes partnerships that support digitalization, agri-food research, development and innovation and also those areas that generate sustainable inclusive jobs for African youth in the agriculture sector and rural development.

The Group recommends enhancing existing additional tools and flagship programmes with game changing solutions presented in a common position within the context of existing development frameworks including the African Union Agenda 2063, the Malabo Declaration Strategy, the Africa continental free-trade area and the comprehensive Africa agriculture programmes.

Further recommends that the follow-up to Summit should build on lessons learned from the preparatory processes including the national, regional dialogues organised and run by existing institutions at national and regional levels with action driven at country level by governments in their local context.

Finally, the Africa Regional Group takes note of the UN Food Systems Summit as well as the follow-up actions that are underway.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

Este tema que nos ocupa, en mi opinión, es el tema central quizás de este Consejo y nos invita a hacer una profunda reflexión sobre el mismo. Algunos creemos que la cumbre no fue una cumbre normal y que no tuvo el acuerdo de todos los países, que no fue construido por todos. Otros creemos que la cumbre es un parteaguas. Otros creemos que la cumbre es solamente una ocurrencia. La realidad es que la cumbre nos ofrece una oportunidad para construir, quizás, un mundo mejor y dejarles un mundo mejor a nuestros nietos.

Y lo que yo quisiera, en esta ocasión, y este no es un statement de México, es invitarnos a todos a pensar fuera de la caja y no venir con discursos preconcebidos, sino para construir una visión de cómo vamos a avanzar en esta oportunidad que se nos da.

Si dejamos pasar esta oportunidad, nosotros vamos a ser responsables ante al mundo y ante las próximas generaciones. yTenemos que pensar cómo los mecanismos existentes en los órganos de gobierno de las agencias en Roma participan, ¿Cómo participa el Consejo del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria? ¿Cómo participa el grupo de amigos informal que tenemos? Tenemos mucho que discutir, tenemos una gran oportunidad y yo creo que si no discutimos esto en este Consejo, si no discutimos cómo articulamos todo esto, la verdad es que vamos a perder una oportunidad muy importante.

Analizar los temas que nos impactan, que no hay alimentos, que hemos crecido en la pobreza, ya lo sabemos, lo que tenemos que hacer es pensar fuera de la caja. Quizás más tarde haga mi reflexión

como país, pero sentía la necesidad personal de invitarnos a pensar en otra dirección, ¿cómo construimos y aprovechamos esto? Porque si no lo construimos, el mundo nos lo va a reclamar y no va a haber responsables, los responsables somos los que estamos sentados en esta mesa.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

It is my historic first to make an intervention on behalf of the Philippine delegation and on behalf of my Ambassador in person, since I arrived in July. Let me take this opportunity to thank all the people behind the scenes making this hybrid meeting possible. They have been very helpful. Of course, congratulations to the Italian Government for hosting the Pre-Summit and all the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) for bringing Members here to Rome and to all Members who have made the commitments for the lead up to the UN Food Systems Summit.

There has been a lot of work and we hope that all this effort will bring us closer to our Sustainable Development Goals. The Philippines aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group's statement delivered by India with regards to its comments on the results of the UN's Food Systems Summit and its follow-up.

The UN Food Systems Pre-Summit and the Summit have provided a platform to boost the Philippines food systems transformation efforts centred on the whole of government and whole of nation approach. Smallholder and family farmers, women, youth and indigenous peoples will be at the centre of the country's agri-food systems transformation in order to deliver progress on our Sustainable Development Goals anchored on modernisation, industrialisation, value chain-based consolidation and professionalisation. We agree with the FAO Director-General as he mentioned in his opening statement after generating a significant momentum for moving forward the transformation of agri-food systems, now is the time to accelerate the work of the country level.

The Philippines looks forward to the support of the UN system especially the Rome-based UN agencies and the Committee on World Food Security and its High-level Panel of Experts, international financial institutions, private sector and civil society in the implementation of a national agri-food systems transformation pathway.

We take note that the Coordination Hub has already been agreed among the UN Deputy Secretary-General and relevant UN agencies namely the FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNEP and DCO to be lodged in the FAO office for SDGs beginning January 2022. While looking forward to having more clarity on the mandate and functions of the Coordination Hub and how it will support the implementation of countries transformation pathways.

We welcome the potential catalytic role of the Coordination Hub for the Food Systems Summit follow-up actions in coordinating and facilitating the required technical and policy support from UN agencies and other institutions to assist us in further developing and implementing our national pathway. Including linking not only multi-stakeholder initiatives that emerged from the summit but also prior related initiatives such as those developed under the UN Decade of Family Farming through the implementation of a national agri-food systems transformation pathway.

Further, we hope that the Coordination Hub will not be another layer for country reporting but would rather be more of an enabler who can help address the country's many challenges in implementing the national pathways.

We likewise welcome the approach that the Coordination Hub will work through country and the decentralised offices and will coordinate with Resident Coordinators and UN country teams for a coherent and coordinated approach to countries in that it will organise biennial stocking events to ensure Reporting to Members. Thank you and best wishes in working together for attaining a food secure world in the most efficient, effective and inclusive manner.

**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

South Africa associates itself with the statement made by Zambia on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

South Africa wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the key role FAO played in the success of the UN Food Systems Summit process. In particular the hosting of the pre-summit where substantive discussions took place on food transformation.

The summit's successful conclusion will contribute to work of the Rome-based Agencies in finding sustainable solutions and innovations to transform national food systems especially in the post COVID-19 world. The outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit as encapsulated in a statement of action of the UN Secretary-General does not represent a negotiated consensus outcome, nor does it alter the mandate of the Rome-based Agencies. However, the Summit outcome provides a high-level political summary that will motivate tangible national and regional action on food systems transformation.

South Africa aligns itself with a statement of action and announced at the Summit that South Africa will join the Action for Nutrition and Zero Hunger, with school meals coalition and FAO's Food coalition.

As identified in the Secretary-General's statement of action, the focus of the UN agencies and specifically the Rome-based Agencies is to support Member States to implement their commitments made and to coordinate the UN's action to advance the transformation of the food systems.

The mandate of the Rome-based Agencies including the Committee on World Food Security as the main role players in facilitating Food Systems Transformation has therefore been clearly defined including through their own strategic plans. The role of FAO in the future hosting of the Coordination Hub to facilitate the Summit follow-up is appropriate as FAO has a clear role in coordinating action at the global level in support of food systems transformation.

The Rome-Based Agencies have been undertaking action on Food Systems Transformation before the Summit and post Summit will continue to do so without the need for new Summit related structures and within existing budgetary resources. In addition, although they were informal groupings that facilitated preparations for the Summit, the best approach post Summit is for the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based Agencies to consider appropriate follow-up both formally and informally under the guidance of their respective Chairpersons.

The key objective of the Council is to guide Food Systems Transformation in relation to FAO's Strategic Framework by drawing on the strong foundations of science and traditional knowledge and to provide the opportunity to share policy choices and practices that contribute to sustainable food systems.

In conclusion, South Africa is committed to strengthening the transformation of the food systems to achieve the objective of Zero Hunger and stands ready to cooperate on actions in this regard.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, for the preparation of the document on the result of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. Brazil joins the widespread support for a commitment among Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) to avoid creating new structures and maintenance.

In this sense, we would like more information on the Organizational chart proposing an extensive structure for the Coordination Hub, which does not seem to be aligned with this principle of not replicating structures. We understand that any coordination exercise must be carried out without or with minimal organizational change without incorporating new steps.

We support that any follow-up action to be taken by the RBAs should be decided by the Governing Bodies. Following the assessment, discussion and consensus of the Members. In this spirit we welcome this present discussion. Brazil understands that Food Systems Summit was a collective effort towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



In this context we remain convinced that coordination of the follow-up to the Summit should be taken up by the High-level Political Forum in this instance responsible. We thank the UN system for assessing the advances towards the achievements of all the SDGs with the support of the agencies involved.

Addressing specific points the document *CL 168/6*, first of all we value the way forward presented but the post summit activities are aimed at providing technical and policy assistance to support the national pathways. Nevertheless, we are surprised with mentions to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) both in the proposal chart as in the text. UNEP was not singled out in the Secretary-General's statement of action. All the international organizations such as FAO, for instance, are equally or more essential for the constitution of the goals of the Food Systems Summit.

Regarding mention of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), the high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition has been created in the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to assist the Committee on World Food Security, what is the clear mandate given to each by the Basic Texts. Its inclusion in the proposed science ecosystem of support is not within its mandate, which also does not encompass food systems. The same diversion is present in the proposed inclusion of the Chairperson of the CFS to lead the oversight of the implementation. This is clearly not within its mandate, which is restricted to the Committee on World Food Security and relates only to food security and nutrition, not to food systems.

Moreover, nations offering formal non-member status such as the World Food Forum and the global hub for indigenous people's food systems should be avoided. We also point out the existence of using nature-based solutions in the text, a concept which lacks multilateral definition.

Finally, Brazil considers it unnecessary to hold regular stocktaking meetings every two years on the follow-up of the FSS. It will suffice to integrate the summit into the SDG follow-up mechanism.

**Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)**

First, on behalf of the Informal North American Regional Group, we would like to align ourselves with the substance of the statement of the Europe Regional Group presented earlier. We note that in essence this is the same substance as the cross-list statement that was recently agreed to by the WFP Executive Board.

In a national capacity, the United States would like to thank FAO for this Report on the UN Food Systems Summit and on the progress taking the follow-up process forward. We would like to thank FAO, the other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) along with the Deputy Secretary-General and Special Envoy for their work on preparing and delivering the summit.

As the Deputy Secretary-General has repeatedly said, the focus now is on follow-through with action at the country level. The planned multi year investment of more than USD 10 million announced by our President is already being used to promote Food Systems Transformation both within the United States and in the countries in which we partner in Africa, Asia and Latin America through Feed the Future.

We support the vision the Deputy Secretary-General has outlined at the national level government action should be supported by UN resident coordinators and the UN country teams. As to the global level, the Rome-based coordination structure is critical to ensuring that the political momentum generated by the summit is translated into concrete action on the ground. We would welcome more information about reporting lines for the hub as the Director-General described to us earlier this week.

He described day-to-day management under an FAO Director level 2 position, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Office Director and the Hub reporting to the Steering Group for oversight. Our aim here is to ensure there is no duplication of effort, no inefficiency and no conflicting guidance for the operation of the Hub. We would welcome Management clarifying for us, so we can understand how it will work in practice.

We also hope management can give us more clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary-General's office in New York as well as the other UN agencies not based in Rome so we can ensure coordinated UN wide system approach and oversight.

Members have made very clear the RBAs should present us with a shared vision for how all three organizations can jointly coordinate the Summit follow-up without a new costly structure and, and this is critical, while ensuring continued Member State oversight. We do request a written description of the Food Systems Summit Coordination Hub and we would like that to include a proposal for how Members can provide the necessary oversight.

Our country believes the RBAs should support countries to implement their national pathways by providing technical assistance to those countries, by analysing the science and evidence-based impact and trade-offs tied to various interventions by assisting with the SDG Reporting requirements and by advocating for Food Systems Transformation to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

My last point regarding the science policy interface, we understand that it will take time to get this right. We need a system that will deliver rigorous evidence-based science and analysis that can be used by national policymakers and other stakeholders. And so the United States looks forward to working closely with the UN to ensure Member States are fully engaged in developing this important element of the follow-up infrastructure.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian delegation aligns itself of the statement made by the respected representative of Poland on behalf of the Europe Regional Group.

In our national capacity, I would like to note the following. Like many colleagues, we also support the creation on the basis of the FAO together with WFP and IFAD as well as with the participation of other interested UN system organizations of a Coordinating Hub to implement the follow-up actions after the UN Food Systems Summit.

Like other delegations have said, we believe that the Rome-based Agencies have everything necessary to do this. First of all, they have intergovernmentally agreed strategic work plans. They have the necessary administrative resources, the technical and scientific expertise and broad representation field.

At the same time, we trust that as a result of the discussions held in this Session the Council will be provided also in written form with additional information about how it plans to structure the work of the Hub, particularly the Director-General of the FAO in his statement at the Opening Session referred to assigning to the Hub additional post including at the Director Level and we would like to have clarity regarding the possible financial consequences of such a decision.

It would also be necessary to have information about how the process of preparing Reports to the high level political forum of sustainable development would be organised, in particular we are interested to know based on what criteria will the Coordinating Hub implement its monitoring of food systems transformation. After all, responsibility for that falls primarily to the Members.

Also, there is a question that is raised regarding how the hub in preparing the Reporting is to be guided by the recommendations and conclusions created by the new Scientific Group or the Coordinating Hub. Yet nothing in the documents that were presented refers to the role of Members in preparing these documents. In that regard like a number of other previous speakers we would like to recall that the results of this summit including the recommendations on the five areas of action were not agreed in an intergovernmental format.

In conclusion, allow me to highlight once again, we believe that the process of follow-up activity must be transparent for Members who have primary responsibility for transforming and ensuring the sustainability of food systems. We propose that practically speaking we could discuss these issues in greater detail within Regional Groups and their voluntary formats in Rome with the participation of all Members of the FAO not only those who are Members of the Council.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)**

Bangladesh aligns itself with the comments made by India on behalf of the Asia Regional Group on the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). We would also like to support

the comment made by the Ambassador of Mexico to think out-of-the-box on one of the central topics on this 168th Session of the Council.

Bangladesh welcomes the statement of actions of the UN Secretary-General as an outcome of the Food Systems Summit. In particular we deeply appreciate the great work done by the FSS Secretariat to organise a Summit at the time when we have less than ten years to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we aspire to achieve to end poverty in all forms, eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Bangladesh believes that the Food Systems Summit, and as such the presummit here at Rome, has been successful in obtaining two important cognitions globally. First, the political importance of the food system at the global level has been reinforced through the pronouncements made by our respective Heads of State governments in New York.

Secondly, FSS process generating momentum for inclusive national dialogues including development of transformative food systems and national pathways at the local level in many countries. So resources were mobilised to this end and we would like to keep on continuing the good work as part of the decade of action with challenges to mitigate the crisis of conflict, climate change and COVID-19.

As mentioned in the joint statement of the Asia Regional Group, Bangladesh is in favour of transforming the outcome implementation at the field level and the transition is very critical for us. We need to be careful in taking a decision for the next steps. So while supporting the establishment of the Coordination Hub, we will be pleased to receive more information about its structure and how it will be linked to the decentralised offices when implementation is the key for next steps.

Bangladesh nevertheless, proposes to strengthen the role of CFS and High-level Panel of Experts in the structure of Coordination Hub. We believe that Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) country officers should be provided with necessary guidance in continuing the work that started during the FSS process and should be coordinated with other UN agencies. Particular importance and due consideration should be given to the coalitions generated throughout the consultative process within the Member Countries and other stakeholders where some countries are expected to play leading roles.

With this Bangladesh would like to take note the following actions of UNFSS towards a smooth transition and would like to participate in future discussions for its finalisation of implementation mechanism. I

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia appreciates the summary of the UN Food Systems Summit results presented in *CL 168/6* and we also welcome the information that was presented in the Group of Friends Meeting on 24 November. In response, Australia respectfully provides the following comments and questions against which we seek ongoing dialogue with Members.

Firstly, regarding the multi-stakeholder initiatives reference in the Council paper. Australia would appreciate confirmation that this language encompasses coalitions of action, a term which is notably absent from the paper. In addition, we note the lack of reference to sustainable livestock in paragraph 9 and wish to highlight the dedicated global sustainable livestock coalition that has been convened by the World Farmers Organization among others.

This coalition will serve to recognize the importance of sustainable livestock for livelihoods, nutrition, ecosystem services as well as cultural significance. We encourage all Members interested in this topic to join this effort and would also welcome FAO support, considering its wealth of technical knowledge and active engagement in this field.

Secondly, and notwithstanding the information presented at the group of friends meeting, we request further advice in writing on the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Coordination Hub with additional detail on resourcing and budgetary allocation especially as it applies to the FAO.

As described, we consider the responsibilities of the hub are wide reaching and represent a considerable amount of work for a lean structure. While we support any hub seen as efficient and as streamlined as possible it is important to get the balance right between size and responsibility while also ensuring capacity to enable full Member input to post summit discussions.

Further, with regard to the friends group we consider it has played an essential role to enable detailed Member input to date and could continue to be a useful platform depending on governance arrangements including as the role of the Hub develops.

Thirdly, we consider it important that the Hub supports more than just the implementation of national pathways in a formal sense. Even countries that did not submit a national pathway through the summit processing process, noting their voluntary nature deserve the oversight and support for transforming their food systems that will stand for enhanced RBAs and stakeholder collaboration. Avoiding silos should be a key objective of the Hub and ultimately supporting action on the ground and scaled up implementation is fundamental otherwise the Summit has failed.

To close, Australia takes this opportunity to reiterate our own commitment to achieving a better future through food systems. As a part of our national dialogues, we heard that resilient, sustainable and healthy food systems will depend on strong research and innovation and enhance collaboration between all stakeholders.

We are therefore making significant investments in research and development to enhance existing approaches and deliver new ways to increase agriculture productivity, improve livelihoods and health, improve biodiversity outcomes and adapt, mitigate and build resilience to climate change. We look forward to working with others on the global stage in this regard including as a part of the global sustainable livestock coalition, the food is never waste coalition and the coalition on sustainable productivity for food security and resource conservation.

**Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)**

Republic of Korea aligns itself to the Asia Regional Group's joint statement delivered by India. My delegation welcomes this document, and we would like to share our efforts so far with a few comments.

With reference to the Food Systems Summit (FSS) Secretariat's guidance, Republic of Korea had established its National Food Plan, and submitted it as a national pathway in September to the Summit platform. Since then, we have implemented several actions in consideration of their viability. At the same time, we have sought ways for doing our roles and responsibilities with regard to global food systems transformation, which will lead up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs recently held the Fifth Global ODA Forum from 22 to 23 November in a hybrid format. A number of stakeholders from international organizations and academia attended and discussed about major coalitions, which were presented during the UN Food Systems Summit. The forum indeed provided all participants an additional opportunity for raising a level of understanding about food systems transformation. The Korean government will continue this momentum in achieving SDGs together with global cooperation. We also plan to adjust our current agri-food sector ODA to be more focused on food systems transformation for visible outcomes.

When it comes to coalitions, Republic of Korea is interested in multiple coalitions and will review them accordingly. We understand that each coalition is in a stage of enlarging participation of international organizations and Member States but with little coordination although it is necessary for coherence. Since there seem to be several overlaps among coalitions, we look forward to seeing more streamlined documents based on coordination among similar coalitions and having clearer understanding about participants' roles within each coalition.

Lastly, we recognize that FAO will host the Coordination Hub. My delegation requests thorough preparation for a sound set-up including clear tasks and division of roles based on transparent as well as inclusive consultation with member states.

**Mr Yousef JUHAIL (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)**

The State of Kuwait has the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Near East and North Africa Regional Group on the results of the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS).

Our region has devoted a lot of attention and interaction very early on in the preparation and the discussions related to the UN Food Systems Summit, especially through the national dialogues that

have encompassed a number of vital sectors related to agri-food systems in each of our regions' countries.

Therefore, we would like to emphasize the importance of taking into consideration all the ideas and proposals that emerged from these national dialogues, without overlooking any of them and thus through the programmes that are to be prepared for the follow-up, thus contributing to enhancing and in full respect of these systems.

Therefore, we believe that it is important that the Governing Bodies in all the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), without adding any new structures and through the regional and sub-regional offices, so to be involved in coordination and while reaching out with all countries with regards to the national dialogues so as to assist them in developing their agri-food systems in a technical and scientific way.

Of course, all stakeholders need to define the relevant commitments and responsibilities in order to sustain all efforts that support the food systems and agriculture in each of the countries and based on the available resources and capabilities to the extent possible.

Our region hopes that all of the recommendations and decisions that stemmed from the national dialogue and the action tracks, as defined in the Secretary-General's Statement of Action be operationalized practically and promptly so as to reap the benefits of the UN Food Systems Summit and achieve the sustainable transformation in food system agriculture in all countries, including those of our region in light of our capabilities and resources.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

We support the Coordination Hub structure proposed in the document and we agree that the Hub should maintain a lean structure that directly leverages existing UN system teams and capacities. We encourage FAO to strengthen resource mobilization and coordinate UN system resources to assist countries to further develop and implement national pathways.

We emphasize that food system transformation should be country-led. Also, it should fully respect the realities of individual countries. China hopes to work alongside other Members to work together in promoting the transformation of the food system in order to realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Can I please ask to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms. Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We align ourselves with the statement made by Poland on behalf of the European Regional Group. We would like to make the following additional comments.

The UN Food Systems Summit strongly emphasized the highest political level the urgent need for the transition to sustainable food systems for healthy diets in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) and other SDGs reaffirming that people, planet, and prosperity are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

We thank all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), as well as all the organizations and actors engaged in the action tracks for their contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit. In particular, FAO for its role as co-host of the successful Pre-Summit in Rome in July and as UN Anchor Organization for Action Tack 1. Food Systems face many challenges which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

We welcome the UN Secretary-General's Statement of Action which called for urgent action to transform our Food Systems and align them with the 2030 Agenda including to ensure access for all to adequate and healthy diets leaving no one behind. We also take note with interest of the large number of commitments by leaders and stakeholders as well as numerous dialogues, pathways, and the coalitions and initiatives presented for the Summit process to achieve sustainable and resilient Food Systems and healthy diets.

The European Union and its Member States are fully committed to taking decisive action including for the implementation of the EU's Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy which aim to ensure food security, nutrition and access to sustainable and healthy diets for all while protecting our planet and ensuring a decent livelihood and standard of living for primary producers and all those working along the entire food chain.

The follow-up to the Summit will be essential to maintain the momentum created by the 18-month preparatory process, the Pre-Summit in Rome, and the Summit in New York and to contribute to a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A genuinely systemic UN wide approach should be the basis for a renewed effort among the RBAs to meet the SDGs. Therefore, it is also essential to closely link the outcomes of the Summit to the HLPE in New York.

We recognize the important role that will be played by the RBAs in close cooperation with other relevant UN bodies such as WHO, UNDP, UNEP and UNICEF for the UN Food Systems Summit Coordination Hub hosted by FAO. This Hub should also help to strengthen the collaboration between the RBAs. A Reporting line from the Coordination Hub to the Advisory Hub consisting of the principles of the three RBA's, and UNEP on behalf of the UN System and the UN Development Coordination Office should ensure a UN wide approach and oversight.

We look forward to hearing more details about the Coordination Hub and how it will work. Early clarification of agreed roles and responsibilities including Reporting responsibilities will allow members to better understand how the Hub will operate in practice and how they can best support its work and reassure them as to the UN wide approach of the Hub.

We would also like to be informed by Management, how they intend to strengthen the science policy interface at different levels and in view of that what role they envision for the CFS and its HLPE.

The UN and its Member States appreciate the important contribution that the informal group of friends of the UN Food Systems Summit has made to the preparatory process of the Summit. We advocate for continued meetings of the group of friends in an adjusted format as a valuable compliment to the RBA governing bodies discussions encompassing the UN wide approach and the necessary link to New York.

Finally, we consider that the growth mandate, the recently adopted policy products, and the specific set-up of the CFS as the foremost Inclusive Inter-Government Stakeholder Platform for matters of Food Security and nutrition and make it important to award the CFS in the follow-up process of the UN Food Systems Summit. In line with the Secretary-General's Statement of Action, we call on the Coordination Hub to closely collaborate with the CFS and its HLPE.

This could be achieved for example for the participation of the CFS Secretary in the Coordination Hub and the participation of the CFS Chair and the Advisory Hub. To avoid any duplication of work, the CFS could also act as an intended stakeholder Advisory Group and the HLPE is a key part of the scientific ecosystem of support.

In conclusion, we look forward to a successful follow-up to the Summit with a maximum impact on sustainable Food Systems Transformation and we stress the importance of ensuring that the CFS can deliver on its mandate in the follow-up to the Summit.

**Ms Virginie KNECHT (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the Joint Statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the Europe Regional Group and with the Joint Statement delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Having said that, we would like to make the following remarks.

Belgium welcomes the UN Secretary-General's Statement of Action, which calls for urgent action to transform our food systems and align them with the 2030 Agenda.

Belgium will roll out its Beyond Food Strategy next year. This strategy is very important in the fight against global warming to ensure respect for human rights, to fight for gender equality and to make sure agricultural producers get paid fair wages.

The follow-up process of the Summit will be key, as many speakers before me, also Belgium stresses the central role of the Committee on Food Security together with its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) as the foremost inclusive inter-governmental platform for matters of food security and nutrition to maximise the summit outcomes. As the UN Secretary-General expects the HLPE to work with the Coordination Hub to strengthen the science-policy interface, we strongly recommend that the FAO Council welcomes the Statement of Action as the basis for implementation of the UN Food Systems Summit outcomes.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to thank the Government of Italy for the excellent preparations for the Pre-Summit here in Rome and also for securing and ensuring our health here in the premises of Rome. I very thank you and much value to your whole Government and all those who contributed to that.

#### **Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

First of all, Italy aligns itself to the statement made by Poland as a Chairperson of the Europe Regional Group and by Slovenia on behalf of European Union Presidency. Let me just add a few remarks in our national capacity. The recent UN Food Systems Summit showed us that diversity is richness. We would like to express our deep satisfaction on the fact that Food Security has finally found its own role in the framework of the fulfillment of the Agenda 2030.

The Rome Food Systems Pre-Summit and the New York Summit were a huge opportunity to raise awareness at all levels on the urgency to transform our Food Systems to meet the challenge of tackling hunger and malnutrition. We often repeat that "not one size fits all". We are different. We eat different foods, but this diversity and variety of food habits and production is precious being the expression of our different cultures and identities.

The Food Systems Summit did not tell us what to eat but left us a message "*Wherever we intend to go, we must proceed along together protecting people, our planet with its fragile biodiversity, and prosperity for all*".

The Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) have a critical role in supporting this transformation by ensuring that objectives are coherently pursued at country level, along with the national pathway and within the larger, UN framework. Italy welcomes the above-mentioned outcome of the Food Systems Summit and stands ready to collaborate with FAO and other RBAs and relevant UN entities involved in this process of transforming Food Systems across the globe with the aim to achieve long-term sustainability for all, break the silos, and implement holistic approach.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you so much for everything Italy did for the Food System Summit and housing of course the three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs)

#### **Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of Asia Regional Group delivered by India in welcoming the result of the UN Food Systems Summit. We acknowledge the proposed follow-up to implement the Summit results and strongly support the establishment of the proposed Coordination Hub hosted by FAO to assist countries in further developing and implementing their national transformation pathways.

We agree that the Coordination Hub should build on the existing structures for achieving results on the ground, as well as maintain a lean structure and leverage existing themes and capacities in the UN System. We stress the importance of inclusivity throughout the process. We encourage FAO to have consultation and communication with Members and other stakeholders to ensure that the National Pathway keeps on the right track, and also the Pathway should be a country process.

We also encourage collaboration with our Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and others and see our best in order to avoid redundancy and overlapping work as well as to monitor the progress made on National Pathways. We encourage the Hub to work closely with decentralized offices and to coordinate with the UN Resident Coordinators. The UN can retain partners in a coherent manner in

order to avoid a siloed approach. We expect the policy products of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the contribution of CFS and its High-level Panel of Experts to compliment and support the work of proposed Coordination Hub.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group, statement by distinguished delegates of India.

Japan makes three points. The first one is the result of the UN Food Systems Summit, Japan considers 18-month Food Systems Summit preparatory process has provided the Members with a very important opportunity to hold dialogues with domestic stakeholders and National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation.

As a result, dialogues that were conducted in 148 countries and National Pathways being developed in 103 countries. It is also noted that many initiatives and collaboration have been developed. We believe that these are the outcomes of Food Systems Summit.

Having said that, we would like to emphasize that the Food Systems Summit is only the first step. Member States, International Organizations, and other various stakeholders should collaborate to promote concrete actions for Food Systems Transformation.

This effort should be based on the UN Secretary-General's Statement of Action, that is based on the Summit results including no one-size fits all approaches for Food Systems Transformation and Promotion Innovation.

A second point, concerns Tokyo for Growth Summit. Japan will hold the Tokyo Growth Summit for 2021 on December 7th and 8th. This Summit is on Food, for building Food Systems that promotes healthy diet and nutrition. We will discuss having linkage with the Food Systems Summit outcomes.

Third point is associated with the Coordination Hub. A follow-up framework for the Food Systems Summit is crucial. Point 12 in the document states "*on the concrete and timely first staunch support to Members with the main objectives of the Coordination Hub*".

This will be the important goals, however the Coordination Hub should function providing necessary information in a timely manner, so that Member States and other stakeholders can make the efforts smoothly. Also, it is important for Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) to make clear their own role individually within the Coordination Hub.

**Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Déjeme en primer lugar agradecer al Economista Jefe de la FAO, Máximo Torero Cullen, y a su equipo de trabajo por la preparación del documento.

Es claro que todos compartimos los mismos objetivos, el compromiso colectivo de los Miembros es favorecer políticas y enfoques que nos permitan superar el flagelo del hambre y la desnutrición, al tiempo que honramos nuestros compromisos con la Agenda 2030.

Si bien, como lo hemos indicado en oportunidades anteriores, pensamos que es incorrecto configurar el trabajo de FAO a partir de insumos no negociados. Creemos que la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios ha aportado elementos interesantes que en esta instancia merecen ser discutidos entre los Miembros para analizar su pertinencia programática en nuestro accionar futuro.

En ese sentido, entendemos que no resulta preciso hablar de seguimiento de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios cuando, en realidad, por los defectos propios del proceso, debemos referirnos en todo caso a la etapa pos-Cumbre, en donde los Miembros a través de los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO, puedan evaluar, debatir y decidir qué propuestas son plausibles para mejorar nuestro trabajo y apoyar los llamados caminos nacionales de los países.

Así mismo, siguiendo nuestro razonamiento, pensamos que en lugar de utilizar el término "Resultados", sería más adecuado hablar de propuestas del Secretario General, ya que como hemos dicho anteriormente, los resultados son el producto de negociaciones y acuerdo entre los Miembros, lo cual, por desgracia, no aplica para este caso puntual.



Permítame también recordar que no creo que sea una buena práctica hacer “forum shopping” y mencionar en otras agencias de Naciones Unidas que los Miembros han llegado a acuerdos. Creo que es muy importante tener claro que los Miembros no han llegado a acuerdos en el marco de la Cumbre.

Por otro lado, sobre las esferas de trabajo del Centro de Coordinación, observamos que el párrafo cuatro del documento, asume de alguna forma que las acciones y debates se tendrían que concentrar en las cinco áreas detectadas en la Cumbre. Al respecto, queremos recordar que, por ejemplo, las soluciones basadas en la naturaleza no cuentan con acuerdo o definición multilateral y, en razón de ello, deviene sumamente complicado entender cuál sería el objetivo o alcance de esta propuesta.

Así, insistimos en la necesidad de encauzar potenciales acciones del Centro de Coordinación bajo el prisma de plexos conceptuales consensuados entre los Miembros. Luego en el párrafo seis, notamos que se indica que el conjunto de propuestas de la Cumbre, como ser el denominado compendio o los insumos del Grupo Científico se deben utilizar para abogar por la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios.

Creo que ya hemos dicho en varias oportunidades el tema de la importancia de los contextos específicos y capacidades particulares. Con su indulgencia, Presidente, me gustaría realizar algunos comentarios muy específicos.

Coincidimos en la idea de que la FAO albergue el Centro de Coordinación ya que es la agencia mejor ubicada, por mandato y conocimiento técnico, para apoyar a los países en sus caminos nacionales. Sin embargo, nos gustaría entender mejor cómo se vislumbra que el centro pueda coordinar todas las capacidades existentes del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, ya que en última instancia eso dependerá del mandato que los Miembros le otorguen a cada agencia, programa o fondo involucrado en la etapa pos-Cumbre.

En los puntos 11 y 12, se indica que la FAO a través del Centro, proveerá asistencia técnica en materia de políticas para seguir las vías nacionales de cada país. Y, en general, compartimos la propuesta, pero nos gustaría saber cómo se financiarán esas actividades suplementarias y de qué manera se articularán los proyectos que se encuentran en curso con estas nuevas iniciativas para justamente evitar duplicación de esfuerzos.

Párrafo 13, en primer lugar creemos que no es apropiado indicar que el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) participará del Centro de Coordinación en representación del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, puesto que el mandato del PNUMA es específico y excluye a otros componentes fundamentales de los sistemas alimentarios, como pueden ser sus esferas económicas y sociales y, por lo tanto, sería desbalanceado.

En todo caso entendemos que por una cuestión holística, debería ser el Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible, el High Level Political Forum (HLPF) o eventualmente el Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), quienes representan al sistema de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto. Luego, sobre la inclusión del CSA en los trabajos del Centro de Coordinación, creemos que la propuesta podría ser adecuada siempre y cuando el comité participe en estricto cumplimiento de su mandato que, como lo indica el documento de su reforma, excluye la aplicación de políticas en el terreno o la supervisión de la aplicación de las vías nacionales de cada país.

Para finalizar, Presidente, respecto del párrafo 14, entendemos que es inadecuado incorporar los productos del GANESAN al Centro de Coordinación, puesto que en primer lugar sus informes no son negociados por los Miembros y el mandato del GANESAN es proveer insumos para el trabajo del CSA, previo consenso de los Miembros en su plenaria, con lo cual su inclusión a otros esquemas contradice los alcances legales de sus funciones.

Presidente, notamos que en el párrafo 15 se indica que el Centro de Coordinación presentará sus progresos en el marco de sesiones bienales para evaluación de sus actividades. Creemos que además del mecanismo propuesto, el Hub anualmente debería reportar sus trabajos al menos al Comité del Programa y al Consejo para generar una instancia donde los Miembros puedan discutir y analizar el desarrollo de sus acciones.

Manifestamos el apoyo entonces a la creación del Centro de Coordinación bajo la órbita de la FAO y reitera la necesidad de insertar modificaciones al contenido del presente documento a fin de mejorar su alcance.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have had a long day, dear friends, dear colleagues, dear Members of the Council, but we made extra progress.

We are going to work hard on the draft conclusions for the Items we discussed today, tomorrow we will finalize our work with the last nine speakers, because I have now closed the list for speakers on this Agenda Item and we start with Sweden, followed by France, Chile, Canada, Indonesia, Israel, Spain, Niger, Switzerland, and Nigeria.

Thank you so much for your hard work, your positive input, your spirit, eat more spaghetti this evening with the spirit of compromise, wisdom and flexibility. We see each other tomorrow at 09:30 hours sharp in this room or in the virtual room. Have a very good rest.

See you tomorrow. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 19:35 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 35*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.35*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>2 December 2021</b>

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:32 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 32  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.32  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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las correcciones a: [Verbatim-Team@fao.org](mailto:Verbatim-Team@fao.org)

**Item 6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (*continued*)****Point 6. Résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires (*suite*)****Tema 6. Resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Members of the Council, Excellencies, colleagues, dear friends, certainly today we need a lot of friends to continue our work. It is remarkable that although pressed for an in-person meeting, the physical room is getting more and more empty but, of course, that hopefully means that the Virtual Room is getting more and more participants in it. I do invite everybody also to be here in person because the room is nicely warm now, the spirit is excellent, and with an excellent spirit and excellent spaghetti, as we said yesterday, I hope that we can continue our work in a very constructive and positive manner. We have to cover a lot today.

First, let us finalize the list of speakers on the Food Systems Summit before I explain how we continue our work today.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I am looking forward to constructive discussion today when we try to see how to move forward and not lose momentum on the Food Systems Summit rather to see what is stopping us doing that and considering that the Food Systems Summit is actually about how we can accelerate our way of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden. The Nordic Countries align themselves with the statement delivered by Poland yesterday on behalf of the Europe Regional Group and the European Union (EU) countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the EU statement delivered by Slovenia.

The Food Systems Summit, and the process leading up to the showed the commitment of Member States and other stakeholders to transform food systems to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability and achieve the SDGs. The Summit highlighted the importance of applying a systemic approach to transforming food systems and to address climate change in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As some Members said yesterday, we are at a critical point in time but it is also a time for opportunity here.

The actual Summit was successful, especially given the challenging times we have experienced, and yet, at the Summit the world came together. We, the Nordic Countries, welcome the UN Secretary-General's Statement of Action calling on us all to do more and to do better. We urge FAO to pursue the systemic approach in its work and to demonstrate how a cross-sectoral approach will provide progress on the 2030 Agenda. No more silos.

The momentum generated throughout the Summit process has to be used to accelerate and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, but it must be nourished to grow. The active engagement on national pathways is key.

The coalitions and initiatives that emerged during the process have the potential to support national transformations of food systems. They are also vital links between national and international efforts. We, the Nordic Countries, will continue our efforts on priorities related to School Meals, Healthy Diets, Zero Hunger, Food Loss and Waste, Research and Innovation and Aquatic Foods, to name a few.

In the follow-up of the Summit, the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) have a central role, but we want to underline the need for a UN wide approach, including UNDP, UNEP and WHO, and with a systemic engagement and a strong link to the High-Level Political Forum, which monitors progress towards the SDGs. We welcome a follow-up of the Summit generating tangible impacts and innovative solutions at country level.

To maintain momentum, effective follow-up should be at the heart of the work ahead, and it must actively engage with the UN system. We also welcome more information on the establishment of the Coordination Hub, which should be operational by January and welcome that the Food Systems Coordination Hub will have UN-wide ownership including all RBAs principals as we heard earlier from the Director-General.

Furthermore, the Committee on World Food Security and its science-policy interphase are important intergovernmental and stakeholder platforms. We should appreciate further clarifications on how these inclusive entities will be included in the follow-up.

Finally, we, the Nordic Countries, take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitments on sustainable food systems, and our willingness to accelerate efforts towards the 2030 Agenda.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Pologne au nom du Groupe Europe. Je note d'ailleurs que cette déclaration reprend le texte prononcé au nom de tous les groupes régionaux au Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) il y a quelques jours, et je m'en félicite.

La France s'aligne également sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Je souhaite féliciter à nouveau les autorités italiennes pour le succès du pré-Sommet qui s'est tenu à Rome.

Nous saluons la déclaration d'action du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies; elle a dressé un constat juste des défis auxquels font face aujourd'hui les systèmes alimentaires et elle a appelé à une action urgente, alignée sur le Programme de développement à l'horizon 2030 pour les transformer.

La France a l'honneur d'être engagée plus particulièrement dans deux coalitions d'action qui ont reçu le soutien de nombreux autres États et organisations. C'est le cas de la coalition pour l'agroécologie, et je remercie la FAO d'en être partie, et également la coalition pour l'alimentation scolaire, qui a été lancée par le Président de la République Emmanuel Macron, le 16 novembre, avec le Président de l'Union africaine, le Ministre de la Finlande et de très nombreux partenaires et organisations, y compris la FAO. La France soutient également l'initiative du Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) en faveur de la mobilisation des banques de développement agricole.

Nous prenons note du dispositif de suivi présenté dans le document portant la cote CL 168/6 et nous renvoyons à nos commentaires écrits. J'ai trois remarques à faire sur ce sujet.

Premièrement, le pôle de coordination doit être une structure aussi légère que possible. S'il sera bien hébergé physiquement à la FAO, il doit être l'occasion pour les organismes ayant leur siège à Rome de renforcer la collaboration entre eux et avec les autres organisations et enceintes pertinentes, tels que le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), au nom du système des Nations Unies, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), mais aussi le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), pour appuyer les États dans la mise en œuvre de leur feuille de route nationale.

Pour mémoire, et comme indiqué déjà, nous ne sommes pas en faveur d'un rôle prédominant d'une organisation particulière sur les autres. Ce serait en contradiction avec le souhait du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, qui est d'avoir une approche large à l'échelle des Nations Unies.

Deuxièmement, la France appelle à une collaboration étroite entre le pôle de coordination et le CSA, qui fait d'ailleurs rapport au Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC), et son Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE), conformément à ce qui a été demandé par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies. À ce jour, le rôle des Membres dans le suivi du Sommet apparaît particulièrement limité, voire inexistant. Or, par son inclusivité et son mandat, le CSA est l'enceinte la plus appropriée pour associer à la fois les Membres, mais également les autres parties prenantes à la discussion sur le suivi du Sommet.

Par ailleurs, le HLPE, qui a la légitimité scientifique pour le faire, doit rester l'interface science-politique centrale au niveau global sur les questions relatives à l'impact des systèmes alimentaires sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition. À ce titre, et contrairement au paragraphe 14 du document CL 168/6, nous appelons à ce que ce soit le HLPE lui-même qui assume le rôle d'écosystème d'appui

científica, para evitar toda duplicación. Je précise que naturellement, en tant qu'interface science-politique, ses rapports n'ont pas à être négociés, car la science n'a pas à être négociée.

Enfin, troisièmement, nous souhaitons attirer l'attention sur la question de la représentativité des parties prenantes au sein du Groupe consultatif des parties prenantes ("*Stakeholders Advisory Group*"), prévu dans le dispositif et tel que mentionné par le document CL 168/6.

Les mécanismes de la société civile et les mécanismes du secteur privé du CSA ne sont pas inclus dans ce dispositif, alors même que la structure proposée pour ce Groupe consultatif des parties prenantes semble très proche de la composition du CSA, à l'exception des Membres. Nous souhaitons donc des informations sur la manière dont pourraient être engagés ces deux mécanismes dans le suivi.

Enfin, nous soutenons la poursuite du Groupe des amis du Sommet, et je rappelle également, comme je l'ai dit précédemment, que nous saluons la création du Groupe des amis du Président du CSA.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to ask everybody to be very concise because we are very much pressed for time. Secondly, to inform you that the draft conclusions on Items 10 and 11 are already circulated, so hopefully that could speed up our work today.

#### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Agradecemos al Economista en Jefe, Máximo Torero Cullen, por la presentación del documento *CL 168/6*. Chile participó activamente en la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios respondiendo al llamado del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas.

Primero que todo, creemos que es necesario tener un entendimiento común sobre lo que serían los resultados de la cumbre, dado que en particular, ni la declaración del Secretario General ni las Áreas de Acción y sus documentos fueron acordados multilateralmente, Chile entiende que los resultados de la cumbre son los compromisos nacionales reflejados en la hoja de ruta de cada país y las coaliciones, las que tienen una membresía, amplitud y temáticas diversas.

Es a través de ellos que la cumbre cumplirá con su finalidad de apoyar a los países, incorporando el enfoque de sistemas alimentarios para avanzar la Agenda 2030 y apoyar la consecución de sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Hemos escuchado en múltiples instancias repetidos llamados a no crear nuevas estructuras. Retiramos que el proceso de seguimiento debería realizarse en Nueva York y bajo el paraguas que brinda la Agenda 2030 sobre desarrollo sostenible en el marco del Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre desarrollo sostenible (HLPF), por supuesto con el apoyo de agencias basadas en Roma, según corresponda.

Esto resultaría más pertinente por cuanto mantiene una perspectiva integral del tema, permite una mejor representación de los diversos actores, no crearía una nueva estructura para su seguimiento ni implicaría una nueva carga de reporte en los Miembros. Sin embargo, vemos con preocupación que estos llamados para no crear nuevas estructuras han sido desoídos y que al parecer se ha decidido sin consulta con los Estados Miembros y claramente sin su consenso, crear un Hub de coordinación en la FAO tal como se señala en el documento que hoy comentamos.

En este contexto, entendemos que cualquier ejercicio de coordinación debe realizarse sin o con mínimos cambios organizativos, sin incorporar personal nuevo ni desviar los recursos humanos y materiales ya escasos para la implementación del Plan de Trabajo de la Organización. Compartimos con oradores anteriores la solicitud de una información detallada sobre la estructura propuesta.

Las actividades deben tener como objetivo brindar asistencia técnica y política para apoyar los compromisos nacionales, tomando en cuenta para ello el rol de los mecanismos ya existentes de cooperación regional para su implementación. Nos gustaría tener más información acerca de cómo se piensa implementar y financiar este apoyo. Vemos que en el documento se menciona especialmente al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), sin embargo, coincidimos con otras Delegaciones en cuanto a que otras organizaciones internacionales como la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) son igualmente o más esenciales para una visión de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles.

En cuanto a las menciones, Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (GANESAN) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA), nos parece que su inclusión en el ecosistema científico de apoyo propuesto no está dentro de su mandato. Así mismo, la propuesta de dar al presidente del CSA el rol de dirigir la supervisión de la implementación está claramente fuera de su mandato. Más que modificar el mandato o el programa de trabajo del CSA, debemos priorizar valorizar los instrumentos de convergencia de políticas y directrices voluntarias elaborados en el marco del CSA negociados y acordados por consenso por los Miembros del Comité y que no fueron considerados debidamente en el proceso de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios. En esta misma línea, insistimos en la importancia de usar lenguaje acordado multilateralmente.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, respecto a la posibilidad de reuniones periódicas de seguimientos de la cumbre, insistimos nos parece que este seguimiento debería integrarse en el mecanismo de seguimiento de los ODS, evitando así sobrecargar a los países con nuevas líneas de Reporte. Coincidimos con Brasil en cuanto a que los miembros de la ONU podrán convocar, según se considere necesario, reuniones o eventos específicos para abordar los avances en la implementación de los compromisos nacionales y las coaliciones creadas al amparo de la cumbre.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

North America aligns with the Europe Regional Group statement delivered yesterday by Poland. Canada commends FAO for taking a leadership position within its mandate in the follow-up process for the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), which generated important energy and momentum in support of food systems transformation which we see as central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We welcome the creation of a Coordination Hub within the structure of the FAO and we look forward to receiving additional insights on its practical implementation for Members' consideration. We have appreciated the efforts and graphic representations of the Hub and its functions and relationships to the broader ecosystem and UN system, and as the process further evolves, we look forward to receiving new annotated iterations to continue to build clarity, including the legend to explain the meaning of all the arrows and colours within the document.

We emphasize the importance of FAO supporting the development and implementation of Members' national pathways documents as an outcome of the FSS in line with its budget and its Strategic Framework. In this regard, we would welcome further details on how FAO will coordinate with Resident Coordinators and UN country teams for a coherent and coordinated approach to countries, including with reference to national pathways.

With regard to coalitions, we would welcome knowing in which coalitions FAO is engaged and would encourage the publication of associated information on its website. In line with earlier discussions on communications and knowledge sharing, we note that there would be great value in FAO preserving and facilitating access to the extensive work of the scientific group and would appreciate further detail on how FAO will build on the work of the scientific group.

As noted by Mexico yesterday, and as we look forward toward 2030, we think that the decisions taken in relation to food systems transformation are central to FAO's forward agenda. The UNFSS can serve as a spark for a re-energized collective efforts to achieve SDG2 and we look forward to the ongoing constructive dialogue.

**Ms Seta Rukmalasari AGUSTINA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by India on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We commend the leadership role of FAO, particularly in the past two years, in contributing to the United Nations Food Systems Summit to make agri-food systems more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Indonesia took note of the Summit and the follow-up process.

The Summit has underlined the importance of increasing partnership and multistakeholder cooperation to support the transformation of the global agri-food system. Indonesia reaffirms its commitments to accelerate the process to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to establish an agri-food system that is nutritious, has healthy diets, is inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient.

We acknowledge the role of small-scale farmers as guardians of traditional and local food systems. Indonesia also has established an inclusive forum at the national level and encourages local government to form local inclusive platforms.

We look forward to the continued support of FAO and the implementation of follow-up action after the Summit, especially in the context of the national food systems transformation pathway. This is in line with the increasing of understanding from multistakeholders regarding the importance of food system transformation.

In this connection, Indonesia welcomes the establishment of a Coordination Hub hosted by FAO and the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other UN agencies to promote concrete and timely policy and technical assistance support to Members for the implementation of the national food systems transformation pathways. We would like to echo other delegation statements regarding how the Hub will coordinate and facilitate the Member States in this regard.

Further, we would like to thank the UN and RBAs that have been supportive in implementing joint food systems transformation project. We are pleased to have the UN RBAs' Strategic Plan 2021-2025 in Indonesia on inclusive and sustainable food systems for affordable and healthy diets. And we look forward to a concrete implementation of the RBA collaboration in developing a reference model of a sustainable food system in Indonesia, including [XX] which hopefully can be implemented by next year.

Lastly, we would like to encourage Member Countries and UN bodies to move forward to capitalize impacts together, to share learning and capacity building, support implementation and monitoring and mobilize resources to implement a commitment to action of UNFSS 2021 according to its national priorities and conditions.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Israel aligns itself with the statement of Poland yesterday on behalf of the Europe Regional Group. Two months have passed since the Food Systems Summit (FSS) in New York. Since then, about 20 million people around the world have been added to those suffering from malnutrition. Also about 6 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas were emitted to the air and worsened the climate crisis. We said it before and we will say it again, the time to act is now, and it is no one's responsibility other than ours to make sure we spend less time talking and more time on actions.

I would like to share with you that the national dialogue process in Israel united a broad spectrum of people who understood the necessity to transfer our agri-food systems. Experts in agriculture, science and the environment found common ground in shared discussions with professionals in economics, health and welfare.

Soon they will meet again at an international conference in Jerusalem to continue discussing sustainable food systems in Israel. In anticipation of the Hub starting operation in January, we would like to take this opportunity to express our excitement. We are certain that all of our enthusiasm and dedication will blow a favourable wind behind a Hub so that more and more countries can promote agrifood systems to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Personally, we know you are all just as eager for this as we were. However, until the Hub becomes operational, we believe it is essential to keep the FSS Group of Friends active so it can continue to guide effectively the follow-up process. In addition, we strongly support the idea that the Hub's budget will come from UN organizations in Rome as well as its manpower. The Members will play a supportive role. They will serve as experts that help plan and implement the necessary transition in the countries.

Israel thanks all those involved in the past few months in the process of assembling the complex mechanism necessary to deal with the results and the consequences of the Food Systems Summit. Clearly, this was not an easy task. Nevertheless, we wish to emphasize the responsibility we all hold as well as our commitment, not only to future generations but also to those who are living today and suffering from hunger, malnutrition and crisis. There is so much we can do, both here in Rome and at home. We cannot waste any more time. The time to act is now.



**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo a los resultados de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de Naciones Unidas celebrado el pasado mes de septiembre en Nueva York, quisiéramos destacar los siguientes puntos además de como es habitual nuestro acatamiento a la declaración de la Unión Europea. Nos sumamos, además, a la declaración conjunta del Grupo Regional Europeo realizada por Polonia. Dicho esto quisiera manifestar lo siguiente:

Agradecemos y reconocemos a FAO el trabajo realizado en colaboración con las otras organizaciones de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma y demás agencias de la ONU, así como con los Estados Miembros, la sociedad civil, el sector privado, la academia y el conjunto de la comunidad internacional.

Reconocemos que los resultados de la Cumbre celebrada en Nueva York fueron el fruto de los esfuerzos realizados y el éxito alcanzado en la pre-Cumbre celebrada en Roma en el mes de julio del año 21, en los que la participación de FAO fue sin duda, de enorme relevancia.

Estimamos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial debe jugar un papel clave en este ámbito como demuestra el hecho de ser el único órgano intergubernamental que ha abordado el tema a través de la reciente adopción de las directrices voluntarias sobre sistemas alimentarios y nutrición.

El CSA ha contribuido en mayor medida a trabajos para la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios con sus directrices voluntarias, adoptadas desde su reforma en temas claves muy variados para los sistemas alimentarios basado siempre en los informes de su Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (GANESAN) y por ser el órgano que integra la participación de la sociedad civil y el sector privado, por lo que sin su concurso se perdería buena parte de la legitimidad del proceso.

España entiende que la comunidad internacional se encuentra en un momento crítico en el que ha de apostar claramente por la transformación de los distintos sistemas alimentarios a fin de contribuir a la triple sostenibilidad medioambiental, económica y productiva de los mismos y a su aplicación inteligente y justa en cada territorio. Somos igualmente conscientes del inherente vínculo existente entre los sistemas alimentarios y sus ecosistemas productivos, por lo que los esfuerzos coordinados en materia de sostenibilidad alimentaria mundial han de ir en paralelo a los esfuerzos en materia medioambiental. Necesitamos ecosistemas sostenibles para conseguir sistemas alimentarios que sean triplemente sostenibles.

Tomamos nota de las numerosas coaliciones e iniciativas que se presentaron en la Cumbre, destacando algunas en las que desde España hemos mostrado un especial interés como son, entre otras, la de la agricultura familiar, la alimentación azul, la alimentación escolar, la ganadería sostenible, la agroecología o la coalición por los pueblos indígenas. Finalmente, por todo ello, alentamos a FAO a continuar el trabajo posterior a la Cumbre, aunando los esfuerzos para avivar la inercia del proceso, reforzando la colaboración de toda índole con las demás agencias con sede en Roma así como con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, como órgano que integra la participación de la sociedad civil y su GANESAN, para conseguir que la Cumbre tenga un impacto real y a largo plazo en los sistemas alimentarios mundiales.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Pakistan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement delivered by India. I now make a statement on behalf of Pakistan.

We welcome the results of the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) and the UN Secretary-General Statement of Action, which indicates five areas for making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and envisages a better future through food systems.

Actions in these key areas, together with the respective national food systems transformation pathways, will form the basis for implementation of the results of the Summit. We thank FAO for the document providing information on the outcome of the Summit. We support the leadership role in the follow-up process assigned to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and welcome the establishment of a Coordination Hub to be hosted by FAO, staffed by secondees from RBAs and other UN agencies.

We also welcome the statement in the document that the Hub will maintain a lean structure by directly leveraging existing teams and capacities in the UN system as well as from other partnerships. This should ensure that urgent actions are successfully implemented in accordance with the five areas highlighted by the Secretary-General in his statement.

Paragraphs 11 to 15 of the FAO document provides some information on the functions of the Hub and Members have requested further information on certain aspects and we look forward to receiving these clarifications.

Finally, we appreciate that one of the main objectives of the Hub will be to provide timely policy and technical assistance and support to Members for implementation of national transformation pathways.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

Primero, México apoya las diversas propuestas que ya se han hecho para tener mayor claridad y conocimiento sobre el Hub. Necesitamos que se nos presente por escrito su plan de trabajo, sus costos, su presupuesto y cómo va a interactuar con otras organizaciones.

Segundo, respecto a las rutas nacionales, pedimos respetuosamente que la FAO, así como otras entidades de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), trabajen con los países para que definan sus propias rutas nacionales. Yo creo que ninguna institución puede ser responsable de esto, son solo los países quienes trabajan en sus rutas nacionales. Propongo que tengamos una conversación más amplia sobre el rol de los diferentes expertos y Consejos para ver cómo vamos a avanzar en el tema.

Finalmente, México está dispuesto a seguir en un diálogo informal con los países en Roma, o con los Miembros, para dar seguimiento de manera informal a los progresos - o falta de progresos - que suceden con la Cumbre.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Siguiendo sus directrices seré muy breve, como han sido todas las intervenciones de Costa Rica en aras de que el tiempo, entendemos, nos gana la partida no solo en este Consejo, sino en el mundo entero cuando miles y miles de niños mueren de hambre mientras a veces hablamos más de la cuenta. Como dice mi colega de Israel, debemos hablar menos y actuar más.

En este punto en concreto, mi Delegación desea destacar los esfuerzos que todos los países realizaron para convocar los diálogos nacionales siguiendo los lineamientos de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, los cuales como nuestro caso fueron sumamente enriquecedores al sentar en la mesa de discusión a autoridades gubernamentales, instituciones descentralizadas, academias, científicos, el sector privado y, por supuesto, la sociedad civil. No olvidemos que la convocatoria a dichos diálogos también significó el despliegue de recursos humanos y económicos que, ya de por sí antes de la pandemia eran escasos, por lo que ese esfuerzo de movilización debe ser objeto de reconocimiento, sobre todo por haberse realizado en tiempo récord.

Ciertamente que la propia Cumbre significó un evento de gran trascendencia, por ello mi Delegación desea enfatizar en la importancia de la conformación de diferentes coaliciones emanadas de dicha Cumbre. En nuestro caso agradecemos el apoyo de los gobiernos de España, República Dominicana, Suiza, Irán y Filipinas, así como el Foro Rural Mundial, la Organización Mundial de Agricultores, la Asociación de Agricultores de Asia, a la Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAM), a la Coalición de Agricultura Familiar en apoyo al Decenio liderada por Costa Rica.

No obstante, en el camino nos hemos topado con algunos tropiezos y ello tiene que ver con la falta de claridad en los procedimientos como, por ejemplo, en la inscripción y operatividad. Recibimos orientaciones que no eran del todo claras. Apenas la semana pasada fuimos convocados a una reunión por parte de la Enviada Especial de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios que nos dejó más preguntas que respuestas, especialmente en lo relacionado con el Centro de Coordinación, los recursos económicos con los que será dotado y el personal capacitado para trabajar en él.

Por ello, mi Delegación desea hacer un llamado respetuoso a la FAO, para que pueda trabajar más de cerca lo relativo a los trabajos que pueden realizar las coaliciones. No siempre el panorama está más

claro en Nueva York de como puede verse aquí en Roma donde tienen sede los organismos especializados en esta materia.

**Sr. Victor Hugo GIRÓN GUZMÁN (Guatemala)**

En nombre de Guatemala me gustaría informarles que los sistemas alimentarios más característicos del país presentan una fuerte vinculación y sentido de pertenencia. Actualmente las comunidades indígenas producen, comercian y consumen sus propios cultivos, esto incentiva a una actividad resiliente y más productiva para los sistemas alimentarios.

Guatemala es un país productor de alimentos cuyo suelo fértil y clima le han dado el renombre del país de la eterna primavera; sin embargo, aún existen desafíos que no permiten el acceso a los alimentos sanos y nutritivos para toda la población. Eso resalta la importancia de buscar mejoras en los elementos y procesos del sistema alimentario e incluyen desde la producción, distribución y consumo, para facilitar el acceso a los guatemaltecos y guatemaltecas de manera justa y oportuna, y con esto aportar a la seguridad alimentaria del país.

El país se enfrenta a grandes desafíos para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, el desarrollo de las comunidades rurales y la resiliencia ante los eventos climáticos extremos. A escala mundial, el último Reporte del Panel Intergubernamental de Cambio Climático (IPCC), ha dado la señal de alarma para todo el planeta, recordándonos a todos que el momento de actuar no puede esperar más. Guatemala, al ser de los diez países con mayor vulnerabilidad frente a los efectos del cambio climático, debe encontrar estrategias para adaptarse a estos factores que amenazan la sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios y el bienestar de la población.

Guatemala ha marcado su camino hacia el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, adscribiéndose a los Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible(ODS), y armonizando con ella su marco estratégico y políticas públicas. El Plan de Desarrollo denominado, K'atun, Nuestra Guatemala 2032, refleja las cinco estrategias de desarrollo de largo plazo en donde se articulan las políticas, planes, programas, proyectos e inversiones, específicamente el eje Bienestar para la Gente aborda acciones para garantizar el acceso a protección social universal, la cual incluye los servicios de calidad de salud, educación, acceso a alimentos y la construcción de la capacidad de resiliencia para asegurar la sostenibilidad de medios de vida.

El desarrollo de los sistemas alimentarios es, entonces, un elemento estratégico que contribuye al cumplimiento de las metas nacionales, globales y de mediano y largo plazo. Garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, erradicar la desnutrición y malnutrición es la meta principal que se estableció para el país desde la convocatoria realizada el 2020 por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas a esta Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios.

Guatemala a través del desarrollo de los diálogos nacionales de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021, los cuales contaron con el involucramiento de diferentes sectores y partes interesadas vinculadas a los sistemas alimentarios nacionales, logró identificar propuestas que buscan ser implementadas posteriormente a las cumbres, alineadas a los instrumentos de planificación nacional existentes para cumplir la Agenda 2030.

Guatemala, para promover la sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios, presentó propuestas, desde acciones que van desde el fortalecimiento de la política pública nacional y el marco jurídico existente vinculado a los sistemas alimentarios. Guatemala como miembro del Eje de Acción Uno, Garantizar el acceso a los alimentos sanos y nutritivos para todos, ha recibido la invitación de participar en algunas coaliciones que han surgido en el proceso. Entre ellas se encuentra la coalición de Alimentación Escolar y la coalición de Hambre Cero. En ambas coaliciones el país ha buscado tomar el liderazgo presentado en sus programas nacionales como buenas prácticas del trabajo que se lleva a cabo en estas temáticas y compartir las lecciones aprendidas durante todo el proceso de la implementación.

Guatemala ha generado diversas políticas públicas vinculadas a los sistemas alimentarios que son la base de los compromisos, metas, objetivos que como país se busca cumplir y alcanzar a través de la Cumbre sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, que servirá como un impulso hacia el cumplimiento de estas.

Para finalizar, me gustaría enfatizar que considerando las políticas públicas mencionadas, los instrumentos de planificación nacional y los diálogos nacionales celebrados en Guatemala, se han

impuesto metas de país, tales como para el 2030, para poner fin al hambre y asegurarle el acceso a todas las personas la sostenibilidad de los sistemas de producciones alimentarios, reducir no menos de 25 puntos porcentuales la desnutrición crónica en niños menores de cinco años, duplicar la productividad agrícola, asegurar la disponibilidad de tierras con capacidad de uso para producción de granos básicos, aumentar el acceso de pequeñas empresas industriales y otro tipo de empresas, lograr niveles más elevados de productividad económica, asegurar que todos los hombres y mujeres, en particular los pobres y más pobres, tengan iguales derechos a los recursos económicos y fortalecer la resiliencia y la capacidad de adaptación a los riesgos relacionados con el clima y los desastres naturales en todos los países.

**Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Switzerland) (Observer)**

Switzerland aligns itself with the joint statement made by Poland yesterday on behalf of the Europe Regional Group. We would like to add two additional recommendations.

It is now time to implement the results of the Summit or as Special Envoy, Agnes Kalibata, said “the hard work starts now!”

The UN Secretary-General outlined in his Statement of Action the support structure for the follow up of the Summit. He announced the creation of a joint Coordination Hub that – as we have heard from the FAO Director-General in his opening remarks on Monday, will be hosted by FAO and led by the newly appointed Director of the Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) starting from January 2022. While many details remain yet to be defined, Switzerland welcomes the set-up of the Coordination Hub and looks forward to seeing it become operational.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General’s Statement of Action outlines that the Coordination Hub will work with a wide range of partners and shall – and I quote, “*collaborate with the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at the global level, support strengthening the science-policy capacities and interfacing at local and national levels*”.

Switzerland especially welcomes this role assigned by the Secretary-General to the HLPE, which is focused on the transformation of food systems and acts at the science-policy interface. Switzerland is working with CFS members and partners to make the Secretary-General’s approach a reality.

We recommend that the FAO Council welcomes the Statement of Action as a basis for the implementation of the UNFSS21 outcomes, as also recommended by other delegations, and that FAO management is periodically reporting on the work of the Coordination Hub through FAO’s Governing Bodies.

Finally, we would like to echo one particular point made by the European Union and its 27 Member States on the appreciation of the important contribution that the informal Group of Friends of the UN Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) made to the preparatory process of the Summit. We would also advocate for continued meetings of this group in an adjusted format, as a valuable complement to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Governing Bodies’ discussions.

**Mr Yaya Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria) (Observer)**

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, Chairperson, let me thank you for handling a top job. You are doing well. Thank you for your tenacity. I would like to thank all Members that have been so patient and constructive.

Nigeria supports the joint statement by all the Regional Groups. In fact, if we had taken that as our yardstick and analysed them, probably we would not need to be speaking to ourselves that are the converted.

Secondly, the WFP Board has just finished and there is an important statement made by the Director of Programmes and Humanitarian Affairs, which explains to us the way we should handle the outcome of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. I think if we look at that, we would make tremendous progress rather than to spend energy on being upset about the outcome.

Talking about groups, I believe Mexico gave us wonderful advice, which we did not take on yesterday. It is unfortunate. Because if we did, we probably would not have been coming with our

already prepared statement and so much time used up. On this call, I think the informal Group of Friends to the Food Systems Summit (FSS), did a good job and we should allow that to continue, perhaps in a structured way so that everyone would have an opportunity to speak.

Finally, the national food systems transformation pathways are the key with which we can get this stuff done. Nigeria has done tremendous work and all hands are on deck to pursue it to a logical conclusion. The action should be now. Let us talk less, let us do more. The statistics given by Israel is a bit staggering, but that is it.

Finally, all we plant, Apollos may water, God gives the increase.

**M. Clément NDIKUMASABO (Burundi)**

Le Burundi salue les résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires, en d'autres termes la transformation des systèmes alimentaires. Il faut examiner d'abord les modalités d'une meilleure coordination entre les pays membres du Conseil de la FAO pour faire face au problème d'insécurité alimentaire dans tous les pays, modalités d'amélioration des bilans alimentaires et d'information sur l'élaboration des politiques en matière de systèmes alimentaires.

La question ici que l'on peut se poser est de savoir comment chaque bouche peut avoir quelque chose à manger, mais aussi comment augmenter les revenus au niveau des ménages. Il faut donc tenir compte des programmes et priorités des différents gouvernements allant dans le sens d'une amélioration des systèmes alimentaires.

Dans le cas du Burundi, on a mis en avant l'augmentation de la qualité des aliments, qui s'est réalisée avec l'augmentation de la production agricole, animale et halieutique, la conservation et la transformation des aliments, sans oublier la biofortification. Et il y a aussi la protection et l'utilisation des ressources naturelles, notamment la protection de l'environnement, la restauration du paysage et les activités allant dans le sens de l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Pour terminer, nous encourageons la FAO à aller de l'avant dans les actions d'amélioration et de transformation des systèmes alimentaires.

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

I would like to reiterate our support for the formation of Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit, which is an excellent platform for communication between the Members and the Management. We have experienced this during the Pre-Summit and also during the Food Systems Summit. There was confusion. There were so many complications. I think it will be an excellent platform and a great channel between the Management as well as the Members.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now give the floor to Management as many delegates have asked for information in a written form about everything related to the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

First, thank you to all of the Members for extremely constructive comments and the support on the establishment of the Coordination Hub at FAO. Thanks to the Italian authorities for all the support on the Pre-Summit.

Also thanks to all the staff of FAO and all the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) who did a huge work across the Pre-Summit and the Food System Summit, an enormous amount of work that was necessary to be able to support the Summit across all the different stages. Also thanks to the regional offices and the country offices from which the Resident Coordinators played a crucial role in the dialogues that were done at the country level.

FAO has started the process even before the Summit of a transformation to a systems approach with the support of the Members and with the approval of the Strategic Framework. It is the only agency ready with a new Strategic Framework on an agri-food systems approach and therefore the transition makes it natural in the case of FAO.

There are important results of the Summit and let me briefly simplify them into three core results. First, the agri-food systems approach because this is extremely complex and, as a simple example, today we are observing increases in prices of food which are related to the energy market. And also COVID-19 gave also a clear example of the interlinkages in the agri-food system.

Second, the country level dialogues for transformation, which will be at the core of the follow-up activities, and third, opening the cooperation through the creation of coalitions and means of implementation. The challenge that we are facing is huge, as it was mentioned by several of you and I will not bring the numbers, for brevity of time but, as mentioned by Israel and our Director-General, it is time to act now.

Now, what are the key principles behind the Hub? First, it will not replicate existing UN functions and capabilities. On the contrary, it aims at synergies and complementarities. It will not be an implementing agency, nor a gatekeeper. On the contrary, the job is to facilitate action among UN agencies, teams through their Resident Coordinators and with the collaboration of a good system of support.

It will not advocate for itself as an entity, it will empower constant information pathways led by the countries. It will not develop a heavy reporting structure. It will be lean and within existing structures. It will be inclusive, maintain, expand and deepen the inclusivity of the global ecosystem and diverse stakeholders that are supportive of transforming food systems at all levels.

Its main strategic objective is to support national governments to accelerate transformative action within the food systems to advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its second core objective is to sustain a consistent compelling and contextualized narrative around food systems transformation for the SDGs that all stakeholders can embrace and amplify.

Now, why is FAO to host the Hub? The request to FAO to host the Food Systems Coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system has come from the UN Secretary-General as a recognition of the unique role that FAO can play in bringing together the assets of the UN system to support countries on achieving the national pathways for agri-food systems transformation.

Will this be a new structure? As per initial agreement, the Hub will not create new administrative or programmatic structures and will not replicate existing UN work of food systems. The Hub will be a lighter structure that will use the existing assets and infrastructure of the participating agencies to leverage expertise and knowledge and support to Members. We also expect the CFS to play an important role within its mandate, as clearly stated by the Members.

How will the Hub will be hosted by FAO without the need of a new structure? I will be finished very briefly. The Hub will be placed at the FAO Office of SDGs, which is perfect, given the importance of the SDGs and the Reporting also to High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and, as per agreement of the Deputy Secretary-General with the principals of the Oversight Steering Group (OSG), the existing OSG Director will assume also the leadership of the Hub. Placing the hub under the OSG makes sense, both from a technical and administrative point of view. From a technical point of view, placing the hub in the OSG provides with the opportunity to ensure alignment of the Hub's work with the 2030 Agenda and facilitates synergies and complementarities.

In addition, the OSG is a coordination office under the Director-General and thus it aligns also with the coordination role that a Hub should provide. From an administrative point of view, the OSG is already part of the FAO organigramme and the transition from the UN FSS Secretariat to the Hub can happen efficiently and effectively.

What will be the budget implications for FAO?

All the staff that will be needed to support the work of the Hub will be secondments from the UN agencies that will participate in the Hub. In this way, there will be no need to hire new staff. There might be needs or additional operational costs which will be covered with non PWB resources. The existing UN FSS Trust Fund administered by WFP will also continue to exist and serve the operations of the Hub.

Finally, there was a request of a written description of the Hub and details on it. This is something that we are currently working with the DSG office, the RBAs, the UN agencies and the Secretariat and we hope this will be distributed in the following days.

On the science policy interface, there is a first proposal on how the implementation of this, giving emphasis also to country and regional level science because this is central to the implementation of the transformation pathways. All this information, as soon as it is ready, will be shared on an open forum informal discussion.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Many Members said, they are really looking forward to receive this information but even more information from FAO as well as the Deputy Secretary-General on everything related to the follow-up, the coordination mandate, financing, etc.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En mi intervención dejé de decir dos cuestiones que eran muy importantes, pero las quiero decir. La primera es felicitar a Italia por el trabajo realizado, por la capacidad de habernos permitido poder haber realizado el Pre-Summit aquí. Como usted lo dijo claramente, creo que es absolutamente importante resaltar el trabajo y el compromiso del país anfitrión.

La segunda cuestión, quiero decir que respecto del tema del grupo de amigos, que fue tan importante en el proceso durante la Cumbre con tantas incertidumbres y que nos permitió poder dialogar con los organizadores, del cual yo también fui parte del origen de ese grupo de amigos como usted, Presidente. Luego dejé de serlo, pero seguí siendo amigo. Creo que, terminada la cumbre, lo lógico es volver a Roma y volver a Roma significa también utilizar las plataformas y los recursos que tienen los Miembros en los Órganos de Gobierno, en este caso de la FAO, para poder llevar adelante reuniones formales e informales en los mismos sentidos, pero ya teniendo los Miembros el control y la conducción de todo este proceso.

Solamente le quiero pedir que, en su carácter de Presidente Independiente del Consejo, sea usted capaz de poder liderar un proceso de consulta, formales e informales, a los efectos de concentrarnos y no tener reuniones paralelas informales y formales en diferentes lados que realmente van a crear una enorme confusión. Hay muchas delegaciones muy cortas en cantidad de personas. Necesitamos concentrarnos a trabajar concretamente en ver cómo facilitamos la implementación de la Agenda 2030 y creo que usted lo puede hacer, Presidente.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have closed considerations for this Agenda Item. We now work on the Draft Conclusions. We are now starting with the conclusion of Item 10 and 11, they were already circulated via the email to you.

Then, we go to the Items, Code of Conduct, etc., and I will directly handle the Draft Conclusions, because they can be very brief, concise and short. As we have to take on quite some work today, really I would like to ask your collaboration, your wisdom, your spirit of compromise, and only ask for the floor for changes in Draft Conclusions, if it is really necessary.

With your indulgence I really would like to have an informal meeting with friends at 12:30, but certainly at least two members of each region, to work on already prepared Draft Compromises for the outstanding issues on Sub-Item 8.1, 8.2 on Item 9. Only an informal meeting, but to facilitate the work that will be brought back to the Council to make sure that we will finalize our work today or at least tomorrow, but that is up to you whether or not you would like to participate.

**Item 10. Report of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (25-27 October 2021) (continued)**

**Point 10. Rapport de la cent treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (25-27 octobre 2021) (suite)**

**Tema 10. Informe del 113.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (25-27 de octubre de 2021) (continuación)**

(CL 168/10)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, now I would like to turn to Agenda Item 10, and I will put the Draft Conclusions on the screen.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are very uncomfortable with that suggestion because what we are discussing is the Chairperson's summary. We are not discussing the final Report – and the Chairperson's summary is something that can be flagged or not – because calling for the Friends of the Chairperson to discuss some issues before they are sent to the Drafting Committee is undermining the work of the Drafting Committee. We are very uncomfortable to send anybody to work as a Friend of the Chairperson on the Chairperson's summary.

We can accept the Friends of the Chairperson if we are bogged down during the adoption of the Report itself because that is the entire Membership, but this is the Chairperson's summary, so why do we have to go for a Friends of the Chairperson when we know that afterwards there is work of the Drafting Committee? We are very uncomfortable with that suggestion. Please revisit that and let us know.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would not like to have a long discussion on this Item. We will see how far we get this morning with the items, otherwise we bring my compromise proposals for outstanding issues just because we still have to revisit some of the Items on 8.1, 8.2 and 9.

I would like now to continue with Item 10. I will read out the Draft Conclusions, and I will see whether or not you can help me finding draft compromises in one form or the other.

I will start with Item 10, *Reports of the 113th and 114th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

1. The Council considered the *Reports of the 113th and 114th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)*, and noted that it considered sections of the Report of the 114th Session under Item 15 of its agenda - *Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies*.
2. The Council:
  - (a) concurred with the CCLM recommendation against the elaboration of a formal standardization procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies, and action plans, noting the complexity of a standardization exercise, given the broad range and volume of products that the Organization develops, and invited the Secretariat to prepare a guidance note for Members providing an orientation in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development;
  - (b) expressed concern regarding the impact of the non-payment of arrears on the Organization's activities, Programme of Work and financial situation and recognized the timeliness of its consideration of this issue in view of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its potentially devastating effects on Members;
  - (c) recalled the request by the 42nd Session of the Conference for the conduct of a comprehensive review on the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the CCLM, supported by a process of informal consultation led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, noted that the practice developed by the Organization over past years on the restoration of voting rights is consistent with the approach of most other UN System organizations, and encouraged the ICC to hold informal consultations on the subject matter, taking into account the CCLM's findings and recommendations;
  - (d) recognized the primordial role of the data in FAO's work on global public goods, supported the findings and conclusions of the CCLM with respect to the guiding



principles on data protection and intellectual property which would shape the development of the FAO framework on the protection of data and intellectual property rights, and observing the interest and engagement by FAO members in this issue, recommended FAO Management provide further briefings to Members once the framework is developed;

- (e) stressed the need for alignment of the FAO framework on the protection of data and intellectual property rights, with improved governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, and looked forward to consideration of such alignment by the Council at its next session through the Programme Committee and the CCLM, in line with their respective mandates;
- (f) welcomed the importance given by the Development Law Branch (LEGN) to sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*, and encouraged LEGN's work on legislative interventions for improved nutrition and sustainability;
- (g) endorsed the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations 301.11.1 to 301.11.3, as set out in paragraph 12 of CCLM document 113/7; and
- (h) welcomed FAO's engagement in UN System discussions on the review of the jurisdictional set up of the United Nations common system and looked forward to being updated on further developments in this regard.

I now turn to go back to see whether or not we can approve these Draft Conclusions and start with paragraph 1. Can we agree to paragraph 1

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Tenemos comentarios acerca del tema de procedimientos, podemos hacerlo más tarde. Nos gustaría saber si habría interpretación en ese grupo y tenemos otros comentarios. Ahora, volviendo a este tema sobre el párrafo 1 no tenemos comentarios, sino para el párrafo 2.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not want to go into the procedural issues because it would take a lot of time, and time is at this moment, not our friend.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We have comments and doubts about the procedure you are suggesting. Regarding paragraph 1, we are okay with that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We continue with paragraph 1.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

May I go to paragraph 2?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, subparagraph (a).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, digo, la rationale de mi posición, este es un tema que surgió en el Comité del Programa. Luego, en el Comité del Programa por diversas razones no fue discutido y fue discutido en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) y el CCLM lo discutió y tomó una decisión. Yo creo que nosotros tenemos que volver a discutir este tema en el Comité del Programa para poder completar el proceso de debate porque si no, no se entendería. Está dentro de lo planteado por algunos Miembros, por lo tanto sugiero modificar el párrafo A, cambiar la palabra "Concurred" por "Took note" y al final, después de "Development", incluir "*we look forward for further discussion at the next Programme Committee*".

Eso refleja exactamente el origen de este tema, cómo empezó esta discusión y, me parece que, después de "Development", después de "*and we look forward for further discussion at the next Programme Committee*".

Después, ahí veremos en la discusión cómo la terminamos de cerrar, quizás, en la misma línea que el CCLM, pero lo que no podemos es negar la posibilidad de terminar ese debate donde se inició.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Sí, sobre el subpárrafo (a), estamos de acuerdo con las sugerencias de texto presentadas por Argentina, nosotros estábamos también en ese momento en el Comité del Programa cuando se propuso este trabajo acerca de la estandarización de procedimientos. Nos parece que el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) hizo un trabajo desde su perspectiva, que es normativo, pero nos parece que es necesaria la visión del Comité de Programa desde un punto de vista de gestión del trabajo de la Organización.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I agree with the comments made by the delegations of Argentina and Chile, and we would also include in the fourth line, "*guidance note for Members' analysis*" and then delete "*provided orientation*". The text would read "*guidance note for Members' analysis in relation to types of FAO products*".

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous n'avions pas de difficulté avec le langage initial que nous pouvions soutenir, et nous sommes également flexibles sur le premier ajout "*took note*".

S'agissant de la fin de la phrase, je me réjouis que les Membres considèrent que nous pouvons examiner certains sujets dans plusieurs Comités. Je me souviens que nous avons eu des discussions difficiles sur la question des données au Comité du Programme, au motif que seul le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pouvait en parler. Par définition, nous sommes d'accord pour que tous les Comités pertinents parlent des sujets dans le cadre de leurs mandats.

Donc, je pense qu'il ne faut pas se limiter au seul Comité du Programme, c'est pourquoi même si bien sûr nous n'avons pas de difficulté à en discuter au Comité du Programme, je pense qu'il faut parler des "relevant committees", puisqu'évidemment il faudra que cette note soit aussi, sans doute, regardée sous l'angle juridique par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Voilà, je serais plus large en insérant par exemple le terme "relevant", qui me paraît couvrir tous les comités pertinents en fonction de leur mandat.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think this discussion did occur in the Programme Committee, but in terms of the respective mandates, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in any role interprets the Basic Texts. I think we understand we would want clarity on what exactly the discussion at the Programme Committee would be discussing. Therefore, possibly we could add "*next Session of the Programme Committee within their respective mandates*" or "*within its respective mandate*". But, again, we are concerned that that is outside of their mandate.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nosotros entendemos que claramente el trabajo del análisis que podría hacer el Comité de Programa sería más bien sobre la gestión de estos productos cuando esto no...por supuesto, dentro del marco normativo ya existente.

Del documento que se presentó al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM), vimos que en algunos casos hay definiciones claras respecto a esto en los textos básicos y esto le da el marco normativo al trabajo que hay que hacer, pero hay muchas otras áreas donde esas normas no existen. Y de lo que hemos visto, en particular nosotros lo hemos visto por ejemplo, en materias de pesca, es que se basan el trabajo y la definición de cuál va a ser el proceso a discusión, the guidelines o de directrices técnicas o de directrices voluntarias, en más bien una práctica. Y en ese sentido es que nosotros creemos que, sería bueno que existiera, donde no existe una normativa clara en los textos

básicos, una estandarización de los procesos y creemos que en ese sentido el Comité de Programa podría tener una perspectiva que es relevante para la discusión.

En cuanto a la propuesta de Francia, en general, no tenemos problemas que no sea solamente el Comité de Programa el que analice el texto que se presente, el documento, pero sí nos gustaría quizás en su próxima sesión algo más concreto respecto de cuando esto se realizaría y qué Órganos de Gobierno, si sería... los Órganos de Gobierno es un poco amplio. Quizás si se quisiera hablar de los comités asesores del Consejo o, y que se presente después al Consejo.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Brazil, let us not have the discussion again, because we are discussing the Draft Conclusions. So let us focus on the conclusions, thank you.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Maybe we could be very precise here. I took note of the French proposal, which seems reasonable, but we should focus further discussion at the next Session of the Programme Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), within their respective mandates. I think this encapsulates the whole idea.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think perhaps we are arriving at a consensus. Let us follow the changes. Can we agree with the changes in the first line? I do not see any objections.

Can we agree with the insertion of “*analysis*,” instead of “*providing an orientation*”? I do not see any objections, and I think there was a growing consensus that we speak about and “*look forward to further discussions at the next Session of the Programme Committee and CCLM within their respective mandates.*” Would that be agreeable?

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are not objecting to anything here, but we were wondering whether the most appropriate word would be “*concept note*” instead of “*guidance note*”. It is a matter of terminology, but I think the most relevant and best word here should be “*concept note*”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the last change? I do not see any objections, so have an agreed paragraph 1.

We go to subparagraph (b). Can we agree on subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c).

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

Can we say that at the end of the sentence “*encourage the ICC to hold transparent and inclusive informal consultations*”, following the word “*consultations*” we suggest to add “*open to all Members.*”

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The Conference has given already a request that the Council follow-up with a timeline, because if it is still open like this, we might go to the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference without being able to achieve the requirement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session. I was suggesting that we add another sentence at the end or a new paragraph: “*this requirement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference should be followed up as soon as possible with a roadmap developed on the consultation process led by the ICC,*” or “*at the beginning of the consultation process*” and “*a Report be submitted to the 170<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council*”. That is probably November next year, so we have a timeline and want to work within that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, I think the timeline would be great. Can we agree to this additional paragraph?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Presidente, yo había pedido la palabra para respaldar la sugerencia de China en el inciso C. Ahora, me voy a tomar unos segundos en lo que acaba de proponer mi querido colega de Camerún. Un segundo, gracias.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see firstly whether or not we can agree with subparagraph (c), the insertion of China. Can we agree on those?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

S'agissant du paragraphe (c), nous sommes ouverts à la proposition chinoise. À la fin de la phrase, "*taking into account the CCLM findings and recommandations*", je propose d'ajouter "*and relevant UNGA resolutions*". Comme je l'ai expliqué longuement dans plusieurs de mes interventions, il y a des résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur ce sujet, y compris d'octobre dernier, qui définissent et font référence à des critères particuliers. Je pense qu'il est important, pour l'approche "UN-wide", que l'on s'en tienne à ces résolutions, adoptées par tous les États Membres.

Je reviendrai sur le nouveau paragraphe (d), qui me paraît préempter le résultat de ces consultations. Si vous voulez, je peux les traiter maintenant, ou préférez-vous finir les discussions sur le paragraphe (c)?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree with the latest insertion? Can we agree to (c) as it is?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

With the addition of France, I am prepared to bring also another addition: "*taking into account the existing procedures,*" and then "*the CCLM findings*". Because we know perfectly that there are existing procedures to the restoration of the voting rights within FAO, because it is not only the UN Resolution that is enough, it is not only the CCLM findings that there are existing procedures, we can use them also.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this paragraph that is now on the screen, meet the agreement of the virtual and the in-person room?

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

One of our comments here is that we are really going beyond what Conference had clearly set out in this and, again, adding some of these things, such as the last point, is really sacrificing a lot of efficiencies in the way that Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and FAO and the Governing Bodies work. I would also just see the question is did the Conference language ask for consultations with all Members?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will read out the Conference text so that everybody is clear. "*The Conference requests the conduct of a comprehensive review on the process of reinstating voting rights for Members in arrears for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the CCLM, supported by a process of informal consultation led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council with the Chairperson's and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.*"

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Espero, Presidente, ser constructivo en esto. Quizás podríamos agregar al final del subpárrafo (c) "*As appropriate*". Y con eso creo que podemos quizás acomodar la preocupación que planteaba Estados Unidos.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Here, we could go by precedence, in fact we have precedence on various topics where the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) consulted not only the Regional Groups. However, the whole membership, and the way it was decided was the ICC, in its meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs, suggested that, because of the importance of a particular subject, it should be open to the whole membership and the Regional Groups and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs agreed, and we had several occasions where the ICC consulted a wider membership.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I see we are moving along on this paragraph, I would just suggest an addition to what Cameroon suggested on adding “*existing procedures*,” I think it would be more relevant to say “*existing rules*” than procedures, and I hope that meets with everyone’s agreement.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thanks to the Legal Counsel, who gave me *Resolution 9/2009* of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference where it gives a clear mandate to the Independent Chairperson that “*whenever necessary take such steps as may be required to facilitate and achieve consensus among Member Nations, especially on important or controversial issues*”. That gives us a broad mandate to be as open and transparent as possible. I think we can facilitate the text as it is on the screen to make sure that we have, indeed, a transparent and inclusive informal consultation. With all the additions, can we agree to subparagraph I as it is on the screen now? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to subparagraph (d)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci beaucoup à mon collègue du Cameroun pour cette proposition. Comme je l'ai dit, et comme on le dit régulièrement, il est difficile de préjuger à l'avance du résultat de consultations, et encore moins utiliser un langage aussi prescriptif auquel la Conférence elle-même n'a eu recours. Donc, si cette idée devait être conservée, il faudrait que ce soit sous une forme beaucoup moins prescriptive et plutôt sous forme d'encouragement.

Le mieux serait peut-être de le mettre à la fin du paragraphe (c), que nous venons d'agréer, comme par exemple: “...*with the objective to develop a possible roadmap*...”, ou tout autre formule pour conserver l'idée. Mais encore une fois, on ne peut pas préjuger du résultat de vos consultations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the consultations should not only focus on formulating a roadmap but go beyond developing a roadmap. It should come forward with an outcome of the consultation.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

You said exactly what I had in mind.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Just a brief recollection of the recent CCLM meeting that concluded that the FAO Procedures and Rules as regards the procedure for voting rights reinstatement, much in line with the general UN practices. I think that the paragraph looks a little bit complicated with this possible road map and so to speak complexity as regards the consultative process, just a small remark, if you could allow me, but if the paragraph goes well with the Members, then we could support that, but we think that it is a bit complicated.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I do not agree with the representative from France. After this addition, it would appear that the informal consultation would have, as its sole objective, that of developing a road map. My second point on Cameroon’s proposal, and here moving onto paragraph (d), I find it a little confusing with a road map developed, would it be obtained when, would it be the ICC who would be establishing the

road map, or would it follow the decision of the Members? I find this a bit confusing and therefore I think that this paragraph is ambiguous, and maybe Cameroon can reflect and explain it better.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

When I suggested this, I said for me it was the Conference doing its work and without any timeline suggested. I was thinking that it is good for the Council as the Governing Body that follows the Resolution, the decision of the Conference, in-between two Conferences, to take the decision on the way forward in the implementation of the request of the 42nd Session of the Conference. That is why I suggested this, anyway, I know that the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) is proactive and maybe he will go faster than what we suggested.

I was discussing very quickly with our colleague from France, there are two possibilities, either we completely do away with what is suggested that we say of Reporting to the Council, or we keep (d) as it is but change it slightly. Because there is a way to present, then we say invited the ICC to follow up on this requirement during the biennium during 2022-2023 and report accordingly, something like that, because my problem is to try to continue the decision of the Conference and get a timeline for the implementation of that decision.

I have shortened it and the other one it was not captured, I said there are two possibilities, the second one is where France added with the objective to develop a possible road map, with the objective to Report as soon as possible to the Governing Bodies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us work with one proposal. Let us see whether or not now the current subparagraph (d) could meet consensus in the room. Would this be agreeable?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci à mon collègue camerounais, je comprends mieux son point. Pour simplifier, peut-être pourrions-nous essayer de fusionner les deux paragraphes et remplacer "*with the objective...*", que l'on supprimerait, par "*invite the ICC to report to the Council at the next Session*", par exemple. Je comprends mieux l'idée de mon collègue camerounais d'avoir formellement une discussion lors d'une prochaine session et, tout en étant ouverts quant au langage, je pense que nous aurions l'avantage de la simplicité en supprimant le paragraphe (d).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us speed up our work because we have so much to do.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We cannot prejudge the outcome of any consultations and therefore I have a suggestion to make, after Report, and "Report the progress to the Council." If we use the proposal from Cameroon, then in paragraph (d) we could also have "Report back the progress," in paragraph (d).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see whether or not the shortest version can work. So can we agree to insert "*invited ICC to report the progress to the Council at the next Session,*" would that be agreeable? Which means that we could delete subparagraph (d). Would it be agreeable?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am open to the two, as I said there are two ways, our colleague added language, which we are comfortable with, with the addition of China, so we have no problem deleting (d), if this accommodates everybody.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now agree to subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)**

In the second last line, before “*recommended*”, I would like to suggest to include the following: “*highlighted the importance of developing the policies in consultation with Members and recommended FAO Management*”. This is because I understand that this policy is a corporate policy, but given the nature of its policy, we think we should highlight this principle here.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to the proposal tabled by the distinguished representative of Japan. Our proposal was much in line with the one made by Japan and this is a reflection on the statement of the Russian Federation and some other delegates.

We believe that the Secretariat shall be more responsive to the feedback provided by Member States. With that in mind, we believe that there shall be not only briefings to Members, but other realms of consultations that would reflect the commands, provide the feedback. We expect this framework paper to be further discussed in the Programme Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and if needed also Finance Committee.

I would make the following suggestion, building on the suggestion by the Japanese colleague: “*highlighting the importance of developing the policies and consultations with Members and recommend that FAO Management to arrange further rounds of consultation, inclusive consultations with membership, with a view to finalize the framework paper, including through the FAO Governing Bodies and provide further briefing.*”. And delete up to the semi-colon.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je remercie mes collègues japonais et russe. En fait, j'avais à peu près les mêmes remarques, par conséquent ma délégation peut soutenir le texte ainsi amélioré. Je crois que le collègue russe avait demandé la suppression de “*provide further briefings to Members*”, me semble-t-il, à moins d’avoir mal compris sa proposition. En tout état de cause, le langage en rouge me convient.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Just reflecting on what was discussed at the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) in terms of the division with internal data management policies, we do see the way that this is going towards full Governing Body endorsed Strategy, which I do not think was within the spirit of what was discussed at CCLM. That was just one comment, so understanding that that is the way this is leading.

Just one comment for more Drafting Committee, but we would just suggest changing in the first line “*primordial,*” just because it has certain connotations, to “*fundamental.*”

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to the distinguished Ambassador of France that brought the attention of the proposal to delete, yes, that was our intention to delete “to provide for the briefings,” because once we recommended the rounds of consultation, briefings are redundant.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the paragraph as it is now on the screen?

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

I am just looking at the language as proposed at the moment. We had also mentioned in our statement the importance of further consultation with Members, but with a view to providing clarity based on the confusion that arose at the Programme Committee, especially in relation to the overlapping process of the development of the internal data protection and intellectual property policies, which as the direction that the USA mentioned, we understand to be internal corporate policies, and the Item on the Programme Committee agenda relating to the statistical work of the Organization. I am just looking and I am thinking “*highlighted the importance of developing the policies in consultation with Members,*” to be honest I would remove “*rounds of*” I would just have “*further inclusive consultations with the Membership with a view to clarify and finalize.*”

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In line with the statement just made by Australia, I think in the Programme Committee our concern was that there were many different pieces. We wanted to see how those pieces fit together and that was the idea behind seeking further briefings. Following on the conversation earlier this morning about the time to act is now and we need to move things forward, I think getting into very heavy processes with multiple rounds of consultations of all the different Governing Bodies is not a way for us to be more agile.

In that regard, I think the suggestion from Australia just now to eliminate rounds of and really to get to the point of clarifying and finalizing the framework paper is good enough, because I think also to not prejudice where those consultations may take us, whether it is fundamental to go through various different Governing Bodies. I think that we are just getting really heavy and in line with your earlier discussion in this point on not having too heavy a process for each document and they are of different levels.

A policy versus a strategy, those should have different pathways and we should not try to push all of the documents that we are trying to produce into the heaviest level of review. Obviously, we are all in favour of Members consultation, Membership inclusion, but we should not be in the kitchen in all of these things I think because otherwise we will slow things down to a trickle. So, support the suggestion from Australia, and maybe even get to the point of “review to clarify and finalize the framework paper,” and then leave it there.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we have an agreement if we delete, because I do not want to continue, as we are losing a lot of time and again, time is not our friend at this moment if we do not want to go into the weekend. If we delete “*round of*”, could we have an agreement then?

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

This proposal is fine with us. We believe that it does not exclude the possibility of further deciding whether we will be consulting among Members or just be adopting the document as an internal paper. However, to the distinguished colleague of Canada, we are not going intervene in the FAO internal affairs, but still the policy concerns of a Member and as soon as it concerns everybody and might be having budgetary implications, we should be aware of them.

#### **Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Just echoing Canada’s point on turning every, including internal management, item. To be quick I think I heard them say as well we would suggest ending this paragraph at “*framework paper*,” and removing “*including through the FAO Governing Bodies*,” and not to prejudice these things, not to make them automatically go through the most rigorous form of approval.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Please, dear friends, let us be a little bit more flexible. If there is nothing to go to the Governing Bodies, it is not necessary, but we are really going into too much detail.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

On the proposal of our colleague from the United States, we believe that we need to preserve FAO Governing Bodies because these guiding principles might be having programmatic and budgetary implications and for them to be properly taken care of, they shall be taken, considered by Programme and Finance Committees. We insist on including the Governing Bodies.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Could we, for the sake of going forward, agree with the text as it is now?



**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

We fully support what the United States and Canada said but in a view to be flexible, could we add, “including through the FAO Governing Bodies as relevant”? I hope that that might meet a compromise.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would we now have an agreement? I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (e). We already adopted this paragraph in Item 8.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think we can just leave it with the CCLM. Because I have been looking for what is programmatic in this, I am still questioning myself, so that it should go to the Programme Committee. I believe that it is only the CCLM, which is the best Committee to look at that. Unless Legal Counsel tells me that I am wrong but the way I look at it...

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask for consistency in the Council? Because we adopted this subparagraph with the exact language already in Item 8 when we spoke about the Report of the Programme Committee. Therefore, either we have to revisit that already agreed subparagraph or we keep this subparagraph as it is. I would make a plea to agree to the already agreed subparagraph in Item 8 so as not to add more work to the workload for the last one of the day.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

We just wanted to make clear, because it is our understanding that FAO’s statistical and other data activities should be aligned with the FAO Framework on the protection, not the other way around where we make a framework that fits into what they are doing.

The Framework is supposed to guide what this system and other activities are doing. Understanding that, but our suggestion would be again to just flip those. It would be: “*stress the need for alignment of all FAO work and activities involving data or statistics with the FAO Framework on the protection of data and intellectual property rights that is being developed.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will keep this subparagraph pending because we are now revising Item 8 of the Programme Committee.

We go to subparagraph (f). Can we agree to subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (g). I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (h). I do not see any objection.

And of course, paragraph 2. We put that in brackets because we did not finalize our work.

**Item 11. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (continued)****Point 11. Rapports de la quarante-huitième session (session extraordinaire) (4 juin 2021) et de la quarante-neuvième session (11-14 octobre 2021) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (suite)****Tema 11. Informes del 48.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (4 de junio de 2021) y el 49.º período de sesiones (11-14 de octubre de 2021) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (continuación)**

(C 2023/19; C 2023/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I would like now to go to the conclusions of Item 11.

We will put the conclusions on the screen. Item 11: *Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the *Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of the Committee on Food Security (CFS)*, and in particular:
  - (a) welcomed the policy recommendations on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition” and requested FAO to support their use and application by its Members;
  - (b) acknowledged activities by different stakeholders to promote the uptake at regional, country and local levels of the CFS “Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” and reiterated their importance to enhance policy coherence and address policy fragmentation across sectors that have an impact on food systems and nutrition;
  - (c) recognized the importance of the ongoing work of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) that is responsible for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on “Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition” and appreciated the transparency and inclusiveness of the process, including regional consultations, as a way to strengthen ownership of the final version of the Guidelines to be presented for endorsement by the Committee in October 2022;
  - (d) welcomed the CFS policy process to develop policy recommendations on “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems” that will be presented for endorsement in October 2022;
  - (e) noted requests for continued deliberations on, and due attention to, the impacts of COVID-19 on the food systems, agriculture and nutrition at all stages of the implementation of the approved MYPoW’s workstreams; and
  - (f) noted potential implications of the UN Food Systems Summit on CFS and its HLPE, and the Committee’s decision to look forward to further analysis and consideration of next steps within the Bureau, taking into account the respective mandates, in consultation with all Members, the Advisory Group and other participants.

With that, I would like to go to paragraph 1.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Presidente, quiero sugerir una modificación en el subpárrafo (a). Después de *“Requested”*, lo voy a leer en inglés a velocidad de dictado.

*“FAO to further disseminate their potential benefits within its Members.”*

Y eliminar lo que estaba en el subpárrafo después. La lógica y la racionalidad de esto, estamos hablando de productos voluntarios y es obvio que son muy importantes, pero es una decisión de los Miembros y la propia Organización no puede apoyar un producto específico, sino que tiene que poner a disposición de los Miembros para que cada gobierno, cada Miembro, decida qué es lo que quiere hacer. Es una cuestión de principios.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the changes in subparagraph (a)?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Perhaps just for clarity there, following on the suggestion from Argentina, *“requested FAO to support the dissemination”* and leave it more open with whom they engage on that. Because, otherwise... The potential benefits, that is, again, a bit of a value judgement, so *“support their dissemination”* is good enough.

**Mr Adrian MCADAMS (United States of America)**

I think we are quite comfortable with the language being drafted here. I think Canada’s proposal is a good one in order to not make a value judgement.

Just in the first chapeau, we would want the Council to “*endorse the conclusions, findings and recommendations*”. I think that is what has come forward in the 48th and 49th Reports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree with the proposal of Canada? “*To support their dissemination*”, is that agreeable? I do not see any objection. With that, we have an agreed subparagraph (a).

Can we also agree to include findings in the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). Can we agree to subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is not an objection on subparagraph (c), but I believe that the wording of the first line does not really tally with what the Council is to do with the work which is undertaken by. I will probably cancel the word “*importance*” and change it with “*recognized that the ongoing work of the CFS and the working group*”, that is part of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) workstreams of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Because it is not up to the Council to recognize the importance of, we take note of the fact that it is part of that workstream. It is within CFS to know whether this work is important for them.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree with the change to the subparagraph as it is on the screen? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Antes del subpárrafo (e) y después del párrafo (d), quiero proponer un nuevo subpárrafo. Voy a leer en inglés a velocidad de dictado.

“*Stressed the importance for the CFS Secretariat to use multilaterally agreed concepts and language when drafting documents that will be negotiated amongst Members*”.

Es lenguaje acordado en el documento *CL 166/REP*; párrafo 27, subpárrafo (e).

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is a well-known paragraph.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We believe that it is a very good suggestion from Argentina and we support it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (e)?

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Subparagraph (e) is like a repetition. As we look at it, I am not sure that it is the work of the Secretariat to produce documents that are to be negotiated. It is up to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat. The Secretariat deals with administrative work and so on. I tend to be corrected. CFS Secretariat is probably not the best word here. But “*stress the importance that all documents that are produced by the CFS use...*” We cannot use Secretariat. And so it goes.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme mon collègue camerounais, je ne pense pas qu'il appartienne au Secrétariat de se fonder sur du langage agréé au niveau multilatéral. Je pense qu'il revient aux Membres de veiller lors des négociations, s'ils le souhaitent, à utiliser un langage agréé au plan multilatéral, et je fais confiance à

mes collègues argentin et brésilien pour assurer le respect des concepts multilatéraux. Aussi, en réalité, je ne vois pas l'utilité de ce paragraphe et propose de le supprimer.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to give the floor to Slovenia, please?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

What France just said, it was our position on behalf of the European Union Member States.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero, agradecer como siempre la pluma de mi querido colega de Camerún que creo que mejoró el texto. Segundo, es un tema acordado, creo que no hay una discusión sobre esto. Y, en realidad, tomando en cuenta y escuchando muy atentamente a mi estimada colega de Francia, lo que vi como objeción básicamente es que no le parecía que era necesario, pero como para muchos Miembros sí es necesario, entonces creo que si en realidad no está afectando ninguna sensibilidad sino que simplemente es una cuestión subjetiva de qué es necesario o no. Bueno, si para algunos Miembros resulta necesario y no afecta sensibilidades extremas en ningún otro, yo creo que el principio general es mantenerlo y eso es lo que nosotros proponemos.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

I will say that we support the proposal to maintain this subparagraph (e) in the text. The arguments that have been put forward by the Ambassador from Argentina and also our colleague from Brazil are arguments that we feel we would like to support.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank Cameroon for the input. I believe that the first proposition was okay. However, in order to gain consensus here, we believe that the wording right now is acceptable and we believe that according to our previous discussions and other sessions of the Council, Programme Committees, this language is very useful and important for all of us.

**Mr Andrian MCADAMS (United States of America)**

Just to reiterate Brazil's point, we do think this is important and it has been drawn mostly now from Council's 166th Report. So, we would support this conclusion.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

We understand what the United States just said but as a matter of principle, I think my delegation would have the view that it is quite strange, that the Council is actually telling the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) what they should do, which is a platform that operates not only between Members but also between other stakeholders.

I just wanted to make that view known and in this respect, we would actually advocate for deleting this language here. It was already in another Council Report. It stands there but we would be happy if it would be deleted here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Before having a very long discussion, could we not, and I would put it forward as an alt, use what we already agreed in other conclusions? For example, on Item 3, and it reads, "*stress the importance of using Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and other multilaterally agreed language and concepts.*" Would that be a way forward?

I see three speakers, but would this text be acceptable for the room? I see nodding in the room.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me parece que aquí quisiera clarificar un poco lo que planteó mi estimada colega de Suecia. El párrafo está marcando la importancia, no le está diciendo qué tiene que hacer. Y es para el draft, para la base de las negociaciones y, luego, en las negociaciones sí todos los participantes obviamente tienen que llegar a un consenso. Por lo tanto, lo que estamos planteando es la importancia de utilizar conceptos

multilateralmente acordados, por lo tanto, no puede interpretarse de ninguna manera que el Consejo le está dando una orden. Estamos resaltando la importancia.

Y el párrafo, repito, está ya acordado por lo tanto sugiero... yo le agradezco su buena voluntad, pero en este caso preferiríamos seguir sosteniendo el párrafo que hemos planteado con las modificaciones de Camerún que nos parecen bien.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we keep this pending.

We go to subparagraph (f). Can we agree to subparagraph (f). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (g).

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Citing the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) here is like the Council entering into the functioning of the CFS itself. HLPE is part of CFS. I think if we put a comma after “*HLPE*” there, I think that can do the trick, “*and its HLPE*”. That is the same thing with the rest. On that we are mentioning with all Members, the advisory group and other participants. With all the CFS stakeholders. I think that is what we want to say. When we start citing advisory group, we already enter into the CFS body. All CFS stakeholders.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

I would like to comment on the previous subparagraph (e). However, since this para is still pending, I think we can discuss later.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

Actually, I was also going to talk about subparagraph (e) but now it is pending, so I will speak later.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En el subpárrafo (g), nuestra Delegación considera que tiene que ser eliminado, si bien ese vocabulario fue aprobado en la Sesión 49, en realidad si el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria va a tener rol o no, en todo caso se va a definir cuando se trate el tema específico de la agenda. Acá no se puede prejuzgar y demás.

El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria a través de su Bureau, está teniendo reuniones informales sobre este punto. Por lo tanto, el tema principal tiene que ver con que procesalmente no es correcta la inclusión de este subpárrafo en el estadio de las conversaciones informales que está llevando el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Reitero, entonces, este subpárrafo debe ser eliminado.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, please, for the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Regarding subparagraph (g), we would like to retain it. We think that during the discussion there was many references made to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) connection to the UN Food Systems Summit.

Additionally, we would like to delete in this para the part that says, “*taking into account their respective mandates*” since this is not a reflection of the CFS49 Report and since the Council is noting the potential implication of the UN Food Systems Summit, citing from the CFS Report.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir ce qu'a dit ma collègue slovène au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres et rappeler, comme d'ailleurs l'Ambassadeur d'Argentine l'a indiqué, que ce paragraphe, tel qu'amendé par la collègue slovène, est issu du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), qui a été très longuement négocié.

Repartir sur cinq heures de discussions, je ne crois pas que ce soit votre objectif, aussi, j'espère que les collègues feront preuve de flexibilité là-dessus pour s'en tenir au langage négocié dans le cadre du CSA. Évidemment nous soutenons la mention du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau (HLPE), qui a été indiquée par plusieurs délégations et qui figure dans la déclaration d'action du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Clearly, there is no consensus on maintaining or deleting this subparagraph or parts of it. I will conclude now. We keep this pending.

With that, I would like to conclude deliberations of this Agenda Item. We have many subparagraphs pending. We will not organize a Group of the Friends because there is no appetite for it at this moment. I wish you a very good lunch. After the lunch break, I would invite you to consider how we can move forward in a more flexible way and with a spirit of compromise, because we have many subparagraphs pending, still to be taken up.

We continue after the lunch break with Agenda Item 13, *Code of Conduct for Voting*. I would like now to adjourn for lunch and see you back at 14:00 hours sharp.

Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:03 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 03*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.03*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>2 December 2021</b>

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:02 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 02  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.02  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 13. Code of Conduct for Voting****Point 13. Code de conduite relatif au vote****Tema 13. Código de conducta para las votaciones***(CL 168/13)***CHAIRPERSON**

Members of the Council, delegates, dear friends, I hope that you consumed a lot of flexibility, wisdom and compromise feelings as I really need your help from now on because we have to tackle many issues today if we do not want to go into overtime on Saturday. Please let us work hard with a positive spirit. You can count on the team who is sitting this side of the room, and I hope that I can count on you as well.

Let us now continue with Item 13, the *Code of Conduct for Voting*. We recently have had informal consultations including negotiations on the Code of Conduct. We know that we are not there yet but we are making good progress and we will continue negotiations in January.

With no formal document because we still have the document under discussion and most of you are involved in the informal consultations. That is what is in front of us. I remain optimistic that we will arrive at a Code of Conduct for Voting. Everybody is very much involved in pushing forward for the Code. We still have our difference of view, but step by step, based on the work by my predecessor, we are getting there.

That is what I wanted to say as an introduction of this Agenda Item. Are there any delegations which would like to take the floor?

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

Since I did not have a chance to take the floor in the morning, I would now like to make a suggestion on Item 11. Based on the long discussion on this Item, I think we have different views on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report. Therefore, I want to propose a minor revision to the chapeau of paragraph 1: the word “endorsed” should be replaced with “welcomed”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will take that in as a planning subparagraph. We will replace it as a proposal.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

On the Code of Conduct for Voting, the United States of America thanks you for the ongoing efforts to facilitate the development of this Code of Conduct for FAO elections and the ongoing informal consultations. We know the work has not been easy but, with frank discussions and some flexibility on everyone’s part, we think we can get there. We believe FAO should be at the forefront of the best practices in the UN system and has an opportunity with a meaningful Code of Conduct to join other UN agencies in this regard.

A robust Code of Conduct is important, one that looks to the future, improves and strengthens procedures and transparency in elections, and quantifies some of the strong practices we saw FAO employ during recent Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and Committee on World Food Security (CFS) secret ballot elections. We should not shy away from setting our ambitions high and putting FAO at the forefront of the UN system in electoral integrity. We have the mandate of three FAO governing bodies, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), Council and Conference, including the highest governing body, with the 42nd Session of the Conference’s instructions, to undertake this work.

We appreciate the collaboration and commitment of all Members and welcome the significant progress and consultation so far to take forward a code in the best interest of the Organization. Finalizing the Code of Conduct will help ensure the integrity of FAO and bring it into conformity with existing practices in many other UN Agencies on governance and accountability issues.



We therefore urge finalization of this Code of Conduct with the current draft reflecting some inclusive consultations and discussions, to reach consensus on a code that can be approved on the spring 2022 Council, well in advance of adoption at the 43rd Conference in June 2023.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to thank Mr Khalid Mehboob and you, Chairperson, for your efforts in organizing the negotiations on the draft Code, as well as thank the Members for their serious attitude in the preparation of the draft of the document. We believe that, when it comes to such an important topic, it is necessary to come to consensus. This must be the basis of our negotiations.

For the Russian Federation, it is principally important that in preparing this draft we all be led by the mandate that has been given to us and that we not try to use an interpretation which expands. The main and only task, when it comes to this mandate, is strengthening the procedure for the secret ballot on the candidature of the Director-General of the Organization. Attempts to add to this the topic on an indirect voting process, as well as related administrative issues regarding internal management issues of FAO, are a strong move away from the instructions given to us by the Conference.

In addition, we would like to draw attention to the proposal of a number of delegations to limit the right of Members to put forward their own representatives for the General Committee of FAO. As shown by the comparative analysis shared by the Legal Counsel, such a proposal does not have a precedent in UN Organizations in which there are Committees with mandates similar to that of the General Committee. In that regard, we think that these proposals are not relevant.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Canada underlines the importance of FAO being at the forefront of best practices and always seeking to improve by strengthening procedures and transparency and responding to changing times. We greatly appreciate the collaboration of all Member States and the commitment by all to act in the best interests of the Organization.

In responding to the Conference's instruction, we have the opportunity to have a proactive position that captures the good practices that we have all been applying in recent election processes. We look forward to constructively concluding the discussions on the Code of Conduct, so that we can have a consensus-based procedure in place, well ahead of the next Conference.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

Australia expresses our appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), the Legal Counsel and their teams for continuing the consultation process on a Code of Conduct for FAO elections. Australia remains committed to working alongside the ICC and the entire Membership in order to achieve a meaningful and forward leaning Code which seeks to encourage best practice behaviour at all times, and we urge the establishment of a Code that not only upholds, but serves to strengthen, the integrity of the multilateral voting system.

Australia recognises that there are a number of clauses, which still need to be addressed and that the current inability to achieve consensus in the informal consultations may, in part, stem from a lack of clarity about the mandated task. In this regard, we take the opportunity to remind Members of the recommendations made in the 109th and 110th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), as well as the recommendations made by the 164th Session of the Council. We would encourage the 168th Session of the Council to re-iterate subparagraph 20 (b) of the Report of the 164th Session which states "*agreed with the view of the CCLM that this code should address the candidates, Members and the Secretariat, be consistent with Rule XII at large and the General Rules of the Organisation, and be developed through a Member-led and participatory process*".

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Albania, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Iceland align themselves with this statement.

First of all, we would like to commend the Independent Chairperson of the Council for his continued efforts in facilitating the ongoing informal consultations with all Members. We recognize the progress achieved so far. Some important issues still remain pending and need more consultations. These include the absence of conflict of interest in relation to the nomination of officials at the Conference, the modalities to ensure the complete secrecy of the ballot, the absence of electronic recording devices, the transparency of the counting of votes and the sections on electoral complaints.

We remain fully committed to providing FAO with a meaningful and ambitious voluntary Code of Conduct that will promote an open, fair, ethical, equitable and transparent process for upcoming elections, adding value to the Basic Texts and to already existing FAO practice for secret ballot elections. This is to ensure the full alignment of FAO with the best practices and standards in the UN system for the benefit of all FAO Members and to ensure in particular the integrity and complete secrecy of voting procedure.

We are fully supportive of continuing the ongoing consultation and we look forward to reaching a consensus on the draft text prior to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We appreciate the inclusive and transparent consultations held by the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We wish to reiterate the three principles of the Code of Consultation: firstly, to guarantee the consensus of Member States; secondly, not to infringe on the sovereignty of Member States; and thirdly, not to amend the Basic Texts. At the same time, we believe that the Code and related rule-making should fully respect and take into account the actual situation of FAO and guarantee the independence and autonomy of the system formulation.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La France soutient la rédaction et l'adoption d'un Code de conduite électorale ambitieux et de qualité, afin que la FAO se hisse au niveau des meilleures pratiques électorales dans le système des Nations Unies.

Trois conditions sont indispensables: premièrement, le respect du secret complet du vote; deuxièmement, la transparence du décompte des voix; troisièmement, l'impartialité et la prévention des conflits d'intérêts en amont du scrutin.

Afin d'assurer le bon déroulement des scrutins et le respect de ces conditions, la France souhaite que le futur Code de conduite prévoie plusieurs mesures concrètes dans le plein respect de ces textes.

En amont des élections, dans les organes de gouvernance et en particulier pour l'élection du Directeur général, il est important que les États Membres ayant présenté un candidat national s'abstiennent de prendre part au Bureau (*General Committee*) de la Conférence chargé d'organiser l'élection. Il s'agit de préserver l'impartialité du scrutin et d'éviter les risques de conflits d'intérêts.

S'agissant des votes à bulletin secret, la France est particulièrement attachée au respect du vote en présentiel qui, pour garantir l'absence de fraude ou de risque cyber, doit demeurer le seul moyen de déposer un bulletin. Les appareils électroniques devraient être interdits par le futur Code de conduite aussi bien dans la salle de vote que dans la salle de dépouillement des bulletins, afin de garantir l'intégrité totale du scrutin.

La France plaide également pour la mise en place d'un demi-isoloir pour que le votant demeure visible par toutes les délégations tout en maintenant naturellement son bulletin caché.

La France souhaite également que le dépouillement se déroule dans des conditions transparentes, alignées sur les meilleures pratiques onusiennes, comme par exemple à l'UNESCO (Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture) ou à l'OMPI (Organisation mondiale de la

propriété intellectuelle), c'est-à-dire un dépouillement en public, sous le regard de l'ensemble des délégations. Pour les scrutateurs, le Code de conduite devrait ainsi prévoir un accès sans entraves aux salles de votes et de dépouillement, afin qu'il puisse contrôler le bon déroulement des procédures électorales. Les scrutateurs devraient notamment pouvoir décompter les voix, face à la salle et sous le regard des délégations présentes.

Nous vous remercions pour vos consultations. La France veillera à ce que le Code de conduite soit à la hauteur de l'exigence démocratique du système des Nations Unies. Les éléments que j'ai mentionnés précédemment sont essentiels pour la crédibilité et la légitimité du système multilatéral que nous soutenons tous ici.

Ainsi, nous ne pourrions soutenir un code insuffisamment exigeant, même dans le cas où une clause de réexamen serait prévue. La France considère qu'un précédent ne peut pas être créé dans une matière aussi sensible.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo al informe del Código de Conducta para los procedimientos de votación, además de suscribir plenamente las declaraciones realizadas por la Unión Europea (UE), desde España quisiéramos destacar sucintamente los siguientes aspectos.

Alentamos en primer lugar a proporcionar a FAO un Código de Conducta significativo y ambicioso que promueva un proceso de elecciones abierto, justo, equitativo y transparente. En segundo lugar, se debe asegurar la plena alineación de la FAO con las mejores prácticas y normas del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en beneficio de todos los Miembros de FAO y para garantizar en particular la integridad y el secreto absoluto de los procedimientos de votación.

Finalmente, agradecemos al Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Sr. Hans Hoogeeven, el proceso de consultas, apoyando la continuación de las mismas en curso para poder llegar a un consenso sobre el proyecto de texto antes de la 43.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Spain, listening to your inputs, we are all being optimistic that we will arrive on time on consensus on a draft *Code of Conduct for Voting*.

I now present the conclusions. It will be a very brief conclusion because it will be ongoing work, so I put it on the screen. Item 13: *Code of Conduct for Voting*.

1. The Council commended the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) on his efforts in leading an open, inclusive and transparent consultation process towards the development of a voluntary draft Code of Conduct for Voting, and requested the ICC to continue such consultations.

Can we agree to this text? I do not see any objections.

**Item 15. Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies**

**Point 15. Sélection et nomination des secrétaires des organes relevant de l'article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO**

**Tema 15. Selección y nombramiento de los secretarios de los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV**

(CL 168/17)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to the next Agenda Item. We go now to Agenda Item 15, *Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies*.

**Introduction to Item 15: Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies**

*Mr Hans Hoogeeven, Independent Chairperson of the Council*

The 166th Session of the Council welcomed the positive developments and spirit of compromise demonstrated by all parties to these consultations on defining long-term procedures for the selection

and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies. The Council also reiterated the need to balance the functional autonomy of the relevant Article XIV Bodies with the legal and administrative responsibilities borne by the Organization as well as the accountability of the Director-General for the Secretaries of such bodies. Finally, the Council also encouraged me to continue the consultations held under my predecessor towards a mutually agreeable solution to the matter, and looked forward to a timely solution to the matter.

I am pleased to inform the 168th Session of the Council that progress has been made since the 166th Session of the Council in April this year. Following my election, I held a number of bilateral consultations with all three concerned Article XIV Bodies; the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

As explained in the relevant Council document CL 168/17, the proposed procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies presented to Council at its 166th Session has been further adjusted following the consultations held in July and September 2021 with the three concerned Article XIV Bodies. Details on the specific adjustments and additions to the procedure are outlined in the relevant Council document under Section III.

On 28 September 2021, I submitted the revised proposed procedure as a harmonized text taking into consideration those proposals by the concerned Bodies, which had been considered as accepted by FAO Management. This revised proposed procedure is contained in *Annex I* of Council document CL 168/17.

The Council is invited to endorse the proposed procedure included in *Annex I*, CL 168/17, for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of the concerned Article XIV Bodies.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Based on six years of hard work of my predecessors and myself, we arrived at an informal consensus for the procedure for the *Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of the Article XIV Bodies*.

As you all know, there are three Article XIV Bodies and informally with the Chairpersons and with the Secretaries, we arrived at a consensus on the text and of course, based on the Report of the Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) last Friday. I give the floor to the Chairperson Ms Alison Storsve to make some brief remarks.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

We held an additional Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the 114th Session, on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> November. We considered the draft procedure outlined at the Annex of the CCLM Report and we approved the Draft Procedure with two largely cosmetic edits. The CCLM did make an observation that, while it was not a constitutional or legal matter, invited the Article XIV Bodies concerned to try to be ambitious in their achievement of gender parity in the implementation of this procedure. However, we suggested that the procedures was good as is, and we recommended the Council's endorsement of it.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With the remarks of the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), I put forward for adoption the procedures as contained in the document that is in front of us.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Para respaldar la idea de, finalmente después de tanto tiempo, culminar con este proceso y dejarlo planteado como que sea aplicable a todos los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV y no solamente a estos tres que están en discusión. Verá usted como poder acomodar esto en términos de futuro, pero un poco la idea es tratar de tener una práctica o una política común.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

That is, indeed, the idea for having a harmonized and common procedure.

#### **M. Gabriel MBAIROBE (Cameroun)**

Le Cameroun s'exprime au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur ce point de l'ordre du jour et sur cette question, qui est inscrite à l'ordre du jour du Conseil et de certains organes directeurs de la FAO depuis environ une décennie et qui a bénéficié de la facilitation de trois Présidents indépendants du Conseil à savoir, M. Ngirwa, M. Mehboob et présentement M. Hoogeveen.

Nous serons très brefs. Nous tenons à remercier et à féliciter toutes les parties prenantes qui ont pris part aux discussions et ont contribué à faire aboutir le développement des procédures qui seront appliquées à long terme aux fins de la sélection et de la nomination des secrétaires des organes relevant de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, telles que décrites à l'Annexe 1 du document portant la cote CL 168/17.

Nous comprenons que les trois organes de l'Article XIV, qui ont participé aux consultations, à savoir le Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (TIRPAA), la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) et la Commission des thons de l'océan indien (CTOI) soient ceux pour lesquels les procédures décrites s'appliqueront exclusivement. Il serait néanmoins intéressant d'envisager dès maintenant l'extension de leur applicabilité à d'autres organes relevant de l'Article XIV.

Cela dit, le Groupe régional approuve la proposition contenue dans l'Annexe 1.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

Australia acknowledges the many years of work of the previous Independent Chairpersons of the Council (ICC), and we thank you for your efforts to bring closure to this important long-standing issue. Recognising the inherent challenges in doing so, we particularly welcome the formulation of a single, streamlined procedure. While we note the advice that this procedure will apply only to the appointment of Secretaries for the three Bodies with which it has been negotiated, as we have done in the past, Australia encourages Management to strive for the longer-term goal of having the appointment process for all Article XIV Bodies harmonised.

While Australia can endorse the procedure provided at *Annex 1*, as outlined in paragraph three of *CL 168/17* we note that this procedure is pending formal decision by the Bodies concerned. Australia followed the proceedings of the 114th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and we would appreciate confirmation of our understanding based on discussions at this meeting that Council endorsement ahead of a formal decision by the Bodies is legally sound, from both a FAO and Article XIV Bodies' perspective. We would also appreciate confirmation of our understanding that Council endorsement does not bind the Bodies to the proposed procedure in the event formal approval by their Members cannot be achieved.

In closing, and turning our minds to the future, Australia requests advice on the status of the proposed procedure following Council endorsement. Specifically, we would like to know whether this procedure could be used ahead of a formal decision by a Body or will the interim procedures currently in place remain pending formal approval.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can confirm that later on. The Legal Counsel will give it with legal advice.

**Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh) (On behalf of the Asia Regional Group)**

Bangladesh has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. This matter has been before us since 2016, when it was noted that three specific bodies had developed selection procedures for the recruitment of their Secretaries. This was considered inconsistent with the FAO Basic Texts and the Director-General's responsibilities, as well as his accountability to the Governing Bodies.

Consequently, the Council, at its 155<sup>th</sup> Session in 2016, mandated the then Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to undertake consultations with these Bodies. This matter has been the subject of lengthy consideration by the Governing Bodies, of extensive consultations between the different ICCs and the Article XIV bodies, as well as FAO Management.

As a result of these consultations, a revised and mutually agreed procedure has been developed as set out in Annex 1 of the document. The Asia Group can endorse the proposed procedure because it preserves the Director-General's responsibility for the recruitment of his staff as well as his accountability to the Governing Bodies, while at the same time, providing an opportunity to the Article XIV Bodies to be involved jointly with FAO in every step of the recruitment process, from the time of the vacancy announcement to the final selection of the Secretary.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, please?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The Republic of Georgia, Albania and Iceland align themselves with the statement. We thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the update and for presenting the revised proposed procedure.

We welcome the efforts of the ICC and his predecessor in bringing the matter to a mutually agreeable solution. We thank the three Article XIV Bodies, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and FAO Management for their constructive approach and willingness to work together towards consensus. We congratulate them on reaching a compromise on the revised proposed procedure presented in *Annex 1* to the FAO Document.

The EU and its Member States however regret that the requirements regarding the number of female candidates is still at a minimum. We strongly recommend ensuring that this number is indeed seen as a minimum and that the actual number of female candidates is increased in the practical implementation, in order to promote gender equality at higher levels.

This revised procedure will need to be applied for filling vacant positions of Executive Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, as soon as it is endorsed. We take the opportunity to request that FAO clarify, as soon as possible, to the GFCM Secretariat, the interim agreements planned for the current Executive Secretary pending the selection of the new Executive Secretary under the new procedure. In this regard, it is essential to ensure the continuity of the activity of the GFCM and the full implementation of the GFCM 2030 Strategy adopted at the last GFCM Session, on 6 November.

With these comments, we endorse the proposed procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies and we look forward to this procedure being applied before the end of this year, within the context of the upcoming appointment of the new GFCM Executive Secretary.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En lo relativo a este punto y como no puede ser de otra manera, además de suscribir plenamente la declaración de la Unión Europea (UE), quisiera destacar lo siguiente en nombre de España.

En primer lugar, nos unimos a la felicitación tanto al anterior como al actual Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Sr. Hans Hoogeeven, a los 3 órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV y a la Dirección General de FAO por su compromiso constructivo y por el compromiso, también, alcanzado en aras de la resolución de una situación que ha de quedar definitivamente encausada más pronto que tarde y, en todo caso, antes del próximo 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo de FAO.

Aplaudimos, también, a los organismos que ya han adoptado estos procedimientos y animamos a FAO a que apoye al resto de órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV en su aplicación efectiva. Reiteramos además, por lo tanto, la necesidad de que una vez aprobado el nuevo procedimiento o revisado, los nuevos Secretarios Ejecutivos sean seleccionados y nombrados siguiendo dicho procedimiento.

Y, por último, en el caso concreto de la Comisión General de Pesca del Mediterráneo (CGPM), solicitamos a FAO que aclare lo antes posible a la Secretaría de la misma las disposiciones provisionales previstas para el actual Secretario Ejecutivo y hasta que se seleccione uno nuevo en el marco de este nuevo procedimiento.

Y, ello teniendo en cuenta que, el procedimiento revisado que esperamos aprobar para la elección de los Secretarios Ejecutivos de estos organos sería ya plenamente aplicable al proceso que se pretende lanzar en breve para la elección de esta nueva figura, del nuevo Secretario Ejecutivo, en el caso concreto de la CGPM.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to Congo and can we all be very brief.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je salue les efforts qui ont été accomplis pour arriver jusque'ici, mais le paragraphe 5 m'interpelle et notamment le point (c) concernant la désignation des trois représentants des organes relevant de l'Article XIV. Quel sera le principe? Est-ce que cela se fera par vote pour la désignation de ses membres? Je pense que nous devons aller jusqu'au bout pour essayer d'établir les modalités de désignation de ces trois représentants des organes.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Congo, for your question. I would like to answer directly. It is up to the Governing Bodies of the Article XIV Bodies to select the three Members for the Selection Panel. It is not up to us, but it is up to the Governing Bodies of the three Article XIV Bodies to select those panel members and it is up to them how they try to do this. It can be done via Bureau, or via voting, but it is up to them. But having discussed it with them, I am comfortable that it will be a fair and open process.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Très brièvement, je souhaiterais saluer les efforts respectifs des Présidents indépendants du Conseil pour parvenir à ce compromis. Nous voudrions en particulier nous assurer de la continuité des activités de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée et avoir la confirmation que cette procédure nouvelle sera bien appliquée pour la nomination du nouveau Secrétaire de la CGPM. Par ailleurs, nous encourageons à étudier la possibilité d'étendre cette procédure à tous les organes de l'Article XIV, au-delà des trois mentionnés.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the Legal Counsel, to answer some of the questions.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Here I will recall that this discussion arose because practices had been introduced within certain Statutory Bodies that were inconsistent with the Basic Texts and indeed, with the Treaties that established these Bodies. Fortunately, we seem to have reached a happy consensus under the guidance of three Independent Chairpersons of the Council (ICCs) and a great deal of effort on their part.

As regards these specific questions, I feel I need to highlight this because these questions are answered by reflecting upon the status of these Bodies. These Bodies, as reflected in Section O of Volume II of the Basic Texts, are Bodies which are within the Framework of FAO. They are established under Article XIV of the Constitution; they are not independent Bodies, although they have a great deal of functional autonomy.

Consequently, decisions, and steps and processes for the Director-General to take in the context of those treaties, in the context of appointments, must be guided by decisions of the Council or the Conference. In this instance, the Director-General would be able to then proceed with an appointment process if approved by the Council. From the perspective of the Organization, there is no need to await a decision of the Statutory Body concerned. What rules is the decision of the Council.

As regards the scope of these procedures, it is understood that these would apply to all of those Bodies which have autonomous budgets, i.e. those Bodies where the Basic Texts provide these appointments shall be made by the Director-General after consultation with, or with the approval of, or concurrence of the Members of the Bodies concerned.

Members will recall that that is not the case of Bodies that do not have autonomous budgets. This is reflected in the Treaties themselves, as well as in the Basic Texts of the Organization. At this moment in time, certainly, this process is not limited to the three Bodies identified here, but to those Bodies that have autonomous budgets.

We would also hope that the Bodies concerned would align their processes in this regard, and in this connection, I would note that under the Basic Text, the Rules of Procedure of those Bodies are required not to be inconsistent with the convention or agreement establishing the Body or with the Constitution. Here once again I would recall that the Basic Texts establish that these Bodies, the appointments in these cases, shall be with the approval, or in consultation with, the Members of the Bodies concerned.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to conclude the deliberations on this Agenda Item, and I would like now to present the conclusions.

Item 15: *Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies.*

1. The Council commended the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the consultations undertaken with the Members and with the Chairpersons of the Bodies established under Article XIV of the Constitution towards long-term procedures for the selection and appointment of Secretaries, and taking into account the recommendations of the CCLM at its 114th Session, endorsed the procedure contained in *Appendix X* to this Report.

Can we agree to this conclusion?

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The first thing is that I believe it is Independent Chairpersons, because there were three who handled this matter.

The second thing is my Minister mentioned the issue of extending these two Article XIV Bodies and I believe that France also came back to it. That could be reflected in your summary. How to put it I do not know, I do not have the sentence, but please consider that we can put it as a second paragraph.

#### **Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

As I had noted earlier, it is for the Members to make such recommendations and tender such advice as they wish to the Director-General. At this moment in time, it is my understanding that this process would be extended to those Bodies that have autonomous budgets. That is where this process is envisaged to go. However, it is for the Members should they wish to recommend extension to other Bodies. Nevertheless, I am not sure that would be entirely consistent with the Constitutional provisions that apply.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We could have a second paragraph, but I am looking also for support by the Legal Counsel. We could say "*the Council recommended to extend this procedure to all Article XIV Bodies within...*"

#### **Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

For your consideration, we could indicate that "*the Council recommended to extend this procedure to all Article XIV Bodies in a manner consistent with the Basic Texts and the Treaties concerned.*"

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable?

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Absolutely, because the Legal Counsel has already spoken. But, there is a word which we could add, after "to": "*recommended to consider extending these procedures...*"

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**



Solo quisiera que se agregue en el primer punto el tema de la igualdad de género y el balance de representación geográfica. Solo para que sean consideradas las dos cuestiones. La cuestión de la igualdad de género y el tema del equilibrio de representación geográfica. Creo que varios colegas mencionaron el tema sobre todo de género y nosotros, en nuestros mensajes, hemos dicho también esto en su oportunidad.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Where do you want to have that, Argentina, *“taking into account, gender balance and regional...”*?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Después de la [XX] que mejore el final del párrafo 1, *“To this Report, taken into account”* o algo así que de alguna manera refleje la idea de la igualdad de género y el equilibrio en la representación geográfica.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be agreeable to all?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina, whose comments and inputs are much appreciated, as regards this first paragraph.

We would like to make a small proposal. We should be making reference to proficiency and experience and merit-based approach, as regards the selection of these candidates in this proposal. I would like to amend the proposal of the distinguished Ambassador, inserting the following: after *“taking into account”*, *“proficiency of candidates, as well as the principles of equitable geographical representation and gender equality”*, deleting *“balance geographic representation”* and replacing it with *“balanced geographical representation.”*

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I could agree with Paragraph 1, but I am not very sure why we should have Paragraph 2. What is its particular added value? If there is an added value, it might go beyond what we have already discussed in the Committee. If anyone can clarify, I will very much appreciate it.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

On the addition now proposed by Argentina and amended by the Russian Federation, although we might not have anything against the content, we have actually spent quite a lot of time on the Terms of Reference. That reflects what we would like to see.

If I remember correctly, it is already there. I would be more comfortable with not introducing this new language, but to rather keep it as the original proposal. This is just so that we can move forward and not get stuck in language and negotiations on this.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Having witnessed the discussion since it kicked off, I have experienced how tough it was. Going back to the nitty gritty of what is contained in the Terms of Reference or in the Annex presented by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), I am a little prudent to endorse that. Coming back to what Japan said, we are dealing with what people said in the Plenary. The statement of the Africa Regional Group contained that part. I heard France say the same. So, putting this second paragraph in your Summary is doing justice to what people said.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

A pesar de que creo que era importante incluirlo, no estoy dispuesto a demorar minutos discutiendo esto de nuevo, así que en términos de ser constructivo y flexible dejó sin efecto la propuesta en el punto 1 de este párrafo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can I put forward that we can agree to the text and move on with our Agenda?

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

We fully support Sweden and Cameroon with regards to paragraph 1 and we thank Argentina, as well, for the flexibility. All those details are in the negotiated procedure. So, there is no sense in opening Pandora's Box in our Report. We support the inclusion of Paragraph 2. We also brought mention of this in our statement.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Japan, can you go along with paragraph 2?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I have no intention to go against the consensus. I am just asking a question. I very much appreciate your kindness.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I appreciate all your flexibility. With that, we have an agreed procedure for the Selection and Appointment of Secretaries as well as agreed conclusions.

**Item 17. World Food Programme:****Point 17. Programme alimentaire mondial:****Tema 17. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:**

*Item 17.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board*  
*Point 17.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM*  
*Tema 17.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA*  
 (CL 168/15.1; CL 168/LIM/4)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like now to turn to Agenda Item 17: *Election of Six Members of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board*, contained in document CL 168/15.1 and CL 168/LIM/4. As said, we have to elect six Members, and I propose the following now:

The candidates are listed in document CL 168/LIM/4. For list A, there is one candidate for one seat and that is Senegal.

For list B, there are three candidates for two seats – Bangladesh, Kuwait and Iran. In this regard, Members are informed that a seat sharing arrangement has been agreed among the three candidates to share two vacant seats for list B, and that arrangement is as follows:

For the first seat, Bangladesh will serve from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023, and Iran will serve from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

For the second seat, Iran will serve from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, and Kuwait will serve from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

For list C, there is one candidate for one seat, and that is Peru.

For list D, there are two candidates for two seats, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

Given that we have the same number of nominations as the seats to be filled for lists A, B, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by a clear general consent.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I wish to congratulate all the elected WFP Board Members and I wish them well for the work that lays ahead of them. It is very important work to be done and I wish to thank the WFP Secretariat Members for having joined us for this election.

With that, we have finalized Agenda Item 17.

**Item 4. FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform****Point 4. Action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la covid-19: construire pour transformer****Tema 4. Respuesta de la FAO a la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19): construir para transformar***(CL 168/4)***Item 4.1 Food Coalition****Point 4.1 Coalition pour l'alimentation****Tema 4.1 La Coalición alimentaria****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we go to Agenda Item 4, *FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform*. It is contained in document *CL 168/4*, and of course, it is also contained in the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee*. We will also deal with the Item on *Food Coalition, CL 168/4.1*.

As this was already sent to you for written input and we received many written inputs for this Item, we shared it with the input of all the Members who have given written input.

**Introduction to Item 4: FAO's response to COVID-19: Building to Transform***Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

As follow-up to the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and the 188th of the Finance Committee, and with reference to the document *CL 168/4*, this introductory note provides an update in view of the discussion at the 168th Session of the Council.

**Assessment of Food Security and Nutrition and the State of Food Markets**

The last edition of the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021* estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 - as many as 161 million more than in 2019, under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections that consider the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic suggest that 30 million more people will face hunger in 2030 compared to a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred, revealing lasting effects on global food security. The 2021 *Global Report on Food Crises* estimated that 155 million people in 55 countries/territories were classified as being in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above), an increase of around 20 million people from 2019. While it is difficult to disentangle the precise effects of COVID-19 from those of other stressors, the report's food security analysis shows that the pandemic has had a compounding effect on these pre-existing and ongoing drivers of food crisis mainly through declining economic activity related to COVID-19 restrictive measures, leading to income losses and reduced household purchasing power.

On the other hand, the world agri-food markets and trade proved to be resilient, with agriculture emerging as a robust economic sector. One very important factor behind the resilience of international agri-food markets and trade during the pandemic has been the ample global food supplies and the positive production prospects compared, for instance, to the 2007-08 situation. However, while the global agri-food system has remained resilient, income losses and food price spikes caused undernourishment to rise. FAO's latest figures<sup>1</sup> continue to point to positive conditions in 2021, namely for basic foods. Global cereal production in 2021 is forecast at 2 788 million tonnes, up 0.7 percent (18.7 million tonnes) from 2020, mainly driven by increased production prospects for coarse grains and rice. Global wheat production, by contrast, is foreseen dropping by 0.7 percent from the 2020 outturn.

Global food commodity prices<sup>2</sup> rebounded rapidly in August after two consecutive months of decline, led by strong rises in the international prices of sugar, wheat and vegetable oils. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 127.4 points in August, up 12.4 percent since the beginning of the year

<sup>1</sup> FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief, September 2021.

<sup>2</sup> FAO Food Price Index, September 2021

and 33 percent since August 2020. All the price sub-indices registered increases from their levels a year ago, led by vegetable oils (+ 67.9 percent), followed by sugar (+ 48.1 percent) and cereals (+ 31.1 percent).

In high-income countries, demand growth is expected to be constrained by slow growth in population and saturation in food consumption for several commodities. Global agricultural production is projected to increase by 1.4 percent per year over the course of the next decade, predominantly in emerging economies and low-income countries and be largely driven by improvements in productivity. Improved yields are expected to account for the majority of crop production growth over the 2021-2030 decade, while growth in global livestock production would be based on productivity growth and herd expansion.

Agricultural trade will continue to expand for most commodities, although at a slower pace than during the last decade due to expectations of a slowdown in demand growth in a number of countries and lower demand for biofuels. Global trade volume of the major food commodities are projected to grow on average by 1.3 percent p.a. up to 2030, further contributing to food security and nutrition. The major challenge that countries will face is of food access and FAO's COVID-19 programme looks at identifying actions that could help to minimize this challenge.

### **The FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme**

The FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery is coordinated through an “Umbrella Programme” with a strong focus on seven priority areas of work. The seven areas of work are defined based on the needs and demands from the ground and in close consultation with the national governments through FAO's Decentralized Offices. The Programme provides overall results-based monitoring and reporting, while coordinating the requested technical and policy assistance support across the organization. Through this Programme, FAO has adopted a comprehensive and holistic approach to proactively address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in addition to emergency and humanitarian response, providing concrete, demand-driven support to national governments. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme also enabled partners to leverage the Organization's convening power, real-time data, early warning systems and technical expertise to directly support where and when it is needed most.

With operational requirements totalling USD 1.32 billion, this Programme has, as of September 2021, received confirmed and pledged contributions of a total of USD 368 million, or approximately 28 percent of the target. Voluntary contributions – which are destined to both development and emergency-oriented projects – amount to USD 334 million, of which are USD 265 million in approved contributions and USD 69 million in forecasted contributions. FAO's core (Technical Cooperation Programme) resources currently invested in the programme amount to approximately USD 30 million, with additional USD 1.85 million from FAO's Multidisciplinary Fund specifically allocated to the elaboration of COVID-19 data and statistics.

The World Bank, the European Union, Canada, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Japan represent the current main Resource Partners investing in FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. Their approved and forecasted contributions currently amount to more than USD 230 million, roughly 70 percent of the overall voluntary contributions received and pledged. In terms of regional focus, Africa has so far received the largest amount of voluntary contributions and FAO's resources – 34 percent of the total – followed by Near East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean Region, respectively, currently standing at 29 percent and 16 percent. Four percent of the overall resources are allocated to projects with global reach. On the other hand, the funding allocated to the Asia and the Pacific Region (13 percent) and Europe and Central Asia (4 percent) suggests a need to further balance regional focus.

Highlights of results and activities are provided below for the priority areas of work under this Programme:

- 1) In Afghanistan, FAO adapted its targeted support to pastoralists who are one of the most vulnerable groups in the region and redesigned its programme to address both direct and secondary effects of the virus through the support of COVID-19 safety measures at livestock markets and on-the-ground sensitization activities, the dissemination of Risk Communication

and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials, and contingency planning for pastoralists' safe transhumance to winter pastures.

- 2) FAO has consolidated the implementation of actions at global, regional and country levels around data for decision making through: (i) rapid assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity; (ii) innovative data sources to monitor the impact of COVID-19; (iii) adapting agricultural data collection methods; and (iv) evidence-based policy support for post-COVID-19 recovery. The rapid data collections were implemented in 20 countries based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). A report was published in July 2021. In addition, at least 30 countries and institutions have been supported in collection and analysis of food insecurity data to monitor the impact of COVID-19.
- 3) FAO supported expansion and scale-up of national social protection programmes in Cambodia, Kenya, Myanmar, Peru, Philippines and Viet Nam; built evidence and advocated for inclusive scale-ups for informal, migrant, refugee and agricultural workers in Kenya, Lesotho and Uganda; and expanded and enhanced social and agricultural registries in Nigeria to improve targeting and timely response.
- 4) FAO intensified its analytical work in support of Members' assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on food and agricultural trade, both globally and at the regional level. This work includes the preparation of a report on the impact of COVID-19 on agri-food trade in the Commonwealth, prepared jointly by FAO and the Commonwealth Secretariat and a synthesis report in the final stage of publication. Moreover, as part of FAO's regular work, e-training activities continued in the areas of food safety, fisheries and food loss and waste, as well as on the linkages between trade and food security and on agriculture in international trade agreements.
- 5) FAO Early Warning System, together with the Tripartite (OIE, WHO and UNEP), monitors the global COVID-19 situation at the animal-human interface, sharing information through the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS +), providing updates and conducting risk assessments. Together with UNEP, the Tripartite is committed to enhance the collaboration for advancing a comprehensive One Health approach at all levels.
- 6) The role of Urban-Rural Food Systems in the recovery has also been an important area of focus, including for instance the support to Eswatini focused on stabilizing disruptions from COVID-19 for small-scale agricultural producers, transporters and traders operating in rural, peri-urban and urban agri-food systems. Lessons from these types of initiatives and the various assessments will be discussed among high-level policy makers in a side-event on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition convened by FAO at the Agriculture Green Revolution Forum 2021 on "Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems".

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

Australia appreciates FAO's ongoing efforts to address the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition and we respectfully provide the following comments:

1. While recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably been a major setback to achieving the SDGs by 2030, we highlight the important opportunities for renewed collective progress which have stemmed from the crisis, such as improving global collaboration, building resilient markets and agri-food trade opportunities, and expanding the use of innovative technologies and digitalisation tools.
2. We appreciate the significant efforts by FAO to understand and seek to mitigate the different impacts of COVID-19 at a global, regional and country level, including through the use of real-time monitoring systems and data information platforms, such as AMIS.

3. Acknowledging the highlighted need for FAO to further balance regional focus, we welcomed advice provided at the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Programme Committee and 188th Finance Committee that expanded efforts to support Small Island Developing States, with their unique challenges related to being tourism- and import-dependent, are underway, and we look forward to receiving future updates.
4. We acknowledge the work on Trade and Food Safety Standards as a clear example of FAO using its comparative advantage to improve livelihoods and ensure the movement of safe food across long and short supply chains alike.
5. We reaffirm our commitment to FAO's work on One Health, as referenced in paragraph 43, and we encourage other Members to contribute voluntary funding to support these efforts.

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 17:20*

The long-term impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition continue to be a concern for the United States. The new U.S. Global Food Security Strategy, which was released in October, fully integrates a food systems approach, as advanced by the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and prioritizes programs that counter the negative impacts of the pandemic, such as disruptions in food systems, economic downturns, and slowing growth. The United States welcomes the work FAO is doing to address the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. We recognize FAO's key role in the production and dissemination of information and assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition, especially given the challenges that COVID-19 has presented for data collection. We encourage FAO to continue its excellent monitoring and analytical work. We also encourage FAO to continue working closely with other organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute, to track the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. In order to effectively prepare for and respond to the secondary impacts of COVID-19, it is important for FAO members and other stakeholders to have timely and reliable information that is consistent across sources. Many countries, including the United States, have been contributing through bilateral and multilateral channels to prevent and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. We recognize the important role FAO should continue to play in supporting the global response. In addition to the provision of data, analysis, policy advice, and technical support, we welcome FAO's efforts to match countries in need with the resources available to meet those needs. We look forward to continued reporting on the Food Coalition and other FAO efforts to match needs with resources. The United States strongly supports the One Health and Tripartite-Plus. We encourage FAO, with its counterparts in One Health, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), to actively participate, within its areas of mandate (such as pandemic response and recovery, zoonotic disease prevention, and other technical areas of expertise), in the next phases of origin studies led by the WHO. Finally, we welcome FAO's partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to assess the impact of national emergency laws on access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable groups including women and youth. We look forward to the results of the joint FAO-IDLO global assessment and national assessments in Honduras and Uganda.

#### **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 13:20*

Japan expresses its appreciation for various FAO's works on the impact on food systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic increased global food insecurity both in developed and developing countries. Therefore, FAO's role, which has various information and data, is becoming more and more important. Japan recognizes the importance of the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, and providing emergency assistance to impoverished and vulnerable communities in Bangladesh for improving food production and nutrition conditions, and strengthening food systems in cooperation with FAO. Also, in response to the various challenges caused by the pandemic such as the disruption in the food supply chain, it is becoming more important to build resilient and sustainable food systems than ever before. Japan emphasises the importance of free and open and fair trade rule to have a smooth flow of foodstuffs, improving productivity through

digitalization and innovation with appropriate protection of intellectual properties and privacy, and no one-size-fits-all approach. We will continue to focus its activity through FAO with the other countries. Now we are supporting FAO through voluntary contributions to develop guideline principles to strengthen the food production and supply system and the free, open, and fair trade for building a more resilient and seamless global food supply chain, which includes improving global food security by strengthening food production and supply through voluntary contributions to FAO. It is requested that FAO will consider allocating such resources effectively and efficiently. The importance of the One Health approach based on regional and international cooperation in preventing and mitigating future pandemics is increasing. As the paragraph 15 (g) of the Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee expressed, Japan hopes for FAO's continued proactive activities in close collaboration with international organizations such as other Rome-based Agencies to prevent gaps and overlaps between initiatives and organizations.

## **ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el viernes 19 de noviembre 2021 a las 19.05*

En lo relativo a la respuesta de la FAO a la COVID 19, construir para transformar, quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:

- Manifestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus 27 EEMM.
- Alentamos a la FAO, debido a la urgente necesidad de construir sistemas alimentarios resilientes y sostenibles, a fortalecer la resiliencia de los trabajos y medios de vida rurales, y a acelerar los procesos de transformación a nivel nacional, prestando especial atención a los grupos más vulnerables como los pequeños agricultores familiares, los jóvenes y las mujeres.
- La pandemia de la COVID-19, crisis de salud pública resultado de un virus con un posible origen animal, ha destacado la importancia del concepto “Una sola salud”. Es por ello que acogemos con agrado el establecimiento del Panel de expertos de alto nivel de “Una sola salud” en el que participan estrechamente la FAO, la OIE, la OMS y el PNUMA, destacando la importancia, a la hora de prevenir y abordar amenazas globales, de la interrelación entre salud humana, sanidad animal y medio ambiente.
- Solicitamos a la FAO que garantice, dentro de su mandato, una cooperación más estrecha con otros órganos de las Naciones Unidas, incluido el Comité de Seguridad alimentaria y su Panel de Expertos de Alto Nivel, con valiosa información sobre el impacto de la COVID 19 en la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

## **FRANCE**

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

La France s’aligne sur la déclaration de l’Union européenne et ses 27 États membres.

- Concernant la partie II. Programme d’intervention de la FAO, 2 remarques Au f) – para 43 à 47 - sur l’approche Une seule santé (« One Health ») : nous saluons l’engagement de la FAO dans la prévention des pandémies zoonotiques par le renforcement de l’approche Une seule santé, et rappelons l’importance que l’inclusion du PNUE à l’Alliance tripartite soit formalisée au plus vite. Nous saluons également la mention du Panel d’experts de haut niveau Une seule santé au para 44. Nous souhaiterions que le document mentionne la participation de la FAO à l’initiative internationale PREZODE, dont le but est d’opérationnaliser l’approche Une seule santé sur le terrain pour prévenir les risques d’émergence zoonotique et de pandémie. Cependant au para. 47 du document nous soulignons que la mention du Fonds mondial une seule santé comme initiative G7/G20 n’est pas correcte car cette proposition de Fonds de la part de la présidence italienne du G20 n’a pas été adoptée. Nous proposons donc de supprimer cette phrase. Nous rappelons à ce titre que de nombreux fonds existent déjà et qu’il est important de ne pas créer de doublons. La priorité doit être de renforcer l’existant.
- Concernant le point IV, « les principaux enseignements et mesures à prendre » : 3 propositions pour mieux refléter les enseignements du document :

1. Nous soulignons l'importance de la durabilité des actions à entreprendre pour améliorer la résilience des systèmes alimentaires, notamment face aux pandémies. Les approches durables et résilientes doivent être promues, notamment l'agroécologie, à laquelle la FAO a manifesté son soutien en rejoignant la coalition politique pour l'agroécologie lancée au Sommet des Nations unies sur les systèmes alimentaires les 23 et 24 septembre derniers. Nous proposons ainsi d'ajouter en section IV un paragraphe qui, parmi les enseignements tirés de la crise COVID, mentionne la nécessité de transformation vers des systèmes alimentaires durables : « The Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted the need of achieving sustainable food systems ».

2. Un autre enseignement à la lecture du document est l'importance de l'approche Une seule santé. Dans la lignée du rapport de la dernière session de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, nous encourageons la FAO à veiller à ce que cette approche soit intégrée dans ses travaux, en mettant l'accent sur la prévention des maladies zoonotiques.

3. En outre, nous considérons que la COVID-19 n'a pas mis en avant seulement le rôle des « technologies numériques » (cf. paragraphe 62) mais celui de l'« innovation sous toutes les formes » (sociales, politiques, institutionnelles, financières...). Nous souhaitons donc que la FAO, dans sa réponse à la COVID-19, accorde une attention égale à toutes les formes d'innovation, qui doivent être adaptées aux besoins exprimés sur le terrain et au contexte local.

### **GROUPE REGIONAL AFRIQUE**

*Transmis le lundi 22 novembre 2021 à 14 h 05*

La Guinée et la République Démocratique du Congo interviennent sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique.

Le Groupe Régional Afrique félicite le secrétariat de la FAO pour l'élaboration et la brillante présentation de la version révisée de ce point intitulé « Action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la COVID-19 : construire pour transformer ».

Au regard de la récente publication sur l'état de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde, entre 720 et 811 millions de personnes souffraient de la faim en 2020, sous l'effet de la pandémie de COVID-19, soit 161 millions de plus qu'en 2019.

Dans ce contexte, le Groupe Régional Afrique est préoccupé par l'augmentation considérable du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition, affectant davantage la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable 1 et 2 à l'horizon 2030.

Malgré toutes les préoccupations suscitées, nous notons avec satisfaction que la production, les marchés et les échanges agroalimentaires se sont avérés résilients grâce aux efforts de toutes les parties prenantes et de la Coopération multilatérale.

Le Groupe Régional Afrique voudrait manifester son soutien au programme d'intervention et de redressement de la FAO dans le contexte de la COVID-19 et encourage les pays donateurs et les partenaires techniques et financiers à poursuivre la mobilisation des ressources en sa faveur au grand bénéfice des populations vulnérables de la région.

Nos délégations, au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique, souscrivent aux principales activités menées par la FAO dans chacun des sept domaines de travail énoncés dans le rapport. Lesdites activités ont largement contribué à mieux gérer les effets de la pandémie sur les plans mondial, régional et national ainsi qu'à prévenir d'éventuelles pandémies zoonotiques dans l'approche « d'une seule santé ».

Par ailleurs, nous saluons la collaboration étroite entre la FAO et la Présidence italienne du G-20 qui a permis de lancer, en novembre 2020, sous la direction de la FAO, la coalition en faveur de l'alimentation en vue de créer et de coordonner un mécanisme de soutien politique, financier et technique pour relever les défis posés par la COVID-19.

Le Groupe Régional Afrique remercie la FAO pour son soutien à la mise en œuvre de la Zone de Libre-Echange Continentale Africaine (ZLECA) qui permettra l'intensification du commerce intrafricain de biens et de services agricoles.



A la suite de ces commentaires, le Groupe Régional Afrique souhaite que le Conseil prenne note des progrès réalisés par la FAO dans sa riposte contre la pandémie de COVID-19.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday November 22 2021, at 20:42*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 4 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia<sup>3</sup> and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.

We commend FAO for its tireless efforts in tackling the pandemic's multiple negative effects on food systems, including through its comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and its role in the African UnionFAO COVID-19 Task Force on food security and nutrition in Africa.

We wish to highlight the crucial role of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in providing valuable data to ensure wellinformed and timely decisions.

The COVID-19 crisis has more than ever demonstrated the urgent need to build resilient and sustainable food systems for healthy diets within the planetary boundaries. This comprises the need to strengthen the resilience of rural jobs and livelihoods, grant access to markets and to social protection programmes, keep trade flows open and pay particular attention to supporting the most vulnerable groups such as smallholders and family farmers, indigenous peoples, young people and women.

In this regard, we call on FAO to ensure, within its mandate, a closer cooperation with other UN bodies, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), which has produced relevant analyses on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security and nutrition.

We also stress the importance of the One Health approach and encourage FAO, based on the existing Tripartite partnership, to formalise its collaboration with UNEP, as the leading global environmental authority. In this respect, we welcome the establishment of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), involving FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP, as well as the participation of FAO in the PREZODE Initiative.

As we all strive to learn and to be better prepared for the future, we encourage FAO to present to Members specific lessons learned from the pandemic and how these lessons could be applied elsewhere. We thank FAO for having this item updated and discussed on a regular basis.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO highly appreciates the comments provided by Australia, and fully agrees with opportunities highlighted such as building resilient markets, food safety standards, and further strengthening the work on One Health.

With regard to expanding efforts to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Organization would like to reaffirm its commitment and make reference to the Office established on SIDS with a specific focus for addressing the challenges faced.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by the Unites States of America and words of encouragement for all the efforts carried out by the Organization on data, monitoring and analytical work.

FAO would like to emphasize its close collaboration with the World Bank, for example, ongoing collaboration on the 50x2030 Initiative, close coordination on the COVID-19 recovery plans, coordination with the IMF, and continued cooperation with the International Food Policy Research

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<sup>3</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Institute (IFPRI) on analytical reports on the impacts of COVID-19 including through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) we have in place.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by Spain and the areas of work highlighted that are fully in line with the priorities.

FAO fully agrees with the need to strengthen resilience of rural livelihoods and the Organization has been working to protect rural employment, strengthening rural women's economic empowerment and building evidence on the impacts of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods of vulnerable rural populations. Moreover, on Tuesday 23 November 2021, the State of Food and Agriculture 2021 Report was published implementing four indicators to measure resilience across the agri-food systems.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, One Health has been a priority area of work and focus under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and beyond.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by France and took note of the points to be addressed with regard to One Health and indicated paragraphs.

With regard to the Lessons Learned, FAO agrees with the importance of the One Health approach and sustainability as an important lesson and the integration of this approach into the work.

The Organization fully agrees with paying equal attention to all forms of innovation in addition to digital technologies, and the Office of Innovation is indeed an example of the importance FAO is giving to this area of work.

FAO highly appreciates comments provided by the European Union, and the words of encouragement related to specific areas of work such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) that have contributed significantly to the Organization's efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAO agrees with extra attention to be given to improving livelihoods, strengthening social protection programmes, support to vulnerable groups and the importance of the One Health approach, in addition to closer cooperation with UN agencies, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE).

FAO takes note of the need for present specific lessons learned from the pandemic and its application.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can I take it that we go directly to the conclusion or is there a need for oral intervention of one of the Members of the Council?

If that is not the case, then I will turn now to the conclusions of Item 4, *FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform*.

The conclusions will read as follows:

1. The Council welcomed document CL 168/4, *FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform*, and:
  - a) noted the new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and its contribution to the largest single-year increase in global hunger;
  - b) welcomed the results achieved by FAO through its comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme and its seven priority areas of work and emphasised the importance of FAO's work in the production and dissemination of information, including through monitoring systems and data information platforms, to assess the impact of the pandemic on food security and nutrition;
  - c) stressed the need to use innovative technologies and digitalisation towards building more resilience and sustainable food systems;

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4476en>

- d) encouraged continued collaboration with the Tripartite and UNEP and other relevant international organisations in line with their respective mandates to ensure the One Health approach is included in the work of the Organization with a special focus on preventing zoonotic diseases;
- e) supported FAO to examine the behaviour of food prices from a systemic perspective and the necessity to take into account changes in macroeconomic development, including exchange rates, interest rates and their drivers; and
- f) noted with concern the inequality of vaccine access globally and its negative impacts on food security and nutrition.

With that, I turn now to the top of the conclusions. Can we agree to the chapeau? I do not see any objections.

Let me go to subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (f). Somebody is not really happy with us. I do not see any objections to subparagraph (f).

With that, we have concluded Item 4.

We go Item 4.1, *Food Coalition*.

#### **Introduction to Sub-item 4.1: Food Coalition**

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

The Food Coalition was suggested by the Government of Italy and led by FAO with the aim to create and coordinate a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral mechanism to mobilize political, financial and technical assistance to address and recover from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Food Coalition worked closely with the G20 Italian Presidency throughout 2021. As a result of this cooperation, the G20 Joint Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development placed food security at the centre of the agenda for discussion, as well as including this initiative in the endorsed Matera Declaration and in the G20 Summit's final Declaration, indicating the Food Coalition as a flexible coordination mechanism for COVID-19 response and recovery.

Both Declarations further encouraged partners and stakeholders to collaborate with, or join, this Coalition, whose goal is to build a global alliance to trigger coordinated action with a focus on the thematic priorities identified by the Matera Declaration.

The inclusion of the Food Coalition as a flexible coordination mechanism will provide an opportunity to further mobilize G20 and non-G20 countries in support of the most vulnerable, and build strategic coalitions across countries as well as with non-State actors around priority areas of work, such as; Humanitarian Response Plan, Food Systems transformation, Economic Inclusion and Social Protection and Food Loss and Waste, in addition to others priorities mentioned under the Declaration such as One Health.

In the context of the G20 Call to Action for Food Security at the Ministerial Meetings, FAO launched an official "Food Coalition - Call for proposals" (closed at G20 Minister of Agriculture Meeting on 18 September 2021) and encouraged all Members to join efforts and submit proposals offering their political, financial and technical support in response to needs on the ground. The proposals considered adhere to the minimum requirements of multilateralism, multi-stakeholder, country owned and thematic focus.

A number of interested Members and partners have submitted proposals and taken the steps with the technical support of FAO to build cross-county coalitions. The list of projects including work plan and budget would be presented to Members providing a set of successful examples for interested countries to join and advocate for more active involvement of all stakeholders to jointly offer their political, financial and technical support in response to concrete needs on the ground.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

Australia notes the information provided on the Food Coalition in CL 168/4 and we respectfully provide the following comments:

1. Australia welcomed the advice provided at the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Programme Committee and 188th Finance Committee that Food Coalition proposals will dovetail with the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. Noting that Members may be contributing to COVID-19 recovery efforts via other mechanisms, we highlight the importance of avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring that any proposals seek to harmonise/amplify broader global efforts – including any potential follow-up processes and initiative arising in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit.
2. Australia also welcomed the advice provided at the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Programme Committee and 188th Finance Committee that Food Coalition proposals will be resourced by voluntary funding.
3. We look forward to receiving further information on any proposals made through the Food Coalition coordination mechanism, including proposed workplans and budgets.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el miércoles 17 de noviembre 2021 a las 16.21*

En primer lugar, y en la misma línea de lo expresado durante el 132º Comité de Programa por nuestro país, reiteramos que el G20, en la “*Declaración de Matera*”, indicó que “*se alienta a las partes a colaborar o unirse a la Coalición Alimentaria lanzada por FAO*”.

Es decir, desde un punto de vista técnico, entendemos como miembros del G20, que el lenguaje de la Declaración reconoce la propuesta y la iniciativa de la Coalición, pero no, necesariamente, endosa su conformación o futuras acciones. Interpretamos que este matiz debe ser tenido en cuenta por FAO.

En esa línea, sobre la referencia del documento elaborado por el Economista Jefe, Dr. Máximo Torero, donde se señala que se destinarán fondos voluntarios para “*proyectos de desarrollo como emergencia*”, nos gustaría reafirmar nuestra convicción de que es crucial alentar una adecuada sinergia entre las tres Agencias con sede Roma. Esto, repercutirá en que cada Organismo despliegue sus acciones teniendo en cuenta sus ventajas comparativas, especificidades, capacidades y mandatos.

Así, entendemos que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, por trayectoria y conocimientos técnicos tiene una posición de privilegio, así como aptitudes superlativas, para atender situaciones de emergencia. Mientras que FAO, por su extendida experiencia, es, sin lugar a dudas, la Agencia internacional clave para impulsar el desarrollo agrícola productivo en el terreno.

El triple nexo nos dice que priorizar la acción humanitaria en el marco de la respuesta (como sucede en numerosas crisis de carácter crónico y cíclico) no alcanza. Esta priorización de la acción humanitaria también puede llevar a ignorar las causas subyacentes del conflicto y la vulnerabilidad, incluidas la pobreza, la desigualdad y la ausencia de sistemas democráticos en vigor.

Sin embargo, ello no quiere decir que una agencia de las Naciones Unidas tenga por sí sola que abordar todas las acciones tendientes a responder al triple nexo. Sino que cada organización tiene que

llevar a cabo su parte en función de su mandato y sus ventajas comparativas en estrecha colaboración (rompiendo compartimentos estancos) con otros organismos.

Hacemos hincapié en este punto para evitar, a futuro, la superposición de actividades en el terreno que, eventualmente, podrían estar fomentadas por las contribuciones voluntarias de algunas regiones que busquen expandir su visión y enfoques a través de la Coalición Alimentaria.

Al mismo tiempo, como lo hemos expresado con anterioridad, nos gustaría tener mayor información sobre:

1. Cuál será el mecanismo de gobernanza de la Coalición.
2. Qué tipo de proyectos serán promovidos por esta estructura.
3. Cuál será el grado de involucramiento de FAO en el diseño, implementación y monitoreo de futuros proyectos.
4. Cómo se prevé la articulación entre el Programa de Respuesta al COVID19 de FAO y las acciones de la Coalición.
5. Cómo se implementará una eventual coordinación entre la Coalición y el funcionamiento del G20.

Por otro lado, de la lectura del documento hemos encontrado que se hace mención a la “*necesidad de transformar los sistemas alimentarios*”. Como lo hemos dicho incansablemente, la mejora de los sistemas alimentarios depende, según el caso, de los contextos, necesidades, circunstancias y prioridades de los países. Proponer una transformación global sin tener en cuenta matices y que no existe una solución única para alcanzar la sustentabilidad agro-productiva nos parece inadecuado.

También en el documento hallamos la mención a la importancia de los sistemas alimentarios y el comercio mundial para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria global. Sobre este punto, nos gustaría reiterar que el comercio regional e internacional es un factor imprescindible y determinante para garantizar no solo la seguridad alimentaria global, pero también para generar sostenibilidad en los medios de vida de millones de personas, especialmente micro y pequeños productores, a través del robustecimiento de las economías locales.

Las cadenas de suministro de productos agro-bio-industriales, en el pico mundial de la pandemia, mostraron ser robustas, resilientes y confiables manteniendo el abastecimiento de alimentos sanos e inocuos al mundo; a la vez que ampliaron la oferta de dietas saludables y equilibraron, en gran medida, los desequilibrios de precios.

Al mismo tiempo, el documento adecuadamente llama la atención sobre la escalada de precios sobre algunos productos que, incluso, según el tipo de alimentos, podrían ser considerados como muestras de alta volatilidad de precios. Ahora bien, desde el punto de vista económico, es incorrecto culpar a los países productores de materias primas y alimentos por este fenómeno. Pensemos que la actividad agro-exportadora, principalmente en los países en desarrollo, constituye un elemento clave de sus entramados económicos, que no sólo genera ingresos genuinos para sus micro, pequeños, medianos y grandes productores, pero también representa la entrada de divisas para enfrentar las situaciones de restricciones externas.

En todo caso, las razones del aumento de precios en los alimentos las debemos buscar en las políticas que llevaron -y llevan- adelante los países desarrollados que, para enfrentar la pandemia, aceleraron la expansión de sus bases monetarias, regionales y/o nacionales, lo que, lógicamente causó presión sobre la conducta de la demanda y espasmos inflacionarios en los precios. De forma articulada, el sostenimiento de incentivos y subsidios distorsivos, incluso ampliados en algunas regiones, contribuyeron a interferir con la flotación natural de los precios de mercado profundizando la escalada de cotizaciones de algunos productos y eventuales restricciones cualitativas a las exportaciones.

Como lo hemos dicho en otras oportunidades, el comercio agrícola internacional aún está marcado por fuertes distorsiones estructurales, cuyo impacto negativo se ve agravado por la proliferación de barreras sanitarias, fitosanitarias y técnicas que no se basan en evidencia científica.

Finalmente, nos gustaría insistir en nuestro aprecio a Italia por materializar esta iniciativa que dan pruebas de su compromiso en la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria y la desnutrición.

**JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021 at 13.20*

Japan expressed its interest in the Food Coalition in January 2021. We hope that the Food Coalition will contribute to developing sustainable food systems, including the COVID-19 response.

We would like to work with the Coalition in various dimensions, such as promoting a guiding principle for strengthening the global food supply chain, which FAO is formulating with Japan's support.

Japan requested FAO to share the list of Food Coalition members and proposals submitted to the Food Coalition, and its detailed activities.

**ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el viernes 19 de noviembre 2021 a las 19.05*

En lo relativo a la Coalición Alimentaria quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:

- Manifiestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus 27 EEMM.
- Agradeciendo a FAO el trabajo realizado en la Coalición Alimentaria, recientemente apoyada en la reunión de líderes del G20 en Roma, solicitamos más información sobre su implementación, financiación y progresos realizados.
- Animamos a FAO a que garantice la coherencia de la Coalición con los ODS de la Agenda 2030 y con el marco estratégico de FAO 2022-31.
- Asimismo, consideramos fundamental, para el éxito de la Coalición, que pueda compartir sus resultados con otras iniciativas que también busquen la consecución del ODS2, Hambre cero.

Por último, quisiéramos consultar a FAO sobre cómo se va a conectar la Coalición con el desarrollo de los resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, incluyendo el resto de las coaliciones resultantes.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday November 22 2021 at 20.42*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding Item 5 on the Agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia<sup>5</sup> and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.

The EU and its Member States appreciate the work done by FAO to date on the Food Coalition Initiative as part of the FAO's response to COVID-19. We encourage partners and stakeholders to collaborate and contribute, or join the Food Coalition - as stated in the June 2021 Matera Declaration and reaffirmed in the October 2021 G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration.

The EU and its Member States noted the first call for proposals under the Food Coalition and would welcome information on applications, on the methodology used and the projects selected. This will help guarantee transparency and ensure that the objectives pursued by the Food Coalition are coherent with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.

We look forward to receiving the procedural and financial details and encourage FAO to provide regular updates on the FAO website, including information on the membership and available funds, and to periodically inform FAO's governing bodies on progress made.

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<sup>5</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We would also appreciate more information from Management on how the work of the Food Coalition must be seen in relation to the core mandate of FAO and on how it intends to operationalise the Food Coalition, also in the context of the outcomes of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Lastly, we would encourage cooperation and sharing of information and lessons learnt with other initiatives aiming at achieving SDG 2.

## **THAILAND**

*Submitted November 29 2021 at 16.19*

- Thailand takes note of the progress made by the Food Coalition in its first year of activity.
- Thailand supports the Food Coalition and has actively participated in the formulation of a multi-lateral, multistakeholder project on ‘Promoting the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition’ to be submitted to Members.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO appreciates the clarification requested by Australia and would like to confirm that the Food Coalition is a global voluntary alliance and coordination mechanism open to all stakeholders who are interested in supporting coordinated action to safeguard food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agri-food systems transformation in the wake of COVID-19. This flexible coordination mechanism is also suggested and endorsed by G20 for more coherent coordination with the aim to mobilize more financial and political support for response and recovery from the pandemic.

Members could indeed contribute to specific priority areas of work under FAO’s COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, as well as to the Food Coalition, considering that one does not exclude the other.

FAO appreciates the comments and suggestions provided by Argentina, and would like to provide the following information in response to the questions:

1. The Food Coalition is led by a multi-disciplinary team with active participation of selected technical teams across the Organization for provision of policy and technical assistance support. The technical areas were selected during the G20 process and further include thematic areas under the Matera Declaration.
2. The projects promoted through a Call for Proposals (<https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/callfor-proposals/en/>) that was launched in June 2021 at the G20 Joint meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development and was closed in Florence at the G20 Ministers of Agriculture Meeting. Priority areas of work, as well as the priority areas of the Matera Declaration, are:
  - i. Global Humanitarian Response Plan;
  - ii. Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty;
  - iii. Reduction of Food Loss and Waste; and
  - iv. Agrifood Systems Transformation.
3. FAO will provide technical and policy assistance support in addition to coordination function for successful implementation and delivery of the projects.
4. As a response to COVID-19, FAO launched a comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme designed around seven priority areas of work. The programme helped countries not only address the immediate effects of the pandemic, but also have laid the groundwork for recovery and building back better. The Food Coalition supports this programme by leveraging high-level political and financial resources and technical expertise, with a focus on country-

level needs and demands around the above mentioned areas of work (4 out of 7 areas of the comprehensive programme).

The Food Coalition is considered a flexible coordination mechanism under the G20 as response to the pandemic and for improving Food Security and Nutrition, and it will be reporting on its activities to G20 under Indonesian Presidency in 2022.

FAO highly appreciates Japan's interest in the Food Coalition and its support to this initiative since January 2021. Currently, the Food Coalition is finalizing a portfolio of projects including the Members and countries that have submitted proposals, including detailed activities that will be communicated to Members in due course.

FAO appreciates the points raised by Spain and the words of encouragement.

The Food Coalition is a multi-stakeholder global alliance, to facilitate unified global action in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition aims to mobilize financial resources, innovation and technical expertise, promote advocacy initiatives. Italy has announced EUR 10 million along with financial support from Israel to this initiative.

With regard to the implementation, on 29 June 2021 at G20 Matera's Ministerial Meetings, FAO launched an official "Food Coalition - Call for proposals" (<https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/call-forproposals/en/>), which was closed at the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting. Through this call a number of interested Members and partners submitted proposals with the technical support of FAO to build cross-country coalitions. A portfolio of ten selected projects, including work plans and budgets, has been selected and will be presented to Members for their political, financial and technical support in response to concrete needs and demands on the ground.

With regard to the UN Food Systems Summit, the Food Coalition is suggested as a mean of implementation for coordination and support to the countries, which is the same for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and other platforms.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by the European Union and for encouraging the Members to join the Food Coalition.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I read out the conclusions.

1. The Council welcomed document CL 168/4.1, *The Food Coalition*, and in particular:
  - a) welcomed close collaboration with the G20 Presidency and efforts towards placing food security as an integral part in the G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration and G20 Ministerial Meetings, including the recognition of the Food Coalition in the Matera and Rome Leaders' Declarations; and
  - b) looked forward to continued reporting on the Food Coalition, including information on its implementation, funding and progress, emphasising the need for alignment with the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.

I go to subparagraph (a).

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

With that, we have concluded Agenda Item 4.1

**Item 5. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative**  
**Point 5. Initiative Main dans la main**  
**Tema 5. La Iniciativa Mano de la mano**  
(CL 168/5)



## CHAIRPERSON

We go to Agenda Item 5. We have received many written inputs, which were circulated to all of you.

### *Introduction to Item 5: The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*

*Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist*

This summary report responds to requests by the Programme Committee at its 130th Session (CL 166/9) and the Council at its 166th Session (CL 166/REP) to provide regular updates on progress and results achieved in the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative. It provides a short synthesis of the Report to the Programme Committee at its 132nd Session and the Council at its 168th Session (CL 168/5). The report builds on information provided in previous reports to the Programme Committee and the Council. Additional information on the Initiative is available on the Hand-in-Hand webpage on FAO's corporate website and on the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform.

As of 22 October 2021, 45 countries have expressed their desire to participate in the Initiative. These countries include: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

### *Conclusions and Lessons from Case Studies*

The Report to the Programme Committee provided synopses of 16 of the most advanced HIH-supported country programmes. A primary conclusion of this review of the experience of these countries is that the HIH Initiative should not be conceived as establishing a programme in its own right, but rather provides an integrated set of powerful supports to nationally defined, led and owned programmes. Rather than speak of HIH programmes, in other words, it is more accurate to speak of HIH-supported programmes.

In the majority of all 45 cases and in the 16 highlighted cases, the supported programmes are not new, but emerge out of existing commitments and national plans. In Ethiopia, for instance, the programme enhances the established national commitment to building agricultural commodity processing zones and agro-industrial parks by strengthening the territorial orientation of the feeder programmes using the updated stochastic profitability frontier analysis developed for the Initiative, by addressing gaps in the linkages of small farmers to the parks, by deepening the analysis of products and markets for the parks, and by supporting the private sector engagement and investment in the parks as complements to public investment.

In Bangladesh and Guatemala, similarly, FAO is working through joint arrangements with the Government to implement large and ambitious agri-food system transformation programmes. In these cases, FAO leadership is recognized through the formalization of FAO's role as co-Chair (Bangladesh) or Secretariat (Guatemala) to a nationally led programme.

### *Value Addition from the HIH Initiative*

The value addition of the HIH Initiative is clearly visible in all countries as a robust and indispensable support to implementation of scaled-up national programmes. The HIH supports lead to improved focus and location decisions, creates momentum by identifying areas of high agro-economic potential, sharpens the market-orientation of development funding, and improves private sector leveraging of public investment. The HIH also provides key enabling factors, in particular the broad access to FAO technical and policy support that can now be provided through virtual collaborations. The territorial approach and FAO monitoring and evaluation systems create the coherence and resilience among stakeholders needed to ensure sustained action through the many extraordinary challenges that the HIH-supported countries face.

Additional value addition comes in the strengthening of national ownership in several ways. Emerging best practice in governance is the joint leadership of HIH country task teams as soon as practicable, in some instances from the very beginning, as in Bhutan. Close involvement of national

agencies in development and implementation of the technical analyses also strengthens national ownership by building up national capacities. Emerging best practice is to ensure that knowledge of all tools, methodologies and platforms is fully transferred to the participating countries as a matter of standard practice.

*The HIH Initiative as a Priority Programme Area (PPA) under the new Strategic Framework*

The decision to include the HIH Initiative as a PPA in the new corporate Strategic Framework provides an opportunity to address key institutional issues and opportunities required to regularize the functioning of the initiative. The PPAs do not so much define working programmes, as areas of work where FAO has decided to focus its efforts to ensure excellence in both the technical and operational aspects of functioning. A key objective of the PPA work plans, in other words, is to build organizational capabilities that can then serve as building blocks of more complex programming on the ground.

In this scenario, most PPA teams have been engaged in discussion with the main relevant units (Divisions, Centers, Offices, and Regional and sub-Regional Offices) of the Organization, to determine the level of effort or “contribution” of each unit to the respective PPA. This accounting exercise is essential to resource planning. In the case of the HIH Initiative, however, the positioning of the PPA is qualitatively different on the expectation that the HIH initiative functions as a mechanism for improving the delivery of technical capabilities at country level. In this view, technical units do not so much as “contribute” to the HIH Initiative as see it as a highly effective and efficient channel for bringing FAO’s normative capacities into operational programmes at country level.

The HIH adds value to FAO technical and policy work by providing a platform for combining capabilities and mechanisms for enabling and sustaining integrated policy and technical support services. From a resource accounting perspective it creates efficiencies of scale and scope that enable the Organization to help its Members tackle the more complex programmatic challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

The PPA enables ownership of the HIH PPA, not only by the technical and policy units, the Decentralized Offices, the accelerators and cross-cutting themes, but also by the key operational units, including those responsible for the HIH Geospatial Platform, partnerships, private sector engagement, UN collaboration, and reporting, monitoring and evaluation. The work programme of the PPA will be organized around several areas of work that are needed to complete the repositioning of FAO capabilities, assets and relationships for improved programme effectiveness and efficiency and to scale programme support and impact for the ambitions and requirements of the 2030 Agenda.

The work plan for the HIH PPA will be built around strengthening the five pillars of the HIH Initiative Framework:

- a) The Geospatial Platform and its associated analytical tools (georeferenced welfare and nutrition analysis, HIH typologies, CDMA tools, etc.).
- b) Integration of all agri-food systems dimensions into differentiated strategies based on geospatial analysis and a territorial approach.
- c) Efficient donor and investor matchmaking, to include Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility (GEF) engagements that adopt “global programme” management approaches similar to the HIH Initiative.
- d) Partnerships engagement with key stakeholders, including national producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), private sector, research institutions, UN agencies, civil society and other non-governmental organizations.
- e) A state-of-the-art monitoring and evaluation system guided by a priority metric, efficient data collection, systems-enabled information-sharing and transparency, quarterly and annual reviews and (near) real-time impact evaluation.

*HIH and Countries in Conflict and Crisis*

An important subset of HIH-supported countries face protracted environmental crises or political conflict, often in combination. In these settings, implementation of HIH support requires a careful balancing of often conflicting humanitarian, development and peace interests. Yet the HIH has the possibility for enabling, stabilizing and sustaining an inclusive and adaptive agri-economic development process that gives diverse stakeholders a common interest in agri-food system development. Working out the short-term strategies for strengthening the development pillar of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus will need to be a high priority in the coming months and years if an exit from recurring crisis and conflict is to be found. To this end, the HIH coordination and PPA teams will work closely with FAO's Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER) to identify and strengthen essential tools, platforms and partnerships to bridge the humanitarian-development divide.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

Australia welcomes the update on the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative and we respectfully provide the following comments:

1. We appreciate the provision of information about the adoption of HIH in specific countries, including the Solomon Islands. In this regard, we consider the 10-year Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan in the Solomon Islands particularly noteworthy; however, we would appreciate further information on how this is specifically “operating under the aegis of the HIH initiative” to better understand the distinction between activities under HIH and those under other programmatic initiatives.
2. We welcome the articulation of HIH not as a programme but as a series of supports to ensure access to strong science and evidence based decision making and foster national ownership. We note Management's commitment to leverage the HIH Initiative to improve organisational efficiency and impact with a nominally flat budget. In line with this, Australia considers that HIH will be a valuable platform in the further articulation and implementation of Members' national pathways.
3. Australia respectfully requests further information about how FAO intends to realise more efficient donor and investment match making and would welcome, in particular, additional detail on outreach activities and coordination with development and resource partners.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el miercoles 17 de noviembre 2021 a las 16.21*

La Argentina agradece y toma nota de la información brindada por la FAO bajo este punto de agenda, en el que se informa sobre la evolución de la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano (HiH) desde su puesta en marcha hace 18 meses.

La Iniciativa Mano de la Mano fue respaldada por los miembros del LARC36 como un mecanismo para promover la cooperación eficaz entre los países desarrollados y en desarrollo, con el fin de alcanzar los ODS 1, 2 y 10, en particular en aquellos países con alta incidencia de pobreza e inseguridad alimentaria y alto potencial agrícola. Al respecto, nos complace constatar que ya 45 países, entre ellos seis del GRULAC, sean parte de HiH, como beneficiarios directos, y que todos los miembros de la FAO puedan participar de la misma no solamente como beneficiarios indirectos sino también como socios para el desarrollo a través de múltiples canales, como por ejemplo la Cooperación Sur Sur y Triangular. En ese marco, la Argentina una vez más manifiesta su disposición a ofrecer sus experiencias y conocimientos en torno a los sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles para aquellos países que así lo deseen en el Marco de la presente iniciativa. Ello, siempre recordando la premisa de que no hay nadie tan pobre que no tenga nada que dar, ni hay nadie tan rico que no tenga algo que recibir. Lema, que entendemos condice con el espíritu de HiH y la intención de promocionar y multiplicar las asociaciones entre todas las partes involucradas.

Asimismo, nuestro país manifiesta su agrado a algunas constataciones clave que surgen de la implementación de HiH: La FAO implementa la iniciativa como un instrumento y mecanismo de cooperación para apoyar a los países en la implementación de programas nacionales tendientes a fortalecer y transformar, según sea necesario, las actividades económicas rurales para construir sociedades rurales productivas, innovadoras e inclusivas. En particular, aquellos programas relacionados a la protección y mejora de los medios de vida rurales, el incremento en la productividad agropecuaria y expansión de las oportunidades económicas rurales, la promoción de sociedades rurales equitativas a través de la inclusión económica de mujeres rurales, jóvenes y pueblos indígenas.

Se ve con agrado que la iniciativa no constituya un programa en sí mismo, a ser exportado, sino que se considere una herramienta ofrecida a los tomadores de decisiones nacionales a fin de establecer políticas públicas basadas en la evidencia científica y siempre teniendo en cuenta las circunstancias y contextos particulares de cada país y región.

De esta manera la iniciativa agrega valor a las políticas públicas en los ámbitos rurales y son una excelente arma para la búsqueda de mayor eficacia, eficiencia, al mismo tiempo que se generan mejor calidad de datos, como por ejemplo a partir de la plataforma geoespacial, para la dar mayor provecho a las inversiones.

La Argentina se complace que la HiH utilice herramientas innovadoras y adopte un enfoque basado en la ciencia y territorial, entendiendo este último como el reconocimiento de la existencia del múltiples modelos, métodos y prácticas posibles para el logro de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, en función de los contextos, prioridades y capacidades nacionales. En definitiva, la HiH contribuye a la diferenciación de territorios y estrategias como requisito fundamental para encontrar soluciones genuinas para el logro de la sostenibilidad en la agro-bio-industria.

Asimismo, la incorporación de Innovación y nuevas tecnologías como ejes centrales en HiH, demuestra una vez más de forma consistente que el sistema científico-tecnológico público y privado ofrece soluciones eficientes (adaptadas localmente) a los desafíos que presenta la sostenibilidad y los escenarios de vulnerabilidad productiva frente al flagelo del cambio climático y otros shocks que amenazan a productores y actores de los sistemas agro-bio-industriales.

Finalmente, nuestro país quisiera dejar constancia que, si bien la HiH podría movilizar recursos provenientes de mecanismos como GEF o GCF, no necesariamente todo financiamiento de esos mecanismos en los que participe la FAO debería enmarcarse bajo la Iniciativa, atento el carácter universal de ambas plataformas de movilización de recursos y la necesidad de acceso efectivo a medios de financiamiento internacional por parte de los países en desarrollo de ingreso medio, medio-alto y alto.

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 17:20*

The United States notes the update on the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative included in document CL 168/5.

While we acknowledge FAO's positive assessment of the HIH implementation (i.e. paragraph 94 of document CL 168/5 - "the commitment of senior management to dramatically improve organizational efficiency through the HIH Initiative without an increase in regular programme resources is genuine"), we would like to request further information on how the Organization is resourcing the initiative.

We also take note of "the creation and accelerated development" of the HIH Geospatial Platform and we would like to take this opportunity to request FAO Management to provide more detailed information clarifying how FAO Management is planning to integrate this Platform with parallel work ongoing to establish a corporate Data Protection and Intellectual Property Policy, as well as data and statistical governance work considered recently by the CCLM and Programme Committees, respectively.

Will the Platform be compliant with the Data Protection and Intellectual Property Policy? How will Management ensure alignment with this other related work?

We would welcome this item being briefly discussed on the Council agenda or for Management to provide an information update to address these questions prior to the draft conclusions being negotiated.

### **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 13:20*

Japan welcomes the evidence-based and country-led programs in the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and evaluates its progress such as the increase in the number of countries participating in the Initiative.

As paragraph 7 (h) of the 132 Session of Programme Committees mentioned, Japan encourages FAO to continue developing the Initiative as an accountable and transparent initiative.

We request detailed reports on ongoing and planned projects, which cover not only the outcomes and lessons learned but also challenges and demerits which have been revealed as precisely as possible.

Also, we continuously request FAO to update information on the progress and the results regularly.

### **ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el viernes 19 de noviembre 2021 a las 19.05*

En lo relativo a la iniciativa Mano de la Mano, quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:

- Manifestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus 27 EEMM.
- Subrayamos la necesidad de asegurar que la Iniciativa esté en línea con el Marco de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas (UNSDCF), con la programación conjunta del sistema de desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas y con la Agenda 2030.
- Solicitamos a FAO que ponga a disposición de los Miembros informes periódicos sobre la situación de la Iniciativa mano de la Mano, incluyendo el uso de recursos presupuestarios y extrapresupuestarios, los resultados a nivel de país y la participación de las administraciones públicas, el sector privado y la sociedad civil en todos los países donde se está implementando la Iniciativa.
- Alentamos a que la FAO proporcione más información sobre las ventajas potenciales de la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano en situaciones de crisis y conflicto antes de poder expresar una opinión sobre este tema.
- Agradecemos a FAO la información proporcionada sobre la Iniciativa y solicitamos más detalles sobre herramientas y métodos, incluyendo la plataforma geoespacial de la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano, la infraestructura de las tecnologías de la información y la relativa a la protección de los datos.

### **FRANCE**

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 Etats membres.

La France souhaite tout d'abord réitérer les commentaires détaillés qu'elle a formulés dans le contexte du Comité du Programme. Nous remercions la direction pour les réponses qu'elle a déjà apportées et serions reconnaissants des éléments de réponse complémentaires et plus précis qu'elle pourrait nous transmettre.

Plusieurs principes importants doivent guider l'initiative « Main dans la main » : pilotage par les pays selon les priorités des gouvernements ; association, dès la phase initiale de mise en œuvre, de tous les partenaires déjà présents dans les pays ; alignement avec l'UNSDCF (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework); intégration totale dans la programmation conjointe du système de développement des Nations Unies et Agenda 2030 ; absence d'impact sur le budget ordinaire de la FAO ; transparence.

La France souhaite en particulier poser les questions additionnelles suivantes.

1. Nous souhaitons davantage d'informations sur la manière dont la FAO finance l'initiative « Main

dans la Main » (HiHi). A cet égard, nous avons en particulier pris note avec préoccupation de remarques, à l'occasion du Comité du programme, selon lesquelles certains postes ne seraient provisoirement pas pourvus par la FAO, afin de pouvoir financer le développement de l'initiative « Main dans la main ». La France remercie par avance la direction de ses éclaircissements à ce sujet.

2. Nous souhaitons avoir des informations plus détaillées concernant le développement de la plateforme géospatiale « Main dans la main », que la FAO qualifie de « plateforme la plus exhaustive et la plus efficace au monde pour l'échange et l'analyse de données et d'information ».

a) Nous avons pris note des indications selon lesquelles cette plateforme géospatiale vise à agréger diverses bases de données interopérables, alimentées par des données issues de différentes sources et domaines. Nous souhaitons savoir quelles bases de données ont été intégrées dans la plateforme géospatiale de « Main dans la main », venant de la FAO mais aussi d'autres organisations.

b) A cet égard, nous souhaiterions que soient transmis aux Membres les accords et mémorandums de partage de données signés par la FAO avec d'autres organisations, à l'instar de la transparence réalisée par la FAO concernant ses partenariats avec le secteur privé.

c) Compte tenu de la complexité technique du sujet, nous apprécierions plus d'informations de la division IT sur la plateforme.

d) Nous souhaitons aussi avoir des informations plus détaillées sur la manière dont la FAO assure actuellement la protection des données, leur sécurité, le respect des droits de propriété intellectuelle. Nous remercions la FAO de nous indiquer comment les réflexions en cours dans l'Organisation concernant la gouvernance des données, la protection des données et le respect des droits de propriété intellectuelle sont prises en compte pour la plateforme.

e) Pour renforcer le caractère redevable et transparent de la plateforme évoqué par la FAO, nous proposons la création d'un « groupe intergouvernemental » de la Plateforme géospatiale HiHi, à l'instar de la bonne pratique établie par la FAO pour la International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture.

3. Nous nous questionnons sur le fait que le Laboratoire de données (Data Lab) de la FAO n'analyse pas seulement l'impact de la pandémie de Covid-19 sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, mais aussi les réseaux sociaux des pays dans le monde pour modéliser les troubles sociaux (« analysis of social unrest in Covid-19 times »), ce qui excède manifestement le mandat de la FAO. Nous remercions la FAO de ses indications à cet égard.

Nous apprécions la publication d'une méthodologie à ce sujet (<https://www.fao.org/datalab/website/web/sites/default/files/2020-08/Social%20Unrest.pdf>) et remercions par avance la FAO d'indiquer aux Membres quels sont les mots clés utilisés (concernant les sujets « social unrest », « COVID », « COVID & Social Unrest » etc) pour suivre ces « troubles sociaux ». Par ailleurs, dans cette méthodologie, nous notons que les langues traitées (« processed ») par la FAO ne sont pas l'ensemble des langues officielles de la FAO, mais uniquement l'anglais, l'espagnol et le français – nous souhaitons connaître les raisons de ce choix. Ayant noté le traitement du « PT », c'est-à-dire sauf erreur le portugais, qui n'est pas une langue officielle de la FAO, nous souhaitons savoir la raison de ce choix et les modalités de financement d'un tel traitement du portugais.

4. Nous remercions l'équipe de direction pour son projet de conclusions mais, au vu des commentaires et questions pendantes ci-dessus, nous estimons nécessaire que le projet de conclusions soit substantiellement révisé afin i) d'inclure un langage plus prudent dans son ensemble et ii) de refléter les commentaires des Membres. Commentaires formulés par la France lors du Comité du programme et réponses apportées par la FAO :

Commentaires formulés par la France lors du Comité du programme et réponses apportées par la FAO :

COMMENTAIRES DE LA FRANCE	REPONSE DE LA DIRECTION DE LA FAO
La France souhaite rappeler les principes importants qui doivent guider l'initiative Main	FAO Management concurs with France on the indicated principles that should guide

dans la main : pilotage par les pays selon les priorités des gouvernements ; association, dès la phase initiale de mise en oeuvre, de tous les partenaires déjà présents dans les pays ; alignement avec l'UNSDCF (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) ; intégration totale dans la programmation conjointe du système de développement des NU et Agenda 2030 ; absence d'impact sur le budget ordinaire de la FAO ; transparence. Elle note à ce titre l'accent mis dans le document CL 168/5 sur les questions de coordination, sur lesquelles elle a les questions et commentaires suivants :

- Le secrétariat peut-il fournir aux Membres des informations détaillées sur les nouveaux « méthodes et mécanismes » développés en un « M&E system » pour résoudre les difficultés de coordination en matière de durabilité (§ 84) et assurer le rendu compte (« accountability », § 85) ?
- La France rappelle sa demande d'informations sur le tableau de bord (§89), déjà présentée, ainsi que sur les typologies élaborées et les « analyses stochastiques du seuil de rentabilité » qui les fondent (§ 95). Le § f de l'encadré page 2 est donc prématuré à ce stade d'information des Membres. - Comment les dimensions sociales et les politiques publiques des systèmes alimentaires peuvent-elles être intégrées dans des stratégies sur la seule base d'analyses géospatiales et d'approches territoriales ? (§ 98 b) - Peut-il détailler ce que sont les « défis sous-jacents, notamment des hypothèses, des structures, des processus, des technologies et des perceptions qui sont incompatibles avec les exigences très élevées en termes d'efficacité et de confiance qui sont associées à une mise en œuvre à grande échelle » (§ 91), et en quoi la plateforme Géospatiale, le plan de travail en 5 piliers (§ 98) et la direction de la coordination par l'Unité de la gouvernance sous la supervision directe de l'Économiste en chef de la FAO (§ 99) en constituent des réponses adéquates ? La France estime que les informations qui sont présentées dans ce document et mises à disposition des Etats membres, tant au regard du développement des tableaux de bord, des mécanismes de mise en œuvre et de suivi, du dispositif intentionnel ainsi que des modes de production et de gestion des connaissances mises à disposition par la FAO, ne permettent pas encore à ce stade aux Etats membres de se positionner sur

development of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. As should be clear, achieving full compliance with all of these principles, like the development of the Initiative itself, is an ambitious undertaking that cannot be completed at once. We believe, however, that the Organization has demonstrated its good faith in all dimensions, making clear to Members, through continuous reporting since the launch of the Initiative, the state of progress toward realization of each of these ideals. In this spirit, the current report and others before it have highlighted important lessons learned and the continuous adaptation of the programme to achieve fullest possible national ownership, transparency to participating partners on existing programmes, outreach to Members and other potential partners on a non-discriminatory basis, great care for the fiduciary responsibilities of FAO in sensitive matters such as data privacy and private sector engagement, and adherence to our commitment that the Initiative would be conducted with near zero impact on Regular Programme resources. We have in the course of repeated exchanges with FAO Members and Governing Bodies made clear our thinking on issues raised by Members and made adjustments to programme development in light of Members' guidance. The view of Management is that coordination issues arise whenever diverse actors with different and sometimes competing interests are engaged in a common pursuit. Coordination can be improved through a number of methods: by providing a clear and neutral, evidence-based analysis of a major problem or problems to be addressed as a foundation for collective decision-making and action; enabling processes for communication and adjustment of plans among the partners; by tracking progress objectively against agreed milestones and objectives; by ensuring transparency and inclusion in decision-making and by actively addressing asymmetries of information. FAO will continue to provide reports and demonstrations on progress toward these objectives as the programme develops.

le développement de l'Initiative. La France souhaite ainsi recevoir plus d'information sur l'ensemble de ces points ainsi que les propositions de la FAO en ce qui concerne les deux autres dimensions de la mise en oeuvre de l'Initiative, mentionnées au paragraphe 91. La France regrette que le mode de gouvernance de l'Initiative, tel que présenté au paragraphe 99 du document, reste interne et n'inclue pas les Etats membres ni les partenaires traditionnels. En outre, la France considère que l'approche proposée par l'Initiative, fondée sur l'outil de collecte et d'analyse de données de la Plateforme de données géospatiales, telle que proposée au paragraphe 95, ne permet pas suffisamment de prendre en compte les politiques existantes et les problématiques socio-économiques des pays concernés. Il conviendrait également de préciser que la transformation des systèmes alimentaires appuyée par l'initiative vise à améliorer la durabilité de ces systèmes, en cohérence avec l'agenda 2030 et l'accord de Paris.

## EUROPEAN UNION

*Submitted Monday November 22 2021, at 20:42*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States item 5 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council. The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia<sup>6</sup> and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.

The EU and its Member States take note of the progress report on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We wish to emphasise the need to ensure that the Initiative is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the joint programming of the UN development system and the 2030 Agenda. We also encourage FAO, in accordance with its mandate, to closely coordinate its work on the Initiative with other relevant agencies and developing partners, aiming at efficiency gains in line with PO 14 of UNGA Resolution 72/279, to build on the assets of the UN Country Teams, and to include this in its reporting on the Initiative.

In general, we request FAO to make available to Members regular reports on the state of play of the HiH Initiative, including on the use of budgetary and extra budgetary resources, results at country level and the engagement of public, private and civil society stakeholders in all those countries where the Initiative is being implemented. The current report is a useful step, but requires broadening and further development.

We note the Initiative's efforts to promote investment in agri-food systems and rural transformation and to select promising value chains to that effect, taking into account the three components of sustainable development. We look forward to FAO providing details of the tools and databases used in this identification process, including an explanation on the way the 'stochastic profitability frontier analysis' is used in this respect.

We would also like to remind the FAO that we expect the Organisation to follow-up on the request

<sup>6</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



of the 165th session of the Council 165 (para 14 i) on the HiH Initiative, where the Council stressed the need to ‘develop a cross-cutting data policy to ensure data governance, data integrity and privacy, as well as intellectual property rights’.

Furthermore, we welcome the principle that each programme is country-led and owned, where the FAO supports governments to put in place a real-time performance monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. We emphasise the importance of ensuring high levels of transparency, information-sharing, and communication among partners.

We take note of the intention to develop the Programme Dashboard and would welcome a presentation on this, once a prototype is sufficiently advanced.

We also take note of the increased number of databases which are integrated within the HiH Initiative Geospatial platform and request more information on this platform, including on IT infrastructure and protocols governing the handling, governance, use and protection of data.

We are surprised to see that the Data Lab of the HiH Initiative is monitoring “social unrest” in the world. We request clarification from the Management as this, in our view, exceeds the FAO mandate.

Finally, we consider that the suggestion in the report that the HiH Initiative be used in situations of crisis and conflict, as part of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, is premature. We would like to receive more information on the potential merits of the HiH Initiative in situations of crisis and conflict before expressing an opinion on this issue.

To conclude, we thank FAO for the information provided on the Initiative as an additional means of contributing to the achievement of the SDGs within FAO’s mandate and request more details about tools and methods, as well as regular updates on the progress made in implementing the Initiative and the results achieved.

## **BAHAMAS**

*Submitted Sunday November 28 2021, at 15:30*

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the progress made to date with respect to the Hand in Hand Initiative (HIH). The UN’s commitment to “leave no one behind”, has led to the creation of an evidence-based, country-led, country-owned programme designed to eradicate poverty and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. The program taps into the under-supported potential of agriculture and agri-food value chains to transform lagging rural territories. Highlighting the incorporation of technological innovations as drivers of change by gathering market, agro-ecological, and farm-level information to identify agricultural areas where there are opportunities for farmers to achieve their potential income and move out of hardship.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative was first announced in late September 2019 by the Director-General on the sideline of the UN General Assembly. Following this announcement, at minimum five Caribbean countries committed to participating in the Initiative within the first six months. It is recognized that FAO has incurred challenges over the past 18 months of implementation, but this does not rationalize the little support to these countries for being a part of this Initiative. We acknowledge and congratulate Haiti with respect to the progress made with the Hand in Hand Initiative and note that the country has successfully identified national and international partners to aid with poverty maps and geospatial data collection. Haiti’s participation was the only Caribbean country highlighted in the Hand-in-Hand Report, being commendable, it does not represent the other achievements of Caribbean countries that did not receive international partners to support this participation.

We wish to highlight the work on developing the ‘social and solidarity technical incubators’ for enhancing agribusiness growth to support agrifood systems in peri-urban territories in Belize and The Bahamas. The Bahamas will begin its geospatial mapping in January 2022, Jamaica and Belize will follow suit in the successive months.

As these countries advance in implementing the initiative, it is requested that FAO fulfill its commitment to “leaving no one behind” by increasing communications to the Caribbean region,

building the capacities of these countries to utilize and manage the HIH Geospatial Platform, and become transparent and accountable to improving multi stakeholders collaborations to foster accelerated agri-food systems transformation at national level.

## **THAILAND**

*Submitted Sunday November 29 2021, at 16:19*

- Thailand takes note of the progress report on the HiHI and of its designation as a Programme Priority Area in FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
- Thailand supports the Organization-wide shift from ‘project’ to a more ‘programmatic’ approach which shall be facilitated by the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.
- Thailand recognizes the potential benefits offered by the Hand-in-Hand Initiative as a working platform for improved collaboration, particularly among Middle-Income Countries (MICs)
- With specific regard to the investment plans developed under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Thailand recommends that investments plans be primarily oriented towards domestic markets, rather than be export-oriented as reported in the document.
- Thailand has successfully implemented the principles and concepts contained in the “New Theory Agriculture” and the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”, according to which the first step to fight hunger – and in particular rural hunger – is to promote and increase local food production and productivity to ensure stable, safe and sustainable domestic food supply and consumption. This is particularly true in our times of continued fight against Covid-19 pandemic and the related potential need to re-introduce sanitary measures that may limit international trade.
- Investments in export-oriented agriculture should be envisaged once and after sufficiency in domestic food production and equal access to food are achieved at Country level.
- Thailand looks forward to the next progress reports of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and its achievements.

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría*

## **Australia**

Concerning the relation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative to the recently adopted 10-year Agriculture Sector Growth Strategy and Investment Plan (ASGIP) 2021-2030 in the Solomon Islands, the Initiative supports the implementation of the Plan and does not substitute it. It adds to the Plan additional analysis made possible by improved analytical methods to identify territories (both landscapes and seascapes) where investments can be located and 6-8 year collaborations generate the public and private actions to implement the financial plan in a coherent way.

In many countries, the national development pathways that emerged from the Food Systems Summit are being translated into 9-year programmes of agricultural and food systems transformation, for which the Hand-in-Hand is a natural platform for mobilizing data, analysis, information, policy and technical support, partnerships, scaled up public and private investment, and a robust and inclusive monitoring and evaluation framework. We stress again that everything is done with the country’s consent and full engagement.

Donor and investor consultation at country normally begins as soon as countries have formally indicated, in writing, their desire to participate in the HIH. Technical studies generate additional mapping and differentiation of territories according to the identified potential for agri-food systems transformation to generate enough income to eradicate poverty and ensure access to healthy diets, all the while using practices and methods consistent with all three pillars of sustainable development. Agreement on the territories, value chains, markets and programmes to be addressed are summed up in a short concept note that is endorsed by the Government as a basis for the match-making process.

Brief, indicative “investment notes” are derived from information collected through the initial consultations, the analysis of territories, and additional financial analysis to highlight at least three kinds of potential investments – large public, donor or IFI investments; parallel private sector or banking investments in mid-value chain for-profit activities; and a third type of investment for small producer organizations or SME service providers. The concept notes and the related investment notes (currently being finalized in some 20 countries) will be used as reference points for the matchmaking exercise to follow.

The matchmaking process will unfold as an iterative process based on well-prepared, nationally led “Executive Roundtables” that bring together national and select international partners to consider the transformative opportunities identified in the selected territories and jointly identify the actions (investments, training, policy changes, institutional requirements, etc.) required to overcome identified constraints and “unlock” the motivating opportunities. Information and agreements entered into among the potential partners will provide the basis for the HIIH-supported investment plan and programme, both of which are best characterized as national, rather than FAO or HIIH programmes.

### **Argentina**

Management agrees with the many constructive characterizations of the HIIH Initiative by Argentina, which capture well the intentions of the Initiative. While it is important to recognize that full development of the HIIH Initiative remains a work in progress, we especially appreciate the recognition of the multiple ways that Members can both contribute to, and benefit from, participation in the Initiative; the emphasis placed on evidence- and science-based actions, policies and investments; the commitment to inclusive rural transformation; the important strengths of the territorial approach, including its flexibility; and the importance of establishing the Initiative as an important channel for promoting innovation and technology consistent with sustainable development.

We confirm that access by HIIH-supported countries to Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as other sources of funding will be without prejudice to other nonparticipating countries’ access.

Our preliminary focus under the HIIH will be to overcome capacity gaps that prevent HIIH countries from benefitting fully from these sources of funding. We have been encouraged by the GCF senior management to focus on two areas that are comparatively underfunded: Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (which included a mix of HIIH and non-HIIH supported countries) and the Sahel countries, all of which are eligible and all but one of which (Mauritania) have requested support.

### **United States of America**

Resources supporting the HIIH Initiative can be summarized briefly:

1. Staffing of country task teams takes place through designation of Country Office, Sub-regional Office (where applicable), Regional Office, headquarters, and FAO Digitalization and Informatics Division (CSI) nominees who serve as focal points in their respective domains for engaging additional expertise as needed from the respective units of the Organization and within their current workplans. The HIIH initiative works in developing investment plans which will then support the respective technical, policy and support units necessary with non-Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) resources.
2. Limited resources (USD 1.25 million) have been made available through the Flexible Multipartner Mechanism (FMM) Programme on “Hand-in-Hand and Innovation” to support codevelopment of new tools, training and capacity development, and strengthening of national agricultural innovation systems.
3. Catalytic funding has been provided to FAO country teams under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) at the request of the concerned countries. This money is used to support technical and financial analysis in support of the HIIH-supported programme, to enable field missions, and to support partner-oriented matchmaking processes.

Overall responsibility for programme development and oversight has been vested in the Chief Economist, supported by the Director of the Investment Centre, the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience, and the Senior Coordinator, Governance and Policy. The Senior Coordinator, Governance and Policy, leads day-to-day management and development of HIH.

A division of labor has been established between the technical implementation of the HIH Initiative Geospatial Platform and the development of the corporate data protection and Intellectual Property framework. The overarching corporate framework will apply fully to all FAO activities, including the Geospatial Platform. There is close consultation amongst all units working on these matters.

The Geospatial Platform uses data in the public domain and currently complies with all existing UN data policies, including:

- The UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, in which all stakeholders play a role in advancing a safer, more equitable digital world, one which will lead to a brighter and more prosperous future for all.
- Digital Public Goods Standard of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA), which outlines a set of specifications and guidelines designed to maximise consensus about whether a digital solution conforms to the definition of a digital public good: open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards, and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable best practices, do no harm by design and are of high relevance for attainment of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This definition is endorsed by the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.
- UN Secretary General's Data Strategy 2020-2022 to generate more value from the UN's wealth of data for the Organization, people and planet – when it matters most.
- UN Global Pulse Principles on Data Protection and Privacy, which helps ensure that individuals and groups of individuals whose data is used by UN organizations are not adversely affected by our projects. These principles are based on the UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy, adopted by the UN High Level Committee on Management in 2018 and the UNSDG Guidance Note on Big Data for Achievement of the 2030 Agenda: Data Privacy, Ethics and Protection.
- Principles for Digital Development, which provide living guidance intended to help practitioners succeed in applying digital technologies to development programs.
- FAO Open Data Licensing for statistical databases - Policy. The policy complies with and extends the FAO Terms and Conditions, FAO Open Access policy, the FAO Corporate Communication Policy, the FAO Corporate Publishing Policy, the Publishing at FAO – Strategy and Guidance document and the FAO Logo Policy and Guidelines, and FAO Statistical Standard on Use of External Data sources.

### **Japan**

FAO will continue to provide information about progress and challenges, as well as lessons learned, in the development of the HIH Initiative, as requested by the Governing Bodies.

In the coming year, as HIH-supported national programmes begin to take final shape, FAO will provide more detailed information on the corporate website through the HIH and the HIH Geospatial Platform web pages.

A communications plan is being developed, and a series of country-specific concept notes and investment notes will be published on the HIH website, as will country-specific HIH-supported Investment Plans and Programme documents when they are completed and endorsed by the Governments and their partners. HIH dashboards are currently under development and will enable tracking of progress toward major operational milestones as well as impact objectives.

### **Spain**

We confirm, again, that the HIH Initiative is fully aligned with United Nations Sustainable

Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in all cases and to joint programming within the United Nations Development System (UNDS), the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. We reiterate that, as with all UN entities, the scale and scope of the repositioning of the UNDS, including FAO, is a work in progress. We are confident that experience will show, and every effort is being made to ensure, that the HIH makes a major contribution toward realizing the vision of the UN reform in all its dimensions, including, notably, the vision outlined by the United Nations in the System-wide Strategic Document (SWSD).

We have indicated that additional effort will be invested in developing synergies with on-going efforts to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, with a view toward enhancing the development pillar in this nexus. This has been an objective of the Initiative since the beginning. As indicated in earlier reports, overall oversight of the Initiative is led by the Chief Economist, the Director of the Investment Centre (CFI), the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency and Resilience (OER), and the Senior Coordinator, Governance and Policy (DDCG). The Deputy Director, OER, has ensured that OER is actively represented on all FAO HIH country task teams and that opportunities to reinforce or build upon humanitarian interventions are fully supported. In crisis countries, OER takes the lead role in shaping the work agenda under the HIH Initiative.

Having experienced the deleterious impact of multiple, recurring crises and conflict upon the development of the HIH Initiative, the Chief Economist and the Director, OER, have agreed to explore in greater depth, on a country-by-country and subregional basis, potential synergies between humanitarian and development efforts using the HIH supports.

### **France**

Management appreciates the importance of the principles articulated in France's comments, and reiterates its full commitment to all of them. National Government ownership of the HIH supported programmes is the first of these enumerated principles and we agree that it is fundamental. We provide evidence in document CL 168/5 of the challenges faced and lessons learned in this regard. We confirm our commitment to all the other principles indicated and add that, consistent with UN decisions and practice, we consider the Paris Agreement as integral to the 2030 Agenda.

1. We have provided additional information on how FAO funds the Hand-in-Hand Initiative above. Regarding the use of post funding to support the HIH Initiative, the very limited number of posts so used have been used to strengthen and make accessible to Members FAO technical capacities that serve the broader interests of FAO, and not HIH specifically. These purposes include, principally, development of, and training for, tools enabling the enhanced use of evidence and science in FAO work. Members have requested and appreciated the decision to make the platforms and tools developed in the HIH available to all Members.

2. FAO Management thanks France for expressing interest in the technical workings of the FAO HIH Geospatial Platform. Provided there is sufficient interest from the Membership, we would propose that a meeting or workshop could be organized in the form of an informal briefing at the technical level at the earliest feasible date, but no later than four weeks prior to the next meeting of the Programme Committee, to provide detailed responses to the many questions raised in connection with point 2. For details on current development of the HIH Geospatial Platform and compliance with UN policies, please see the response to the United States of America above.

Concerning data agreements, we further clarify that in most cases, the data included in the platform already has a license that explicitly allows for redistribution with the source credited. In such cases, no specific agreement with the provider is required or sought.

In other cases, an agreement is sought with the data provider. Providers that we have an agreement with include: Aerospace Information Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences; National Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center (LASAC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources, China; IHE Delft Institute for Water Education; International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Marcura; Copernicus Climate Change Service - Global Weather for Agriculture; Collins Bartholomew; and Zafer Defne.

As regards data and intellectual property rights protection, the current internal legal framework is

described in document PC 130/3, Update on FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, and above in the response to the United States of America. Ongoing work was reported to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 113th Session; see document CCLM 113/4.

The suggestion to create a new intergovernmental institution should not be necessary given this is data that is public and its dissemination complies with all UN policies. Similar rules are observed in the World Bank and other UN System agencies without establishment of new intergovernmental structures. Moreover, such a structure will create unnecessary budgetary implications.

3. Reference to the work of the FAO Data Lab on “analysis of social unrest in COVID times” is not made in the report on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and is not relevant to the work under the Initiative. The analysis that has been conducted reflects and responds to the importance that social unrest has for food security and nutrition, as was demonstrated during the 2007-09 food crises. Regarding the languages used, this can be expanded to all official languages. The languages selected are languages where major media reporting has been captured.

4. We take note of this comment

### **European Union**

As noted several times above and in the current and past reports to Council, we believe that it is necessary and proper that we take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Initiative is aligned to UNSDCF. This is not only in keeping with United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) mandates but, in our view, essential to the success of the Initiative.

FAO efforts in this regard are ongoing at multiple levels – with UN Country Teams as primary focus, but also contributing actively in the reorganized UN Regional Collaborative Platforms and UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and in close collaboration with the Development Coordination Office (DCO). This work has been complemented by expanded efforts with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), but also with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) which have been assigned key roles by the Secretary-General as the data and policy backbones, respectively, enabling better integrated policy services by the UNDS.

As a general point, it should be observed that in practice, HII countries are countries where inclusive and sustainable development of agri-food systems are top priorities of governments, as indicated not only in UNSDCF, but also in the major national development planning instruments. HII is appreciated as a critical support to translation and implementation of these high-level instruments into focused, working structures and modes of work.

FAO support through the HII has been appreciated by the participating Members, as well as many partners, as an innovative and dynamic way to tackle the complex challenges of sustainable development in contexts where limited capacities and resources, protracted crisis, conflict and climate change, as well as depletion and degradation of natural resources, present formidable obstacles to sustained progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

FAO will continue to comply with all reasonable requests for regular reporting on topics specifically identified by Governing Bodies. We will also continue to share information about challenges and lessons learned.

Given the quantity of information required and the sensitivity of data and information sharing, Members will understand that the systems being put in place for improved reporting will take time to develop, particularly in the context of a zero growth nominal budget.

We can provide additional information on these technical topics through the informal briefing at technical level that we have proposed in response to a similar request from France.

As regards data and intellectual property rights protection, and the new overarching frameworks, please see the responses to the United States and France above.

We regard a robust, country-owned, transparent, efficient and reliable system of real-time

performance monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system as essential to the delivery of HIH-enabled support by all partners. We look forward to providing additional details once the design and initial implementation have reached beyond the concept phase. As noted in the progress report, test implementation is currently underway in four countries.

We have proposed an informal briefing at the technical level to address these topics.

Concerning the work of the FAO Data Lab on “analysis of social unrest in COVID times” we refer to the response given to France concerning the same question.

Please note the response to Spain concerning the rationale of on-going work to explore ways of strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

We will continue to provide all necessary updates on the progress made in implementing the Initiative and the results achieved as directed by FAO Governing Bodies.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can I directly go to the conclusions? I will read them out.

1. The Council welcomed document CL 168/5, *The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*, and:
  - a) commended the increase in the number of countries participating in the Initiative to 45, and noted the different ways that participating countries are using the Initiative to enhance the science- and evidence-based decision-making, to make investment planning a more transparent and inclusive process through broad stakeholder consultation, and to scale up, strengthen and accelerate existing programmes or develop ambitious new ones;
  - b) highlighted the country-owned and country-led nature of the programmes supported by the Initiative, and welcomed steps taken to deepen national ownership of the Initiative, including through national or joint management of all activities undertaken in support of the nationally-led programmes;
  - c) stressed the need to ensure the Initiative is aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and joint programming within the UN development system and the 2030 Agenda;
  - d) noted the extraordinary challenges faced by the HIH Initiative-supported countries in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciated the flexibility and agility of the HIH Initiative-supported programmes to sustain work-in-progress under extreme crisis conditions;
  - e) recognized that all FAO Members may participate in the HIH Initiative as they choose, not only as direct or indirect beneficiaries, but also as development and resource partners through multiple channels, including direct assistance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in-kind technical support, support to public-private exchanges, and support to mechanisms such as the Flexible Multi-donor Mechanism (FMM), which affords the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging needs and to develop new tools and training jointly with some of the Least Developed Countries;
  - f) welcomed the progress made towards the realisation of a programme monitoring dashboard for enabling Members and partners to track progress against objectives, share information, communicate and coordinate actions in response to events and opportunities and ultimately measure and track impact against prioritised SDG indicators, and looked forward to receiving further information on its functions and use;
  - g) welcomed the designation of the HIH Initiative as one of the twenty PPAs under the Strategic Framework 2022-31, placing the Initiative under the same oversight and reporting requirements as other PPAs, to offer Members more effective and efficient support to enable more dynamic, scaled-up programming at country level in collaboration with other relevant partners in the country; and

- h) requested regular updates on the Initiative, including on the use of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources, results at country level and the engagement of public, private and civil society stakeholders in all those countries where the Initiative is being implemented.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Juste une remarque générale parce que nous sommes allés très vite aux conclusions. Comme vous l'avez noté, ce point était soumis à la procédure écrite. Nous avons reçu des réponses aux très nombreuses questions que nous avons posées dimanche. J'aurais malgré tout, avec votre indulgence, aimé avoir quelques précisions supplémentaires de la part de la Direction de la FAO, qui sont, par ailleurs, d'intérêt pour tous les Membres. Je ne vais pas répéter tous mes commentaires, mais juste poser quelques questions et je serais reconnaissante à la Direction de ses réponses à ce sujet.

Tout d'abord, et comme l'ont dit plusieurs délégations précédemment, notamment quand nous avons parlé des données, je pense qu'il serait très utile que la Direction organise un briefing concernant la Plateforme géospatiale de données. Nous constatons en effet une multiplication de plateformes et il est vrai qu'il est complexe pour nous de savoir de quelle plateforme il s'agit et quelles sont les différences entre ces plateformes. Est-ce que la Direction peut confirmer qu'elle organisera prochainement un briefing sur ce sujet?

Deuxièmement, s'agissant de la Plateforme géospatiale toujours, nous proposons qu'elle fasse l'objet d'un groupe intergouvernemental, à l'instar de la bonne pratique établie par la FAO pour la Plateforme internationale pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture numériques et pour la Stratégie de la FAO relative à la mobilisation du secteur privé. Ce peut être un groupe consultatif, ce peut être le même groupe que pour la Plateforme internationale, mais je pense que cela permettrait aux Membres de mieux comprendre de quoi il s'agit.

Nous avons posé également des questions concernant le Laboratoire de données (*big data*) de la FAO. L'Union européenne et ses 27 États membres ont aussi posé des questions, mais nous n'avons pas eu de réponse sur ce point. Nous avons en effet noté que ce Laboratoire, qui concerne aussi l'Initiative Main dans la main, même s'il ne s'y limite pas, modélise et analyse les réseaux sociaux pour modéliser les troubles sociaux, "*social unrest*".

De notre point de vue, cela excède le mandat de la FAO et nous souhaiterions savoir quels sont les mots-clés utilisés pour suivre ces troubles sociaux sur les réseaux sociaux. Nous avons noté d'ailleurs que se suivi ne se fait pas dans toutes les langues officielles de la FAO. Voilà donc, sans entrer dans tous les détails, je souhaiterais d'abord, avant que nous puissions négocier les conclusions, avoir déjà des éléments complémentaires par rapport aux précisions écrites qui avaient été apportées par la Direction.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Before going into the conclusions, I would like to give the floor to Management.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Thank you for all the questions raised but let me go over very concretely the questions being asked by France. Thank you very much for the interest in the Geo-Spatial Platform. In the response we offered to do a briefing on the Geo-Spatial Platform.

I think that you were not here when we started with the Geo-Spatial Platform but it started with an informal briefing to the Members, and that is when there was a decision, even, I think, requested by the ICC Chairperson at that time, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, that we expand the Geo-Spatial Platform to all countries.

We started doing that from the beginning and sharing the information but we would be more than happy given the enormous progress that the Geo-Spatial Platform has had, to be able to show that – and I think that will also answer the second question, or the idea of bringing an intergovernmental entity towards the Geo-Spatial Platform.



We do not believe there is a need because all the data published there is data that follows all the protocols of the UN and all the public rights protocols and will comply with the new data policy that is being developed. But I think in the informal briefing that we develop we can also touch that topic and explain all the partnerships. We will even try to list some or most of the partnerships we have in the form of agreements because it was a request also in the questions in written form.

Regarding the big data lab, that plays several roles, it played a significant role during COVID-19 because it allows us for example to track real time the morbidity of **XX**, and also it allows us to track prices at the country level.

We always are clear in indicating that this is not official data, this is data being used with artificial intelligence and with big data – and in the case of the specific question of the social unrest, as I tried to explain in the answers I provided, social unrest was one of the major problems that came out during the 2007/2008 food crisis and that is why we thought it was important to be able to see and to follow what was going on in relation to issues of food insecurity, given the huge challenge that we had in food access.

Regarding the key words being used, we can share the dictionary that we are using and that is something that we can also bring up in an informal briefing, explaining what we are looking at and what we are aiming to do. If there are any things that Members think are out of our scope with we can always do the necessary adjustments.

But the idea of the data lab is to help countries by bringing real time information as quickly as possible with the perfect caveat – and so what are the limitations of that information, so that they can increase their resilience and be able to respond in the situations of crisis like the ones we are following and it has been extremely useful during the COVID-19.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I am just at the top of this Item and seeing how long and heavy it is. I wonder if I could request please that we move through it a little bit more slowly. I understand the need for speed at this time in the Council but this is quite complex and there were a lot of comments received and many comments addressed by Management and I think we do owe it the Council's oversight to decide on and would like to move through it deliberately.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I have general comments on that and although we have already submitted our written comments in one way I think every Member welcomes the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. However, we are very much curious and interested in what is exactly going on, in a detailed and concrete manner.

I would like to request the Secretariat to report and update us as much as possible. I think that the notion that it captures in our discussion and also in the conclusion. However, at the same time it is going to a bit deeper than that, we are very much interested in not only the practice, the merit, all those rosy parts of it, but also maybe in the experience, in the process, that we might have the kind of data in the bad cases, the mistakes, the demerit which emerges. We would also like to listen to those kind of Reports. If I was asked to put particular words on a concrete decision, I will do that.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Una sola pregunta al Economista Jefe, Sr. Máximo Torero Cullen, si es posible quisiera saber si en Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) se usa esa plataforma. Si estamos usando esa plataforma en AMIS.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

Japan we will try to answer your question with handwritten responses to your question and all the details of the Hand-in-Hand Initiatives are in there and we will keep updating and we are more than happy to do a briefing if it is needed in terms of each contribution. Remember it is led by the countries and their testaments through the Membership has been very important in terms of what is going on.

In terms of the specific question of Argentina, the Report from Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is a different initiative, it is not directly linked to the Hand-in-Hand initiative which is

a country level, country-led initiative and has specifically targeted countries as all of your know. The G20 initiative and the AMIS benefited for example from the information that we brought in terms of logistical flow of vessels in real time – which was used by AMIS information systems as it helped them to understand a bit more what are the logistical problems that were being faced in terms of transportation of food around the world, especially in the staple commodities which is a priority of the AMIS initiative.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we go to subparagraph (a). I will go slowly.

Subparagraph (a). I think we can agree to subparagraph (a).

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to subparagraph (e).

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I am just sort of wondering a little bit about the reference to the flexible multi-donor mechanism (FMM) since we of course made you are part of that but as far as I understand that is now under an evaluation so we will see how that will continue. I would at this point think it would be better to delete the reference to that in this respect, since as far as I know we have not really involved the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the deletion to the example?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

A mí tampoco me consta, pero lo que pregunto es quizás si existe, por ahí el Economista Jefe, Señor Torero, puede clarificarlo. Eso es lo que quería preguntar, pero no para contradecir lo que dice mi colega de Suecia, sino para poder saber.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

The FMM Mechanism is a multi-donor platform so they can support Hand-in-Hand in any country no matter if it is in the process of evaluation. That is one of the mechanisms that can be used in the decision of the process of FMM to support.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The question is whether or not it is now being used?

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

At this point, there is one project of FMM that is being used and it is being assigned to Canada.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Given the fact that it is in evaluation, perhaps it is better to delete it until we see where the evaluation will get to? Can we agree to subparagraph (e) and also by deleting the reference to the FMM? I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (f). I do not see any request for the floor.

We go to subparagraph (g).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Là aussi je pense que nous sommes allés un petit peu vite, je reviens au paragraphe précédent (f). Si j'ai bien suivi les discussions au Comité du Programme, en réalité, il n'y a pas encore ce tableau de bord (*dashboard*). Donc, je pense qu'il est hautement préférable de s'en tenir au langage qui avait été

agréé au Comité du Programme: *"took note of the initial progress made towards the realization of a programme monitoring dashboard"*. C'était le consensus atteint au Comité du Programme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to the changed paragraph? I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (g). I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to the last subparagraph (h).

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

It is our understanding the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is not in the Programme of Work and Budget. On that basis, we would like to request the deletion of the word *"budgetary"* in the first line.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand would like to propose an additional subparagraph. I will read slowly: *"Highlighted the country owned and country nature, as well as the science and evidence-based decision making of the Initiative."*

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Before I go to my suggestion, I would support the proposal by Thailand, also the proposal by the United States. According to what I have just mentioned we would be very interested not only knowing the merit and advantage of the particular concrete programme and projects but also the kind of unsuccessful ones and what we can learn from it – that is also important for the Membersto be well updated and informed.

Having said that I would like to suggest some kind of small additional words to be inserted on the subparagraph (i): *"After the results, positive and negative ones, as well as lessons that can be extracted from"*.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We will not be commenting on (h) but we would like to propose an additional subparagraph after (i). We would like to propose on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States the following: *"Emphasized the need for full transparency on the financing of the Hand in Hand Initiative and requested assurance from Management that it would have no further impact on the agreed regular budget."*

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

With regard to this subparagraph, as far as I understand Hand-in-Hand Initiative in the biennium budget will be used but not further after the biennium budget. Therefore, there will be no impact after the first biennium. I suggest that we maintain the word *"budgetary"*. Secondly, with regard to Japan's suggestion, in terms of the results it has been fully reported by the Programme Committee, so I do not think it is necessary to add the sentence following results as suggested by Japan. I think we should maintain the subparagraph as is.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We would like to comment on the proposal made by Japan on subparagraph (i) regarding the results. In our view, this is not a necessary addition, particularly if it has to do with positive and negative results as it would be quicker to only just talk about negative ones but about problems or difficulties which might be encountered by the initiative in concrete countries.

As an example, our delegation could have referred to Afghanistan as the Initiative was quite successful based on what was provided by the Secretariat. It started to be implemented in the country, however due to events which we are all aware of, its implementation may encounter some problems but that

does not mean that the results, in the end, will be negative; it is possible that it might be on the contrary in fact, even under those conditions.

The Initiative and its implementation in Afghanistan may have positive results, that is why I think this addition and this concrete division at this time between results and positive and negative is not entirely realistic in fact. We would propose therefore to remove the addition proposed by Japan, or as an alternative, include a reference to possible difficulties which may be encountered in implementation in different countries. I think that would be more neutral.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We withdraw our suggestion to delete '*budgetary*', we understand it is in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). With respect to Japan's language, we think we could simplify this and address all the comments that have been made by inserting, instead of Japan's language, '*lessons learned*' and I think that captures the spirit of what Japan is getting at, and we would support the additional paragraph that the European Union (EU) has proposed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was going to propose the same to find a way forward. Japan, would it be agreeable, and to all of us, if we say "*budgetary resources, results, lessons learned*", and then we continue?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I very much appreciate the comments on my humble proposal by the United States and the Russian Federation. I would very much appreciate the language proposed by the United States, but also that we put there "*lessons, the result, and possible difficulties, and the lessons learned.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal would be to go to "*lessons learned*" because it goes either way, otherwise we will get bogged down again.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

S'agissant du paragraphe (i), nous sommes évidemment d'accord avec l'idée de tirer des enseignements, mais je voudrais également rajouter une référence à la Plateforme géospatiale puisque, comme nous l'avons vu, cela fait l'objet d'un grand intérêt et que l'Économiste en chef nous a dit qu'il y aurait des mises à jour (*updates*) sur cette plateforme. Je propose de l'inscrire puisque nous sommes tous d'accord: "*Requested regular updates on the initiative, including on the Geospatial Platform, on the use...*".

Je soutiens naturellement le paragraphe (j) proposé par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et ses États membres.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see whether or not we have agreed to subparagraph (j) if we can remove the brackets around "*lessons learned*", and delete "*positive and negative ones*", as well as "*lessons that can be extracted from*", then hopefully we have a clean subparagraph? And remove the brackets.

***Continues in English***

After "*lessons learned*", add "*good practice*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Hopefully, we now have an agreed paragraph? I do not see any objections.

Let me go to subparagraph (h). Can we agree to the paragraph proposed by Thailand? I do not see any objections.

We go to the last subparagraph (j). Can we agree to subparagraph (j)?

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

I cannot agree with this subparagraph because we have no consensus with regard to the use of Regular Programme for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative so we cannot accept this sentence. It will request the assurance from Management that it would help to further impact on the agreed Regular Budget.

The second point, so far the Hand-in-Hand Initiative uses extra budgetary resources, so we cannot accept the 'full transparency' because the extra budgetary resources are mostly earmarked. We need to alter these paragraphs.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Debo haber estado cansado. En el subpárrafo (j), tengo una pequeña modificación que sugerir, pero con una lógica, digamos. Cuando dice "*requested regular updates on the initiative and the Geo-Spatial platform*", *not included*" La rationale de esto es que la plataforma no se limita a la iniciativa. Y me gustaría decirlo de esa manera para reflejar por un lado lo que planteó Francia, pero también tener claro que no se refiere solamente a la Iniciativa Mano de la mano.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will not comment on the remarks of the pace. Can we go to subparagraph (i)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (j). Any reflections on the bracketed subparagraph (j)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous soutenons ce paragraphe évidemment, mais je dois dire que j'ai quelques doutes sur les arguments qui ont été avancés par mon collègue chinois pour le retirer.

Sur le premier point, il me semble que dès lors que l'Initiative Main dans la main fait partie des Domaines prioritaires des programmes (DPP/*Priority Programme Area-PPA*), la demande de transparence totale (*full transparency*) est indispensable. Il me semble que c'est la base même pour être parmi les DPP. Par conséquent, il me semble que cette première partie ne doit pas faire l'objet de difficultés.

Pour le deuxième, nous avons entendu les assurances de la Direction et j'ai cru comprendre que mon collègue chinois reconnaissait qu'il n'y aurait pas d'impact supplémentaire. Aussi, puisque nous sommes tous d'accord autant l'écrire et je maintiens notre souhait de garder ce paragraphe.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We fully support the comments just made by France.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I would also like to echo what the distinguished colleagues from France and the United States said.

**Ms Virginie KNECHT (Belgium)**

My support of Belgium also to the European Union (EU), United States, Japan and France to keep the sentence on full transparency, especially as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is part of the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs).

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

We also support France and others to retain (j).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps, to overcome the problem, I will go back to Máximo because I thought that I heard him saying that it would not have any further impact on the Regular Budget and there was full transparency.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative is as any other Programme Priority Area (PPA), 100 percent transparent, so I do not see the difference between Hand-in-Hand Initiative PPA and for the need to include such a paragraph.

On the second hand, in terms of the Regular Budget, the budget has already been approved by the Conference and that is already in place. It is clear what are the resources allocated to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which were allocated by the Conference on the amount of USD 500 000 if I am not incorrect, for the two years. That is the only resources that we get in that agreement.

Regarding the future, we do not know what the future will be, because it is an important initiative in FAO, it is a PPA, we are respecting the agreement. However, the Initiative keeps growing and we are looking at not extra budgetary resources to get the funding but I cannot say that two or three years from now it could be that all the Members want to support this part of the budgetary resources because of how impactful it is and how useful it has been for FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps to help, since it has to be a delicate balance – we can say “*not have further impact on the agreed Programme of Work and Budget*” because that is what we are speaking about? Would this paragraph be agreeable for China because also the Management said there was full transparency.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I propose to use Programme Committee language, “*in order to continue to develop the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in a transparent and accountable initiative to support agri-food systems*”.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

In the light also of the explanation that we heard from the Chief Economist, and thank you also to the proposal from the distinguished delegate from China, we would like to agree to the replacement of “*regular budget*” to your proposal to “*Programme of Work and Budget*” instead.

We would like to propose that instead of saying “*requested assurance from Management*”, to replace “*requested*” with “*noted*”, since Mr Torero told us that this is already taken care of.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Voy a intentar por lo menos dar una parte del texto que quizás explique o dé alguna salida. Yo quería ver si podíamos colocar en la parte que habla del no impacto presupuestario, otra expresión que diga “*and requested that in case of further impact on the regular budget, it will be duly considered by the Council*”. No sé si vuela, pero es tratando de ayudar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, but we already approved the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). Anyhow, I think we are getting bogged down. Let me first see whether or not China has the flexibility to go along with what was originally proposed given the answers of the Chief Economist, addressed the assurance already and that we only reflect the current PWB, and also that many Members but we have to find consensus of course, many Members would like to have a reference in this respect.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

I have a very small change, delete the “*full*”, then I can go along with consensus. I can accept and emphasize the need for transparency of the financing of the Hand-in Hand-Initiative and note that assurance that it would have further impact on the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be agreeable to everybody?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je dois dire que cette suggestion est, d'une certaine manière, assez étonnante. Maximo Torero a indiqué qu'il y avait une transparence totale. Donc, elle est ou elle n'est pas. Je m'interroge alors un petit peu sur les raisons de supprimer le mot "full". Quel est le problème?

Peut-être que si nous comprenions quelle est la difficulté, il serait plus aisé de travailler. Ma délégation est flexible et nous sommes prêts à accepter aussi le nouveau langage proposé par la Chine. Cependant, je voudrais avoir une explication sur la suppression de "full".

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I am in alignment with my French colleague. I am also curious what the thoughts behind the deletions are. I would like to listen to the Chinese explanations. That would be very much appreciated. We are flexible and would like to finalize this discussion as early as possible if China is uncomfortable with the "full transparency". I would like to suggest something like "meaningful transparency".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to caution to now go to insert, to clarify things because we are going in all directions. I will ask the Chief Economist if there is any difference between, in his idea, full transparency or transparency.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

The word and the adjective of "full" did not come from me, it came from the delegation. For us the proposal below which says "transparent and accountable", it is the same rule that we apply to all the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs). I do not understand the difference. The difference is between transparent and not transparent, and we are as accountable as any PPA in all the legal and auditable information that needs to be done. I do not see why we need to put an additional adjective to the word. It would make sense if something was not transparent, but I do not see the need for that.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

I really expand on what the Chief Economist said, so for me transparent is transparent. If you put "meaningful" before this word maybe it would have a different understanding. Transparent is transparent. I cannot accept "full" transparency or "meaningful" transparency.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We also share the opinion of the delegation of China. The comments that were made by the Chief Economist, at the beginning of this subparagraph, sound a bit strange when we talk about the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. It is already adopted as one of the main aspects of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) as part of the Strategic Framework, and therefore, in examining its progress as part of the framework at any rate, as Members we are going to receive all the necessary information, including on budgetary issues.

Thus, when asking for additional, and then full transparency, that seems extra. We think that the addition of full transparency in this context, indeed, is putting into doubt the idea that will have full information of this initiative as part of the review of the progress of the Mid Term Review.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not want to continue this discussion. Either we put this paragraph in as pending, but I think listening now to many interventions, can I put this paragraph and ask the flexibility of all to agree to this paragraph? Unless Argentina is against because I think we have an agreement in the room?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No, yo no me opongo, pero no me gusta que no pueda hablar lo que quiero hablar. Entonces le pido por favor que me deje decir lo que quiero decir.

Quiero decir que usar calificativos genera subjetividades que no ayudan a crear un buen clima de trabajo en el Plenario y que no se habla de "full transparency" cuando hablamos de los fondos de los donantes. Entonces seamos coherentes en términos de lo que estamos hablando. Si hablamos de transparencia sin calificativos, estamos todos de acuerdo y creemos que ahí podemos trabajar con el consenso.

Ahora, si colocamos calificativos vamos a crear unas situaciones de tensión que no van a ayudar a construir consenso en un montón de otros elementos que necesitamos cerrar lo antes posible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we now have an agreement on this subparagraph? I do not see any objections so with that, we have concluded our work on Agenda Item 5, *the Hand-in-Hand Initiative*.

We go now to Item 12, the *Progress Report on the Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*.

Sorry, United States, is this still on this Item?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I wondered if we could quickly go back, either now or at the end of this item to Item 4? We went through it very quickly and we did not have a chance to read subparagraphs (d) and (e), and I just wanted to have a read through them before we move on from that Item.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will do it but let us not make it a practice because it is an agreed paragraph. So we go back?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I wanted to re-read (d) because I thought I had seen in the draft reference to encouraging FAO through its collaboration with the Tripartite and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to participate within this mandate in the next phase of origin studies. That was something that our delegation raised during the discussion, but I see actually that was not reflected here and wondered if there would be support to include it. So “*encourage continued collaboration with the Tripartite and UNEP and other relevant international organizations in line with their respective mandates, including as appropriate participation in the next phases of origin studies, COVID-19 origin studies*” and then the rest.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see already hands, otherwise I have to keep the whole section pending and to add to the list, but I do not think we will get an agreement on this subparagraph.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Indeed, the addition which was just proposed by the United States delegation, for us I need time to study this addition as the next studies of the origin of COVID-19 are not completely in line with the FAO mandate. That is more in the mandate of the World Health Organization. Their inclusion in a Council document with this reference, at any rate for our delegation, at this stage is problematic. We need additional consultation with Capital.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we keep the subparagraph as it is, because it was a nearly agreed subparagraph, and I also see other speakers. I do not think I want to go into these discussions. I will keep the subparagraph as it was and United States have to decide, when we adopt the Report, whether it is so that we have to re-open the agreed subparagraph, because otherwise we will not get our work finished, neither today nor any time soon.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I appreciate that we do not want to re-open subparagraphs and we really do not like to go back and re-open subparagraphs. I asked to re-open this one because we moved so quickly, we did not get to read all the way through it and as Chairperson, you have prioritized ensuring that the draft Report includes the interventions made by Members in the discussion and this was something that we discussed. We hoped to include it.

I did listen closely to my Russian colleague’s intervention and I think that is why I included the words “*as appropriate*”. It was our understanding that the origin studies did include all of the One Health Members, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO which is a Member of the Tripartite plus with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – and so that is why we suggested it for this paragraph. If it is better not to mix it with the One Health paragraph, we could also do it as a standalone paragraph one down, but it is my



understanding that the Terms of Reference for the origin studies actually did include all of the Tripartite and UNEP players.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We listen carefully as Chairperson and as Secretariat to all the interventions but of course, we cannot take up and include all the interventions because then we would have 100 pages of conclusions and we have to select those that are the most important ones and are supported by many delegates. That is how we work with the draft conclusions.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We strongly object to the United States proposal. The origin study goes way beyond the mandate of FAO. We are strongly against this proposal.

#### **Mr Ayako HAGINO (Japan)**

We lost the connection. I am sorry for that so I am not very well updated with the very last discussion, but I wanted to just echo and support the United States (US) proposal. I think it is very important. When we come to COVID-19, you know, it is something that all the human beings could be more interested in so I would support the US proposal.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the United States, whether they want to insist, but listening to the strong reactions, I do not think we will get ever a conclusion in this way, on this Item, and the Council. It is up to you whether you want to put this subparagraph in brackets and give it to the pending work, but as Chairperson, I do not see how we can find a compromise on this.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

We will revert to Capital and determine whether we want to raise it again.

#### **Item 12. Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration**

##### **Point 12. Rapport de situation sur la collaboration entre les organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome**

##### **Tema 12. Informe sobre la marcha de las actividades de colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma**

(CL 168/11)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We continue now to the *Progress Report on the Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*, as is documented in CL 168/11.

#### **Introduction to Item 12: Progress Report on Rome-Based Agencies Collaboration**

*Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division*

In line with the Rome-based Agencies' (RBAs) commitment to update the FAO Council and IFAD and WFP Executive Boards on their annual collaborative activities, the three Agencies present this year's Progress Report, which informs Members of the growing collaborative activities carried out in the reporting period spanning from July 2020 to June 2021. The Report illustrates how the RBAs are strengthening their collaboration at global, regional and country level. The Report covers concrete achievements as associated with the five long-term priorities agreed in 2020, which aim to further strengthen RBA collaboration within: (i) the UN Development System (UNDS) reform; (ii) the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS); (iii) the four areas of collaboration in the context of COVID-19; (iv) joint funding to drive collaboration; and (v) leveraging knowledge and operationalising collaboration.

In the past year, the RBAs furthered their collaboration at global level by serving as key actors in high-level political fora, thematic experts, leaders of humanitarian hunger-related efforts, and global conveners of stakeholders. For example, the RBAs collaborated intensely towards both the pre-Summit event and the UNFSS, with the goal of leveraging the power of food systems world-wide in order to advance recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of all 17 Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The RBAs also furthered their work together in thematic areas, such as nutrition, gender and resilience through the sustained exchange of technical knowledge, lessons learned and good practices. In addition, RBA collaboration continued for the advancement of global initiatives with a direct humanitarian reach to the field level, such as those related to the Food Security Cluster, the publication of this year's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report and the Global Report on Food Crises. Finally, the RBAs continued to serve as multi-stakeholder conveners for the promotion of knowledge sharing, policy development and advocacy, through their lead roles in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.

Most importantly, the RBAs continued to advance both regional and country level collaboration, while also contributing to the ongoing UNDS reform implementation. As the pandemic further disrupted livelihoods, the RBAs contributed to the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 by conducting context-specific impact assessments on food security and nutrition. As part of the UN Efficiency Agenda, the RBAs also continued to contribute to country Business Operation Strategies (BOS) as a significant opportunity to identify and utilise common services to reach efficiencies and cost avoidance. In addition, the RBAs continued to implement and develop UN joint programmes, such as the Sahel Programme in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C). Lastly, the RBAs furthered their joint efforts at country level on the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Thus, as detailed in the Report, the RBAs are fully committed to the UNDS reform implementation and its objective to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030, through a more efficient and effective UN system.

Overall, this year's Progress Report confirms the five long-term priorities agreed in 2020 and demonstrates the many ways in which the RBAs have continued to strengthen their collaboration by building on their comparative advantages in order to achieve greater effectiveness and stronger impact on the ground. In this light, RBA collaboration is following a way forward, which continues to build on the UNDS reform, while also integrating results from the Joint Evaluation, as well as the ongoing work associated with the follow-up to the UNFSS.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

Australia welcomes on-going efforts to improve RBA collaboration, including – and importantly - at a country and regional level. We highlight the importance of on-going work in this regard in order to respond, both strategically and with concrete actions, to rising hunger levels.

Australia notes that the UN Food Systems Summit implementation and follow-up is still under discussion but highlights the importance of RBA collaboration, along with other relevant UN agencies, in order to ensure tangible outcomes and avoid duplication. We respectfully request that Members be provided with regular updates and an opportunity to contribute to discussions.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el miercoles 17 de noviembre 2021 a las 16.21*

En primer término, la Argentina desea manifestar su agradecimiento por la elaboración del documento que aborda esta temática.

Como lo expresó nuestra Delegación durante las reuniones informales de las Agencias con sede en Roma, en septiembre pasado, entendemos que la articulación entre FAO, FIDA y PMA debe tener como objetivo buscar una mayor eficiencia operacional, la reducción de costos, la prevención de duplicaciones y la promoción de enfoques sinérgicos.

Es decir, el objetivo común, según nuestro punto de vista, debe centrarse en aumentar la cooperación de las ORSs en el terreno para desplegar sus capacidades y contribuir a superar el flagelo del hambre y la malnutrición en todas sus formas. Entendemos que existen tres elementos esenciales:

- a. Cada Agencia posee un mandato concreto, una competencia técnica específica y prioridades asignadas por sus Órganos de gobiernos.
- b. La colaboración y la coordinación no puede ser un elemento impuesto a los ORSs. Se requiere previamente alinear sus respectivos marcos estratégicos siguiendo los Objetivos de la Agenda 2030 y sus ODSs.
- c. La fortaleza de la cooperación entre los OSRs debe residir en potenciar sus fortalezas y virtudes singulares para enriquecer el conjunto de las acciones de las Agencias sobre el terreno.

De esta forma, pensamos que los futuros planes de trabajo de las Agencias, en la medida que sea posible, deben establecerse bajo un prisma de complementariedad y enriquecimiento mutuo a fin de mejorar su efectividad operacional.

Para el caso concreto del “seguimiento” de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios, también entendemos que cualquier mecanismo que se proponga debe, primero, responder la visión consensuada de los miembros y, segundo, tener a FAO, por capacidad de enfoque holístico, en el centro de las acciones de una eventual coordinación.

Como último comentario, nos gustaría indicar que es preciso evitar la “competencia” entre las Agencias, por ejemplo, en la captación de recursos voluntarios, ya que eso desvirtuaría el fomento del trabajo mancomunado. Por el contrario, creemos que una forma de mejorar la complementariedad de los Organismos se podría dar a través de trabajos en casos concretos en el terreno, por ejemplo, a través de experiencias piloto en el marco de la iniciativa “Mano de la Mano”.

#### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 16:55*

Welcomed the Progress report and commended the efforts of FAO to provide a complex overview of RBA collaboration therein; encouraged FAO to further develop strategic collaboration following the recommendations of the evaluation report “Joint Evaluation of collaboration among the UN Rome-based Agencies” (dated October 2021), and continued to explore the areas of potential synergies and complementarities, economies of scale with the aim to the raise efficiencies of RBA collaboration; and strongly encouraged FAO to carry out a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions in line with the request of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and 178th Session of the Finance Committee that remains long overdue.

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 17:20*

The United States welcomes this progress report on the UN Rome-based Agencies’ (RBAs) collaborative efforts, particularly noting achievements and progress made over the past year at the global, regional, and country levels. We appreciate the achievements highlighted in the “Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies” report on the five priority areas.

The United States commends the RBAs’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring continued attention and support to the most vulnerable. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the RBAs were able to conduct context specific assessments of its impacts on national food security and nutrition.

We appreciate the RBAs’ joint support of the school feeding program in Guatemala in ensuring school children have healthy meals throughout the pandemic and your collaborative work in supporting the Government of Sierra Leone with its emergency Food Security Monitoring System to understand the impact of COVID-19 on food security.

We appreciate the global work in nutrition, gender, and resilience undertaken by the RBAs, particularly through the exchange of technical knowledge, lessons learned and good practice. The report positively highlights that these initiatives have had direct humanitarian impact. Of particular interest, the United States welcomes the central role the RBAs played in the launch of UN Nutrition earlier this year. We welcome future updates from FAO on progress related to integrating and streamlining efforts in nutrition.

While the United States recognizes the extensive global collaborative efforts by the RBAs in the preparations and implementation of the activities and processes for the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) and Pre-Summit, we note FAO itself conducted limited outreach to its Members on FAO objectives for the FSS. It is imperative that FAO secure Member State consensus on its role – in coordination with WFP and IFAD in particular – to ensure meaningful FSS follow-up on the ground.

Looking ahead, we encourage continuous assessment of the enablers and challenges and the sharing of lessons learned from RBA collaboration to avoid competition and duplication of efforts.

The United States welcomes updates on the RBAs collaborative efforts, particularly as they relate to UN FSS follow-up and implementation of the recommendations from the independent Joint Evaluation of RBA collaboration released in October 2021, which we understand Council will have an opportunity to consider in its Spring session

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 13:20*

Japan appreciates FAO's leading activities, such as hosting the Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit in collaboration with IFAD and WFP successfully with attendance of many stakeholders worldwide. Japan considers as necessary that FAO keeps following up on further development of the outcome.

Japan requests clarification of conceptual framework and also assumed RBA collaboration model specifically, including FAO's agreement to host "Food Systems Coordination Hub" described in paragraph 12. "RBA Collaboration in the Context of the UN Food Systems Summit", in terms of the role of each organization involved, RBA's objective, and target outcomes.

## **ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el viernes 19 de noviembre 2021 a las 19.05*

En lo relativo a los progresos sobre la colaboración entre las Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma (OSR), quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:

- Manifiestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus EEMM.
- Acogemos con satisfacción el Informe de Progreso, que ofrece una buena descripción general de las actividades implementadas a nivel mundial, regional y nacional. Apreciamos la estructura mejorada del Informe, incluidos los resultados y ejemplos concretos de las actividades implementadas y los avances logrados. Instamos a la FAO a que siga mejorando la colaboración con el PMA y el FIDA, centrándose también en resultados concretos a nivel regional y nacional.
- Recordamos la solicitud de un estudio de viabilidad conjunto de las OSR sobre la integración de las funciones administrativas, que está pendiente desde la sesión del Consejo de diciembre de 2020. Invitamos a las OSR a proporcionar este estudio con carácter prioritario, recordando que el estudio debería centrarse principalmente en la colaboración administrativa entre las sedes. - Apreciamos el énfasis puesto en alinear la colaboración de las OSR con la reforma del UNDS y el

hecho de que las OSR hayan podido identificar y promover prioridades conjuntas en los Equipos de País de las Naciones Unidas (UNCT) y en la formulación de los Marcos de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas (UNSDCF). La colaboración de las OSR debe ubicarse en el contexto de una colaboración más amplia de las Naciones Unidas destinada a generar resultados hacia los ODS.

- Felicitamos a las OSR por sus esfuerzos coordinados y su colaboración en la respuesta a la crisis de la COVID19, con énfasis en los grupos más vulnerables. Apreciamos el papel central que han desempeñado en el apoyo a los países, las ONG locales y otras agencias de la ONU, en particular a través de políticas y apoyo analítico para desarrollar medidas efectivas para mitigar las consecuencias de la crisis.

- También felicitamos a las OSR por su colaboración y participación en la preparación de la Cumbre de los Sistemas Alimentarios de las Naciones Unidas y la cumbre previa. Los OSR tienen un papel crucial que desempeñar para mantener la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios en un lugar

destacado de la Agenda 2030 y contribuir, junto con el CSA y otros órganos pertinentes de las Naciones Unidas, al proceso de seguimiento de la cumbre.

## **FRANCE**

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

La France s’aligne sur la déclaration de l’Union européenne et de ses 27 Etats membres.

Nous saluons l’organisation des réunions réunissant les Conseils des trois agences romaines qui permettent de favoriser l’échange d’informations et la coordination entre ces agences. Nous rappelons notre fort attachement à une coopération étroite entre les trois agences, tant à Rome que sur le terrain, dans le respect des mandats de chacune.

### *Point 12 – Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires*

- Nous sommes satisfaits que le processus préparatoire du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires et le Sommet lui-même aient permis de mobiliser conjointement les agences romaines et d’inclure leurs travaux dans une perspective onusienne plus large.
- La structure de suivi issue du Sommet n’est pas encore définie clairement et ne saurait être présentée comme telle. Nous rappelons que le « pôle de coordination » (coordination hub) devra être inclusif vis-à-vis de toutes les parties prenantes, agences des Nations unies romaines ou non (OMS, PNUE, PNUD...), qui devront être traitées sur un pied d’égalité. Si le SGNU a demandé à la FAO d’accueillir le mécanisme de suivi du Sommet, il n’a en aucun cas précisé que ce mécanisme devrait rapporter exclusivement qu’à la direction de la FAO. Au contraire, la Vice-SGNUM a indiqué, lors du dernier Comité consultatif, que le « pôle de coordination » serait sous l’autorité et ferait rapport à un groupe directeur (« steering group ») composé de plusieurs responsables des Nations Unies (chefs d’agences RBAs, PNUE au nom des Nations Unies, DCO ...). La préservation de cette approche du système onusien dans son ensemble (« UNsystem wide ») dans le cadre du suivi du Sommet, y compris la structure hiérarchique de reporting, est essentielle. Nous saluons la déclaration cross-liste en ce sens prononcée lors du Conseil d’administration du PAM le 15 novembre. Nous rappelons la volonté de la précédente session conjointe que les Membres soient au centre du processus de suivi des engagements du Sommet.
- Nous rappelons la demande de la session conjointe que soit communiquées de plus amples informations sur le pôle de coordination, s’agissant notamment de sa dotation en personnel et de son financement.
- Nous réaffirmons par ailleurs notre souhait, conformément à la déclaration d’action du SGNUM, d’une collaboration étroite du CSA avec ce « pôle de coordination » (Coordination Hub) chargé du suivi du Sommet, de même qu’avec le groupe directeur (Steering group). Nous regrettons que le CSA ne soit pas mentionné dans le document de la FAO et demandons d’y ajouter une référence claire. Nous rappelons aussi notre souhait que les structures mises en place pour la préparation du sommet, y compris le Groupe scientifique, ne soient pas pérennisées, conformément à ce qui avait été indiqué aux Etats membres lors de la dernière réunion du Groupe consultatif. Il doit revenir au HLPE d’être au centre de la coordination du travail scientifique du suivi du Sommet, en lien avec le pôle de coordination.

### *Point 14 – action humanitaire*

- Nous rappelons que l’action des agences romaines en réponse aux crises humanitaires doit s’inscrire dans le cadre de leurs mandats respectifs, notamment pour la FAO et le PAM. Le rapport conjoint d’évaluation de leur collaboration pointe le chevauchement de certaines missions et la concurrence entre les organisations, ce qui nuit à l’efficacité de leur action. A ce titre nous appelons à une meilleure coordination entre les agences s’agissant de leurs actions dans les crises humanitaires, à Rome mais aussi avec le reste des Nations Unies et sur le terrain. Nous sommes attachés au mandat normatif de la FAO, qui ne doit pas se transformer en agence opérationnelle de développement, ce qui est un mandat relevant d’autres agences des Nations Unies, et moins encore en agence humanitaire, ce dont elle n’a ni les moyens ni le mandat.

### *Point 15 – les agences romaines et le CSA*

- Nous appuyons la demande de la précédente session conjointe de renforcer la coopération entre les trois agences pour promouvoir les produits du CSA et demandons de poursuivre dans cette voie pour une plus grande visibilité du CSA et de ses produits, notamment sur les « systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition (VGFSyN) » et sur « les pratiques agroécologiques et autres approches innovantes ». La France appelle également les agences romaines à renforcer leur appui au CSA, notamment en termes de financements et de mise à disposition de ressources humaines.

*Point 21 – programme conjoint au Sahel*

- Nous rappelons l'importance que nous attachons à la mise en œuvre du programme conjoint au Sahel (SD3C), permis par la coordination entre le FIDA, le PAM et la FAO. Le Sahel est une zone prioritaire pour répondre au défi de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la malnutrition.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday November 22 2021, at 20:42*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 12 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia<sup>7</sup> and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.

We welcome the progress report, which gives a good overview of the activities implemented at global, regional and country level. We appreciate the improved structure of the report, including the results and concrete examples of implemented activities and progress made. We call upon FAO to continue to improve collaboration with WFP and IFAD, focusing also on concrete results at regional and country level.

We recall the request for a joint RBA feasibility study on integrating administrative functions, which is outstanding since the December 2020 Council session. We invite the RBAs to provide this study as a matter of priority, recalling that the study should focus primarily on administrative collaboration between headquarters.

We appreciate the emphasis placed on aligning RBAs' collaboration with UNDS reform and the fact that the RBAs have been able to identify and advocate for joint priorities in UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and in the formulation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). RBAs' collaboration is not an end in itself and must be placed in the context of wider UN collaboration aimed at delivering results towards the SDGs.

We commend the RBAs for their coordinated efforts and collaboration in the response to the COVID-19 crisis, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups. We appreciate the central role they have played in supporting countries, local NGOs and other UN agencies, in particular through policy and analytical support for developing effective measures to mitigate the consequences of the crisis.

We also commend the RBAs for their collaboration and involvement in the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit and the pre-summit. The RBAs have a crucial role to play in keeping food systems transformation high on the 2030 Agenda and in contributing, together with the CFS and other relevant UN bodies, to the summit follow-up process. In this regard, we underline the importance of continued RBA support to the CFS, including through strengthened financing and staffing, and of ensuring that the CFS and its products are an integral part of the RBAs' activities in the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit.

We appreciate the annual preparation of the SOFI reports, together with UNICEF and WHO, as well as other joint initiatives such as the global reports on food crises and hunger hotspots, which serve as an important scientific basis for addressing food insecurity.

We thank the RBAs for the update on the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change, approved by IFAD in December 2020. We

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<sup>7</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

encourage the RBAs to build on this experience of regional cooperation in improving integrated actions with other UN agencies within the repositioning of the UN Development System.

We express our full support for continued RBA collaboration, including the efforts to increase synergies and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their work, both at headquarters level and on the ground, avoiding duplication and competition, as well as in supporting the UNDS reform. With these comments, we endorse the progress report.

### **AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP**

*Submitted Wednesday November 24 2021, at 10:37*

The statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by South Africa, Zambia and Kenya on agenda item 12 on the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration.

The Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the progress report on the collaboration between the Romebased Agencies for the period 2020-2021. The outline of concrete examples of such collaboration across the global, regional and country levels is a confirmation of its value in contributing to end hunger in Africa by 2025.

Efforts to provide access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for all are facing challenges that inhibit agricultural development such as extreme weather events and climate change, limited levels of adoption of yieldincreasing technologies as well as the impact of COVID-19 and the spread of animal diseases and pests such as Fall Armyworm and desert locusts.

On a strategic level, Africa is guided by the Africa 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as a continental policy framework for agricultural transformation to increase food security and nutrition and reduce poverty, which was reinforced in 2014 under the Malabo declaration on agricultural growth and transformation.

The Group believes that the Rome-based Agencies should extend their joint collaboration to also engage the African Union on a strategic level to facilitate the implementation of this policy framework and in a collaborative manner to engage with relevant institutions to mobilise resources to address the challenges to advance agricultural development.

The Group also believes that those examples of successful collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies, as demonstrated in their joint action to address hunger in humanitarian crises and addressing the impact of COVID-19, needs to be strengthened and expanded in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and in efforts on a regional and national basis to transform agri-food systems.

In this regard, the Group appreciates the pro-active collaboration on the Joint Programme for the Sahel in response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflict and climate change in that region. In addition, the actualisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the UN Common Country Analysis tool (CCA) in Kenya through the joint Rome-based Agencies collaboration in support of smallholder farmers is another noteworthy example of how such collaboration could be considered for wider implementation in Africa.

However, the Group recognises that collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies is not an end in itself but a means to achieve increased efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, that such collaboration should be flexible, focus on technical work and respect the distinct mandates of the Rome-based Agencies. It is also recognised that collaboration already takes place in the context of the wider United Nations reform process to enhance collaboration including in the common services at country level.

In conclusion, the African Regional Group takes note of the recommended path forward as outlined in the report contained in document CL 168/11, and encourages the Senior Management of the Rome-based Agencies to enhance their relevant collaboration

### **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (OBSERVER)**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 19:20*

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the need for effective collaboration across the UN system and particularly between the Rome-based Agencies in their shared focus on SDG 2 and

ending hunger.

Collaboration is all about delivering better and more sustainable results and impact, ensuring synergies, sharing information and assessments, conducting joint analysis, and avoiding risk of duplication.

The United Kingdom thanks FAO, IFAD and WFP for the Progress Report on Rome-Based Agencies Collaboration and appreciates the examples of collaboration provided.

We support FAO's membership, together with WFP, of the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine. We encourage joint needs assessments and reporting, drawing on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analyses as highlighted, and strengthening of early warning systems.

We note, however, from the Joint Evaluation (that we look forward to discussing at the next FAO Council) that a lack of shared understanding about roles can impair work, particularly between FAO and WFP. We underline the importance of addressing this finding; and building on complementarities and comparative advantages.

We are glad to note that the *Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C)*, is now seen 'as a flagship example of the RBAs coming together to identify common objectives and activities at regional levels.' We would like to request the Agencies to share the joint Results Framework that they will use to monitor progress and measure results against these objectives. This is clearly important in terms of clarity and accountability over who does what – an area that has been highlighted for improvement.

We encourage FAO in its commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships, both with the Rome-based Agencies, but also with others – including WHO and UNEP on One Health issues, for example – in the context of the UNDS reform.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

1. The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments from Members on Item 12, Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration. The Secretariat takes note of all comments and suggestions and is pleased to acknowledge Members' recognition of the importance of strategic partnerships with other UN agencies within the context of the UNDS reform. As stated in the Report, collaboration with WFP and IFAD has increased over the past year at the global, regional and country levels which is especially relevant given the increased numbers of global hunger and food insecurity.
2. The RBAs recognize the importance of building collaboration on synergies and complementarities in order to reduce overlap, competition and duplication of work, and have a strong belief in working together. The RBAs are looking forward to further strengthening their engagement in the strategic direction of agri-food systems transformation for meaningful and concrete impact, particularly at country level. To achieve a common understanding about roles and relationships between the three agencies' mandates and technical competencies, the RBAs will update their Memorandum of Understanding in light of their new strategic frameworks and the comparative advantage of each agency, as recommended in the Joint Evaluation on RBA Collaboration.
3. FAO agrees that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative offers important opportunities for collaboration among the RBAs. This is particularly true in the area of investment, where discussions with IFAD are advancing in several countries, and is an emerging topic in food crisis countries where FAO and WFP are working together to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
4. Regarding the feasibility assessment on strengthening collaboration in administrative services, the RBAs are currently in the recruitment process for an external firm who will carry out the study. The assessment will take into consideration the findings of the Joint Evaluation on RBA Collaboration and will be shared with Members once available.



5. Regarding the flagship Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C), the Agencies are in the process of developing a common results measurement framework to monitor progress and measure results. The regional Project Management team has set up a working group on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) composed of focal points from the RBAs, G5 Sahel, and host project M&E specialists. IFAD is leading this working group which is scheduled to finalize the results frameworks, manuals and guidelines by year-end 2021.
6. The RBAs are pleased that the Joint Evaluation conducted in 2021 confirms the importance and relevance of RBA partnership for the advancement of the common objectives to achieve the SDGs by 2030, while also providing an opportunity to redefine and strategically reset collaboration amongst the RBAs. The Joint Evaluation will be discussed in the Spring Sessions of the relevant Governing Bodies.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, I would like to ask whether there are delegations who want to make an oral intervention before we go to the conclusions?

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

The document before us, although very informative, does not cover the administrative and financial arrears at headquarters. In the past, we were told that there are certain Items on which they cooperate, but there are several other areas at headquarters where joint action is needed, or joint collaboration. We used to be told that that was not possible at the time, because the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems were not compatible, but I believe that is no longer an issue.

Perhaps, we could be given an update on the financial and administrative areas of headquarters because that would not only contribute to efficiencies, but also result in savings. However, I know the pressure for time which you have and we as Council Members have, so may I suggest that at a future update the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) give us information on the collaboration in the administrative and financial areas at headquarters?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Pakistan, and we see how we can incorporate that in the Report.

I read out now.

- 1) The Council:
  - a) welcomed the Progress Report and noted its concrete achievements, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-depth examples and strategic direction of Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration;
  - b) noted the strengthened RBA collaboration at country, regional and HQ level, resulting in tangible impact at country level and concrete contributions to the UN development system (UNDS) repositioning in line with the recommendations from the Joint Evaluation on the collaboration among the UN RBAs, and looked forward to discussion of this Evaluation, including its recommendations, at the forthcoming Sessions of the Programme Committee and Council;
  - c) reiterated its request for a joint RBA assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions; and

I think here, we can include the paragraph proposed by Pakistan. I will read it out directly so that we can consider it. And then a new paragraph, Pakistan, if you could help me?

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

- d) *“On the RBA collaboration, in the administrative and financial areas at headquarters.”*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I continue.

- e) encouraged further strategic collaboration among the RBAs, based on their comparative advantages and building on their complementarities, especially within the UNDS repositioning, the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit and the RBAs' collective offerings to support country needs and priorities.

Now, we move back to the first subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Técnicamente, ¿no sería bueno poner los nombres de las tres agencias? Porque hay una discusión a veces técnica, si las tres agencias, son o no son agencias. Digo, ¿no deberíamos poner los tres nombres? Si usted considera que no, déjelo así.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put the names in between, yes, can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c).

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

I would propose to properly reflect the request of the Joint Meeting of 2019 as regards the viability, and that is, regarding the viability of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight areas.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Russian Federation, to use the exact agreed language. Can we agree to subparagraph (c)?

Can we go to subparagraph (d)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Pardon, je reprends la parole sur le paragraphe (c). Comme cette requête a déjà été faite, je pense qu'il serait temps maintenant d'établir un délai. Je suggèrerais d'avoir cet "*assessment*" rapidement. Je m'en remets à la FAO pour savoir quand ce serait possible, pas dans cinq ans, mais dans un délai assez proche. Peut-être que le "*joint RBAs assessment*" pourrait être présenté à la prochaine session du Conseil?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Indeed, we are already asking for a long time for this assessment. Can we agree to subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (e).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que este punto deberíamos eliminarlo o, en todo caso, dejarlo abierto hasta esperar cómo termina la conclusión del otro tema de la agenda. Me parece que tiene una clara vinculación con el otro punto de agenda, para lo cual creo que si queremos culminar este Informe, lo eliminamos o si no lo dejamos abierto y después lo cerramos todos juntos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As your Chairperson, as we are referring to this Item and the collaboration already in the Report on the Food Systems Summit. Perhaps it is better not to have a repetition and delete the subparagraph here, so that we have not to come back to this issue, because then we can close this issue. Can we agree to the deletion?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci au collègue argentin. Je pense que malgré tout, il est important de le refléter ici. Par contre, je comprends bien le souci de cohérence et propose, à ce stade, de laisser le paragraphe entre crochets.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I support what France just said and leaving it here. I actually think the way it is phrased right now, it does not so much bear on the other conclusion, because we know there will be some role through this Coordination Hub for all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). I think many of our interventions did encourage better collaboration amongst them, certainly what that follow-up is will be determined by those other conclusions.

I am fine with either leaving it in brackets or even taking them off here, since we do not get into the specifics of what the follow-up is and will do that in the other Report language.

**CHAIRPERSON**

For time-wise sake, keep it pending. We come back to it.

With that, we have one paragraph pending on this Item, then we go to Item 14, and that is the *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 166th Session of the Council*, which is contained in document CL 168/LIM/3, and, of course, Council is invited to take note of this information.

Japan, are you asking for the floor on this Item?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

No, just a request for the previous Item, just to echo what the US and the French colleagues said.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Comme ce document nous a été envoyé très tard, nous n'avons pas pu faire de commentaires. Je note deux points et ne demande pas qu'ils soient nécessairement reflétés dans les conclusions. Cependant, je souhaite qu'il en soit dûment pris note dans les procès verbaux (*verbatim*) et que la position française y soit reflétée.

Tout d'abord, et comme je l'ai dit à maintes reprises, si bien que vous connaîtrez même par cœur le paragraphe, je rappelle le mandat qui a été donné par le Conseil à sa 166e session au paragraphe 24, alinéa k) de son rapport, de mettre au point une politique de données transversale (*to develop a cross-cutting data policy*), etc. Étant donné que ce sujet est en suspens, il faudra le refléter dans le document. Voilà pour le premier point et bien sûr, couvrant à la fois le Comité des questions constitutionnelles (CQCJ/CCLM), le Comité du Programme et, le cas échéant, le Comité financier, si des points les concernent.

Deuxièmement, s'agissant de "Politiques, directives volontaires, stratégies et plans d'action de la FAO" (*FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans*), je pense qu'il faut refléter l'accord pris au Comité du Programme de parler également de ce point, outre la discussion au CQCJ. C'est aussi le reflet de nos conclusions sur ce point.

Je résume: paragraphe 24 (k) du rapport de la 166e session, qui est en suspens, et le paragraphe 24 (d), qui doit mentionner aussi le prochain Comité du Programme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We certainly take note of these remarks, and we will update the Report. That is what we have to do and are obliged to do.

With that, I would like now, to put forward to the conclusion, because this we take note of and of course, as clearly stated, we will update the Report, took note of the status of implementation of decisions at its 166th Session. Can we agree to this conclusion? I do not see any objections.

**Item 16. Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September-1 October 2021)****Point 16. Rapport de la dix-huitième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (27 septembre - 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2021)****Tema 16. Informe de la 18.ª reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (27 de septiembre a 1 de octubre de 2021)**

(CL 168/23)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 16, *Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, as contained in CL 168/23. I should recall that the 42nd Session of the Conference mandated the 168th Session of the Council to consider for endorsement, the *Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Under this Item, the Council is invited to adopt a draft Council resolution contained in *Appendix F* to the document 168/23, *The Conservation, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in a Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework*.

**Introduction to Item 16: Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September-1 October 2021)**

*Mr William Wigmore, Chairperson of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)*

The 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) was held from 27 September to 1 October 2021 in a virtual manner.

Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the meeting and delivered a statement. Another opening statement was delivered by Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Commission reviewed at this session the implementation of its Global Plans of Action on animal, forest and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the status of preparation of new global assessment reports on plant and forest genetic resources. It also considered various cross-sectoral matters, including the role of biodiversity for food and agriculture for food security, nutrition and human health; access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture; “Digital sequence information”, developments in other fora, and cooperation.

The Commission welcomed the work of its subsidiary bodies. It approved a draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in response to The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2019) and endorsed a draft Resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for adoption by the Council (*Appendices D & F*). The Commission also endorsed, in response to the Report on the State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (2019), a Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

***Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros***

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

As a participating Member of the 18th Session of the CGRFA, Australia notes with appreciation the report. We take the opportunity to congratulate the outgoing Chairperson, Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland), on a well conducted meeting despite the challenges of the virtual modality, including the impact on attendance due to time zone issues. Australia welcomes the election of Ms Deidré A. Januarie (Namibia) as the Chairperson for the coming biennium.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el miércoles 17 de noviembre 2021 a las 16.21*

La Argentina hace suyo el informe de la 18a sesión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

En particular, celebramos que, producto de las consultas realizadas en el período entre sesiones sobre las necesidades y posibles medidas planteadas a partir del informe sobre El estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo, la Comisión haya adoptado un Marco de acción en materia de biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura. Destacamos el valor del Marco en el

contexto del mandato y la labor de la Comisión, así como su carácter voluntario, y esperamos participar activamente en su eventual revisión o actualización después de la adopción del Marco mundial de la diversidad biológica posterior a 2020.

Asimismo, la Argentina desea destacar la labor del Equipo de especialistas técnicos y jurídicos en materia de acceso y distribución de beneficios, y de la de los Grupos de trabajo técnico intergubernamental, y alienta a que se continúen desarrollando y aplicando los planes sectoriales de acción mundial.

Por último, la Argentina apoya la adopción del proyecto de resolución titulado “La conservación y la utilización sostenible de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura y el marco mundial de la diversidad biológica posterior a 2020” y destaca la importancia de las contribuciones de la Comisión en la elaboración y aplicación del Marco Mundial, en el ámbito de su mandato específico

### **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 16:14 – corrigendum Wednesday November 24, at 12:08*

Switzerland fully supports the endorsement of the Report of the 18th Session of the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and in particular the following two suggested actions by the Council:

Suggested action b) adoption of the Resolution on The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework;

and Suggested action c) on the endorsement of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and further work of the CGRFA in relation to the use of this tool to support the implementation of the framework at the national level (par. 53 & 54).

Lastly, Switzerland would like to express its deep concern with regard to the fact that the FAO Secretariat interfered without due cause in the preparation of the final report of the Session.

### **ESPAÑA**

*Presentado el viernes 19 de noviembre 2021 a las 19.05*

En lo relativo a la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:

- Manifestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus EEMM.
- Acogemos la adopción del Plan de acción mundial para la conservación, la utilización sostenible y el desarrollo de los recursos genéticos acuáticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.
- Asimismo, apoyamos la resolución sobre la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura y el marco mundial de la biodiversidad posterior a 2020.
- Dicho lo cual, España aprueba el informe de la 18ª reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, incluido el Marco de acción sobre la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura.

### **FRANCE**

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

La France s’aligne sur la déclaration de L’UE et de ses 27 Etats membres.

La France salue l’élection de Madame Deidré JANUARIE (Namibie), première femme présidente de l’histoire de la CRGAA. La France a été profondément surprise par la proposition orale, le dernier jour de la Commission par le Secrétariat de la FAO de changer systématiquement dans le rapport final le mot "demande" par "recommandation". Cette proposition tardive et non sollicitée du Secrétariat ne peut être considérée comme digne d’être examinée. Au final, La France se félicite donc de la décision prise par la Commission, telle qu’exprimée par son Président, de maintenir l’utilisation du terme " demande" là où elle le juge approprié, conformément à la pratique établie de la CGRAA.

La France demande que le Secrétariat de la FAO n’interfère pas dans des questions qui ne relèvent pas de sa compétence en essayant de modifier les conclusions convenues par les Membres de la Commission.

La France sera vigilante pour que les compétences des membres de la Commission soient respectées et pour que cette situation ne se reproduise pas dans d'autres instances de la FAO.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Monday November 22 2021, at 20:42*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 16 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council. The Candidate Countries Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>8</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement. We appreciate the important role of FAO, the Commission, its Working Group, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), its Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ) and the COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies in the process of preparing the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We very much welcome the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We welcome the Resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This Resolution will strengthen the position of the Commission and – more importantly – will enable the Commission to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation in our domain.

We regret that the proposal on needs and possible actions that was finalised through informal consultation of the national focal points could not be adopted as the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (GPA for BFA) at this session.

We are looking forward to the further work on this Global Plan of Action and its adoption as a voluntary, non-binding instrument at the next session of the Commission. Lastly, we wish to express our deep concern with regard to the fact that the FAO Secretariat interfered without due cause in the preparation of the final report of the session. W

ith these comments, we endorse the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO appreciates the submissions by Members. It notes the endorsement of the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

FAO thanks Argentina; Australia; the EU and its 27 Member States together with Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino; France; Spain and Switzerland, for their supportive comments on Council Agenda Item 16.

FAO further thanks all Commission Members for their active contribution to the Commission's work throughout the intersessional period and agrees with Members that the decisions of the 18th Session will strengthen the position of the Commission and stress the importance of the Commission's contributions to the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Are there any delegations who want to have an oral input besides written input? If that is not the case, then I go to the draft conclusions.

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<sup>8</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

La République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, au titre du point 16 de l'ordre du jour relatif à la 18e session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, tenue du 27 septembre au 1er octobre 2021 en mode virtuel. Nous tenons tout d'abord à remercier les experts et les membres de la Commission qui ont travaillé à l'élaboration et à la validation dudit rapport.

Le Groupe régional Afrique prend note de la pertinence des thèmes abordés au cours de cette session, notamment la mise en œuvre des plans d'action mondiaux pour les ressources génétiques végétales, animales et forestières pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et l'état d'avancement des nouveaux rapports d'évaluation mondiaux sur les ressources génétiques, végétales et forestières, le projet de plan d'action mondiale pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable et la mise en valeur des rapports des ressources génétiques aquatiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et le cadre mondial de la biodiversité pour l'après 2020.

Les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, au-delà des espèces cultivées et domestiquées, couvrent une large frange des espèces sauvages terrestres et aquatiques, qui contribuent à la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et la santé humaine, et assurent des moyens de subsistance aux populations rurales dans plusieurs régions du monde, à travers des activités de cueillette, de ramassage, de chasse et de pêche.

La gestion durable de ces ressources suppose avant tout leur meilleure connaissance. Or, à l'échelle de notre continent, l'inventaire des ressources génétiques est loin d'être effectif et exhaustif en raison de causes multiples, dont le déficit en outils scientifiques et technologiques appropriés. Ces insuffisances ont un impact sur le processus d'élaboration des rapports mondiaux sur l'état des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, au cours duquel la plupart des pays du continent éprouvent des difficultés à fournir des données fiables et actualisées.

Par ailleurs, les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture constituent un patrimoine culturel alimentaire ancestral séculaire de millions de personnes. Malheureusement, leur appauvrissement, voire leur extinction, est accéléré par le rythme effréné des activités anthropiques nocives, la désertification et les effets conjugués des changements climatiques sur les écosystèmes, au détriment de la résilience face aux divers chocs et stress des communautés qui en dépendent.

Par conséquent, le manque de maîtrise des données quantitatives et spatiales fiables sur leurs dynamiques est un facteur aggravant. Le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires a mis en exergue l'importance de la recherche de solutions, basées sur la nature, aux problèmes cruciaux de sécurité alimentaire pour des systèmes alimentaires plus efficaces, inclusifs, durables et résilients. Partant de cette évidence, la science et l'innovation doivent jouer un rôle accru au service de l'agro-biodiversité et de la conservation de la diversité biologique dans la perspective de la réalisation du Programme 2030, au travers d'une interface entre alimentation, climat et biodiversité.

En outre, le Groupe régional Afrique attire l'attention du Conseil sur le contenu du paragraphe 34 du rapport, par lequel la Commission demande «à la FAO d'aider les pays, en particulier les pays en développement et ceux dont l'économie est en transition, à se doter des capacités techniques, institutionnelles et humaines nécessaires à l'utilisation de l'«information de séquençage» numérique dans la recherche-développement.» Nous osons espérer que cette recommandation sera prise en compte dans le processus d'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de l'Organisation en matière de science et d'innovation.

Le Groupe régional Afrique encourage la FAO à tirer parti des recommandations de son rapport, afin de jouer le rôle de chef de file dans la mobilisation des partenaires, en vue d'appuyer les efforts déployés par les gouvernements des pays en développement, en matière: premièrement, d'inventaire, de caractérisation et de conservation in situ et ex situ, des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture; deuxièmement, de promotion de l'agro-biodiversité dont l'agroécologie et l'agroforesterie sont des maillons essentiels; troisièmement, d'accès et de partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de l'utilisation des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et des connaissances traditionnelles associées, ainsi que des avantages liés à l'utilisation de l'information de séquençage numérique.

Avec ces quelques remarques, le Groupe régional Afrique approuve le rapport de la 18e session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, ainsi que tous les éléments pertinents.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je souhaite m'aligner sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres, transmise par écrit, ainsi que rappeler nos commentaires écrits au titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Deux mentions très rapides. D'une part, pour saluer l'élection de Madame January de la Namibie, première femme Présidente de l'histoire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Mon pays s'en félicite.

Deuxièmement, pour rappeler la préoccupation de ma délégation concernant la modification par le Secrétariat du rapport de la Commission et rappeler notre souhait que le Secrétariat de la FAO n'interfère pas dans les rapports négociés par les membres de la Commission.

Ce commentaire est "*for the record*", pas nécessairement pour les conclusions, mais pour les procès verbaux (*verbatim*).

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now would like to read out the conclusions.

*The Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture.*

1. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the *Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture*, including the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and in particular:
2. adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
3. adopted Council Resolution 1/168, *The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework*.

I start with paragraph 1. Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any objections.

We go to paragraph 2. Can we agree to paragraph 2? I do not see any objections.

We go to paragraph 3. I do not see any objections.

With that, we have concluded Item 16 and it is now time I think for a coffee or water or whatever break before continuing our work at 17:00 hours sharp. Thank you so much.

We are catching up. We are in good shape. Let us remain in good shape, with flexibility, with compromises, etc.

We start on Agenda Item 17 on the *World Food Programme* at 17:00 hours sharp. Meeting adjourned until 17:00 hours.

*The meeting was suspended from 16:30 to 17:04 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 16 h 30 à 17 h 04*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 16.30 a las 17.04 horas*

**Item 17. World Food Programme:**

**Point 17. Programme alimentaire mondial:**

**Tema 17. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:**

*Item 17.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2020*

*Point 17.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2020*

*Tema 17.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades correspondiente a 2020*

*(CL 168/15.2)*



## CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished Members of the Council, delegates, dear friends, let us continue at the pace we were before at the break. We continue now with Item 17.2, the *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2020*. The document is CL 168/15.2. We have received written comments from several Members which have been circulated.

### **Introduction to Item 17.2: Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2020**

*Jennifer Nyberg, Deputy Director, WFP Corporate Planning and Performance Division*

The World Food Programme (WFP) performance highlights summarized below reflect the findings presented in the organization's 2020 Annual Performance Report (APR). The APR 2020 was discussed and endorsed by the WFP Executive Board during its Annual Session in June 2021.

In 2020, COVID-19 unleashed the worst global health emergency of the past century and caused the deepest global recession in generations, reversing decades of progress against poverty, inequality and hunger. WFP responded to the pandemic by rapidly scaling up emergency response and providing surge capacity to its field offices to ensure the continuity of existing humanitarian operations as well as increased support to national safety net systems. While responding to the first global Level 3 emergency in headquarters (COVID-19), WFP also covered 16 other Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies, working to ensure that beneficiaries could access food despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, ongoing conflict and climate crises.

WFP and partners provided direct assistance to a record estimated 115.5 million beneficiaries in 2020, 61.6 million were women and girls and 53.9 million were men and boys. WFP reached 11 percent more beneficiaries through food assistance and 37 percent more through cash-based transfers over 2019, through the distribution of 4.2 million MT of food and USD 2.1 billion in cash-based transfers (CBT). While food and CBT distributions increased substantially in some countries, in other large operations, such as Yemen, distributions were reduced due to access and funding constraints. Nutrition-specific interventions were provided to an estimated 17.3 million beneficiaries in 2020, primarily children and pregnant and lactating women and girls. School-based programmes assisted an estimated 15 million children with nutritious meals, school snacks or take-home rations. Although the pandemic resulted in school closures that severely affected on-site distributions, WFP Country Offices were able to rapidly modify delivery to take-home rations, cash transfers and vouchers.

All WFP country offices were operating through a Board-approved country strategic plan (CSP) or an interim country strategic plan (ICSP) by the end of 2020. Through these CSPs, WFP ensured the continuity of ongoing humanitarian operations and swiftly adapted in response to COVID-19. Leveraging its extensive field presence and leadership in supply chain and digital technologies, WFP prepositioned food stocks and increased local purchases to sustain ongoing operations while scaling up assistance to reach new beneficiaries affected by the pandemic, particularly in urban areas. Provision of common services by WFP expanded to support the entire humanitarian and health community by transporting essential supplies and personnel to the front lines of the pandemic and by conducting medical evacuations. This expansion enabled governments, UN and other partners to reach beneficiaries and respond to the pandemic efficiently and effectively. Moreover, WFP launched a Global Common Services platform to support the response to the pandemic, ensuring continued movement of critical cargo and staff. WFP worked in close collaboration with FAO and IFAD to conduct COVID-19 impact assessments in 11 countries to shape response plans. FAO, UNICEF and WFP published an interagency guidance note on mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the food and nutrition of schoolchildren.

These results were achieved with generous support of WFP resource partners. WFP received record contributions of USD 8.4 billion in 2020 – 5 percent more than in 2019 – against a funding need of USD 13.7 billion, meeting 61 percent of requirements. The top five donors to WFP accounted for 74 percent of total contribution revenue, slightly less than in 2019. Contributions from the private sector increased significantly, with fundraising targets for individual giving surpassed. WFP broadened its donor base through innovative mechanisms, although flexible funds, which enable an agile and quick

response to humanitarian needs, remained at 5.7 percent of the total 2020 contribution revenue. WFP identified and measured efficiency gains through cost and time savings, as reported in the 2020 APR, realising more than USD 138 million in cost savings from the top ten efficiency gains initiatives.

Total direct expenditures, excluding indirect support costs, were USD 7.4 billion, an increase of 3 percent from 2019. Seven of the ten countries with the highest direct expenditures (Yemen, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh) were Level 3 or Level 2 emergencies. Emergency needs in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan continued to be high due to protracted conflict and climate shocks. Yemen remained the largest operation, although it experienced one of the highest reductions in expenditures, a decrease of 21 percent.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021, at 07:03*

Australia notes the information provided and we respectfully provide the following comments:

1. We congratulate WFP's achievements in 2020, with a record level of beneficiaries reached and funding received despite the incredibly challenging circumstances.
2. We commend WFP for the rapid setup of its COVID-19 response in 2020, and most particularly for providing common services to the entire humanitarian community.
3. Australia is concerned by key characteristics of WFP's funding: particularly at the very low share of WFP's funding that is flexible; and at WFP's reliance on a handful of donors. With the level of humanitarian need escalating and spread across multiple crises, there has never been greater need for a stable and flexible resource base.
4. Alongside a need for more funds and greater flexibility, results will be best achieved when resources are used most efficiently. We appreciate WFP has invested heavily in robust governance systems that are critical to support and enable effective and efficient programming.
5. We appreciate the inclusion of disaggregated data, but would welcome better quality information on vulnerabilities, including disabilities.
6. Australia would like to particularly acknowledge and support WFP's commitment to partnerships across the full breadth of the humanitarian and development systems. We would like to see even greater collaboration, including local partnerships, better articulated in the Annual Performance Report moving forward.
7. We also commend WFP and its Executive Board Members for progress on a comprehensive suite of policies that will ensure greater attention to gender, protection and accountability, disability inclusion and workforce culture. These cross-cutting issues are a high priority for Australia, and will see a strong and capable WFP with a quality workforce, better able to assist and support beneficiaries.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*

WFP takes this opportunity to thank Australia for the comments shared and its acknowledgement of the organization's achievements. WFP has noted the points raised on funding, particularly comments related to low levels of flexible funding. WFP continues to advocate for multi-year and flexible funding while recognizing the value of all contributions, particularly sources of more sustainable financing.

On the inclusion of disaggregated data and renewed request for better quality information on vulnerabilities, including disabilities, WFP would like to extend its gratitude to the Government of Australia for its continued support and advocacy on issues related to disability inclusion. The new Corporate Results Framework 2022-2025 includes indicators on disability inclusion, which are

crosscutting and mandatory under protection and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and also aligned with three Quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) indicators on disability inclusion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Are there any Members who would like to take the floor before I propose draft conclusions?

If that is not the case, I will read out the draft conclusions and put them on the screen.

Item 17.2, the *Annual Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board on its activities in 2020*.

1. The Council:

- a) acknowledged WFP's programme performance results in meeting its Strategic Objectives, supported by Management Results Dimensions;
- b) recognized the ongoing commitment of WFP staff in the field that worked in challenging circumstances to respond to the complex crises throughout 2020, crises driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, increased conflict and climate change and triggering significant reversals in poverty reduction and food security;
- c) welcomed WFP commitment to annual targets for key programme output indicators to show where resources are directed and demonstrate the breadth of WFP's work; and
- d) welcomed WFP continued efforts to strengthen its work on partnerships at all levels and its contributions to efforts to achieve Zero Hunger and the SDGs.

We will start now with subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). Argentina?

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Con respecto a este subpárrafo, quisiera hacer una observación.

Me parece que hablar de crisis complejas, en vez de hablar de crisis complejas, yo hablaría de crisis humanitarias y realmente estoy en duda de si estamos de acuerdo de nombrar las causas de todas las crisis, porque seguramente las enunciadas entre guiones que si bien, evidentemente fueron las más importantes que tuvo que lidiar en 2020 el PMA, entiendo que hay otros tipos de crisis.

Y en mi región, además del COVID, están las crisis migratorias, digamos, hay muchas crisis, entonces no quisiera aquí extender el párrafo agregando causas de crisis, sino que con poner "Responder crisis humanitarias", creo que estaríamos ya cubriendo todo el rango, el abanico de posibilidades.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Your concrete suggestion is to insert, "*UN crisis, humanitarian crisis and delete "crisis driven by climate change"*"?

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Exacto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this, with the proposed changes? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c).

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Merci à l'Argentine pour la proposition, mais je pense que l'on peut garder les citations qui ont été faites au départ, en ajoutant toutefois: "*particulièrement crise COVID*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility in the room to go along with the subparagraph with “*humanitarian crisis and mention in particular, crisis driven by COVID-19...*”?

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Agradezco al colega de Congo por su propuesta de la que entiendo la lógica. Y, en todo caso, en vez de “*In particular*”, pondría “*Including*”, nombramos las que ya estaban y quisiera agregar después de “*Climate change*” que tendríamos que sacar “*And*” y poner coma. “*economic downturns, social and political unrest, and migration.*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to avoid a long Christmas tree in this text.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Brazil took part in the negotiations and also is a Member of the Executive Board. About their feelings in this discussion, we believe that crisis and hunger have multiple causes that is why we perfectly understand the intervention made by Argentina. We believe we cannot provide to transmit some of the ideas that just a few elements are integrating in this humanitarian crisis.

I believe that we should encompass a lot of issues or questions that emerge when you are assessing humanitarian crises we are experiencing right now. Anyhow I believe, that you are right, we should avoid a Christmas tree. That is why the distinguished delegate from Argentina suggested to delete just the mentioned few examples that cause humanitarian crisis. I am in your hands, I believe the text right now is much more balanced because reflects the huge and complex situation that we all live.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We would prefer to retain the original text, the shorter version as it was from the beginning.

We agree with the addition of “*humanitarian crisis*” because WFP’s mandate is related to humanitarian assistance in crisis situations, though a long list and including additional elements to us would appear to be not very logical at this point, because it can lead us into much more detailed discussions on what were the main drivers of the crisis in that year.

We would prefer to keep the main ones “*COVID-19, increased conflict and climate change*” or delete the entire list of crises, but not include additional ones because otherwise with this long list our delegation would also be able to introduce another list or more drivers.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I support the statement made by the delegate of the Russian Federation. We should stick to the original version of the text. The simpler the better.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

Just a question on the brackets. Are we now bracketing the language that was already in the subparagraph or just the added language? I think I understood the interventions to keep it simple as the original text showed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see how we can find a way forward, because otherwise, we have several brackets in the text. The shortest version would be only to refer to humanitarian crisis throughout 2020 and then leave all references to specific crisis.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Coincido con la idea de menos es más y que tener un texto simple es lo mejor. Por eso mi propuesta original de que estuviésemos, “*Humanitarian crisis for 2020*” sin nombrar en específico las diferentes causas de crisis que, digamos, no pueda llegar a entenderse como que estamos haciendo una ponderación.

Las crisis humanitarias son graves, no importa cuál sea el conflicto y, en nuestra región, además de las crisis mencionadas hay otras crisis que también merecen ser reflejadas. Pero por eso yo insistía con la idea de lo más simple es mejor, pero bueno, entiendo las preocupaciones.

Entonces, digamos, si queremos volver al original no hay problema, pero me parece a mí que no sería justo con respecto al amplio abanico de crisis humanitarias que atiende el PMA, no solamente las mencionadas originalmente en el texto.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to add “*food security and nutrition*” at the end of the subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This reflects really in the room, to only reflect humanitarian crisis throughout 2020? I do not see any objections. Can we go along with including “*and nutrition*”? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

With that we have concluded our work on Item 17.

**Item 18. Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO (continued)**

**Point 18. Rapport de situation sur le multilinguisme au sein de la FAO (suite)**

**Tema 18. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en relación con el multilingüismo en la FAO (continuación)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 18, the *Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO*, contained in document CL 168/18. I know that this issue is dear to all of our hearts when we speak about the principle of multilingualism within FAO and making sure that we have documents available in all UN languages and interpretation.

**Introduction to Item 18: Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO**

*Mr Rakesh Muthoo, Director, Governing Bodies Servicing Division and FAO Coordinator for Multilingualism*

- 1) Multilingualism permeates FAO in a myriad of transversal dimensions, from the goods and services provided to Members, to the governance of the Organization, its communication products, and its Human Resources.
- 2) Since taking office, the Director-General has intensified the commitment and attention to multilingualism at FAO. Similarly, the 166th Session of the Council welcomed FAO’s reinvigorated commitment to multilingualism, and endorsed its approach to further strengthening of the same, including through implementation of recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)<sup>9</sup> of the United Nations on multilingualism.
- 3) The 166th Session of the Council also requested that an update be presented at its next main session. Accordingly, document CL 168/18 entitled *Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO* is hereby submitted to the Council on the progress of work and results achieved so far, and continued measures for strengthening multilingualism at FAO, in five main areas.
- 4) First, the ongoing development of a strategic policy framework for multilingualism, which will be submitted in final form for adoption by the Council at its 170th Session, following an iterative and inclusive process. The strategic policy framework is aimed at providing a holistic and practical guidance to enhancing multilingualism in FAO.
- 5) Second, appointment of an FAO Coordinator for Multilingualism, which was promulgated by Director-General’s Bulletin no. 2021/32, and who will lead *inter alia* efforts in developing and implementing the strategic policy framework.

<sup>9</sup> JIU/REP/2020/6, Multilingualism in the United Nations system

- 6) Data on language products and services will be reported in a comprehensive manner in the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21. This includes the surge in translation and interpretation services for meetings; and delivery of language products gearing up dissemination of FAO's expertise and specialized knowledge, such as the revamped FAO main website and translation of the E-learning Academy training and educational courses.
- 7) Furthermore, digital innovations and language technologies, including multilingual knowledge databases, such as AGROVOC<sup>10</sup>; innovations such as the new FAO Resolutions and Constitution Portal to improve quality of digital storage and referencing; and performance testing being undertaken on innovative document translation and processing technologies.
- 8) Finally, the Human Resources of FAO, where policies for enhanced language skills cover the span from recruitment, through employee service, and to talent development. Comprehensive information and data in this regard is reported to the Council annually through the first main session of the Finance Committee dedicated to FAO matters.
- 9) Members are invited to take note of the update on multilingualism at FAO, and offer any comments they deem appropriate.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el miércoles 17 de noviembre 2021 a las 16.21*

La Argentina desea reiterar, como lo expresó, por ejemplo, en el 130º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, que el multilingüismo se encuentra en el corazón de los Textos Básicos de la FAO. Así, entendemos al multilingüismo como una característica definitoria de la Organización y como un valor fundamental de las Naciones Unidas que le permite a los Miembros participar en la gobernanza de la FAO en igualdad de condiciones.

Como país promotor y defensor del multilingüismo en el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas, nos gustaría expresar nuestro aprecio por las medidas introducidas por FAO con miras a mejorar la calidad y la puntualidad de la publicación de los documentos para las reuniones de los Órganos rectores en los idiomas oficiales de ONU, en particular mediante el fortalecimiento de los procesos de preparación de documentos en el idioma original en el que se redactan.

Al mismo tiempo, queremos expresar nuestra conformidad con las acciones iniciales para potenciar el multilingüismo en el FAO, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta al aumento de la cantidad y el equilibrio de los productos y servicios en los idiomas de ONU. Si bien aún resta camino por recorrer, creemos que FAO está avanzando en la dirección adecuada.

En este marco, reiteramos la necesidad de garantizar la provisión de servicios de interpretación durante la totalidad de la duración de las reuniones de los Órganos rectores, ya que ello, además de ser parte de la Constitución de FAO, resulta indispensable para generar una buena dinámica de debate entre los miembros. En esa línea, creemos que las soluciones digitales y tecnologías lingüísticas podrían también reforzar el enfoque de FAO en esta materia. Por último, nos gustaría volver a manifestar nuestro aprecio el trabajo realizado por la oficina del DDG Laurent Thomas para ampliar los alcances del multilingüismo en la estructura de FAO.

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021, at 16:56*

Appreciated the work of FAO to promote the principles of Multilingualism, inter alia, through digital innovations and language technologies, and welcomed initiatives to further support multilingualism as a core value of FAO;

continue to secure equal treatment of language service units, in particular, in terms of financing and staffing, taking into consideration their actual workload; encouraged timely implementation of the

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.fao.org/agrovoc/home>

recommendations of the JIU report “Multilingualism in the United Nations System” (JIU/REP/2020/6);

appreciated the efforts to promote on equal terms trainings in all six FAO languages to FAO staff as part of staff capabilities building plan to be financed through Regular Programme resources;

welcome the recent establishment of the post of FAO Multilingualism Coordinator as a central focal point on the issue in FAO as well as plans to introduce a corporate strategic policy framework for multilingualism to be accompanied by administrative and operational guidelines for its implementation, following inclusive consultations with Membership thereon;

and looked forward to receive a comprehensive overview of FAO output on Multilingualism within the context of Programme Implementation Report 2020-2021.

## FRANCE

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

1. La France remercie le secrétariat pour la présentation du Rapport intérimaire sur le multilinguisme à la FAO (CL 168/18), conformément à la demande du Conseil à sa 166e session<sup>11</sup> et comme première étape dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du rapport du Corps commun d’inspection (CCI) sur le multilinguisme<sup>12</sup> examiné lors de cette même 166e session et dont la FAO s’est engagée à appliquer toutes les recommandations.<sup>13</sup>
2. Nous nous félicitons de constater que le rapport intérimaire qualifie de le multilinguisme de « valeur fondamentale » de la FAO (§27), formule identique à celle utilisée par l’Assemblée générale des Nations unies<sup>14</sup> et invitons le Secrétariat à harmoniser le libellé des documents ultérieurs sur cette base, de préférence à d’autres expressions plus imprécises.<sup>15</sup>
3. Nous saluons également la nomination du Coordonnateur pour le multilinguisme, en la personne du Directeur de la Division des services aux organes directeurs, M. Rakesh Muthoo auquel nous adressons nos félicitations. Nous rappelons que, conformément à la recommandation n°2 du rapport du CCI acceptée par la FAO, il conviendra que « ses responsabilités et les pouvoirs qui lui sont délégués pour la coordination de la mise en œuvre du cadre stratégique » soient précisément définis dans le futur cadre stratégique de la FAO pour le multilinguisme.
4. S’agissant précisément de ce futur cadre stratégique de la FAO pour le multilinguisme, nous notons:
  - a. que celui a vocation à être adopté par les organes de gouvernance de la FAO d’ici la fin 2022, conformément à la recommandation n°1 du rapport du CCI acceptée par la FAO; nous serions à cet égard reconnaissant au Secrétariat de préciser les modalités et le calendrier d’examen et d’adoption par le Conseil d’ici fin 2022, puis par la Conférence à sa 43e session en 2023;
  - b. qu’il devra être assorti d’indicateurs détaillés, précis et mesurables et prévoir les modalités d’examen périodique de sa mise en œuvre par les organes de gouvernance.
5. S’agissant des grandes lignes du futur cadre stratégique, nous nous félicitons que celui-ci couvre l’ensemble des dimensions pertinentes, y compris celles relatives à l’interprétation et à la traduction, aux recrutements et à la gestion des ressources humaines, à la communication.
6. Nous nous félicitons également des deux points suivants :
  - a. D’une part, le rétablissement au 1er juillet 2021 la prime de connaissances linguistiques, accordée aux fonctionnaires des services généraux (§9), laquelle avait été supprimée à la FAO au 1er janvier 2016 et dont nous avons appelé au rétablissement au prin

<sup>11</sup> CL 166/REP, paragraphe 45, alinéa j.

<sup>12</sup> [JIU/REP/2020/6](#)

<sup>13</sup> CL 166/REP, paragraphe 45, alinéa h.

<sup>14</sup> Résolutions 71/328 et 73/346 de l’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

<sup>15</sup> Notamment celle qui figure au §13 (« l’un des aspects de l’identité »).

b. D'autre part, la clarification (§§26-27) que le respect et la mise en œuvre du multilinguisme relève du budget ordinaire en ce qu'il concerne les six langues officielles de l'Organisation, par opposition aux produits et services linguistiques dans des langues autres dont la fourniture dépend des ressources extrabudgétaires disponibles (§§26-27)

7. Enfin, en réponse à la demande d'orientations Secrétariat (§4), la France souhaite formuler les observations suivantes :

a. Nous notons positivement l'encouragement qui sera donné aux agents de la FAO de s'exprimer, lors des réunions où des services d'interprétation sont assurés, dans n'importe laquelle des six langues de la FAO qu'ils maîtrisent (§26) mais pensons qu'il conviendrait d'ajouter « en particulier dans leur langue maternelle si celle-ci est l'une des six langues de l'Organisation ».

b. Nous notons à nouveau positivement le fait que des données sur le profil linguistique des membres du personnel de la FAO seront données dans le rapport annuel sur les ressources humaines présenté au Comité financier en 2022 (§10) et souhaitons que ces données issues des dispositifs de gestion des ressources humaines soient détaillées et exhaustives, c'est-à-dire présentées au niveau mondial et ventilées par région, département, catégories et niveau de grade et par degré de maîtrise linguistique. Nous souhaitons également que ces données figurent parmi les futurs indicateurs du cadre stratégique.

c. Nous invitons la FAO, si ce n'est déjà le cas, à indiquer explicitement, dans le Manuel des ressources humaines et les avis de vacances de poste, que les candidat(e)s à des postes d'administrateurs internationaux doivent parler couramment l'une des langues de l'Organisation et avoir une connaissance intermédiaire d'au moins une autre, et de prévoir que les agents nouvellement recrutés au siège et dans les bureaux de terrain sont tenus de se soumettre à un examen d'aptitude dans les langues qu'ils ont déclaré connaître dans leur notice personnelle, à moins qu'une de ces langues ne soit leur langue maternelle (rapport du CCI, §116). De même, nous demandons à la FAO d'envisager, si ce n'est déjà le cas, de prévoir, une obligation de vérification des aptitudes linguistiques des agents tous les cinq ans, comme c'est le cas au PAM (rapport du CCI, §129 du rapport du CCI).

d. Nous invitons la FAO à instaurer une règle subordonnant toute promotion d'une classe à l'autre des administrateurs/administratrices et des fonctionnaires de rang supérieur à la connaissance suffisante et vérifiée d'une seconde langue, comme prévu dans la résolution 2480(XXIII) l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies (§118 du rapport du CCI). A cet égard, cette règle pourrait s'inspirer de celle en vigueur au HCR, en vertu de laquelle la connaissance pratique d'une deuxième langue officielle de l'ONU constitue une condition préalable indispensable à tout avancement d'un administrateur/une administratrice à un poste de la classe P-4 et des classes supérieures (§130 du rapport du CCI).

e. Afin de faciliter et encourager une communication multilingue quotidienne entre ses agents, la FAO pourrait envisager de s'inspirer du système de « messagerie électronique multilingue » mise en place au sein de la Division des Conférences de l'Office des Nations Unies à Vienne (UNOV). Cette messagerie consiste en un paramétrage permettant d'associer à chaque émetteur d'un courrier électronique une mention indiquant les langues que celui-ci maîtrise de façon active ou passive et dans lesquelles il/elle peut échanger dans le cadre de ses activités professionnelles.

8. En conclusion, la France souhaite exprimer au Directeur général et au Secrétariat de la FAO son appréciation pour leur action résolue en faveur du multilinguisme en tant que valeur fondamentale de la FAO, et les assure de son soutien pour hisser l'Organisation au niveau des meilleurs standards en la matière au sein du système des Nations unies.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*



The Secretariat takes note of the positive comments of the Members and their encouragement to ensure progress toward greater enhancement of multilingualism at FAO.

The Secretariat reiterates that “the adoption of the strategic policy framework for multilingualism by the end of 2022 will provide a more holistic and systematic blueprint to guide targeted efforts” (CL 168/18, para 12). The strategic policy framework will be presented for adoption by the Council at its 170th Session.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Is there any need for an oral input on this Item? If not, I directly turn to the conclusions. I will read them out also making sure we have it in all six UN languages.

Item 18, *Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO*.

1. The Council noted the progress made in strengthening multilingualism at FAO and in particular:
  - a) welcomed the development of the Strategic Policy Framework for Multilingualism and the appointment of a Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism;
  - b) noted the surge in translation and interpretation goods and services especially in the context of remote operations as a measure to address the challenges of COVID-19;
  - c) encouraged the development of digital innovations and language technologies;
  - d) acknowledged the Organization’s commitment to ensuring the linguistic diversity of its workforce; and
  - e) looked forward to reviewing the Strategic Policy Framework for Multilingualism at its 170th Session.

With that, we go to the chapeau. Can we agree to the chapeau?

We go to subparagraph (a). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (c). I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

#### **Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union?

#### **Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We apologise, you went a little bit too fast for us or maybe we were too slow for you. We would like to propose an additional subparagraph (b), after subparagraph (a): “*the Council stressed the importance and value of multilingualism for FAO and stressed the need to follow the best UN standards in this area.*” We have an additional subparagraph regarding Human Resources, “*underlying the importance of Human Resources policies to boost the multilingual capacity of FAO’s workforce.*”

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first finalize subparagraph (e).

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was going to propose an additional subparagraph, but also added on to the European Union’s proposal just now. At the end of, “*to follow the best UN standards in this area*”, we would recommend to add, “*including the timely delivery of all Governing Bodies documents in all FAO languages*”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We go to subparagraph (f).

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan)**

We agree with the added subparagraphs and would like to add, “*the importance of financial and human resources*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us go to subparagraph (g) before we go to the new subparagraphs.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

I just wanted to point out the significant overlap now of the subparagraph suggested by the European Union, and perhaps to save the Drafting Committee doing this work.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If you have a complete suggestion, please let us do it now.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

If I think of something before we get to the end of the document, I will let you know.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put a subparagraph of the workforce under the subparagraph (f), so we have both together. I thought already, and I think we have to merge those 2 subparagraphs. I wait for a proposal from Australia. Because I think there was an agreement on subparagraph (g), we go to the first new subparagraph, subparagraph (b). Can we agree to the new subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

Then we go to see how we can work on, if we scroll down, to subparagraph (e) and subparagraph (f).

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

I am thinking on the spot, but we could try something like leaving subparagraph (e) as it is and then continuing with, “*and encouraged appropriate financial and human resource policies to support these aims*”. Or, “*underline the importance of financial and human resource policies*” to keep it as close as possible to the original proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we should say, “*linguistic diversity and capacity*”. I think we have captured everything on subparagraph (f) in (e) and we could delete (f). Would it be agreeable to Council?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

I would make a small amendment to subparagraph (e) as amended “*to support the schemes within the approved budgetary appropriations*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have the almost perfect subparagraph. Can we agree to subparagraph (e) as it is now on the screen and delete subparagraph (f)? I do not see any objections.

With that, we have concluded our work on Item 18.

**Item 19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO**

**Point 19. Évolution des débats au sein d’autres instances intéressant la FAO**

**Tema 19. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO**

(CL 168/INF/4; CL 168/INF/4 WA1-3)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go now to Item 19, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, contained in document CL168/INF/4 and CL168/INF/4WA1 to 4. If there are no oral presentations, I would like to directly go to the conclusions of this Agenda Item and I will put them on the screen.

Item 19, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*.

1. The Council received briefing notes on the following topics for information only:
  - a) COP15 and COP26 briefs on agriculture and food;
  - b) science and innovation for agri-food systems transformations;
  - c) emergency and resilience for food crisis action in integrated food security phased classification Phase 3 or above countries; and
  - d) pathways for transforming agri-food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.

Can we agree to the chapeau?

Can we agree to subparagraph (a)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

On subparagraph (a) perhaps it would be worth noting which Conference of Parties (COP) they are, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for clarity.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Subparagraph (b), can we agree to subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

We are now checking for (c), but it is the exact title when we speak about countries because it is a little bit unclear in the text. At least it is now clear that we refer to the title of the document. Can we agree to subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d). I do not see any objections.

We have concluded our work on Item 19.

**Item 20. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-23**

**Point 20. Calendrier 2021-2023 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales**

**Tema 20. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2021-23**

*(CL 168/LIM/1)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 20, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions for 2021-2023*, document CL 168/LIM/1.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

**AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021 at 07.03*

Australia appreciates and encourages ongoing efforts by FAO to work in close consultation with the other Rome-based Agencies in an effort to minimise meeting conflicts.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Friday November 19 2021 at 16.07*

On behalf of North America, we would like to request the calendar be amended to include the dates for the Informal North American Regional Conference (INARC) (April 11 – 15, 2022) as communicated to FAO Management on October 19, 2021.

*Response from Secretariat*

***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaria***

The Secretariat took note of the comments received from Members on the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-23. As per standard practice, meetings listed at this stage as TBC will be adjusted as soon as their confirmation is received by the Secretariat, and published on the Governing and Statutory Bodies website.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The schedule of meetings for 2024 is before Council for approval. The Council is advised to take note of the draft Calendar for 2023. Any changes made since the last Session when the Calendar was presented for information are indicated with asterisks.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

May I ask you again to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

On behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States we would like to go back to Item 19 just to make sure that a correction has been done in *Annex 1* on COP20 and COP26 briefs on agriculture in paragraph 11.

We indicated to FAO Secretariat that there was some information that was not in line with the decisions taken at the COP26 and we just want to make sure that this is well noted by the Secretariat and they take care of this and change the document accordingly.

Thank you and we would just like to have a confirmation that this has been done.

**CHAIRPERSON**

They will be updated but to make sure I will give the floor to Ms Maria Helena Semedo.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)**

Yes, indeed we acknowledge it was a mistake in the document where we put that, and we had a decision to establish a financial mechanism. The decision was not taken in this COP and the document will be corrected accordingly.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is clear. We continue the calendar.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

The North America region had an update since the last Council, which we announced in one of the recent ICC Informal Meetings and would like to note again that we propose in our dates the Informal North America Regional Conference be from 11 to 15 April 2022.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I know that it will be updated but to make sure, we give the floor to the Secretary-General, and I hope you are doing better.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I am doing very well, thank you Chairperson, just missing being next to you.

I would like to thank the United States for their intervention, and I confirm that we have taken due note of what they have said, earlier in informal meetings, and repeated now.

Accordingly, I would suggest perhaps the Council may wish to reflect this as an additional clause to their conclusions -this is up to the Council Members, naturally to the effect in its Report, "*taking into account the comments or interventions by the Members of the Council.*"

**Ms Ida Ayu RATIH (Indonesia)**

We would like to inform with regard to the forthcoming schedule of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) to be held from 13 to 15 July 2022. Indonesia is still in close coordination with the Secretariat of CCP in preparing the resumed session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats (IGOF). In this, we envision that the related preparatory meetings and the ensuing resumed session of IGOF will take place in the first half of 2022 before the 75th Session of the CCP. With that note we can support this draft calendar.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have taken note of it and it will be updated in the addendum. With that, can I take that we can endorse the proposed conclusion? I do not see any objections.

#### **Item 21. Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council**

#### **Point 21. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante-neuvième session du Conseil**

#### **Tema 21. Programa provisional del 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo**

*(CL 168/INF/2)*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Agenda Item 21, *Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council* in June 2022. The document is *CL 168/INF/2* in which you will find the tentative Agenda.

*Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros*

#### **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Wednesday November 17 2021 at 07.03*

Australia notes the Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council. Taking into consideration the time that will have elapsed since the UN Food Systems Summit (the Summit) and recognising the progress on post-Summit follow up that will have occurred ahead of the 169th Session of the Council, Australia respectfully seeks inclusion on the agenda of an update on FAO's specific support and role in the post-Summit follow up, and Rome-based Agency (RBA) collaboration in general, following the Summit.

#### **FRANCE**

*Transmis le vendredi 19 novembre 2021 à 20 h 56*

La France demande à rajouter deux points à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la 169<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil:

- Politique de la FAO en matière de données (FAO Data Policy)
- Le travail de la FAO sur l'approche "Une seule santé" (FAO's work on the One Health approach)

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaria*

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received regarding document CL 168/INF/2, *Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council*, and takes note of the requests by Australia and France in this regard.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I directly put forward to you the conclusion.

Agenda Item 21, *Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council*.

1. The Council endorsed the Tentative Agenda of its 169th Session as contained in *CL 168/INF/2*, and noted comments from Members in this regard.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

I have a small query. While the number of delegations under Agenda Item 12, the *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration* raised questions as regards the joint evaluation of the RBAs Collaboration conducted by an independent audit company, and judging by the feedback of the Secretariat, there will be, and there has been, a plan to cover the RBAs Collaboration with the view to provide a feedback of this joint evaluation during the next Council Session?

If I am not mistaken, the current Session Agenda Items do not include this RBA Collaboration. If this is the fact, then we would kindly propose you to add RBAs Collaboration as a stand-alone Item for the next Council Session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think it would be good to raise that in your conclusions. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The Council may choose to add a specific clause at the end referring specifically to the joint evaluation. Even though in some way that is redundant because the conclusion already says, "*noted the comments from Members*".

I would just like to recall that the Council is endorsing the tentative Agenda for its next session. As per the General Rules of the Organization, the Agenda is formulated by the Director-General in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council at the time. However, naturally, these comments may be well be inserted here. It is up to the Council whether it wants to have this additional clause added or not.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Thank you to the Secretariat for this additional explanation. We will keep this reference to the joint evaluation. Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to also propose to have a point on the next Council Agenda on FAO's data policy and on FAO's work on One Health approach.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to be careful now because, as was said by the Secretary-General, I think we will include all the Agenda Items that are decided during this Council to be included in the different Agenda items. Of course, we can list them here or we can make a general reflection because otherwise we have to add all the items that are now under consideration or already decided by the Council.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Pero tengo una confusión, una duda que surge de la explicación que dio el Secretario General de la Conferencia y del Consejo respecto a que estamos hablando de una agenda tentativa que es decidida por el Director General y con usted. La pregunta es si el Consejo tiene que endosar o tomar nota de la Programa provisional .

**CHAIRPERSON**

If it is what you wish, of course. It is a Tentative Agenda, it is not a final Agenda because during the meeting this week, we added Agenda items that are reflected in the comments from Members, but also in the course of the coming up here, Agenda items can occur. Therefore I think as what is in the Basic Texts, the Agenda is proposed by the Director-General in close cooperation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We can either endorse which is not final or we can note the Tentative Agenda. I think it is up to you, what do you propose Argentina?

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Con esa explicación preferíamos "*Took note*".

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We do understand that there has been some request from the Membership to further provide us with information on the joint evaluation and on the feasibility studies of the collaboration. If that could still be possible we would like to make a small amendment to the text formulating the Agenda items and make it a more general one with the inclusion of an agenda item on the progress report on the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration, to make it more general, meaning that it would include joint evaluation as requested and the feasibility study as has also been requested by Members.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This change “took note of” is customary because this is not the first time we are doing this. I think we used to endorse the Tentative Agenda. That is what we have always been doing. If we try to change today I do not have anything, but what is customary is we endorse the tentative agenda knowing perfectly that the Agenda is approved by the Body itself.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Indeed, the practice until now is that we speak about endorsing the Tentative Agenda. Unless we want to change this practice, I would propose, based on the proposal of Cameroon, to maintain the current practice.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Noting the discussion that has occurred and we are also very much understanding the importance of consideration of including on the next Agenda the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration. Our preference would be that we just leave it at and note the comments from Members in this regard. However, if people do insist on keeping it, then I would suggest replacing, with “including”, to reflecting that it is not the only item that Members put forward for consideration for the next Agenda Item.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

No quiero alargar el debate. La lógica por la cual decimos “Took note” es que endosaríamos o aprobaríamos el programa provisional cuando comience el 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo. Ahora tomamos nota de una programa provisional porque ese programa puede sufrir cambios, por eso no la endosamos, sino que tomamos nota. Pero no quiero alargar el debate, así que estamos bien con conseguir la práctica que se viene realizando, pero creo que, a veces, con las explicaciones y el aprendizaje que los Miembros van teniendo a la marcha, creo que se puede mejorar y ser más coherente.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, we do not endorse the Agenda we only endorse the Tentative Agenda. It was also the text of our previous Council. I am not married with one or the other. But if we have to practice, I think we always have to have a good reason to change the practice. Unless there are strong feelings I would like to maintain, endorsed as we have done in 165<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council. Can we agree with the text, “endorsed the Tentative Agenda of its 169<sup>th</sup> Session and contained in CL168/INF/2 and noted comments from Members in this regard, including an Agenda Item Progress Report on RBAs collaboration”. Is that agreeable?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nosotros tenemos dudas respecto a la última inclusión en el párrafo porque entendemos que no es el único tema del programa que se ha incluido en este Consejo. Entonces, no vemos la razón de mencionar uno y no todos como usted dijo al principio. Entendemos que ese Consejo solicita revisar un determinado tema en una sesión posterior, eso se hace. No vemos la necesidad de esta mención al final del párrafo.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Thank you to the comments of the distinguished representative of Chile. Just acting in the spirit of compromise and building on what our Australian colleague proposed, we would be very happy if we could be referring to that in our further deliberations. If that inclusion could be taken care of in the

Verbatim Records, acting in the spirit of collaboration, we will be happy. We would like to withdraw the proposal, meaning that it could find a proper place in the Verbatim Records.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

It is not only in the Verbatim where it will be reflected, but it is already in our conclusions as well. We will never forget it.

With that we have subparagraph (a) and we have finalized this Agenda Item.

#### **Item 6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (*continued*)**

##### **Point 6. Résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires (*suite*)**

##### **Tema 6. Resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/6)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Dear distinguished Members of the Council, we now turn, and it would be my proposal, to Agenda Item 6 because they are the draft conclusions which we did not take up yet. That is from the Agenda Item on the Food Systems Summit.

We developed the draft conclusions, and we will put them now on the screen for deliberation and I will read them out, and then we go one by one through the draft conclusions.

Agenda Item 6, *Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit*.

1. The Council:
  - a) welcomed the Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit and noted that the Summit did not have a negotiated outcome;
  - b) welcomed the momentum created by the Summit for accelerating efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and commitment of Members and all stakeholders to transform our food systems to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability and highlighted the importance of the UN-wide System approach;
  - c) welcomed the leading role of the RBAs, in close cooperation with WHO, UNEP, UNDP and WTO in the follow up of the Summit;
  - d) highlighted the pivotal role of Members in the follow up of the Food Systems Summit through the Governing Bodies, including through their informal meetings, as appropriate;
  - e) noted the importance of the follow-up actions in accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs, to support Members, including via the development and implementation of their national pathways *inter alia* through provision of technical assistance at country level, and science- and evidence-based support to policy making;
  - f) welcomed FAO's hosting of the Coordination Hub, staffed by RBAs and other Agencies, and highlighted the need for a lean structure by directly leveraging existing teams and capacities in the UN System as well as potentially leveraging key partnerships in the wider ecosystem of support;
  - g) highlighted the need for mobilizing UN system organizations and agencies and all key partners of the ecosystem of support and of science to act as the critical nexus point inside the UN system in relation to agri-food systems national pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda;
  - h) appreciated the close cooperation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit with FAO, WFP, IFAD and others for a smooth transition from the Summit Secretariat to the food systems Coordination Hub;
  - i) stressed the need for the Coordination Hub to leverage existing UN system capacities, in close coordination with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, avoiding



unnecessary redundancies, and noted that the Coordination Hub is expected to be in place at the beginning of 2022, and will provide stock-taking reports as necessary in due time;

- j) noted the UN Food Systems Summit implementation and follow-up is still under discussion, recognized it as an opportunity to strategically enhance cooperation among all RBAs and relevant UN funds, agencies and programmes, and highlighted that the Hub should not create new structures and should not replicate existing UN functions and capacities; and
- k) requested further written information on the Hub, including its staffing and financing, its reporting structure, the role of the CFS, the science ecosystem of support and the Stakeholders Advisory Group, including incorporating Members' feedback through the relevant Governing Bodies.

Now I turn up, go up again, and start dealing with the separate subparagraphs. We will do it slowly, so everybody has time to read and digest, and if necessary to make proposals.

We go to subparagraph (a). Can we agree to subparagraph (a)?

We go to subparagraph (b).

**Sr. Guillermo Valentin RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Para no poner todo el *caveat* que solemos hacer cuando se menciona la transformación en la tercera línea del subpárrafo (b), cuando dice "*To transform*", pondría entre comas, "*As appropriate*". Y así nos evitamos el largo *caveat* que solemos hacer y que lamentamos que todavía no se ha incorporado en el lenguaje de los informes y documentos de FAO.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

Concernant le paragraphe (a), afin qu'il soit un petit peu plus clair, est-ce qu'on pourrait mettre "*welcome the outcome of the Secretary-General's Chair summary*" ?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Regarding subparagraph (a) we prefer the original version, without the reference to outcome. We think it is simpler and in this case it would be better. Regarding subparagraph (b), we can go along with the proposal made by Argentina. We would also like to add a specific mention here at the end of the subparagraph after "*approach*": "*And stress that the coordination of the follow-up to the Summit should be taken up by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), responsible for the advance towards the achievements of all SDGs*".

**Sr. Guillermo Valentin RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Quisiera decir que nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con lo que acaba de proponer el distinguido colega de Brasil y respecto a la propuesta de la distinguida colega de Francia, creo que lo que estábamos haciendo referencia en este lenguaje original es al título del "*Summary*", del resumen del Secretario General de la Conferencia y del Consejo, por eso está en mayúscula. Entonces no veo el porqué de agregar aquí los resultados del resumen del Secretario General. Por lo tanto, creo que aquí tendríamos que eliminar esto porque además se está contradiciendo con el final del párrafo donde también hacemos referencia del *outcome*. Hacemos la diferencia de que los resultados no fueron negociados, entonces no podemos dar la bienvenida a los resultados del resumen, sino damos la bienvenida al resumen del Secretario General.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first deal with subparagraph (a). Is there flexibility in the room to have welcoming the Secretary-General Summary because it is an official document, and it is also the title of the document? And not replace, "*outcome*".

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We agree with the first formulation of subparagraph (a).

As regards subparagraph (b), we would like to receive from the distinguished representative of Brazil a link to where this text comes from regarding the High-Level Political Forum. Where does this text come from? From which document? We do not object to the idea itself but as the mandate of the High-Level Political Forum is very clearly defined by the General Assembly, we would like to understand and keep more closely to the language utilized by the General Assembly.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have the same worries, like the Russian Federation, because we know perfectly why the High-Level Political Forum has been constituted and who should report to that forum. Do they have a coordination role? Here we would like to know more if we have to negotiate because we said that the outcome was not negotiated and if we come down and we say that we give the follow-up to this without being negotiated, then it does not tally.

We do not pretend to have the knowledge of everything but I think about what the Russian Federation said, if we can have the link which gives us this assurance that it was said somewhere that would be fine.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have an agreed subparagraph (a). I give the floor back to Brazil for answering the questions by the Russian Federation and Cameroon on subparagraph (b), especially related to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

It is not written in any document, it is something that we are proposing, we mentioned in our intervention. It is something that we are commenting a long time and believe that even in previous interventions made by regional groups, the relation between the Summits and the High-Level Political Forum has been made before and we believe that the proper forum for the discussion of the outcomes of the Summit.

We believe that in this regard that the Summit is part of the collective effort for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this case we believe that the High-Level Political Forum in New York which all Members here, of FAO, are part of that, should be responsible towards the advance of the results of the Summits. They take into consideration that it as part of the Agenda 2030.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We certainly think that there is an importance for the High- Level Political Forum (HLPF) in the Food Systems Summit follow-up and we heard many delegations reference the HLPF in their comments this week on the Food Systems Summit follow-up. However, I am not sure that the way it is currently expressed here accurately expresses what we would see as the role of the HLPF.

We see the HLPF's role as being responsible for advancing achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for the reporting that countries do on their progress on the SDGs. However, we do not think that the HLPF is the appropriate place, or even has the capacity necessarily, to carry out the overall coordination of the follow-up which, as has been noted, involves really interacting with the UN Resident Coordinators and country teams to ensure that there is action at the country level.

I do not have a specific proposal on language, but it seems to me that maybe this reference to the HLPF does not necessarily belong in this subparagraph. However, we certainly would support having a reference to the HLPF somewhere in the conclusions.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first put it in a separate subparagraph so that we focus on the different aspects.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

Given that the Summit aims to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), I agree with our colleagues from the Russian Federation and Brazil, we should mention the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) here.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Estamos escuchando con atención el debate que es muy interesante y, particularmenteme, me pareció muy interesante la intervención de Estados Unidos de América y creo que hay un valor en esa intervención al igual que su propuesta de separar en un nuevo párrafo.

Evidentemente, creo que hay acuerdo de que tiene que haber una mención al Foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible, en este informe y, por lo tanto, a fin de acercar las distintas posiciones, quisiéramos proponer un pequeño cambio de lenguaje, esperando que pueda ser aceptado por el resto de los colegas.

La propuesta sería la siguiente: *“Stressed that the coordination of the follow-up to the Summit should closely involve the High Level Political Forum.”*

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We are not objecting to the role of High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in any way. It is undoubtedly important. The outcomes of the Food Systems Summit should be observed by the High-Level Political Forum.

However, it is the end of the sentence that we do not agree with because the HLPF is a very important body, but we cannot really determine its mandate. There is a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and I can give you the source from which we have this agreed language, which clearly defines the mandate of the HLPF in the area of sustainable development.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Perhaps a simple solution would be to just add a reference at the end of subparagraph (b) *“and highlight the importance of the UN-wide system approach and the HLPF”*.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to Slovenia again?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States would like to make the following proposal in the subparagraph 1(b). After “approach” we would like to propose a comma and then continuing with *“underlining the close links with the HLPF and the progress on the SDGs”*. This is our proposal because there are many other Members emphasizing the clear message that we would like to reference the High Level Political Forum.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nosotros queremos mantener la mención en el subpárrafo sobre el Foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible. Nos parece muy importante y está mencionado en la propia Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, el rol en el seguimiento de la Agenda y sus 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Estoy tratando de buscar el texto, pero eso es parte de uno de los objetivos más importantes del *High Level Political Forum (HLPF)*.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

The last parts in red of subparagraph (b) is a little bit confusing because here we are discussing the Summit and want to link it with the role that HLPF could play in the pre-Summit. It is a statement of fact connecting High- Level Political Forum (HLPF) to the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For us it does not bring anything new, that may make clear the link with the Summit.

I do not have anything in mind to suggest but I believe that the way it is put there does not send the message we want to send, to link the work of HLPF to the follow-up of the Summit. We may reflect on that, if we can put that in brackets for the time being? Because I have the feeling we are just making a statement of something that exists *de facto*.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Listening to all of the comments that have been made, I would like to suggest the following concrete proposal We leave (b) as it was, including the words “*as appropriate*” but not with the language at the end, which is now in parentheses.

For subparagraph (c) I very much welcome the proposed addition by Argentina to use “*closely involve*” and suggest we put a full stop after the word “*HLPF*”. That way we are just stressing that the coordination of the follow-up of the Summit should closely involve the HLPF and not getting into any further debate.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see some nodding in the room.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We also agree with the idea of maintaining (b) as it was originally with the addition of “*as appropriate*” but without the addition suggested by the European Union. As regards subparagraph (c) we would agree with a full stop after “*HLPF*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think I see an emerging consensus that we delete the bracket in (b), and we have a full stop after “*HLPF*” and delete. Would this be a way forward? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (d).

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

May I say something on subparagraph (d) please?

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, we will come later to that, thank you. Let us go to subparagraph (d). Can we agree to subparagraph (d)?

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

There is one comment there which is important.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Continue with subparagraph (d).

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I see that we are listing some of the UN agencies and entities and not others and I understand that the WTO has been added as that is important to some of us, but I think if we are putting it like this, we would have to have some reference to, among others because I think we want the whole UN system to be involved in this and so we really need to point out that this is in a much broader sense that we see the follow-up.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think the addition of Sweden is good, but I do not know if we can listen to the Chief Economist if he has been raising his hand and calling. I do not know if he might help us. I know that this is not the time for other people than the Members of the Council to take the floor, but since I have seen his hand, and I do not know, we are in your hands, Chairperson. I was just trying to listen to him if you so wish.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have to follow the Rules of Procedure, but I will give him the floor for information, not for intervening in text proposals.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We understand the idea of cooperation with different organizations, but first and foremost with those that are listed in this subparagraph. Although, in some way we should reflect the fact that there should be relevant organizations because organizations are very many and the United Nations system. We

also have peace-building and other areas that the United Nations is involved in and not linked to the Summit. My proposal would be that if we expand the list, then we must say that we are referring to relevant organizations, so we should have the word in there: “*relevant*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We do not have “organizations” in it. Of course, we can include it but now we are taking care of what was suggested, as proposed by Sweden, have amongst others, that it is not exclusive but focused. I give the floor to the Chief Economist for information.

**Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)**

The only issue is that the reference to the World Trade Organization (WTO), if it has not been involved in the discussions, it would be difficult to mention in our respect because it has not been part of the process at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It was referred to by several Members yesterday, that it should be involved, so it is up to the Members.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Esta reunión me hace recordar una discusión que hubo en el Comité del Programa, entonces entiendo el punto de la distinguida colega de Suecia de no limitar qué organizaciones dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas pueden participar o colaborar con los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) en el seguimiento de la Cumbre, pero quisiera sí limitar el “*Among others*”.

Entonces, yo creo que lo que tendríamos que incorporar acá, es una sugerencia obviamente para la consideración de los colegas, sería después de “*In close cooperation with UN agencies, funds and programmes, including...*”

Y ahí ponemos el listado de las organizaciones que estaban ya listadas y con esto no estamos siendo restrictivos respecto a las organizaciones que estamos mencionando en este informe y estamos dejando abierto por si hay alguna otra agencia, fondo y programa de Naciones Unidas que pueda también colaborar en este sentido.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to suggest what was suggested by the Russian Federation and add “*relevant*”, which is what she was proposing.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

In an effort to try and be brief, I would like to agree with your proposal just then “*with relevant UN agencies*”. The inclusion of ‘*relevant*’ was something I was going to suggest. I would suggest that we change ‘*in close cooperation*’, we just say ‘*encourage close cooperation*’, noting that close cooperation may not be happening yet but we would certainly like it. We welcome the leading role of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) have ‘*and encourage close cooperation*’ and then we can say ‘*with all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes.*’ That way we will avoid our Christmas list.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor. Now we have two suggestions. “*Relevant*” without specifying or “*relevant*” including “*with*”, at least we know which Organizations we are specifically referring to and including the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I would like to just ask for a clarification from the legal point of view. I am just wondering whether the World Trade Organization (WTO) is included in the UN agencies, funds and programmes.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nos gustaría también [XX] la respuesta a la consulta de Japón antes de insistir en que a nosotros nos gustaría una mención específicajustamente a la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC).

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

I support Australia, we do not need to mention any specific agency, therefore it does not matter if World Trade Organization (WTO) is part of the system. We do not need to list any of them.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We could, instead of saying, “with all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes”, we could simply say “with all relevant international organizations”, so that we know that even if World Trade Organization (WTO) is not part of the UN, if it is half part of the UN system. So, they are included.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Surely in your phrase they are included, but many more organizations as well.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States would prefer the proposal from Australia supported by China also. We thank Cameroon for this proposal but yes, we would like to support the previous version.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We cannot do without you, Legal Counsel, I pass you the floor.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I understand that the query concerns the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its status. The WTO is an intergovernmental organization, it is not a specialised agency although it has close relationships with the UN system specialized agencies and the UN itself. However, it is an intergovernmental organization. I hope that helps to advance the discussion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

When we speak about UN agencies, funds and programmes, it is not included?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

No. It has relationships, but it is not a formally a UN specialized agency and it is not a UN fund or programme.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for your clarification.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Efectivamente entendemos nosotros, en la delegación, que la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) no es una agencia especializada, si bien, tiene un acuerdo de cooperación, y el Director General de la OMC participa de la reunión de jefes de los organismos. Para nosotros si la OMC es un problema, no tenemos problema de sacarlo y creo que ahí tendríamos el consenso. Porque quedaría “*with all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes, including WTO, UNEP, UNDP*”, y podríamos sacar la OMC si eso facilita el consenso.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

In this case, we can make the order the other way around. We can delete “*UNEP and UNDP*” and maintain “*international organizations*”, which stand alone. In this case the wording would be “*encourage close cooperation with UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as WTO in the follow-up of the Summit*”. I think in this case we encompass all relevant institutions that should deal with the Summit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal is now “*and encourage close cooperation with all relevant UN agencies, funds, and programmes, as well as*”. Would this be agreeable? Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I apologise, I do not wish to make life more difficult but the World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialised agency. Therefore, it would be encompassed in UN agencies. Thus, I think the formulation with “*including vis-a-vis WHO*” was appropriate from a legal perspective, whereas WTO is what is termed sometimes a “related organization”. Consequently, just for your consideration, with all relevant UN agencies, funds, and programmes, including WHO as well as related, as well as WTO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then, I would propose to say “*as well as WTO*” as otherwise we are going to list several UN agencies again. Would this do the trick?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nosotros quisiéramos mantener la redacción como está en este minuto en pantalla. Es algo importante para nosotros incorporar a la Organización Mundial de Comercio y, justamente, dado el comentario que hizo el Economista Jefe, nos parece que es importante relevarlo en nuestras conclusiones.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je pense que si on nomme l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), on devrait inclure aussi l'Organisation internationale de la santé animale (OIE). L'idée de mettre "les organisations internationales qui contribuent à la réalisation des systèmes alimentaires durables" est nettement mieux que de citer "*relevant international organizations*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep “*with all relevant UN organizations as well as*”, and then it was proposed, at least in brackets “*all relevant international organizations*”, and we put WTO also in brackets.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I had flagged up to support the proposal as it was written “*UN agencies, funds, and programmes as well as the WTO*” and I also just wanted to highlight that when I made my intervention I inadvertently neglected to include “*in the follow-up of the Summit*”, which I think is a valuable inclusion. I had not had a chance to consider the proposal by Congo and I will do that now.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

Au regard de ce qui est à l'écran pour l'instant, et si nous devons accepter la mention de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), vu que dans la déclaration de l'Union européenne et celle de la France nous avons mentionné également le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CFS), qui n'est ni une agence, ni un fonds, ni un programme des Nations Unies, nous pourrions rajouter, dans ce cas: "WTO, and CFS".

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is a body of FAO, as it is in the Basic Texts. Therefore, at least we have to include OEA and if you want to insert CFS, I keep this subparagraph pending because we are going to list the whole world. We keep this para subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (e).

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I would like to propose a suggestion for subparagraph (d). Let me state: “*as well as WTO and other relevant international organizations*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Subparagraph (d) is pending, we come back to it anyhow because it is in yellow. I now go to Belgium on subparagraph (e).

**Ms Virginie KNECHT (Belgium)**

Actually, it is not on subparagraph (e) but a follow-up on what France has said on the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as many Members mentioned the role of CFS and the High-Level Panel of Experts during the statement, during the discussions. I do not know if it is mentioned somewhere below but if not we would propose a separate subparagraph “*to stress the importance of the role of the CFS, together with its High Level Panel of Experts as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental platform for matters of food security and nutrition to maximise the Summit outcomes*”. If we could insert a separate subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put a separate subparagraph after (d).

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Agradezco a la distinguida colega de Bélgica por esta sugerencia; sin embargo, quisiera hacer notar que ya más abajo tenemos un párrafo sobre la cuestión. Además, hay otros elementos a observar. Por ejemplo, la mención separada del *High-level Political Forum (HLPF)* y del Grupo de alto nivel de expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición (GANESAN) que no debería serlo así porque es parte del *Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*. Además, otra vez estamos hablando de los resultados de la cumbre cuando en los párrafos iniciales dijimos que los resultados no habían sido negociados.

Entonces, en todo caso le pediría a la colega de Bélgica de poder analizar este párrafo cuando lo veamos más abajo, pero sigamos con el proceso de lo que estaba originalmente escrito en el Informe.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Like our Argentinian colleague, we have some difficulties with this proposition made by Belgium. We thank the positive attitude, however, we believe that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) should be dealt with later on and we believe that the CFS has a very specific mandate regarding food security and nutrition and the Food Systems Summit is something much broader.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

Like Argentina and Brazil, we have doubts on the need to include this subparagraph here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because I do not think we will arrive at a consensus and we remind everybody the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is mentioned in the last subparagraph.

We continue with subparagraph (f).

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I please kindly ask you to pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to propose a new subparagraph (f) a slight change and an addition in the second line after “including through”, to insert “*the informal meetings of the Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit in an adjusted format*”.

We know that during the discussion many delegations made reference to the very valuable contribution of these meetings, of these information meetings, during the preparation phase to the Pre-Summit and we would like to make a reference to this also and also to advocate for its continuation in the follow-up to the Summit.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the proposition made by Slovenia, but anyhow we believe that right now we should move on. We do not favour any reference to the ‘Group of Friends’. First of all, the Food Systems Summit is over and in this case the ‘Group of Friends’ participation, we believe, as Brazil, that it is also over, and here we are trying to pass the message that Members of the FAO and Members in Governing Bodies



should be entitled to analyze, and see if, and when, any subject or theme can be adopted or adjusted for the benefit of our interest. In this case we do not favour this suggestion made by the Representative of Slovenia.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

En esta cuestión es claro que en nuestra intervención compartimos la posición de Brasil. Sin embargo, hay algo de la intervención de Eslovenia que creo sea importante: en la parte final de su intervención, cuando hizo referencia a los importantes insumos y el rol clave que tuvo el Grupo de Amigos en la preparación del proceso de esta cumbre.

Entonces, si bien creo que la inserción por Eslovenia no sería del agrado y no estaríamos en posición de respaldarla porque, como dijimos en nuestra intervención, es momento de que las discusiones sobre la cumbre vuelvan a los Órganos rectores de las organizaciones, especialmente aquí en Roma. Sí quisiéramos proponer un párrafo abajo, aparte, que pueda en todo caso capturar esa parte muy importante de la intervención de Eslovenia acerca del valor que tuvo y que a nosotros amerita un comentario en el informe.

Por ende, me gustaría proponer un subpárrafo (f bis), si la Secretaría está preparada que reemplazaría esta inserción de Eslovenia, *“Recognized the role played by the informal Group of Friends of the Summit in contributing to the Summit and providing adequate information and inputs to the Members”*

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

My suggestion is to put first a period after Food Systems Summit. Put a full stop there, and we change *“Members”* to *“RBAs Governing Bodies”*. I have followed highlighted the important role of *“Members”* we change that with *“RBAs Governing Bodies in the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit”*.

We believe that probably the proposal of Argentina is workable because we felt that the Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit was an *ad hoc* group which was just created, I believe, by a few people who wanted to give, and then got adhesion of everybody and if it has to continue it has to be restructured and people should participate in its restructuring because it is not.

So, *“recognize the role they played in the preparation of the Summit”* I think is okay for us. If I summarize, we delete *“through”* from *“through the government”* to *“as appropriate”*.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Actually, I represent the Nordic countries here, so not only the European Union Members of the Nordic countries. I think we heard many other parts of the world recognizing the role and the value of the Group of Friends, so I would advocate to continue to have a reference to the possibility to have meetings in an informal context between Members outside of the Governing Bodies.

It might be a bit difficult to refer to ‘the’ Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit, we probably need another Group of Friends if we want to continue it and so if it now says *‘including through the informal meetings, not excluding informal meetings between Members, such as the Group of Friends in an adjusted format’*. I just want to have that recorded, that we still think that we should not close the door to other kinds of informal contact between Members.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

I think in this subparagraph we are talking about the important role of the Members. Members will work through the Governing Bodies, through the meetings of the Governing Bodies, so we should encourage the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to organize formal informal meetings. I do not think we should talk about the informal ‘Group of Friends’ of the Summit as the Summit is over now so I agree with Brazil and Argentina. We should not mention the ‘Group of Friends’ of the Summit here because it was more of a spontaneous Group of Friends. We should keep the original idea in this subparagraph, we should encourage the ICC to organize formal informal meetings of Governing Bodies or among other Members.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

A few suggestions to offer here. I think we prefer ‘*Members*’ to ‘*RBA Governing Bodies*’ to take a more inclusive approach, noting that not all Members are part of Governing Bodies. Then I would offer the pivotal role of Members in oversight and engagement in the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit and, recognizing that there is going to be divergent news in the room regarding the ‘Group of Friends’, we would suggest something along the lines of: ‘*through Governing Bodies and other informal meetings, as appropriate*’.

We certainly support including the *bis* as well, but I think that might offer a middle ground, knowing that some people love it and some people do not. This way we can leave the space noting the important role it has played and that there are still discussion ongoing, on what its restructured self might look like.

Just one other. Instead of ‘*the*’ put ‘*through governing bodies and other informal meetings as appropriate*’, so bracket the ‘*the*’.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Nosotros concordamos con lo señalado por Canadá. Nos parece relevante mantener la mención a los Miembros en la primera línea del subpárrafo (f) y nos gustaría mencionar, como también Canadá señaló, que no todos los Miembros de la FAO y de las Naciones Unidas son Miembros de Órganos rectores. Por lo tanto, nos gustaría incluir tal vez, ‘*Though governing bodies and other formal and informal meetings as appropriate*’. Y terminar después ahí, “*As appropriate*.” Y ahí terminaría este párrafo. Podríamos borrar todo lo demás hasta el final. Y en el subpárrafo (f bis), creemos que sería valioso mantenerlo, pues es un reconocimiento al rol que jugó el Grupo de Amigos de la cumbre justamente en entregar la información adecuada a los Miembros, que fue algo que mucho nos quejamos. Fue uno de los problemas que encontramos con el desarrollo de la cumbre: no teníamos la suficiente información, en ese sentido, el Grupo de Amigos cumplió un rol importante.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us not put too much text in this already impossible to read text. It is clear that we have to find a compromise.

**Ms Dilyara RAVAILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We agree with the proposal on (f) *bis*, where we reflect the informal contribution to the Group of Friends of the Summit in preparation for the Summit. However, we do not agree with the mention of formal and informal in subparagraph (f). In order for Members to meet and discuss a given activity, they need to have a mandate on the part of FAO Council.

The Group of Friends was convened at the behest of a Group of States, and the lack of mandate did not stand in the way of the establishment of this group. So, why should we now, at a Council decision, mention potential informal meetings or formal meetings? We believe that (f) should focus on the role of Members and the Governing Bodies of the RBAs.

As for any informal meetings, that stems from the will of Members and if they wish to convene that type of meeting, they do not need an FAO mandate to do so. It stems from their own initiative.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the last three speakers and then we keep this subparagraph pending because it is clear that we will not arrive at a consensus at this moment.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

May you kindly pass the floor again to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We would like to support the proposal from Canada to go back to “*Members*” and not “*RBAs’ Governing Bodies*”. We also thank very much Argentina for the proposal for this (f) *bis* and, basically, we can accept what Canada proposed and also just a reference to informal meetings and finish with ‘*as appropriate*’.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We fully support the proposal made by Canada with the amendments from Chile and we do think it is important to reference the oversight and engagement in order to provide more specificity to exactly what the pivotal role of Members should be.

**Ms Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

Just to summarise our proposal, I have taken on board what Canada said, highlighted the pivotal role of Members in oversight and engagement in the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit through governing bodies and other formal and informal meetings, as appropriate, and a full stop.

**Mr Moungui MEDI (Cameroon)**

I do not want to navigate against the tide here. We want something and it is contrary at the same time. We said nothing was negotiated, but we want to assign tasks to the Members in oversight and engagement. It is contradictory. What we see, we still have in prospect, the follow-up of the system. How are we going to be organized? Already talking about oversight and engagement, it is already as if we are implementing some of the elements of the outcome.

That is why I prefer the simple wording, as Canada said. If we want to say “*Members through their Governing Bodies*”, but we have to put full stop after “*in the follow-up of Food Systems Summit.*”

The issue of formal and informal meetings, it is already prejudging how we are going to get organized. And this is, again, a bit difficult, if it is not yet discussed in the appropriate *fora*, where probably... or the ICC and the usual groups, they agree on how to go. But it is too prescriptive here. That is for (f). I think we must give the full name of that Group of Friends. It is “*Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit*”.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

It is said that “*the importance of receiving adequate information for developing the country's national pathway*”. From this point of view, providing adequate information and input to the Members, would be crucial. That should be in my English paragraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estuve siguiendo absolutamente todo el debate. La verdad que lo único que puedo hacer es agradecer a todos los aportes de los colegas aunque creo que acá falte algo muy importante, que es reconocer el rol jugado por el embajador de Alemania, Ulrich, en todo el liderazgo del proceso del Grupo de Amigos.

Yo quiero decir que desde el principio yo fui [XX] del Grupo de Amigos. Y, por lo tanto, no puedo menos que reconocer el valor importante que ha desarrollado durante todo el proceso de la cumbre. Por lo tanto, me parece absolutamente correcto que tengamos el F bis, que es en definitiva un reconocimiento al rol jugado.

De hecho, debemos decir que en momentos difíciles donde no era claro y era todo incierto, el Grupo de Amigos nos ayudó muchísimo. Ahora ya la cumbre terminó y creo que estuve escuchando a los colegas y me parece que en el párrafo F queda muy claro que el consenso se aproxima a eliminar la última parte del párrafo que es “*The informal meeting of the Group of Friends*”, porque de esa manera podemos ya acercarnos a terminar y conseguir el consenso y no demorar más esta discusión. Así que, con estos comentarios, Presidente, lo invito e invito a los colegas a eliminar esa parte del párrafo, así podemos avanzar más rápidamente.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We totally agree, we support the idea to emphasize the role of Members and regarding the proposition made originally by Argentina, we totally agree. “*We stress the need to find the work made by the Group of Friends*”, and that is it. With that, we can delete the mention in the previous subparagraph (f).

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because at this point, we could not find a consensus. We put it in yellow and we go to subparagraph (g). Can we agree to subparagraph (g)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (h). I do not see an objection.

We go to subparagraph (i). I do not see any objection.

We go to subparagraph (j).

**Mr Moungui MEDI (Cameroon)**

*“Highlighted the need for mobilizing UN system organization and agency and our key partner of the ecosystem of support”*. What does that mean? *“Ecosystem of support”*. Can we not we use a lighter word, which does not bring any ambiguity in the understanding? I want to believe that they want to say and all key partners who are supporting, or whatever that in the ecosystem of support. It is very difficult to understand what an ecosystem of support is.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You put it in brackets.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero agradecer a los comentarios del Camerún, me parece que son claro: justamente lo que está marcando es una cierta confusión en el párrafo. Yo creo que para ser coherentes con lo que venimos diciendo, tenemos que hablar de *“United Nations agencies, funds, and programs.”* O podemos decir, *“United Nations relevant agencies, funds, and programmes.”* Me parece que ese es el concepto que hemos utilizado y pido que se agregue a la Secretaría *“United Nations relevant agencies, funds and programmes.”* Y por lo tanto sacar *“United Nations system organizations”*, que es muy confuso. Poner entre *brackets*, *“System Organization”*.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I sympathize with my distinguished colleague from Cameroon about the language that is used here. But I would note that this is language that has been briefed to Members. And while we do not fully understand how the help will be structured and how it will operate, I would note it, that if further on in this document, we do request for further information in writing on that.

Given that this is language that we have in fact, seen before, you know, in an effort to move things along and avoid having to come back. I would propose that we except it with the understanding that we are going to be asking for further clarification.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Could we just scroll up, please, to see subparagraph (g)? We would like to reflect on it for a few minutes. But obviously, we are happy to continue in the meantime.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just to reflect, similar to what the United States of America just said, that phrase *“ecosystem and support”*, does come from the documents that is in paragraph 14 amongst others. I think one of the things we talked about in the food systems approach, is that we need to bring in other partners, other elements. And then I think that is what this gets at.

If we narrow it down to the funds agencies and programmes, that would exclude lots of other actors in food systems. As I understand that, that is what we are trying to get at. Perhaps, then that would lead to some issues, a little further on as critical nexus points, inside the UN system.

Assuming that the ecosystem of support is a broader concept than just the funds agencies and programmes, perhaps we would need to take out the *“inside the UN system”*. And then that would read, *“To act as the critical nexus point in relation to agri-food systems in natural pathways”*.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

A small addition in front of the reference to the *“funds, agencies and programmes”*, we would want to add *“relevant”*.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I am a little bit confused here. I do not know what the purpose of this paragraph here is. It is related to the previous subparagraph, the Coordination Hub. We are dealing with the involvement of other relevant UN organizations. If that is the case, it is a suggestion, we should deal with this subparagraph and in parallel with the previous subparagraphs which are in yellow right now, regarding you, and organizations and so on. But anyhow, it seems that the paragraph is not very clear, the purpose of that. As other Delegations, we are concerned about this “*ecosystem of support and science*”.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

Nous souhaiterions garder le langage utilisé par le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires, et donc supprimer “*agri*” devant “*agrifood systems*”. Je pense en effet à propos des “*national pathways*” du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires, qu’il s’agit des systèmes alimentaires et non d’un Sommet sur les systèmes agroalimentaires. Il faudrait donc garder le langage du Sommet et supprimer “*agri*” devant “*food*”.

Nous préférierions également conserver la référence à “*UN system organizations*” qui, effectivement, couvre plus largement que “*fonds, agences et programmes*”.

Troisième point, je souhaite rappeler que la terminologie “*ecosystem of support*” est la terminologie utilisée par le Secrétariat du Sommet, notamment dans le schéma qu’elle a présenté aux Membres.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this part pending and we go to the next subparagraph. Can we agree to subparagraph (j)? I do not see any objection.

We go do subparagraph (k).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En este subpárrafo, no tengo bien claro por qué “*Avoiding unnessesary redundance*”: no me parece que sea feliz ese término. Sugiero eliminarlo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to subparagraph (k) with the duration of a necessary? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (l). I do not see any request for the floor.

We can go to the last subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En este subpárrafo le pido por favor que agregue “*The potential role of the CFS*”.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

In the first line, after “including”, it is “*staffing,*” and delete “*and*”, “*financing, and function, including it is a reporting structure and delivery of information to Members*”.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We appreciate the proposals made by Argentina and Japan. We would like to add after “*the potential role of the CFS*”, “*within its mandate on FoodSsecurity and Nutrition*”.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I would like to make a small suggestion in subparagraph (g). Whenever you see fit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go first with this subparagraph.

**Mr Moungui MEDI (Cameroon)**

I am coming back to the same. Probably here they have reversed the wording, they talk of the science ecosystem of support, we were hip it was something different. So, if it is... we have been talking here.

I do not like it too much. That we should address issues that are... terms that are globally negotiated, multilateral terms and so on. I am a bit confused here. We use it alternately. If we go over, if we scroll up, it is a different arrangement of the working. Again, I need understanding on that, if we can put that in bracket the science ecosystem of support.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could I ask you again, to kindly pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We just have a suggestion to delete "*potential*", because we think that in the Statement of Action of the Secretary General, the important role of the CFS was clearly stated. We can keep "*the role of the CFS*", and additionally, we would like to include "*the CFS and its HLPE*".

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We would like to propose "*keeping the link to the potential role of the CFS*". That does not mean that we do not recognize the important role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), it simply means that right now, the CFS Bureau is determining what the role should be and what it should consist of. So, concerning the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina to add "*potential*", we find it very timely and very relevant because it reflects the current state of discussions in the CFS.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just with regard to this petition around the science ecosystem of support and science, sharing some of the confusion perhaps. But I think this subparagraph is about requesting further written information. Hopefully, in responding to this subparagraph, we will all have our confusion dispelled. I would keep it in there because that is how it is been referred to. Then, hopefully we will get the information that we hope for.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We support the statement made by the Russian Federation.

**Mr Moungui MEDI (Cameroon)**

We agree with the Russian Federation. But we are not sure that we support the inclusion of High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), which is not a structure. That is something within the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). I do not know why it is coming back all the time. We leave it in brackets. I understand what Canada said about leaving "the science ecosystem of support", probably they have better understanding. But since the United States of America have requested more information on that, I would be curious to get that information too.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

My point here would be that I would like "*potential*" to be deleted and that we should talk about the role of Committee on World Food Security (CFS). If we remember what the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General has said several times about CFS remains an essential intergovernmental and stakeholder platform for all working together to ensure food security and nutrition through sustainable and transformative food systems. I mean, leading up to the Food Systems Summit we had a workstream, which you chaired, which was actually an input into the Food Systems Summit.

Of course, we have the next step when we want this to be taken up by Members and countries. That is an important input. It would be strange if we would say that we only see a potential role for the CFS. We are saying "*within its mandate on food security and nutrition*". Yes, CFS has a special mandate and within that mandate, of course, and it could provide help to Members that want to take their pathways through. So, I think we should actually here delete "*potential*" and recognize the role of CFS.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradeciéndole a [XX] por los aportes de los Miembros anteriores que hablaron. En particular me quiero referir a lo que dice mi estimada colega de Suecia, que no coincido absolutamente en este tema, porque el tema de "*Potential role*" es justamente porque no queremos prejuzgar, no queremos. Por ahí creemos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) es muy importante, lo que sí no queremos es prejuzgar. Por eso hablamos del "*Potential role*", "P no es un concepto negativo, es un concepto que refleja concretamente un escenario incierto, porque no sabemos exactamente cuál va a ser el aporte. Por lo tanto, como dijo la Federación de Rusia, yo creo que tenemos que mantener "*Potential*" absolutamente.

Ahora, hay un tema técnico que me parece que acá la sabiduría del representante de Camerún, como siempre, nos ayuda a iluminar qué es que el Grupo de alto nivel de expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición (GANESAN), es claramente después de la reforma del CSA, se incorporó al CSA, es parte de ello. Nosotros no vamos aquí a hacer una disección del CSA en sus partes. Es el CSA in totum, la cual incluye el GANESAN.

Por lo tanto, como el rol que tiene GANESAN es apoyar a los Miembros del CSA, a los Miembros del Plenario, es lo que yo creo que inmediatamente deberíamos respetar este concepto técnico que el CSA captura todos sus elementos que lo componen, por lo tanto, debería eliminarse el GANESAN de este subpárrafo.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

Je souhaiterais à nouveau soutenir ce qu'a dit ma collègue de la Suède. Nous voulions même au départ proposer "*essential role*", rôle essentiel du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), puisque c'est ainsi que le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies définit le rôle du CSA. Donc, nous souhaitons un minima, enlever et retirer "*potential*", et certes le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE) appartient au CSA, mais il est aussi indépendant. Aussi, comme nous parlons plus bas de l'écosystème de la science, nous pensons qu'il est important de garder la référence au HLPE. Je soutiens donc la Slovénie et la Suède.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As the last two speakers, I give China the floor and then we keep the subparagraph pending. Then, we go to the previous subparagraph on the request of Australia.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

Here, we are talking about the Hub. We support Argentina and Russia to keep "*potential*." We support Cameroon to delete "*HLPE*".

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Just to say that we concur with our previous speaker, the distinguished Ambassador of China, "*potential*" must remain. We are in doubt about how the role of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on this case is going to be. We concur with Cameroon, High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) is inside CFS so there is no need at all for transformation. Of course, maintain within its mandate. But anyhow, I have a doubt because I believe that this request for further written information, I do not recall exactly who mentioned that. Of course, since the Programme Committee, we request Members and there was a consensus to request much more information regarding the [XX], its financial implications.

Regarding all this subparagraph here and the need for further reading information, I have doubts. Because as far as I know, the president of CFS has already engaged Members in formal groups. I asked for the Chairperson of these groups. I think that things are progressing inside CFS and it is up to CFS, its Members to decide and to see what's possible to do. I am wondering, why do you need this subparagraph (m), right here?

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because we cannot arrive at a consensus.

**Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)**

If we could just scroll up to subparagraph (g). We wanted to wait until we got to the bottom because indeed we noted an absence of any reference to coalitions of action. I would like to insert a small reference in this subparagraph here. In the second line, I would like it to read, “*including development and implementation of national pathways*”, deleting “*the*” there. And after “*pathways*”, including “*and coalitions of action*”.

#### CHAIRPERSON

Can we still agree because it was not agreed subparagraph with this insertion?

#### Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

A small question. Who is going to provide the support to the Members, including the coalitions of action? If this subparagraph is potentially addressed to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), then I think we cannot refer to all the coalitions of action here as not all of them, should have their home in the RBAs. Therefore, the question is who is providing the support to whom?

#### Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Coincido plenamente con el punto marcado por mi colega de la Federación de Rusia. Yo quisiera agregar para poder ser equilibrados con esto, que “*Coalitions of action as appropriate*”, creo que sería el término justo para poder tener el punto de equilibrio justo en el subpárrafo.

#### Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)

I just want to support the inclusion of having “*coalitions of action*” in that subparagraph. Thank you to Australia for that. I was going to suggest “*coalitions of action in which FAO is active*”, but I think the addition of “*as appropriate*” offered by Argentina is an effective solution to that.

#### Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)

I agree with the delegation of the Russian Federation because national pathways and the coalitions are not on the same level. Therefore, I think we should keep the original text.

#### CHAIRPERSON

We put this sentence in brackets and we keep also this subparagraph pending.

With that, distinguished Members of the Council, more than half of this text is in yellow. It means that we have to find a way forward. We are not going to arrive at this evening. We have to do it tomorrow, but I would like to urge you to find each other somewhere virtually or informally to see where you can find consensus on the subparagraphs. We know that is still confusion around to clear with all the statements made this evening and uncertainties and questions about the Food Systems Summit.

We cannot solve it in this Council because we need certainly much more further information. It was also requested by the Programme Committee or the Joint Meeting. Let us keep these pending. We have still some time to work on. I would like to go now back to our outstanding subparagraphs and we have some more time for interpretation.

#### Item 7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021) (*continued*)

#### Point 7. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-deuxième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-huitième session) (novembre 2021) (*suite*)

#### Tema 7. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2021) (*continuación*)

(CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6)

#### CHAIRPERSON

I would like to go to Item 7, because we had informal consultations which could help to perhaps solving.

#### Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)



If you could kindly tell us, until what time we have interpretation? Is that a joke?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Midnight. No, that is a joke. I want to try to continue to 20.30 or perhaps a little bit later, but certainly not later than 21:00 hours.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

Actually, I had the same question as Australia. For how long do you intend us to go on?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I promise you not to have midnight sessions or a long evening session. I would like to continue. I think we made some progress in order to make sure that we can conclude the Council tomorrow, if Cameroon allows me.

**Mr MOUNGUI MEDI (Cameroon)**

It is true we want to conclude tomorrow. But we still need to know when the Drafting Committee is meeting. Because if they have started meeting without us knowing, we wanted to be part of silent observers. At what time they are meeting? Where?

**CHAIRPERSON**

It was my plan to inform you after we finalize our meeting this evening, because then we can foresee the timing of the meetings for tomorrow.

**Ms Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

[XX] con seguir la reunión más tarde. No fue informado con tiempo y al menos yo, que soy la representante de Chile ante este Consejo, tengo una obligación, un evento oficial en 15 minutos y no puedo estar más allá de las ocho de la noche. Quisiera saber si después de las ocho de la noche se va a continuar de manera informal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, we are not going to continue in an informal meeting because we can only have formal agreements in the Council with interpretation. We will still have interpretation. I try to finalize the meeting at 20:30 hours.

Can we now continue with Item 7? We had the first subparagraph pending and there were informal consultations, which perhaps could lead to a compromise language, which we put now on the screen.

A compromise would *“recommended the progress accomplished in the process to find the approach for Technical Corporation Programme (TCP), allocation among Members, including the importance of context-specific approach, according to the results generated by the methodology being developed and based on the principle of universe study and a criteria approved by the 160th Session of the Council”*. Then, we have to footnote *“giving specialized attention to Least Develop Countries, Small Island Developing States and looked forward to the continuation of the inclusive and transparent approach in 2022”*.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero hacer un agradecimiento muy especial a su trabajo. Esta fórmula de compromiso es un trabajo suyo. Hemos conversado con algunos colegas de otras regiones y, sabiendo que tenemos un ejercicio a llevar adelante de manera informal a través del liderazgo Beth Bechdol, este texto podría ser una fórmula de compromiso que podríamos perfectamente aceptar. Espero que tenga el consenso suficiente.

**Mr MOUNGUI MEDI (Cameroon)**

We too want to thank you for consulting widely to come up with this. We, in principle, agree with a slight modification in the last line *“and look forward to the continuation of the refinement of the approach in an inclusive and transparent manner”*. That is the only small change.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

Mexico can go with your suggestion. However, I would like to probably suggest that in the footnote, when you said, “*given specialized attention to Least Developed Countries*”, I would like to put before “*Least Developed Countries*”, “*to the principle of universality and to the last developed country*” that has to my understanding been agreed in previous Sessions, “*giving attention to the principle of universality and to these developed countries*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You are meaning that we deleted “*the principle of universality*”, early on in the text.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

It is already on top of the text now.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this could meet the consensus of the room.

We go to subparagraph (b). We contacted several agencies and UN organizations, how they deal with the victim-centred approach and gender sensitivity. What we got back is that the victim-centered approach already includes gender-sensitive elements. Therefore, my proposal would be to not include any gender-specific or gender-sensitive approach, because that is not defined at this moment and we could have a long discussion on it. I would like to ask, whether or not it was flexible in the room to delete the word “*and gender-sensitive*”.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I do not agree with your explanation here because I have in fact, a very good explanation from Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from their Report from 1997, A/52/3 chapter 4, where gender sensitive is explained, and I will be happy to read that out to you. It is also mentioned on 25 occasions in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

I have some references for that as well. We are also mentioning it in the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Report from 2020 and also in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) [XX] principles that we are all aware of. But I would be happy to read out the definition and the reason why we want to maintain “*gender sensitive*” because it is not just about being a victim here. It is about other things as well, which this explanation will tell you. So if you indulge me, I will read it out. And it is from ECOSOC.

It says “*Gender sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts vulnerability and adaption to climate change, refer to methodologies and practices apply to ensure that both men's and women's concerns, aspirations, opportunities, and capacities are taken into account. Indeed women are disproportionately affected by climate change, or when, in particular to unequal access to resources and decision-making. The application of gender-sensitive approaches for adaptation can contribute to catalyzing actions to recognize and integrate the different vulnerabilities, knowledge and roles of men and women, empowering women as agents of change and innovation, rather than considering women as near victims*”, it goes on.

I hope that with this explanation and these references, those who had concerns about what gender-sensitive means could be at ease about what it means. And also knowing that we do have agreed language on this, including in FAO Governing Bodies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, it is up to the Council Members. We are aware of this text of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other text, but of course, you have to look to the context, and we are speaking here about harassment, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Indeed this was a proposal of our delegation to remove the reference to gender-sensitive approach, precisely because here there is a specific context. We are talking about harassment, sexual harassment,

and sexual exploitation. In this case, in this context, it is the victims, regardless of their gender, regardless of their race, regardless of their ethnic group, in any situation they must not become victims because of those characteristics.

In this case, if we have “*gender-sensitive*”, it means that we are identifying one specific principle. We feel that [not interpreted] is because we do not believe in allowing the harassment against any race or ethnic group or anything. Therefore, we would have to say not only the gender-sensitive approach but other principles, according to which people should not become victims of harassment.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I support the opinions of the Russian Federation and of course your opinion as well, Chairperson.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

I can see what my Russian colleague is saying about the policies that we are talking about. I would like to encourage FAO to have a gender-sensitive approach in defining their policies. Maybe we could remove the gender-sensitive approach and put it in the last parts of the subparagraph. Where we say “*encouraged to continue strengthening its policies in this regard using a gender-sensitive approach*”. So we can maintain the gender-sensitive, given that we have accepted this term before.

I have no objections if there are other approaches. We had some mentioned the other day that could be included as well, but for us, this one is important. Because this is where we understand the context in which we are using these policies and making sure the policies are considering that they could be gender differences in how things are happening. We said that women are disproportionately affected. So if this would be acceptable to my Russian colleague then we are happy with this as well.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I would like to support the Swedish interventions and we would be comfortable with the move of the “*gender-sensitive approach*” to the end if that is acceptable or leaving it where it was. I would just note an addition to the external documents to FAO that Sweden mentioned, FAO’s only policy on Gender Equality, 2020 - 2030 talks about all FAO public imaging and branding being gender-sensitive. FAO also has written an entire paper about gender-sensitive value chains. I would think that if we can apply the term gender-sensitive to value chains, that we could also apply it to sexual exploitation and abuse, which very often occurs because of gender. In this regard, I would like to just request that this concept remain in the subparagraph and its placement, I think, this is a very artful and helpful suggestion by Sweden to put it at the end.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

I would also like to thank my distinguished colleague from Sweden. The only thing I would not agree with here is that when we talk about this subparagraph, this particular spot in the subparagraph, we are talking about a political discussion, but that is not what the issue is. I think that the proposal to move the “*gender-sensitive approach*” to the end of the subparagraph, does not resolve the underlying problem. Where we know that when we move the parts of an equation around if it were adding up, it does not change the result.

We wanted to remove the reference. That does not mean that we do not recognize women as one of the categories that is subject to sexual harassment or sexual exploitation. We are very aware of that and we recognize that. In addition, in FAO policies that aim to protect against harassment, there is reference to the gender-sensitive approach, and we are not against that, but in this specific case, we feel that identifying one single aspect, when we are talking about the combat against harassment as a whole is not fair to the other possible victims or future victims who may be harassed, not based on their gender, but based on their belonging to another race or another ethnic group. We cannot agree with that approach. [XX]

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I call upon everybody to be flexible? I think it is important that we find a way forward and that means that we have to meet each other in a compromise, making sure that everybody is equally unhappy.

My suggestion would be when we look to the end of the subparagraph, "*Strengthening its policies in this regard, including using...*" Because we need to use more approaches than only this one, but at least have the reference in this. I think this hopefully could meet a compromise. Let us see where we can meet each other and not where we differ or insist only in positions, because then we will not arrive not only tomorrow, but not in the next couple of weeks, at the conclusion of the Council.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We refrain from explaining all the time what we intend. That is why our proposal goes always with an inclusion. We appreciate what Sweden just said. I believe it shows some flexibility, "*using a gender sensitive approach.*" We can see in this regard which should be gender sensitive. We are not, we exclude the word "*approach*" because we believe that saying that using a "*gender sensitive*", it is very limitative, is only one. But when you say, "*it should be gender sensitive*", it opens up other avenues.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I think there is one option, and taking into account the good point from the Russian Federation, that there are many different kinds of discrimination that we need to be aware of. Perhaps in the first spot where "*and gender sensitive*" has been crossed out now, we could put "*and intersectional approaches*". Recognizing that intersectional takes into account the full diversity of people who might be impacted by sexual harassment and exploitation, and that might capture the concerns of the Russian Federation that gender insensitivity is not inclusive enough. So "*victim centered, and intersectional approaches.*"

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you kindly pass the floor to the Presidency of the European Union, Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We would like to support Sweden's proposal and your alternative proposal, which is showing flexibility and working towards consensus. Using these terms, we would like to point out that women are disproportionately affected. This is the point. This is an important point that we would like to make.

**Sra. Maria de Los Angeles GOMEZ AGUILLAR (México)**

Suecia en su intervención ya fue, creo yo, muy sensible, pero la intervención de Camerún me pareció muy apropiada porque no invisibiliza la aproximación de género que es la idea que, en los textos, en los trabajos, en el campo y más en los temas que FAO aborda, debemos de tener siempre, siempre, siempre visible porque efectivamente es una población desproporcionadamente afectada.

Yo creo que todo mundo ya ha sido muy flexible y el arreglo que propuso Camerún me parece muy apropiado, no excluye a nadie y, sigue haciendo visible la necesidad de establecer la sensibilidad de género.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

I have a question for the Secretariat. Since the original proposal ends by "*encouraging FAO to continue strengthening its policies in this regard*", my question is, the current policies of FAO, do they include a gender sensitive approach? Do they use the gender sensitive approach?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I know the answer, but it is not up to me to say it. I pass the floor to Management, Mr Laurent Thomas.

**Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General)**

I can confirm that we apply gender sensitive approach to our policies.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Thank you to the representative of the Secretariat for the answer. Now, can you tell me what is the added value of adding something that is already in the policies, in this subparagraph: "*we encourage*

*FAO to continue strengthening its policies, if it already includes the gender sensitive approach”?*  
What is the sense of repeating it once again in the text? Can you please explain it?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Russian Federation, we can go for hours on this way. We are trying to find a compromise with you as well and I think Sweden and several other Members of the Council have showed flexibility. I would like to make an appeal to you to show also flexibility and perhaps either go with, for example, what was proposed by Cameroon including *"using a sensitive approach"*, or even what was proposed by Canada. I think there are three options for making a compromise, but we have to find a compromise and this is important for other Members of the Council to have a reflection of this approach in this text.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

In asking the question I am simply trying to express our position that we are not against taking gender issues into account. However, in this particular concrete section, we are against repeating what is already in the Policy.

We are asking FAO to strengthen it in its policies. Why would we include something like this concrete element there when it comes to the proposal of the Distinguished Colleagues. As I already said, moving around the numbers you add does not change the sum. In this case I would like to think which should be gender sensitive. But in order to agree to that, I need some time. Possibly I may be able to do that today.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I cannot force anybody. But I hope that I can stimulate everybody to finalize the Council tomorrow. I will keep this pending until tomorrow and hope that you can go along with one of the two proposals made in the last line.

#### **Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

#### **Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

#### **Tema 8. Informes del 131.º periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

#### **Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)**

#### **Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)**

#### **Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)**

(CL 168/21)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We continue now to Item 8.1. At least we have solved one subparagraph in Item 7, which is positive. Hopefully, we are near to solving the last one subparagraph.

#### **Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

On subparagraph (c), seemingly respectfully requests the United States, if we could return to the original formulation of the use of *"principal"* instead of *"approach"* in referring to a fit for purpose principle as we have called for in the Asia Regional Group statement. We even elaborated that we wanted as part of the guiding principles and elaborated on it. So if that's possible, although if the United States feels strongly about the word *"approach"* in the spirit of compromise, we can do *"principle and approach"*. But we wanted it to have a higher level, to be a foundation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. But no one size fits all.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I think in the spirit of compromise we can accept "*principle*" here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then, we had the remaining issue of taking into account "*the goal of sustainable growth*", which was raised by Cameroon, and proposed by the Russian Federation. As we always discuss agreed language and we are making reference to Agenda 2030, in subparagraph (c), I put the text which is mentioned when we speak about sustainable growth, but in slightly different wording, which could be inserted if necessary.

It is a longer text, but if the Secretariat could put it on the screen. Because in paragraph 9 of the Agenda 2030, it is spoken about, "*sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and the eradication of poverty and hunger.*" I look to Cameroon, if we replace, "*the goal of sustainable growth*" with business wording, which is the agreed language of Agenda 2030, whether or not this subparagraph would be agreeable?

I see nodding by Cameroon. I hope that it meets the concerns of all the Members of the Council. I do not see any objections. At least, we have solved the subparagraph.

We go to subparagraph (d). Besides what we do, whether with national adaptation plans or plans. We still have to word "*voluntary*" and/or "*technology to share up on mutually agreed terms.*" Yes, there are certain some areas we checked yesterday again, in the Agenda 2030, the language we always speak about "*upon mutually agreed terms*" and not about "*voluntary technology transfers*". Could we stick to "*technology to transfer upon mutually agreed terms*"? I do not see any objections. Before going forward, it is true that we still have to solve the brackets "*respect the right of nations to develop*". That was between brackets and it was a request not to insist on it. Could we delete the text between brackets?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quería solamente antes de que elimine el subpárrafo (c) que está por eliminar, quería saber si podría funcionar "*respect for the right of countries to develop*" en lugar de "*Nations*". A ver si con eso podía volar.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe that we have already surpassed subparagraph (c), but anyhow. We believe that this idea to maintain development, "*right to development*" is very important. It is something that is scripted in the Paris Agreement, in Glasgow. So it is mutually agreed language. We can adapt, of course, but in Glasgow, we see that there is a clear reference to the "*right to development*". "*Respect to the right of development.*" And I believe that we can solve this problem.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If we speak with respect for the "*right for development*", because that is I think that the quote you took from.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I am not familiar with the Glasgow reference to "*right to development*", but I know in other fora we have objected to that term. We do not recognize it as a universally accepted right, so I do not think we are prepared to accept it here.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Once again, we are not referring to other multilateral agreements instruments. We are just referring to text that are referring specifically to climate change. So the term "*right to development*" is in inscribed. It is inside the Paris Agreement and also the last document that we have, and that is the Glasgow Pact, and I believe that we can go along with this. I do not know if the Secretariat can confirm that and provide some information on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I go to the text of the decision COP26, Glasgow Climate Pact. There you have the acknowledgement that climate change is a common concern, and the four last line it speaks about, "*and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development.*" It is referred to in the Glasgow Climate Pact. In the context of climate change, and this is the FAO Strategy on Climate Change of. With this reference, we can make a specific reference to the text or a footnote to the Glasgow Climate Pact, would it be agreeable for the United States to refer to it in this way?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

This puts us in a really difficult position. I feel like we are parsing legal language here. We think it is really unnecessary in this context because all the Council is trying to do here is provide some guidance to FAO and the further development of its Strategy on Climate Change. There are some significant legal interpretive issues. With the way this language is used and we do not think it is certainly necessary or appropriate to get into them in this context. We think we are raising issues here that really are not going to have any significant impact on the development of the Strategy on Climate Change. So rather than raising potential issues, you know that could come back to complicate our work in the future. We would prefer to leave the language out of here because it really does not add anything to the development of the strategy itself.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At the same time, I think everybody has to be now flexible to find a way forward. Otherwise we will breakdown and we will not get Council conclusions. With that no Strategy on Climate Change.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Escuché con mucha atención a mi estimado colega de los Estados Unidos de América. La verdad que tiene un punto en el tema que es importante tratar de ser muy cautelosos y cuidadosos de cómo utilizamos conceptos que se utilizan en otros acuerdos internacionales en el contexto de la FAO. Por lo cual, el punto central aquí es, para mí, diferenciar lo que son los principios de lo que son resultados. Y cuando hablamos de principios el otro elemento central es el tema, el contexto.

Sería más razonable lo que dice mi colega de Estados Unidos, si no estaríamos discutiendo aquí la estrategia de cambio climático. Es decir, el contexto es justamente este, el que se aplica a este principio, como usted leyó, yo tenía justamente aquí al lado la Declaración de Glasgow sobre la alimentación y el clima que firmaron todos los presidentes.

Me da la sensación que no estamos haciendo un "*forum shopping*"; es una cuestión de principios, porque los principios son los que van a ayudar a guiar la estrategia de cambio climático en la FAO. Entonces, hay una diferencia entre lo que son los principios y los resultados que son elaboraciones que vienen desde otras organizaciones o de otros acuerdos. Los principios son elementos que guían, por eso lo importante es, por un lado los principios y por el otro lado el contexto. Es claro que hay un ligamen directo entre estos principios, entre el cambio climático y el derecho al desarrollo.

Yo invito a mi colega de Estados Unidos a revisar si es posible, porque nosotros hemos escuchado el compromiso enorme de Estados Unidos con este tema. Entonces, nos parece que interpretamos que seguramente estamos de acuerdo. No sé cuál será el problema, que lo respeto, pero estoy seguro que en el fondo estamos de acuerdo. Ojalá podamos ponernos de acuerdo en este subpárrafo.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I would just note that we were not the country that originally raised this issue. So clearly there is no consensus on it, and on that basis we would continue to insist that it be deleted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It would mean that we will not arrive at the Council conclusions. That is what I am trying now to seek because we are on Thursday evening. We have to go somewhere tomorrow to the Drafting Committee. We need now to see whether or not Members of the Council are willing to block consensus on issues. On whether or not that we can still find a way forward. If we make for example, if it would help if we say "*the right to development as referred to in the Glasgow Climate Pact*", whether that would help

because it was agreed by all those who signed, the Conference of the Parties to this pact. So that we contain in this reference, would that help the United States?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

At this point, Chair, I am not in a position to be able to agree to that. I am happy to go back to Capital overnight and see if I can get further guidance, but at this point, no, I am not prepared to agree to it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us put in a text and that is the Russian Federation is also consulting to get a green light. Will say, "*The respect for the right to development*" not of but "*to development as referred to in decision COP26 of the Glasgow Climate Pact*". I do hope that we get a green light tomorrow.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

Mexico suggests to erase everything after the word "*strategy*". And "*state of Strategy*", which is very general and give us a lot of trouble with the objectives and other definitions. I think it contains quite clearly the information that we expect from the strategy, which should include "*recognition*", erase all that and just have a shorter subparagraph, which already provides everything.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So you propose to delete everything from "which" until the end. Of course, it is also a way out.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

It already talks about specificity, another fit for purpose all, capacities and so in the other one we just repeating the subparagraph on top with objectives and objectives are causing the problem. That seems to be the case all the time.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this be agreeable?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Yes, we would agree with Mexico's proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable? I do not see any objections. With that, we have solved this issue.

We go back to subparagraph (d), and I hope that we all show flexibility now on the following subparagraphs. There was a request not to refer to national adaptation plans because not all countries have it. Could we not say, just refer to the original text and remain "*national plans*"?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Yes, I think what we could propose as a compromise would be "*relevant national plans*". We acknowledge that not all countries have national adaptation plans and some adaptation measures are included in the NDCs. Our only point I think was a country can have any number of plans that may not be relevant to this issue. So we just thought more specificity would be helpful. But if we use the term "*relevant*" here, I think that covers our concern.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

With the addition of "*relevant*", it is fine. If it was just natural plans that would be far too broad. I think in terms of the interests of the strategy, "*Relevant national plan*" is good.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we solved the issue and mutually agreed. The words could be deleted and I think with that we have an agreed subparagraph.

We go to the last issue in this Item, and that is a reference to the common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). I do not dare to say that there was an agreed language in the Glasgow Pact.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**



Thank you for raising the agreed language in the Glasgow Pact. In fact, we would like to propose that language as a substitute for what is here and essentially it is paragraph 22 and 23 of the Glasgow Climate Pact Verbatim, and I am happy to read that out at dictation speed if that would be helpful. Shall I go ahead?

**CHAIRPERSON**

If we try to copy and paste because that is quicker and then we can see it on the screen.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

That works for me.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps you should read it out so that we have it in also for the interpretation. But we have it on the screen now.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Recalled paragraph 22 and 23 of the Glasgow Climate Pact, which “*recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 percent by 2030. Relative to the 2010 level and to net 0 around mid century, as well as deep reductions and other greenhouse gases*”. Paragraph 23 also “*recognizes that this requires accelerated action in this critical decade on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and equity reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could this help us forward out of this problem?

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

Just like to echo the United States.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Es difícil negociar si no mantenemos argumentos que mantengan los mismos niveles de coherencia. El argumento por el cual no podíamos poner el derecho al desarrollo era porque estábamos utilizando un principio que se había utilizado hace pocos días en la Declaración de Glasgow. Ahora, lo que resulta es que para tratar de debilitar de alguna manera un principio absolutamente determinante para los países en desarrollo, estamos trayendo el texto completo la Declaración de Glasgow.

Es difícil, ¿no? Poder entender la lógica de esta manera, digamos, de negociar. Hay una cosa que me parece central y que va más allá de la diferencia de poder sistémico que tiene cada uno de los Miembros. Nosotros, me parece, hemos... yo he sido muy flexible, no quise seguir la discusión, Brasil había planteado en el párrafo anterior el derecho al desarrollo, que estaba como uno de los principios en el acuerdo de Glasgow. Interpretando que entonces el “*trade off*” iba a hacer respetar este párrafo como estaba.

Me parece que si el colega de Estados Unidos tiene intención de traer un párrafo que antes de mencionar, quiero decir, hace una referencia a ese párrafo específicamente y fundamentalmente la cuestión de la mitigación. A la mitigación para el que la agricultura, es el elemento menos importante, porque el elemento más importante es la industria de la energía. Y acá estamos en una estrategia de cambio climático vinculado al tema de la seguridad alimentaria. Entonces, me parece que el tema del contexto es el que tenemos problemas, ¿no?

A mí no me molesta poner lo que viene la Declaración de Glasgow, pero es un problema de contexto. Estamos utilizando un tema que se utiliza fundamentalmente para las razones centrales de la afectación al clima, que es la industria y la energía, y la agricultura en un porcentaje mucho menor en una estrategia de cambio climático en un contexto donde lo que estamos en discusión es la seguridad alimentaria.

Yo creo que la salida de compromiso, pero igual creo que es un error traerlo aquí, es dejar el párrafo como estaba y si aparte de ese párrafo, el colega de Estados Unidos quiere hacer alguna propuesta de un párrafo adicional, lo podemos analizar con la mejor predisposición para tratar de ser flexibles.

Pero creo que la flexibilidad ya fue demostrada y este es un principio muy caro a los países en desarrollo que nosotros, creo, tuvo mucho respaldo dentro de la discusión del debate y me parece que Estados Unidos en este... No podemos, digamos, en estas negociaciones acomodar solamente la posición de un solo país.

Entonces, yo creo que, es allí donde necesitamos que todos seamos flexibles porque si no, vamos a terminar parqueando todo y eliminando todo. No tiene ningún sentido en la negociación, si no tenemos un principio de flexibilidad en todo esto y, sobre todo en principios acordados, me parece complicadísimo poder seguir adelante.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I think in this case one of the key interests of some of many Members was to see the reference to Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), which we know is a sensitive topic. I think here it is amply reflected and covers that aspect of the recent negotiations. To be fair, I do not see references to the energy sector or industry in that and we could narrow it down to make it about agriculture conceivably. But I think this subparagraph does reflect something that certainly we could support on our side.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We believe that Ambassador Carlos Cherniak made an excellent point here, because we are little bit surprised for the disappearance of the half of the paragraph referring to "*the right to development*", which is agreed language in international agreements, pacts and so on. Related specifically to climate change anyhow, in order to move on, we would accept that, but things have to move very carefully.

When we are talking about Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), we are talking about a principle that came a long time ago from 1992. It has been reflected in major environmental instruments, specifically on climate change. It was mentioned repeatedly in the Paris Agreement, in the Glasgow Pact, it is mentioned, just not just once but two, three, four times. Many parts of the documents that we, as Member States, adopted recently, a few weeks ago.

Anyhow, we believe that this is a chapeu that should be respected. It is something very fundamental to all Members to all developing countries regarding the proposition here of the insertion of something that relates to mitigation. We believe that in this case, the text should be more balanced. We do not believe that this Session here, collected from the session dedicated to mitigation should be left alone.

In this case, if the colleagues, all the Members of this Council are in favour of maintaining this text, we should balance which specific mention to some language that comes also from Glasgow and refers to adaptation, which is something that is very close to developing countries and to the agricultural sector as a whole. I am in your hands, but I would send to a proposition collected from Glasgow, and I would like it to be reflected here if you want to proceed in this.

Just to give some balance on the on the text that we do not believe is balanced right now.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please send it to us because I understand that we have to work on the further compromises.

**Ms Marija MILIVOJEVIC (Sweden)**

Thank you to all of those who have shown some flexibility, including Brazil just now. I think this was a very good proposal because it not only incorporates what Brazil and Argentina have highlighted and maybe some others as well, about the common but differentiated responsibilities, but also something that we said and also some other countries said when we did refer in our statement for the Nordic countries, also to the limiting of the global warming to one 1.5 degrees Celsius.

I think it is excellent to include that here, and I did hear my colleague from Brazil here talking about adaptation which we are in fact mentioning a little bit higher in the paragraph above, so hopefully we

can view this in total as a balanced text and move on. This is of course our input to the strategy. We will have a lot of time and dedicated time to discuss the strategy and its content once we see the draft, so I would really urge everyone to move on and leave the specific discussions to the strategy itself.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to echo your last words. We are not drafting this Strategy here now at this moment in the Council.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia would just like to lend our support to the proposal that has been tabled by the United States. However, picking up on your comment just then, Chairperson, that you will probably have a late night trying to consider some potential alternatives should this not get up, which we certainly hope it will.

I would just like to put some ideas in your brain and that is that it may be that it might be more acceptable if we lift this somewhat and we could simply recall the Paris Agreement, either article 4.3, which applies to Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or to its article 2.2, which has a broad reference to CBDR, just some ideas in case we cannot move forward on the proposal, which we agree with that the United States has put on the table tonight.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have a lot of things in my brain now, but I can always add some more.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

Je voulais simplement soutenir cette proposition des États-Unis et ce qu'a dit également ma collègue suédoise. Merci beaucoup et je remercie les interprètes pour les heures supplémentaires.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I want to thank Argentina and Brazil for their middle ground in the earlier phase of discussion. I also support Argentina and Brazil for the common but differentiated responsibilities position. We need to find a more balanced subparagraph

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

Gracias a todos los países. Gracias a Estados Unidos de América por la propuesta, sin embargo, personalmente creo que no es conveniente esta propuesta. Lo que nosotros estamos buscando es cómo orientamos la elaboración de la estrategia de la FAO y esto no nos dice mucho cómo la orientamos.

Quizás valga la pena buscar una redacción nueva en el subpárrafo (c) que incluya algunas ideas como "sugiere", "endorsa" o "sugiere" que la estrategia de cambio climático de la FAO tome en cuenta lo definido en la declaración de Río y en particular los principios, lo que tiene con el Las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas (CBDR).

La otra propuesta de Estados Unidos si bien es correcta, no creo que aporte al propósito de este tema que es orientar la preparación de la estrategia. Entonces creo que como Argentina, Brasil y China sugieren, deberíamos trabajar con una redacción nueva en el subpárrafo (c).

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other requests for the floor, so we keep this pending and work on more guiding words, which hopefully can meet everybody's concerns.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We have sent to you our suggestion to balance this text because we believe that much is needed here if we are going to insist on this subparagraph that is related to mitigation. We firmly believe that we need a second paragraph after that. Then, we have said where I would like to see reflected in the screen we have sent to you and to the Secretariat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This is the text that which was sent to us? We have put it on the screen. We are calling paragraph 5 and 6.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Just to make a recollection here, you have paragraphs from the [XX], referring to adaptation that we consider very important. Also not only important by itself, but important to balance the text as proposed by the Distinguished Delegate of the United States.

We finalize also with a paragraph that is included in Paris Agreement that we believe that we are part of and it regards a question that is very important to all of us here, that is food security that we believe that it was missing in our discussion right here and the value of agriculture. In fact, are to underline the importance of protecting agriculture against the adverse effects of climate change.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will make sure that we will send the whole text of this Item 8.1 to all the Members of the Council. We scroll down, I will keep this pending and hopefully this is, I think the last pending.

**Ms Agnes Rosari DEWI (Indonesia)**

Indonesia would lend its support to maintain the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) in our conclusion to align with our colleagues from Brazil and Argentina and others to support the principles of CBDR.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Our first reading of the text, we did not come back to a few subparagraphs. It was the case of subparagraph (f), which we have an amendment to make. With your indulgence, please.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to subparagraph (f), I was hoping that it was agreed.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

It was agreed in the first reading, but many Members also expressed there, it was in the first day and night and everybody was worried about how fast we were moving at that time. We would like to propose here a very specific amendment regarding agriculture. We believe that, as previously mentioned, agriculture is suffering from climate change.

If you compare it to industry or to the energy sector, the responsibility of agriculture is much less. So, in this case we believe that it is fundamental to remove this reference, this adjective to “*central role of agriculture*”. We should put into brackets this word, the adjective “*central*”. I believe that in this case we could have a balanced text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to delete to the word “*central*”?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La agricultura representa el 20% de las emisiones y todos sabemos que la industria automotriz, la industria de la energía, todo lo que tiene que ver con la industria, claramente, es la máxima responsable de la situación que estamos viviendo. Así que me parece que está claro que la propuesta de Brasil es apropiada.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we all agree to delete the word “*central*”? I do not see any objection.

We scroll down to (j). Can we not say “*sustainable agriculture, including decarbonisation*”?

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Actually my point was on the change that was just made and if we can move up again. I think that, since we are talking about a Strategy for FAO, which is the Organization for Agriculture and Food security. This is why we highlight the central role for sustainable agriculture food system as part of the

solution. I mean, we are not talking about the problems that we are talking about the solutions for addressing the challenges. So I think that is why we are using the word "*central*". I just wanted to make that point. We are not talking about the problematic part agriculture, which of course is there, but here we are talking about the solutions.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

My comments were for the section where they had livestock.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So let us first see whether or not there is a problem with removing the word "*central*" because Sweden came back and wants to maintain it in a text because then we put the subparagraph in yellow and it is up to our work for tomorrow morning.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I think we can if we can change it, for instance with the "*important role of sustainable agriculture, as part of the solution.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable to speak about important role?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I appreciate the effort made by Sweden, but we do not consider that the main problem here is agriculture. On the contrary, and it is not Brazil speaking it. It is the facts the numbers industry, specifically in developed countries, and I am talking about history here, is the main factor for the situation that we are living right now.

Industry, energy sector are the main factors. We cannot avoid that. We cannot say that the main responsibility belongs to agriculture of course we are all committed to make agriculture more sustainable. We are 100 % behind this approach, idea principle, but we have to be very clear about the responsibility. The real responsibility here belongs to industry. It belongs to the energy sector, specifically from the developed world.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will put this subparagraph in yellow, will keep it pending and it will add up to our work tomorrow, but I think we have to prepare for a long weekend.

We go to subparagraph (j).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am not so sure that we agreed on it because, I made this statement that day and it looks like I said "*we are*". Here no, I am sorry, somewhere else.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It was another Item, I think, it was on Item 8.2.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

This example of subparagraph (j), to bring a subject that worries me in the entire document. We use very loosely the word "*agriculture*". Here we put in "*agriculture and livestock*" as if they were two different things. We either put agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries in the entire document or we put agriculture and put a footnote and say "*we understand agriculture, all the crop production, livestock production, forestry, fisheries*" on steps forward and backwards with the wider concept of agriculture. If not, we are going to be in problems.

If we use livestock in one place. Fisheries in another, agriculture in another. My suggestion would be that at the very beginning of our report, we put a footnote with the definition of agriculture and use agriculture in the wider term actually provided by FAO in their report, beyond the fields and into the seas.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we will certainly do that for our Report, and then we can probably we move here “*and livestock*”. Otherwise, we get into trouble and livestock is included in agriculture.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lamentablemente yo pedí la palabra antes. Quería darle una solución, quizás, encuentre una solución para no seguir parqueando, porque podemos parquear toda la noche en el tema de la agricultura. Si me permite, podemos volver un segundo arriba donde estuve escuchando muy atentamente la sugerencia de mi colega de Suecia, la Sra. Pernilla Ivarsson, que me hizo reflexionar y quería ver si me permite ayudar. Creo que por ahí le encontré la vuelta.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We first finish this subparagraph, otherwise, we go back and forth all of the time.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Está bien, yo había pedido la palabra antes. Okay, espero. En este subpárrafo (j), lo que le quiero decir es que apoyo la posición, la propuesta de México, pero creo que “*Including decarbonization*”, debe ser excluida del subpárrafo, porque no existe “*decarbonization*” como concepto para la agricultura. No conozco ningún lugar donde haya... ni siquiera en la cumbre de Glasgow, tampoco ese fue un concepto acordado como “*Including*” el tema de “*decarbonization*” en la agricultura.

Así que eso para mí debería de estar excluido y cuando me permita volvemos al subpárrafo de Agricultura.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Comment focuses on the decarbonisation language as well. We would prefer to replace that with “*reducing*” or we could say, “*including emissions reductions to cover greenhouse gases in addition to carbon dioxide such as methane*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps it is easier to make it simple and not say anything when it refers to “*including*”.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We also support, now it is not in the text, but we did not want the reference to decarbonisation. When it comes to the proposal made by the United States, then as a compromise, we can accept that.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Very quickly to support Argentina and we have no recollection of this decarbonization. Also thank the United States, but “*including emission reductions*” well according to our knowledge, the question of reduction for developing countries is something that we support, but it is something that is decided internally and countries are supposed to decide that nationally, internally, without preconditions from abroad.

We believe that we cannot. Developing countries cannot include agriculture entirely. So we believe in sustainable agriculture. Something that is already specified in international treaties but not decarbonisation, or dimension “to include emissions reductions.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us keep it, in this late hour, simple. If we delete “*decarbonize*” before “*sustainable agriculture*” and delete everything and just say, “*highlighted multilateral efforts on environmental protection and commitments to sustainable agriculture.*”

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was just reflecting on that. I was going to offer “and carbon sequestration” in line with the earlier point of the potential of agriculture to be part of the solution and which goes to the point of (j) up above. I am just still reflecting on your proposal. I will come back if I have anything else.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Because this is the last subparagraph which was in yellow, besides the remaining subparagraphs, can we agree to the subparagraph as it is now? I really seek agreement, otherwise we keep it in yellow and we have to come back to it tomorrow.

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We would like to support the proposal from the United States and keep the reference to “*lowering emissions*” in this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep the subparagraph pending.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Taking note of your comment on several occasions, that we should all be equally unhappy, perhaps dropping it at this point and I think we can live with “*sustainable agriculture*”. Obviously, we would prefer to see something about emissions or carbon sequestration but I think going with sustainable agriculture and noting that this is all just feeding into the generation of the strategy. We may yet see what what sustainable agriculture looks like, whether that has elements of emissions reductions or carbon sequestration. In that spirit, I would say we can live with this and we will wait and see what the Strategy tells us when it gets produced.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We are trying to be flexible as well. I have to be honest, reading this subparagraph, as it now stands, I am wondering why it is relevant to the Strategy on Climate Change. Can we at least say “*highlighted multilateral efforts on environmental protection and commitments to sustainable agriculture in the context of climate considerations*”? I am just trying to find some way to make this actually relevant to the Strategy on Climate Change.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The whole context is the Strategy on Climate Change. We do not have to repeat it because it is in the context of the Strategy on Climate Change. So, I will try to get a clean subparagraph but if we cannot do it, then we have to do it tomorrow, because it is almost an impossible task with the remaining outstanding issues. We all know that. Is there flexibility? Because it is stated as input for the FAO Strategy on Climate Change that we keep the text as it is, as simple as possible. Please may I appeal to your flexibility to do so?

**Ms Rebecca ENTRINGER (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor again to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, we would like to join the others who have been very flexible here and we would like to be flexible too and, in the spirit of compromise, to support this subparagraph as it is.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can now remove the yellow. With that, I will try to keep my promise that we should not have a midnight session. We are going to conclude for today. We hopefully have solved at least one Item, Item 7. If the Russian Federation has new instructions...

We moved a little bit forward on Item 8.1 but we still have the difficult issue on the principle.

We will work on compromised language and hopefully we can finalize as soon as possible our work on Items 8.2, 8, 9 and then, of course, Item 6 where, please, use your time this evening or tomorrow

morning to consult on how to find a way forward, especially on the text on the Food Systems Summit subparagraphs because half of them are in yellow and we have to finalize our work, hopefully, around midday because we are planning to have the Drafting Committee around 13:00 hours tomorrow afternoon.

As I promised, Cameroon, to say the progress and the indication on how to proceed tomorrow morning, we take up all the remaining items on what I just said. Hopefully we can make a speedy progress and then around 13:00 hours or a bit later, we can start working in the Drafting Committee and you know that what we already agreed is already being translated. Hopefully we can speed up our work and finalize our work somewhere by the beginning of tomorrow evening.

With that positive note, I hope, we call it a day. We see each other, after a very good rest, tomorrow morning. Sleep well. Be here bright and shiny and we continue our work tomorrow, 09:30 hours sharp.

Thank you so much. Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 21:19 hours*

*La séance est levée à 21 h 19*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 21.19*



# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>NINTH PLENARY SESSION NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NONA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>3 December 2021</b>

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:37 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 37  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la nona sesión plenaria a las 09.37  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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las correcciones a: [Verbatim-Team@fao.org](mailto:Verbatim-Team@fao.org)

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**  
(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)*

*Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)*

*Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)*

(CL 168/22)

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Members of the Council, dear friends, let us all be friends together today, let us unite behind compromises, let us only think in compromise today and not any more in positions, because I think we have discussed all the Items. The positions are clear and I have a very good feeling that for everything we can find a compromise on all the issues pending.

I worked on compromised language based on your positions based on informal context to find a way forward. With your support I know that we can manage to conclude our Session today, because nobody wants to go into the weekend, nobody wants to go to Monday because we have meetings again.

However, of course, I will do everything to make it happen but I cannot do it alone, I need to support all of you – and we have an extended Session today, this morning, so we will not stop at 11:30 hours, we can go till, hopefully not, 14:00 hours to finalize all our work. Then we have the meeting of the Drafting Committee and then hopefully we can adopt our Report at around 20:00 hours this evening. The sooner we adopt the Report, the sooner we can enjoy the weekend. That is also up to us.

Let us start working now and we start, as you saw the programme for today, working on the remaining outstanding issues. We will start with Item 8.2 and that is the Science and Innovation Strategy. We came quite far, however, we still have some subparagraphs pending, and I will go to the subparagraphs pending, they are highlighted in yellow.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Good morning. Just a quick question, can you repeat the timetable for today? I did not completely understand.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

The timetable would be that we work in Plenary or in the Council setting until, hopefully, no later than 14:00 hours. Then we will go directly into the Drafting Committee, of course we will take some 15 minutes to get everybody organized. Then, of course, hopefully, we have a fruitful Drafting Committee. Then we need some time to prepare the Report, send it to you so that you can read it, and then hopefully at 20:00 this evening we can start adopting the Report.

With that I go to subparagraph (g) of Item 8.2. As I said, we worked on a compromise proposal which I would like now to show on the screen, and the compromise reads: “*Stressed the need for dissemination and scaling up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology and innovation.*” Would this be agreeable?

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Just want to say that on the Chair’s compromise, we thank you for proposing that. For us, I think, that captures both the discussion and also what people said they wanted to see in this. We can accept that.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

Might it be possible to include “*adoption*” before “*dissemination*” if that is agreeable to everyone?

**CHAIRPERSON**

That was a problem, because who is going to adopt it in this text? That is why I spoke about dissemination, so if there is flexibility I would ask you to go along with this as well, because otherwise we would go back to the problem.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

Because it is “*being stressed for...*”, so who is going to scale up and disseminate? It is addressed to, “*the Council stressed the document CL168/22, the Roadmap of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*”. So, “*the Council stressed the need for adoption by Members...*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think it will be impossible for Members to adopt everything, so this is guidance for the Strategy. I think we are not developing the Strategy itself now. This is guidance for the Strategy, let us see how it can be worked out in the Strategy. How the dissemination and scaling up can be done, by whom and what.

Let us not be prescriptive at this moment, we will see it in the Strategy, and let us see how we can get it done there.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

Okay, I see your point Chairperson. The Philippines is flexible on that. Thank you for the explanation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Philippines for your flexibility.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Good morning Chairperson, thank you for your effort in phrasing this subparagraph. Is there a chance to add “*and transfer*” after “*sharing*”?

**CHAIRPERSON**

However, what I tried to do and to avoid getting into the discussion we had about transfer of technology and mutual terms etc., this dissemination can include, of course, the transfer, because I think it has to be worked out in the Strategy itself.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Yes Chairperson but at the same time the language used is very broad. I am not asking about any commitments, we are just talking about the need for scaling up good practices. Therefore, the language itself is not very strong, so adding “*the transfer*” I think will not make it difficult in approving this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

However, Egypt to be honest, it was a big problem to already decide on it and how it should be done now. That is why I try to go around the issue and leave it up to the discussion, when we have the draft Strategy, on how the dissemination will be done, what will be included and not. Again, it is just giving guidance for the development of the Strategy. Let us wait for the draft to get into the specific issues, because if we include “*transfer of technology*” then we have to go into, I would say, mutual terms, and before you know we have again a lengthy subparagraph.

I really would like to ask everybody to be flexible this morning because we are pressed for time.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Juste pour vous remercier de votre proposition et lui apporter mon soutien, car elle a le mérite de tout couvrir.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Thank you for your work on this Chairperson, and we agree with your compromised language and note that there will be other opportunities to discuss this when the Strategy comes back to us. I think this is a good middle ground.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Dos cosas, la primera, el compromiso de siempre de ser flexibles y de acomodar las posiciones y sensibilidades de todos; no solo de alguno o de algunos Miembros. Por lo cual creo que lo planteado por Filipinas y por Egipto son puntos muy importantes, sobre todo para la perspectiva de los países en desarrollo. Entonces, creo que es muy importante ser flexibles hoy para tratar de lograr terminar en tiempo.

Pero para poder ser flexibles, es necesario acomodar los intereses absolutamente de todos para lograr ese mínimo común denominador.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is exactly what I tried to do, to comfort all, not only some or others, all.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

As much as we are working hard to be flexible we still need to keep the language that also is consistent with the other language that is used, as we agreed, and this language is used in many other FAO and UN Agencies and on this position I need time to consult before I approve this subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we keep this subparagraph pending and we go to subparagraph (h).

**Sr. Eduardo MEJÍA CALITO (Guatemala)**

Guatemala se quiere sumar a lo ya indicado por Argentina respecto al respeto de las diferencias comunes de los países que estamos en vías de desarrollo, entonces queremos sumarnos a lo propuesto por Argentina y que podamos avanzar lo más pronto en los temas pendientes por aprobar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending, and then at a certain time we will have to see whether or not we can find a way forward.

We go to subparagraph (h). There we had two suggestions and I tried to find a compromise, trying to comfort all, and a compromise always means everybody is equally unhappy so I would like to put forward the compromise proposal.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I think the original subparagraph (h) is very similar to the recently agreed proposal because it had to do with "*stressed the dissemination*". Thus, the original subparagraph (h) in my opinion is already included in the previous one that we were discussing. I believe that for what this costs us in time, there was a suggestion for FAO Science and Innovation Strategy to include some sort of Strategy for dissemination, which is a different concept. Therefore, the original subparagraph (h) is in my opinion already covered, and the suggestion will be that FAO Science and Innovation Strategy should include communication and dissemination.

Therefore, I agree with the proposal by the Chairperson.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we all agree to the compromise? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (i) and there I do not know whether my friend from Cameroon is here, however yesterday he asked for the deletion of this subparagraph giving more flexibility to the development of the Strategy, how to deal with mutually agreed concepts, and new concepts, which

have to be devised. Therefore, could we not agree to delete this subparagraph? Is there flexibility to go along with its deletion?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We believe the idea to maintain it in every and each Report we make, given the fact that in previous documents that we have seen in FAO, sometimes different kinds of language and concepts that are not neutrally agreed appear, and we have to go back, or have to discuss the issue and to try and solve the problem. I believe given the fact that this is the situation right now, I ask the indulgence of all the delegations to maintain this call and to make a very specific reference to the use of the mutually agreed language.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

In an effort to try and reach a compromise on this, and listening to the justification provided for deletion, I am wondering if we could address it in this way. After the words "*and the United Nations*", so maintain the language that is in there, put a comma, and then include the language "*while noting the need to accommodate scientific advances*". Hopefully, that might be something that could address everyone's concerns.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We still believe that there is no added value of this text here, because we are dealing with science. We are dealing with technology. Look at what we are going to deal with today, telephones, the speed is such that we cannot accommodate. If we put ourselves in a straitjacket with this, I do not think that we are doing ourselves good. We still believe that being silent in this will not prevent us from bringing it up when we are discussing if at all we see there is no agreement, which appears in some of the document.

We are dealing with science and innovation, our proposal is to stay silent on this because when we write it, you put yourself in a straitjacket. It is not that we disapprove this statement, but leave it, just stay silent on it. I am not sure that it will do harm to anybody. Therefore, we are of the opinion that we should stay, we can do away with it. It will not be harmful to the work of FAO in science and innovation and technology.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVİK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We would retain subparagraph (i). We would also note the good proposal that came from Australia, adding that reference to the need to accommodate scientific advances. I think that with that addition, or it could even be placed at the beginning of the sentence, or future work, it would be important because new terms can arrive, new terminology, and therefore we could have an international glossary and that could adopt these words, and that could feature in the strategies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us focus on not repeating our positions because we know all our positions but let us see whether or not we can work on the compromise proposed by Australia, whether or not that would bring us forward.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

With that suggestion in mind perhaps a middle ground can be found with something along the lines of "*stressed the relevance of multilaterally agreed language and concepts*". Then if we can perhaps delete "*especially those agreed by FAO governing bodies*" to loosen that straitjacket that Cameroon mentioned and then retain the language offered by Australia so the whole subparagraph would then read: "*stress the relevance of multilaterally agreed language and concepts, while noting the need to accommodate scientific advances.*"

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I hope we will be able to follow your timetable today and we are definitely here to be flexible in finding compromises. Just to start, I agree very much with my colleague from Cameroon. We share the view that when we are talking about a knowledge organization as FAO we really need to give the

possibility to find the best solutions in science. Since colleagues before me have put forward language as a compromise I would just like to support what Canada just said. I think that is a good compromise and I will not make your life difficult by adding something different. I can now go along with what has been suggested by Australia and Canada.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We put it as an alternative so we know exactly how the sentence reads.

**Mme Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

What Sweden said is exactly what Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States was going to propose.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I appreciate the effort made by Australia and Canada. I believe that we are reaching a solution for this subparagraph here.

Just a small amendment as we are talking about right now. I suggest you insert “*stressed*”, maintain the verb because otherwise we are not going to go anywhere, “*the relevance of using multilateral language and concepts while noting the need to accommodate scientific advances.*”

I believe this final wording here, proposed by Australia, is very good. Of course, we are not trying to impede or stop the advance of science, on the contrary, we are much in favor of that and we share the concerns expressed by Cameroon. We totally understand that, however it is not of stopping science, on the contrary, the idea is to avoid complication and to avoid the use of national position, national interest without science. That is our concern.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Hopefully we are now arriving at a consensus.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero quería agradecer los comentarios de Camerún, de Australia y de Canadá que me parecieron muy constructivos. Estamos más cómodos con las sugerencias de Brasil, última, y la de Rusia. Quizás una manera de buscar una salida ya a final de compromiso, pero a partir del agregado planteado dado por el Representante de Brasil, es decir, “*...of using multilaterally agreed language and concepts as appropriate*”, y de esa manera podemos tener, quizás, el mecanismo de equilibrio entre las diferentes preocupaciones y salir rápido de aquí y así podemos seguir trabajando con los demás subpárrafos.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Thank you to Australia, Canada and Argentina. We want to be flexible because now we had an interesting position. Just to remove this, for flexibility we can accept to keep it, but I really am not comfortable with the word “*using*” added by Brazil, but if people can go along with it we will be flexible on that.

Maybe we will instead add a few things: “*while noting that the Strategy deals with innovation and science which have a very rapid terminology development*”. It is something along that line that we want to put because it is not much on scientific advances because we are dealing with terminology here; language and concept. Therefore, we do away with “*the need to accommodate scientific advances.*” Or we can still probably leave it as “*and the need to accommodate scientific advances.*” We can add that, or we can say “*and the need to accommodate scientific advances.*” We can leave it, and just add “*and*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this text be agreeable? I do not see any objections so we have agreed on another subparagraph. Excellent.

We go to subparagraph (j).

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think our preference would be to remove this as we think it ties the hands of the Science and Innovation Strategy, but again, in the spirit of compromise I think we do have a couple of additions that would also be agreeable. I am going to make some suggestions here on “*stressed the importance*”. Maybe if we could just add another subparagraph it would be easier: “*the importance of assessing potential benefits and risks from using the new technologies and innovations on the three pillars of sustainability*”, which I think goes more in line with what we are talking about; social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Hopefully others can agree to that. I think it still captures the above, but is clearer on both benefits and risks and focuses on that.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero quiero felicitarlo por cómo hemos avanzado con los párrafos anteriores. En segundo lugar, estamos cómodos con la propuesta que acaba de formular Estados Unidos de América que, creo, captura un poco la discusión que hemos tenido. Así que, si hay consenso sobre este párrafo, nosotros estamos de acuerdo. Si no, obviamente deberíamos ir al anterior párrafo y ahí tenemos alguna sugerencia para hacer. Dígame usted qué prefiere que haga, si voy ahora, me pararía aquí a ver cómo seguimos, pero estamos cómodos con esa posición.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see whether this new proposal can meet all the concerns.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Yes, we are happy with the new proposal, we just suggest eliminating “*the*” from “*using new technologies*”. Otherwise, we are happy with it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are going in the right direction.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci à mon collègue américain pour sa proposition de langage. Nous pouvons accepter l'idée d'avoir un “*assessment*” à la fois des bénéfices et des risques, donc la première partie nous convient.

Ma préférence serait de s'arrêter à “*innovation*”, pour la simple raison que dans la proposition précédente qui, si ma mémoire est bonne, avait été avancée par la délégation de Russie, il y avait la mention notamment de la santé. Je ne suis pas sûre que l'on couvre cette dimension en mentionnant uniquement les trois piliers de la durabilité. Aussi, je pense que le plus simple serait peut-être de dire “*from using new technologies and innovation*”, pour être plus général.

Par ailleurs, il manque un élément important du paragraphe j), que nous avons été plusieurs à mentionner, et c'est naturellement la mention des considérations éthiques. C'est d'autant plus important puisque nous en avons parlé et que c'est déjà la politique de la FAO, car je rappelle encore qu'elle a signé l'appel de Rome.

Donc, je proposerais: “*stressed the importance of assessing potential benefits and risks from using new technologies and innovation and of addressing ethical considerations*”, car je pense que la dimension éthique est très importante.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to go back to the previous subparagraph, which did not meet consensus. I think we are back to scratch now.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the delegation of the United States of America for their proposition; we could go along with that. Just a small amendment maybe regarding the three pillars of sustainability. Maybe to use the correct noun in this case and “*sustainable developments*” may be a little bit more precise in this case.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We are also grateful to the delegation of the United States of America for the alternative text that was proposed. We agree with the addition of “*benefits*”, it balances a previous idea, and our comment is also in line with what Brazil has said because if we mention the three pillars of sustainable development then at the same time we are referring to the 2030 Agenda directly and that includes many goals including health. Therefore, I think that “*sustainable development*” that reference covers our concern relating to health and wellbeing of populations. We feel that we can support this formulation with the addition made by Brazil.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I turn to France because I think everybody can agree with the compromised proposal and it refers to Agenda 2030 so could France also be flexible to adopt this subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

On peut accepter ce paragraphe s'il est clair en effet que “*sustainable development*” couvre tout. Je me réfère à la proposition russe. À ce moment-là, je souhaiterais que l'on fasse un paragraphe distinct sur les considérations éthiques, je ne crois pas que cela pose problème et je pense que ce que nous discussions précédemment concernait la question des risques. Si l'on peut donc faire un paragraphe distinct comme suit: “*Recalled the importance to address ethical considerations*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first then agree to this subparagraph, and then we agree to subparagraph (j). Then we have a new subparagraph. France, could you repeat your subparagraph?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

“*Stress the importance of addressing ethical considerations*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this subparagraph?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La verdad que no entendemos el párrafo, no lo comprendo, no entiendo qué significan "consideraciones éticas" porque, de acuerdo a lo que yo interpreto, la ética tiene mucho que ver con la cultura y con las diferentes culturas. No hay una sola ética. Hay una gran subjetividad en la manera de encarar una cuestión ética y nosotros estamos hablando de ciencia.

Entonces, es complejo, porque lo que para algunos es ético; para otros no es ético. Entonces, la pregunta es qué define, quién define qué es ético y qué no es ético. Es como plantearse cuál es la mejor cultura, la cultura de un país o la cultura de otro. Me parece que es muy complejo en una Organización intergubernamental meternos en una cuestión para discutir un tema de la ética. Creo que, lo hemos visto en cuestiones de género, que pasa en un montón de cuestiones, cómo las éticas son distintas porque las culturas son distintas y creo que es peligroso entrar en un escenario subjetivo de este nivel.

Probablemente con mi colega de Francia podamos tener la misma visión ética, pero quizás otros no, por eso digo que preferiría no incluir este párrafo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other reflections on this subparagraph?

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**



Coincido plenamente con mi colega de Argentina, creo que meternos en un tema de ética es meternos en un camino muy difícil en un organismo multilateral. No creo que este párrafo deba ir y coincido con su aportación.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think the Ambassador from Argentina said it very clearly, and said it well. This is a very unclear sentence so I think it is very much a value judgement. However, also I think that as the delegation from the Russian Federation pointed out, in terms of the sustainable development, health and things, I think we can say that these things are all captured under there. Again, we would ask to agree to delete this as well and ask if they could consider that it is captured in the above sustainable development.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

For the record, I would actually like to support France on this. When we had a discussion the Chief Scientist actually said that this is an important part of the work that FAO is doing. FAO has an Ethics Committee and most science bodies are actually bringing ethics into when they develop. I think there is a concept here that is well taken care of. For that respect, I think it would not at all be strange to have this as something that we are saying here, "*importance of addressing ethical consideration*".

I mean for us this is quite important, we are not saying which ethics, but it is quite important that we have a discussion on ethics. I think that is what we want to bring in here and so that is my recollection of what we discussed when we had this discussion. I also think it could be part of subparagraph (j) because then it would not stand as a standalone, as it was before.

We would be happy to support that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I called upon everybody this morning to think of compromises and not positions, and it is clear that we now have two positions, one in favour and the other not in favour.

Let us look at perhaps compromised language.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Please may I ask that you pass the floor to Slovenia to speak on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

I am sorry to disappoint you but we do not have a compromise proposal. We just wanted to support France in including our reference to addressing ethical considerations; it is a very important point that is always linked to science and technology. We know that many innovations can be also misused in a sense. Therefore, we would like to see this reflected also in our conclusions either in a separate subparagraph or as Sweden proposes, to include it in the previous subparagraph.

**Sr. Eduardo MEJÍA CALITO (Guatemala)**

Quisiéramos sumarnos también a lo ya dicho por Argentina. Argentina y Estados Unidos de América. El término de ética es un término muy subjetivo que puede variar entre tantos pensamientos, personas, culturas, por tanto tal vez no encaja en lo que es el desarrollo científico y tecnológico a lo que persigue esta resolución. Entonces, apoyamos la posición de Argentina y Estados Unidos.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Again, I have been trying to listen and consider a solution. I agree with the position that was put forward by the Argentinian Ambassador about the potential ambiguity of the word "*ethics*". I also picked up on a comment made by Sweden about a Management Response about the FAO Ethics Committee. With that in mind I would like to propose the following as a new sentence. The alternative would read: "*Noted the role the FAO Ethics Committee plays in considering science and innovation*".

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I have no suggestion, in fact I was considering asking the proponents of the sentence to provide some multilateral agreed language on that, maybe you can find that in the Agenda 2030 that is so important to all of us. Anyhow, listening to the Australian proposition I think it is a very good commitment here and I think it deals with the issue raised by the European colleagues.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see more smiling faces in the room now, at least in the room here in the building.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I do not want to take too much time but in the scientific field and the philosophy field there is a big discussion between the ethical issues of science and I think that is something that we cannot ignore, especially some who work in laboratories and play with genes and things of that nature. I like the Australian proposition, however here I think we also need to say something probably at the end and *“stress the importance for the Strategy to include mechanisms to support Member countries to develop policy frameworks to address theoretical and cultural principles.”* That will address some of the issues that Argentina has proposed, here ethical concerns are different.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this subparagraph meet the approval of the Council? I do not see any objections so we have another agreed subparagraph.

**Ms Tamara VILLANUELA (Chile)**

We can be very flexible on this but we think that the Strategy can include mechanisms for Members to develop the policy framework. Ethical and cultural principles is too broad. Cultural principles in general is I think going too far, and maybe *“address the ethical principles related to the development of science, innovation and technology”* could be better. But ethics is a very complex issue we have in all areas of science, development, even complete departments in universities are dealing with this. I do not think FAO has the mandate for that and the expertise also. We think this is too broad and maybe some English-speaking country can help us here, but address the ethical concerns in the developing of science and innovation. But not cultural.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We thank Australia for making the proposal, but the Ethics Committee of FAO is mostly established to guide the work of the Director-General to promote the culture of ethics, transparency and accountability.

Now we are here dealing with the role of ethics in science, so it is a little bit far from the role of the Ethics Committee of FAO. I was wondering if we cannot find another word instead of talking of the Ethics Committee of FAO but to look at the global perspective on how to deal with it. You know these are very difficult issues.

If I were to make a suggestion, it is too complicated for us to deal with now. My suggestion is to remove it from our concern here. It is too complicated and I follow the opinion of Chile who mentioned that this is a whole area of stalling. I suggest let us do away with it because it looks too complicated for us. We cannot come to a consensus on how to deal with it, despite all the efforts we are making. It would be very difficult.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What I just understood is that there is no adequate commission here anywhere within FAO so we have to remove because it is not in a Committee within FAO anymore.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Good morning everybody, I would like to support Cameroon in saying that ethical considerations or cultural considerations even, I believe we should take out the term *“ethics”*. If we insert the term ‘ethics’ we will have to discuss cultures, religion, and that will take us into another debate.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero, a mí me parece que lo que dijo Camerún fue muy claro y, realmente, lo que acaba de decir la representante de Sudán refleja mi reflexión. Y, digamos, la primaria, ¿no? La que tenemos mucha dificultad para poder pensar de la misma manera, sobre todo en términos éticos o valores culturales.

Entonces, por otro lado, hicimos un compromiso con usted, Presidente, de buscar ser constructivos y de encontrar soluciones. Yo quisiera sugerirle un párrafo, mi equipo estuvo trabajando, estuvimos trabajando en paralelo mientras discutíamos esto a ver si con esto podemos salir y avanzar rápidamente con los demás párrafos, Presidente. Voy a leer a velocidad de dictado en inglés. *“Stress the importance for the Strategy to foster, as appropriate, intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility in relation to science and technology innovation* No estoy inventando la rueda, es el párrafo 36 de la Agenda 2030.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Listening to the considerations in the room we do think that ethics is important but we do not really know how FAO will be able to take that forward. I would offer an alternative paragraph: *“Encouraged FAO to identify how it could address ethical considerations in science and innovation, and Report back to Members.”*

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

As I said, we will continue to embrace this issue and I think the word *“ethics”* is the most difficult one. Let me suggest something. *“Recognized the need for the Strategy to consider a set of principles that include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potentials for harm, and possible communication”*. Because I want to avoid the word *“ethics”* and I am trying to put in all the guiding principles or the considerations of *“ethics”*. If this could be considered by Members I hope we can have leeway on this.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo bajé la mano porque la verdad es que estamos tratando de acomodar una preocupación que no vuela y, la verdad es que, ayer hicimos un gran esfuerzo para, por ejemplo, hablar del derecho al desarrollo y rápidamente no voló y tuvimos todos que acomodarnos para, de alguna manera, satisfacer la posición de algunos colegas.

Me da la sensación que no está volando. Hemos hecho propuesta de texto, creo que más que la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible, no hay un Consejo más amplio que con la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible. Desde ya, quiero decir que la propuesta de Canadá es absolutamente inapropiada. No es mandato de la FAO lo que está planteando el delegado de Canadá, por lo tanto, es absolutamente inaceptable. El resto podemos discutirlo, pero en definitiva, yo repito, creo que el consenso de la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible es suficientemente importante como para si queremos tener una solución de compromiso, la podemos utilizar. Y si no, bueno, tendremos que ser realistas y continuamos por favor, porque no podemos seguir discutiendo esto toda la mañana.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je rappelle aussi que sur d'autres points de l'ordre du jour, nous avons tous essayé de prendre en compte les préoccupations de tous les collègues et pas seulement de certains. Donc, je remercie les collègues pour leurs efforts.

De notre point de vue, la proposition canadienne était la meilleure. J'ai entendu mon collègue argentin, aussi, je pense que l'on peut dire *“How it could address ethical considerations in science and innovation within FAO's mandate.”*

Nous pouvons aussi travailler en parallèle, ce matin. Je vais essayer de réfléchir à du langage, si vous voulez avancer et, à ce stade, mettre entre crochets le paragraphe, mais nous sommes d'avis qu'il est important d'avoir quelque chose sur ce sujet.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not want to continue this discussion, it is taking too much time, and time we do not have anymore. I ask everybody to consider it for a moment, because we have now four alternatives, and none of them are meeting any consensus. So, at a certain moment everybody has to consider whether or not this is a

dealbreaker or not. With that, I would like to continue now to the next subparagraph, and that is subparagraph (m).

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Just to confirm that we are always not comfortable to single out High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), because we know that it is part of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Where we mention that the CFS is covering everything, we do not want to get into the work of the CFS per se and the consideration of the CFS. So, we will ask if “*with the CFS*” is enough, So that we remove “*and its HLPE*”. I am not sure if that was captured by the Secretariat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was just going to say that.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I agree with Cameroon’s suggestion, but also we do not see the value of this subparagraph. Again, we talked about that in a number of the other ones, but in terms of the Science and Innovation Strategy, it is unclear about why we would single out the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). Our proposal would be to delete this subparagraph.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to remind the Council that we were discussing this subparagraph a few days ago, and we came with an alternative language proposal for this subparagraph, since it was already a little bit problematic at that time. So, we sent the proposal to you and to FAO Secretariat, and we are surprised now that it is not here in the new text, but if you wish we can share it now with you again.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could you read it out, because then we will put it in the text?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

The proposal was an alternative subparagraph where we say: “*stresses the need to ensure proper linkages with other UN processes, including with the HLPE of the CFS*”. Why we think we need that direct reference to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) here is because we are talking about Science and Innovation, and the HLPE is of course part of the the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) but in this case it is the science policy interface of the CFS we would like reference to here in this subparagraph.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Very briefly, as we concur with the United States of America, we do not see any added value here, so we prefer to delete this whole subparagraph.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

I really appreciate the way you are handling this meeting. Actually, this point has been discussed several times during the last two days, and at this point time I really agree with the statement proposed by Cameroon, because we said once the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), we do not need to stress again and say High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), because HLPE is part and parcel of CFS. Just delete HLPE, and we can stop as well with just CFS.

At the same time, I also do not agree with the alternate statement which was written and proposed, which says “*Stresses the need to ensure proper linkage with other UN processes, including HLPE and CFS*”. After all, it has the same concept as the previous one, but what it has included is HLPE. I totally disagree with this one, we can accept it, but only delete HLPE.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

Here, we are talking about the Strategy on Science and Innovation, I agree with the representatives from the United States of America, Eritrea, and Brazil. We think we can delete this subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Escuché atentamente a todos los colegas, todos los aportes. Creo que Camerún y Eritrea tienen toda la razón, es una discusión que ya hemos tenido ayer y son muy buenos sus argumentos, pero justamente por esos mismos argumentos, yo creo que, se justifica la posición planteada por Estados Unidos de América. y Brasil.

Si usted me permite, Presidente, a mí me parece que sería bueno preguntarle a la Consejera Legal, porque nosotros tenemos entendido que el CFS, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, es parte de la FAO. Está en los basic texts, por lo menos en lo que yo interpreto, por ahí estoy leyendo mal. Sería bueno si la Asesora Jurídica nos lo podría confirmar porque si es así, entonces realmente ya no tendría ningún sentido seguir manteniendo este párrafo aquí y podríamos avanzar.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

With respect to the status of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), it is a nuanced one, as many of you are extremely aware. It is a body which, according to Article III of the Constitution, paragraph 9: "*shall Report to the Conference - that is the FAO Conference, - and to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) through the Economic and Social Council, and the Conference. Its composition and terms of reference shall be governed by rules adopted by the Conference.*" Furthermore, according to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization, paragraph 8: "*the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is and remains an intergovernmental committee in FAO.*"

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

As much as we sympathize with the effort that everybody is putting on to address this issue, I think we believe that, at the further end, we support the solution of the United States of America, and this also has a programme, because it stresses the need to ensure we work properly with all UN processes. Is the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) a process? I am a little bit confused. I thought it was a panel, not a process. So, I tell to be corrected, but this does not add value to what we are discussing, and probably we can do without it.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

Listening to the different opinions, we would like to thank all those, also for the opinions suggested. We would put on subparagraph (m) a full stop after "*funds and programmes*", and delete the reference to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE).

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to France, and then we keep this subparagraph pending. It is clear there is no consensus, and we are losing a lot of time on this.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Ma délégation tient à s'associer et à soutenir ce qui a été proposé et indiqué par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres. S'agissant du paragraphe m), la mention du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) est nécessaire. Comme l'a rappelé la Conseillère juridique, le CSA fait aussi rapport directement à l'ECOSOC, en plus de la Conférence de la FAO. Il est donc extrêmement important de le mentionner. Dans un esprit de flexibilité, ma délégation pourrait accepter de s'arrêter à CSA, "CFS", mais je souligne que c'est une grande flexibilité, et il n'est en aucun cas question de supprimer le CSA.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending. At this moment there is no consensus in the room.

We go to subparagraph (n), and my proposal would be to delete this subparagraph, because when we speak about the strengthening of national agricultural research institutions, we have already addressed this issue in subparagraph (f), where we speak about strengthening of national and local institutions. So, could we delete this subparagraph? We already had a discussion on the interfaces.

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

It is important to include this subparagraph because national agricultural research institutions in many countries, like the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) in Brazil, China Agricultural University (CAU), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR) in India, are doing a great job in Science and Innovation. So, I think we have to strengthen it, and this subparagraph is very important according to us. In subparagraph (f) it is not addressed properly, so I think we should have a separate one.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Another attempt: could we have a full stop after “*institutions*”? Because we could not reach any beginning of a consensus on policy interface at global, national, and international levels. We had a long discussion, and it did not meet any beginning of a consensus, so if we just say “*support the strengthening of national agricultural research institutions*”. Would that be acceptable for India?

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

I will come back to you. We can keep it pending for a while.

**CHAIRPERSON**

About what ‘*while*’ means, we do not have a lot of ‘*whiles*’ today anymore, but we will keep it pending. So, we solved two of the five remaining subparagraphs, it is a progress, but I have to remind you that it is not enough progress if we want to finalize our work today.

- Item 9. Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (28-29 October 2021) and 188th (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee (*continued*)**
- Point 9. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-sixième (7-9 juin 2021), cent quatre-vingt-septième (28-29 octobre 2021) et cent quatre-vingt-huitième sessions (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité financier (*suite*)**
- Tema 9. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 186.º (7-9 de junio de 2021), 187.º (28 y 29 de octubre de 2021) y 188.º (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité de Finanzas (*continuación*)**
- (CL 168/9; CL 168/16; CL 168/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go now to the remaining subparagraphs of Item 9. We go to subparagraph (b). Based on the discussions and taking also on board what was suggested by several, I worked on a compromised language which I now put on the screen, because I think it is important that we ask the Finance Committee to look into the different options. It is not at this moment up to the Council to decide on it. So, I will put my paper on the screen.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I would just like to emphasize one point, that when I initially made this proposal on the feasibility of the Organization accepting local currencies, I made it a point to say that in those countries where there were FAO offices, because that is where the Organization incurs expenditures in local currency. It was also mentioned, and it was obvious, that the Organization would only accept local currencies up to its requirements.

In other words, it would see what its total expenditure in local currency is and only accept local currency up to that amount. Giving a general possibility to the Organization to accept local currencies would create other problems for the Organization. My point is that we should restrict it to countries where there is an FAO Office, because the Organization has to incur expenditure in local currency in that country, and it should only accept local currency up to the amount its requirements are. In other words, what its local currency expenditure is.

Anything else, I think, would create considerable difficulties for the Organization if it has a collection of local currencies. That may not be the right way to go.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not think it is at this moment in time for the Council to go into in depth with this discussion, that is why I proposed to let the Finance Committee discuss further this option and come forward with advice to the Council.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero agradecerle al Representante de Pakistán por sus clarificaciones. Creo, Presidente, que deberíamos todos agradecerle a usted esta propuesta porque entiendo que, en realidad, como usted bien dice, no es aquí el Consejo donde vamos a poder avanzar en esta cuestión, pero sí es bueno que el Comité de Finanzas que tiene una visión técnica, mayor expertise, podrá evaluar diferentes alternativas sobre esta cuestión. Yo creo que su propuesta captura todas esas preocupaciones y evitamos avanzar aquí en el Consejo, en hacer una tarea que debe hacer el Comité de Finanzas.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

S'agissant de votre langage, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord signaler qu'au titre du point 10, le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ), nous avons déjà adopté un paragraphe que nous pouvons remettre ici, il s'agit du paragraphe 2 b), qui rappelle l'impact de la COVID, et je souhaiterais ne pas dériver du langage de ce paragraphe 2 b) déjà agréé.

Je rappelle que pour permettre aux États et avant tout aux pays les moins avancés de se redresser de la pandémie de COVID, il faut que le système multilatéral, et en particulier la FAO, soit financé de manière adéquate.

Il faut reconnaître à cet égard que les arriérés de contributions obligatoires sont pour 95 pour cent le fait d'une dizaine de pays parmi lesquels aucun ne fait partie des pays les moins avancés, et ces pays sont les mêmes qu'en 2019. En fait, les pays les moins avancés sont les victimes aujourd'hui des arriérés de contributions.

Je réitère alors ma préférence pour s'en tenir, s'agissant de la mention de la pandémie, au langage que nous avons déjà accepté au point 10, paragraphe 2 b) de l'ordre du jour.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne l'étude de faisabilité, je pense que ce sujet relève de la Conférence, qu'il n'est pas forcément indispensable à ce stade de dépenser de l'argent supplémentaire pour faire une étude de faisabilité. Ainsi, ma proposition, très concrètement, est de reprendre le paragraphe du point 10 2 b), et ensuite de s'en tenir au paragraphe c).

Le cas échéant, en ajoutant à la fin du paragraphe c): *"and ask Management to study options to address the payment of these arrears"*.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I would like to express full support for what France has just said. I think this is one of those instances where there is some natural overlap between the Governing Bodies, and in this case, in arrears, it was discussed both by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which has a mandate to discuss this based on the FAO Constitution's mention of how voting rights get reinstated by the Conference.

The Finance Committee also obviously touches on this issue, because it considers the financial soundness and operating expenses and budget of the Organization, but I do think there is a lot of sense in keeping our language across the Council Report consistent. I think this alt language gets at the deep concern many of us share for what the COVID-19 pandemic effects have caused for countries. We have called those effects devastating in the alt language, and I think this also acknowledges that the non-payment has a financial impact on the Organization's health.

Then, in subparagraph (c) I would agree with the addition, potentially by France, that if we want to do any sort of study, that we ask Management to look into it at the end of subparagraph (c).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could France give again the proposal for the end of subparagraph (c)?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je proposais de reprendre une partie du langage qui est au-dessus de votre proposition: “*and asked Management to study options to address the payment of these arrears and current contributions.*”

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Egypt would like to fully support the intervention and proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan. As we believe it is the mandate of the Finance Committee to decide, it is very important to limit this option of making the payment in local currencies to countries that host FAO's offices, and with a payment ceiling that is equal to FAO's financial expenditures in this local currency in the specific country.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your proposal. We appreciate the thought that you put into it. The first thing we have to say, about the first part of your proposal, you are talking about repayment: is it repayment or payment of arrears? – It should be a typographical error. I think we can go along with “*requested Management to explore options to address the issue of payment of arrears.*” And we are stopping there.

Now, talking about the feasibility study of leveraging local currencies, this has to do with the decentralization process and the delegation of authority. Are we not going too far? Because, you know, we have to have a clear picture of how far we have gone with the decentralization process and the delegation of authority, especially in financial management. I am not very confident at this point in time if we go as far as requesting the leveraging of local currencies.

It is how far we can go if we have more details on how FAO is operating in the decentralized offices. Probably after that we can see what to do with leveraging local currencies. But I am a little bit not so certain that this can work now. I would prefer that we stop the sentence at “*issues of repayment of arrears*”.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

J'ai été précédé par le Cameroun; en effet, à propos de cette question de paiement en devise locale, en y réfléchissant, c'est ajouter la complexité à la complication. Votre proposition est une proposition de sagesse qui vise à regarder toutes les possibilités parce qu'il y a des procédures financières au niveau de l'Institution. S'il faut faire une proposition pour que cela soit modifié, à ce moment-là, il faut bien qu'il y ait une étude. Je pense que la proposition que vous avez faite, en incluant peut-être celles du Cameroun, peut tenir la route pour que le Comité financier puisse examiner cette question et faire des propositions idoines.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your proposal, and also I have much appreciation for the Members' interventions for this issue. To be brief, my preference is a proposal made by the French Ambassador: a new alternative option is the best option. I think local currency issue is pretty premature to be singled out and to see the conclusion of the Council. There are many debatable issues.

For example, possible low applicability, or a possible high transaction cost, or a possible opportunity for Member Countries. From that point of view, I prefer the option laid by the French Ambassador. Among other options, the only possible option I can consider is the option laid by the Mexican Ambassador yesterday. I cannot accept other options.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Just to clarify one or two points. I think there is an impression that the suggestion is to go straight for the leveraging of local currencies, but that is not what my proposal said and that is not what your proposal says either. Both speak of explore the feasibility of. That is not going ahead and doing it. That is studying, that is exploring.

Therefore, the question of leveraging local currency straight away does not arise at all. Then there is the question of one or two Members that made the comment that this is not for the Council to consider,



and they are perfectly right, because as per the process in FAO it is obvious that it would go to the Finance Committee, it would come back to the Council, and it would have to go to the Conference. It is not straight to the Council.

The feasibility study would be prepared that would be considered by the Finance Committee, the Financial aspects of it, like the United States of America pointed out and perhaps the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). It would then come to the Council, and it would then go to the Conference. Only then the final decision would be made. At this stage, it is a feasibility study. Both my proposal and your proposal talk about a feasibility study, and not going ahead with leveraging of local currencies.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I will be very brief, because the Ambassador of Pakistan said exactly what I wanted to say. I think we need to clarify what we really want to have in this specific subparagraph. I think the Egyptian colleague says the same. Nevertheless, I think the Finance Committee will have a lot to work on it after we will adopt this subparagraph. But just to give a brief idea what we are talking about and just to explore the possibility of having this way of payment.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your proposal as regards the new amended subparagraph. I would just like to add my voice in support of Mr Khalid Mehboob, distinguished representative of Pakistan, who proposed to conduct a feasibility study as regards leveraging local currencies., I believe that this might be a very useful tool when we deal with repayment of arrears.

The Russian Federation had also proposed to explore the possibility of using repayment plans, in a way that was the issue of accumulated arrears that could actually question the ability of a State to participate in the Conference with voting rights. If you could allow me, I would propose the following amendment to the subparagraph (c): removing the brackets starting from “*ask management to study options*” including “*through leveraging local currencies and repayment plans to address this issue.*”

Deleting everything after “*the issue*”, “*the payment of these arrears and current contributions*” to be deleted. In this sense, I believe that we are not asking to implement this instrument, but to study how well they could be working to address the issue of the accumulated arrears.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

We would like to support the language proposed by the Russian Federation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we not combine the alternative and now the subparagraph (c) as proposed by the Russian Federation? We express concern, because that is an already agreed subparagraph, and we have got the request of... so that we combine those? And then “*ask Management to study options*”, I think this will capture all the other elements which were tabled.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I was thinking exactly the same as what you have just proposed in terms of the need to encompass the old words as well as the amended (c) words. I think the only thing that is now missing is perhaps taking the language from your proposal and saying, “*we look forward to consideration by the Finance Committee at its next Session in line with its mandate.*” I think that makes a very long paragraph, but it does cover, I think, everything that has been put forward.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think perhaps it is better to say after “*on effects of Members,*” (in the fourth line) we move and then we have “*after the Governing Bodies*” also I think then at least it reads a little bit better than with too many “*ands*”. Could this be a compromise?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Well, in light that the next Finance Committee Session will be dealing with the WFP's financial aspects, would that be more precise to refer to the Finance Committee on FAO matters?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, because otherwise it is already in two weeks.

Would this be an acceptable compromise? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (b). Could we agree to subparagraph (b)?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

Could I ask, is this the one concerning the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations?

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, that will come later. Can we carry on (d)? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (j). There we have still the issue of ensuring equitable geographic representation. Can we agree to keep it? I do not see any objections.

We go to subparagraph (h) and there we had a long discussion and I would say, with quite some strong positions. We tried to work on a compromise by working to say that we have the international UN process ongoing, but at the same time, I think we can start – that was merging the different positions – we can start working on the fundamental procedures in the meantime, knowing that this issue will go on and will have results.

That is why I made the proposals now on the screen, stated that the recommendations arising from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, *Whistle-blower practices and policies in the UN Systems Organization* and the JIU Report, *Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function* on formal procedures for the investigation of complaints of misconduct by executive heads, remains the subject of the UN systems and wide consultations, and requests Management based on the ongoing consultative basis, to start the development of procedures to be presented to the Finance Committee for its consideration.

So here we are saying let us have a parallel process. We have the UN wide system discussions which will give us direction but at the same time we can already request FAO to start working on the procedures based on what is happening in New York.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Thank you for your proposal. We are happy with this.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Like Australia, many thanks for amending the paragraph but unfortunately, we are not that much happy because it addresses the concerns that we have in the first part, but the second part that starts with “*requested Management*” does not fly with us. We believe that if we are still witnessing the process is ongoing, we cannot be requesting to start development.

If you could allow me, I would take the language of the recent FAO Finance Committee Meeting that has eloquently discussed this issue before and I would propose to stick to your language “*request that Management based on ongoing consultative process to propose appropriate procedures for implementing these recommendations, coordinated with broader UN system efforts.*”

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I thank you and thank you also for the effort put in this suggestion and noting the proposal. We, as the Russian Federation, are not very happy with the last part of your proposal because we are putting the cart before the horse. So, I think what the Russian Federation just mentioned now, we could go along with that because the first thing is this is something related to staff issues and not financial issues, and then to put it before the Finance Committee? I do not know how that will work. Is it on the Committee

on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)? Anyways, it is too early to mention where it should go. We can go along with the Russian proposal as mentioned now.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for proposing the subparagraph with the hope that it would attract consensus, but like the Russian Federation and Cameroon, we have a problem with your subparagraph because we find it contradictory. On the one hand, it says that it still remains the subject of UN wide system consultative process or coordination and then it asks Management to come back with procedures for implementing these. I do not think we can go along with the wording you have proposed. We would prefer the wording which the Russian Federation has proposed because it is more logical and we would recommend that we adopt the Russian Federation wording.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I would like to echo my support to the Russian Federation as well. We also agree with Pakistan and Cameroon to support the proposal by the Russian Federation.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

Thank you for your proposal language and also the discussion here by colleagues. I think we are getting somewhere. We can go along with the direct quote of the Finance Committee Report portion. I think there is one correction. It reads “*and requested Management to propose appropriate procedures.*”

We have just noted the System Wide consultative process. I do not think we have to say it twice in one line. So “*and requested Management*”, delete “*based on the ongoing*” because we have just said that. So “*requested Management to propose*”, as the Russian Federation noted which is coming straight out of the Finance Committee Report. We are fine with that all the way down to “*system efforts*”. We would like to retain a bit of the urgency that the Finance Committee suggested, that in this Finance Committee Report it noted that this might need broader Governing Body consideration, including by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Finance Committee. I would like to retain some of that, and I wonder if this additional language might help those that are concerned. I seem to hear that there is a concern that if FAO goes ahead – which is actually recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, that somehow it will at some point be inconsistent with whatever comes out of this longer-term process.

I wonder if this would be helpful to put at the end, “*including reviewing and revising any agreed procedures to incorporate appropriate developments from the result of a common UN approach*”, because that would then note that FAO can proceed as the Finance Committee recommended, we acknowledge the ongoing consultative process and we have in here a reminder to ourselves that whenever that process concludes, whether in one year or ten, we come back and we revise the procedures to be consistent with it.

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I would like to support the Chairperson’s original proposal and honestly speaking, I had considered to change the end of the original proposal to the next Finance Committee on the FAO matter. Such type of language I would like to add originally, but hearing the comments made by the colleagues of the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Cameroon and China, I reached my possible additional proposal: I would like to express my support for the original proposal by the Chairperson and also I had some flexibility on the final wording, but my honest consideration is I would like to support the Chairperson’s original proposal because I think it is possible not just to wait for the UN wide study but also we can already consider this important issue in parallel also by the FAO Secretariat. That is my intention.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Une remarque générale, si vous me le permettez, avant de parler du langage des conclusions.

Je rappelle que cette recommandation du Corps commun d’inspection (JIU), la recommandation 7, demande au Comité directeur des organisations qui n’ont pas encore adopté ces procédures, d’adopter

des politiques d'ici la fin 2021. Il s'agit d'une recommandation qu'il avait déjà faite en 2018 et qui n'a pas été suivi d'effets.

Nous sommes fin 2021 et nous n'avons toujours pas adopté cette politique. Le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies qui, en tant que Chef du Conseil des chefs de secrétariat des organismes des Nations Unies pour la coordination (CCS/"CEB"), fait ses commentaires sur ce rapport, a reconnu que les organisations concernées prenaient note que cette recommandation était adressée à leurs organes législatifs. Permettez-moi de citer le rapport du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies (SGNU), A75719, addendum du 21 janvier 2021, il y a donc presque un an: "*and thus curring the tight deadline, in cases in which the proposed procedures are not yet implemented.*"

Ainsi, le rapport du SGNU nous invite à aller de l'avant et accélérer nos efforts. Bien sûr, en parallèle, il y aura une réflexion au niveau du système des Nations Unies, mais en aucun cas, je dis bien en aucun cas, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies nous demande d'attendre. Au contraire, il nous demande de respecter le délai serré, qui est "*end of 2021*", maintenant. Donc, nous sommes déjà en retard.

Dans ce contexte, ma délégation aurait préféré renforcer le langage et mettre un délai très précis. Nous pouvons travailler sur votre base, sur celle du langage proposé par le collègue russe, que je remercie, ainsi que la collègue américaine. Ma proposition serait d'ajouter une précision à la fin, qui est reprise d'un langage agréé, qui se trouve dans le rapport du Comité financier, "*and requested Management present these draft procedures together with relevant views of the CCLM, as appropriate, to the Finance Committee, for consideration and further action at its 189th Session.*"

Il me semble qu'ainsi nous avons pris en compte certaines observations, y compris la possibilité de réviser les procédures. Mais encore une fois, la demande du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, la demande du JIU, est d'aller de l'avant. Je rappelle que la FAO fera l'objet d'un rapport dédié du JIU, qui devait être fait en 2021 et le sera sans doute en 2022. Si nous ne réglons pas ce problème, ce sera pointé du doigt en 2022, dans le rapport du JIU consacré à la FAO. Il me semble que cela pourrait être problématique pour l'image de la FAO.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I am now getting very hopeful that we can find a way out of this.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your proposal again. We much appreciate it, and many thanks to the distinguished representatives of the United States and France for their amendments. I would suggest the following line with the Chief Executives Board (CEB) comments, which the distinguished Ambassador of France just referred to, and requested Management – just as a starting point of the amendment – "*requested Management to propose appropriate procedures, this recommendation coordinated with broader UN system efforts including reviewing and revising existing procedures in FAO.*"

I am a little bit unsure whether we could incorporate something that is considered to be a benchmark. If we are to incorporate something that guides our work, it means that we are making something more than we are called for and as soon as we have the CEB Recommendation as the guiding principle then we have to be as effective as possible to implement it. Therefore, I am not sure whether we could be incorporating what is the guiding principle. So, I would propose revising "*existing procedures in FAO*" and to incorporate "*developments from the results of a common UN approach.*"

As regards the proposal of distinguished Ambassador of France, many thanks for the CEB comments you provided. This is logic that the CEB recommended the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations and the CEB could not do anything besides that. It is the response of the CEB but I am just looking at paragraph 22 of the CEB Report, that deals with the 7th recommendation concerning this mechanism and paragraph 22 says: "*A consultative process for a harmonized implementation approach will be sought in carrying out the proposed recommendation.*"

It means that we have to deal with the recommendation. Nobody questions even the deadline, but the CEB proposes to start a consultative process as to decide how to implement it. Having that in mind, I

believe that any request to the Management to present these draft procedures could be pre-emptive, because we do not have the CEB agreed timeline roadmap for implementing the recommendation.

With your due indulgence, I would propose to bracket “*as requested*” up to the end of the paragraph.

As regards any results to be provided by the next Session, with no concrete timeline of this harmonized approach to be developed, we cannot be tasking the Finance Committee to deal with a complete set of procedures because we do not have the timeline for that, and we are trying to be meaningful in recommending the Finance Committee to work on that.

I think it is far too early to task the Finance Committee to deal with procedures as well as to task the Management to work on the procedures, because we do not have the timeline for that. We do not know how to implement the recommendation.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do hope that we can be all flexible because we have to find a way forward, and the clock is ticking, quarter to 12.

#### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I would like to suggest two, in my mind, quite minor proposals. The first would be to firstly thank the Russian Federation for their proposal and what they have just put on the table. I would like to suggest removing the word “*existing*.” And then, to reflect the concerns that have just been expressed about timelines, I would suggest we say, “*requested management to provide an update to the Finance Committee for consideration at its 189th Session,*” that ensures that this will keep moving and that we will have an update at least, noting I would have preferred the stronger language.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

In implementing Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, FAO has to comply with the Chief Executives Board (CEB)’s recommendation, therefore I still support the original proposal from the Russian delegate. Secondly, the consultation at the CEB is still ongoing, so we cannot prejudge the results or outcomes, so I think it should stop at “*appropriate developments from the results of a common UN approach,*” I think this paragraph should end here.

#### **Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

A very small amendment, the wording of “*its 189th Session,*” is not correct. Its next Session on the FAO matter, because we have the 189th Session in a few weeks to discuss about the WFP issue, it is a very factual-basis amendment.

#### **Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Following the discussion, and thank you very much for your compromised proposal, I think that was a very good way to start this discussion and it seems like colleagues have added in a very good way various comments, so in my mind we are now quite near a solution. I would like to support the text as I understand it was lastly amended by Australia, making sure that Finance Committee is coming back to this issue at its next Session and that we will have an update on where we are at that point in time. I think that is good, because then we are moving on this matter. And then, I understood Japan added something that would be more a clarification, so I can support that as well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us now put a subparagraph to see whether or not we have an agreement. So, delete this, yes? Would this be the subparagraph that could meet the concerns of the room, virtually and physical? I do hope that we are getting there now.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Thank you very much for the distinguished representative of Australia for this amendment, but we believe that requesting management to provide an update to the next Session means that we proceed from the fact that the Chief Executives Board (CEB) is soon to come up with any results.

I think we cannot decide for them and I would propose, in line with the language of my distinguished Australian colleague, to make the following amendment, *“and request that management to keep the relevant governing bodies updated on the progress of the CEB deliberations of this matter,”* so that we ask Management to provide us an update as soon as it comes up without setting concrete timelines.

Because if the next Session of FAO matters is to start in May, and we have got this request, we want to get a substantive update, nothing but that could be appreciated, so if we are sending a signal that we are interested in the updates and the management is ready to provide it, we would be happy to work on that, and then take action to introduce necessary procedures.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In my opinion, are you almost saying the same as what was asked by Australia, because Australia did not say that it has to be finalized, what Australia stated was please give an update where they are with the progress on the CEB. We have to get more flexibility in the room if we want to arrive today at a Council conclusion.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I will try to be very brief, and in the spirit of flexibility, I had a concern regarding the idea of adding a timeline for the process, but for the objective of being flexible I would think the latest input from the Russian Federation could be acceptable for Egypt.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I think in the last deletion we lost the element that, in our view, was showing flexibility in that we have listened carefully and heard from several Members a concern that if there are resulting common approach procedures that FAO should review and revise to be in accordance with them, so I wondered if we could add that back, because I think that actually was helping to get to consensus in the room. I do think that we have expressed a great deal of flexibility, I think it is notable that a number of delegations intervening on this matter are on the Finance Committee, which actually agreed the language, the more strict language that has now been removed on a specific deadline.

We have nonetheless, in the spirit of compromise, indicated we can live with an update. I think it is quite normal that we receive updates for things that are ongoing, I would note that we received six years of updates on the Article XIV Bodies matter which has now thankfully, miraculously come to a resolution. I would like to retain, if possible, the Australian edit to provide an update to the Finance Committee for consideration at its next Session.

I do not think that that is binding. It anyway gets FAO ahead of any ongoing processes. The language that I think fell out, that had been helpful, was the *“including reviewing and revising procedures in FAO.”* But then it said, *“in accordance with the results of a common UN approach,”* which I had understood was important to others in the room.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we put that in?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

That was already in there and then it fell out in the last deletions. With that, then of the remaining brackets, our preference is for the second, *“provided an update.”*

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are certainly making some progress, but also I doubt whether this progress is still very constructive, because, again, let us avoid putting the cart before the horse.

Having said that, our suggestion is to strike out the portion of your proposal, we start after the process and requested management to propose to FAO, and also including what the United States has just added now, put that segment, *“and requested management to propose at the process,”* please, yes, and including what the United States just added now, include the proposal, because I have made this proposal the first time when discussing this issue, *“to keep the relevant governing bodies updated on the progress of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) deliberation on this matter.”*

This is something that I have already proposed, which is coming back again today, and then we strike out also *“provide an update to the Finance Committee,”* and so on. So, my suggestion is continue where the US is saying *“process, and requested management to keep the relevant governing bodies updated on the progress of the CEB deliberation on this matter.”*

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Encore une fois, je me permets de revenir sur notre débat, qui est important pour trouver le langage adéquat. Le rapport du CCS (*“CEB”*) mentionne certes un processus consultatif mais au conditionnel, *“would be sought”*, au paragraphe 22, mentionné par mon collègue russe, mais en aucun cas, il n'exonère les organisations concernées d'appliquer la recommandation, et je me réfère à son paragraphe 21 au présent, avec un délai.

Encore une fois, je ne voudrais pas donner l'idée, qui est fausse, que nous devrions attendre le rapport, le résultat du processus consultatif du CCS, car ce n'est pas ce que dit ce rapport. Une fois clarifié ce point, ma délégation fera preuve de flexibilité sur le langage. Je considère que nous en avons déjà fait preuve puisque nous sommes en retard sur ces procédures.

Notre préférence est de garder: *“provide an update to the Finance Committee”* ou bien *“...report to the Finance Committee”*. Il faut mentionner cette idée que le Comité financier doit en parler à sa prochaine session qui traitera des sujets de la FAO. Sur le langage précis, ma délégation sera flexible.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I feel the more amendments are proposed, the more complex the paragraph becomes. There is a simple central though, even the Finance Committee, I hear colleagues say we should implement what the Finance Committee has said. The Finance Committee speaks about implementing the recommendations coordinated with the broader UN system, what does the broader UN system mean? It is the UN-wide consultative process, that is why the word Chief Executives Board (CEB) is coming, because that is a mechanism which facilitates that process, it is not just the CEB, there is one of the CEB's Committee called the High Level Committee on Management, which considers all this, that is the reason the CEB is mentioned, not because the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) has mentioned CEB, it is the UN consultative process, and I feel the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation before about giving a progress Report or giving an update on the discussions in the CEB was the correct way forward.

If there is an objection to the word CEB, we can make it UN-wide consultative process, if that is more acceptable, but let us keep the paragraph simple, and develop procedures after consultative process in the UN system, I mean what is the harm with that? It will come back to the Council with a more informed process and informed system of procedures, etc., instead of rushing into some sort of a process or procedure, and then revising as we go along.

We have to move forward with some logic, and the logic is the coordination with the UN system to develop procedures which are harmonized within the UN system. We have got other procedures where it is done with the UN system, we are recommending strongly that After Service Medical Coverage should be considered by the UN system, we are recommending staff benefits to be considered by the UN system, why are we departing from that in this particular issue.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We think that we should be keeping the paragraph as short as possible with the general focus on the UN system-wide approach.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not know whether we are arriving at any conclusion, but let us take out the brackets to see whether or not we can come close to a compromise. The first bracket is, "*and requested management to propose appropriate procedures,*" can we delete this part of the text? No, we are not going into arguments anymore, because we know positions, so the proposal is can we delete this part of the text? And Russian Federation, you already said that you want to support Cameroon in the deletion, so I ask those who cannot go along with this, the deletion. Russian Federation, are you against this deletion?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Absolutely, because it directly contradicts the second bracketed part. We cannot keep both, so we are against the first one.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Do you want to maintain it in the text?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

I think if we are staying with the second bracketed part, "*requested management to keep the relevant governing bodies updated on the progress of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) deliberations,*" we do not need the part "*request management to propose appropriate procedures,*" because we are...

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, I have asked are you against the deletion?

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

I am for the deletion of the second part.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I guess I am confused, you talked about deleting brackets, but now we are deleting text. We would prefer not to delete the text, but I wonder if we could make one last go at the last bracket instead keep this text in, I understand the Russian Federation's point that the first bracketed text relates to the second, and then in the second bracketed text just say, "*keep the relevant governing bodies regularly updated.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this, you would like to maintain "*and request*"?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

And then maintain the first set of brackets, but full-stop after "*regularly updated*" and then we leave it at that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first remove the last part, would that text be adoptable?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are under your guidance and I am really disappointed because you give a guidance, we do not follow, you requested for those who are against not to attest again, and then we have not yet dealt with the last part, because you were asking for the first set of brackets, if we can delete the text in the first set of brackets, that is the question that you put to Members. Let us put back everything and we respond to that question first, because that is your guidance.

If we do not abide by your guidance, then we do not need a Chairperson. You are our Chairperson and you give guidance, you say this is it, so please let us go back to what was your first question, and let us deal with that, because that is bringing confusion all the time because we are not following your guidance. We go back "*and requested management,*" you said who is against deleting that, that is the question and then we have to respond to that first. Remove everything that was added after that. So, we are adding text, it was added after that, so we are adding text, you did request also text.



**CHAIRPERSON**

I stop this discussion because we are going nowhere, I give the last intervention to Australia and then we keep everything in yellow and move on.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

In response to your question, are we comfortable having that text deleted? Our answer is no, and we appreciate the compromise proposal that was put forward by the United States to try and make sure that other concerns are addressed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because we are not getting to a compromise yet.

We continue with the rest of the text. We keep this pending for further consideration, and we go to our next Agenda Item, which is 10. Argentina, I do not want to prolong the discussion, it is 12:05 hours, and we have still quite some time for other issues.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

No voy a intervenir sobre la discusión, pero sí quiero volver al subpárrafo del Comité de Finanzas en cuanto a que pido que ponga también en brackets "Endorse", porque creo que a esta altura, después de la discusión que hemos tenido, no deberíamos poner al final del Report, "Endorse". Le pido, por favor, que también lo coloque en brackets.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think in all the subparagraphs where we speak "endorse", it is still in brackets because we did not finalize the Report.

**Item 10. Report of the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (25-27 October 2021) (continued)****Point 10. Rapport de la cent treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (25-27 octobre 2021) (suite)****Tema 10. Informe del 113.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (25-27 de octubre de 2021) (continuación)**

(CL 168/10)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go now to Item 10. There we have still subparagraph (e) pending and we will start trying or getting new proposals, but is the agreed text which we agreed in Item 8, so we had already the approval of the Council of this subparagraph, so could we not maintain the text as it was, as agreed in Item 8, and I will show you what we have agreed on Item 8.

This is the subparagraph which we agreed upon in Item 8, so my strong request to you is let us maintain the text as it was agreed on the Item 8, so we do not reopen already agreed subparagraphs, because then we are going even further away from where we have to be. Could we agree to what was agreed at Item 8?

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

In fact, we would not be in favour of that because we feel that this subparagraph and even perhaps the paragraph at Item 8, although you are right in saying it was approved, is not so much in accord with what the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Report is saying in paragraphs 18 and 19. I remember listening to the CCLM discussions and they were quite comprehensive discussions and I would like a comment either from the Chairperson of the Programme Committee or the Legal Counsel on this subparagraph, because there were discussions and in those discussions they were mentioning resource mobilization and donors, etc., and none of that is here.

Perhaps, I could request you to ask the Legal Counsel to tell us something about the synergy between this subparagraph and the CCLM Report. The CCLM Report also speaks about "further briefings and

*updates to Members*” and here if we go through the Programme Committee and the CCLM, it would be a lengthy process, while Members should be updated more frequently on this issue.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to remind you of your own advice and wisdom that you said the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee are advisory boards each to the Council, and of course it is up to the Council to decide and we decided on this paragraphs in Item 8, but I give the floor to the Legal Counsel.

#### **Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Yes, at this moment in time, the text, both here and under Item 8, has a significant difference to the recommendation of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). As you have well noted of course, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), it is the Council that ultimately takes the decisions. In particular, here, I would draw attention to paragraph 19 of the CCLM Report, noting of course that there are a lot of very substantive comments before this final conclusion, in which *“the Committee invited the Council to consider recommending to Management that it provide further briefings to Members once the policy is developed”*.

In this connection, I did want to observe that what is under development is this consolidation updating of an existing internal legal framework, which would apply to all activities of the organization, including the statistical governance, etc. There is a distinction between those rules and the activities and the design of programmes, and with that regard what I think may be of relevance and pointing to the distinction between what was under Item 8 and the CCLM recommendations is this question of review and consideration.

As you will have noted, the CCLM asked for briefings once the policy had been developed, and in the current language for Item 8 and indeed the language that was not agreed under this Item, Item 10, there was an implication of a review and therefore finalization would not be possible pending conclusion of that review. You may recall that when you deliberated upon the CCLM Report the other day, I did, in a final response to a request for information, indicate that there were many who were interested in this particular subject. Indeed, in us having this framework in place as soon as possible, and I mentioned you Members, I mentioned beneficiaries, and I mentioned donors. I would like to just take the opportunity to note that it is particularly with donors that we do need to move rather quickly. That was one of the considerations that the CCLM had in the context of proposing that there be updates. But if it would be that this framework would be subject to review, therefore going through maybe another four, five, six months until such time as it was approved.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I wonder could we scroll up so that we could see both your alt and the yellow text on the screen, because if I recall correctly the deliberation of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Report Item, I think we turned it yellow only because there was a request to make sure the order of precedence was correct in the draft, and because that order of precedence was over in the Report language of the Programme Committee, it was not that there was actually a major issue with the text.

The CCLM actually did not discuss any of the other work that FAO did, except to note that the framework on data and intellectual property is the overarching corporate policy under which all other work would fall, and so as long as that is reflected, that would be consistent, as our distinguished colleague from Pakistan noted, that would actually, I think, cover it in subparagraph (e) here. So, in that regard, it could end at the word *“developed,”* because I think the element on data activities actually was in the Programme Committee and is covered in that alt, but in the other section.

I would just note here that the United States is a little bit concerned that we are really in our text of the Council Report starting to muddy the mandates of the various governing bodies, and I think for the governing bodies to be effective advisors to the Council, we do need to be a little bit careful about what each body considers within its mandate, so that the recommendations that come forward then do not confuse the Council.

I would suggest here that subparagraph (e) pertain, as Pakistan suggested, to the discussion that was held in CCLM of the overarching corporate data protection and intellectual property policy, in line with what the Legal Counsel just briefed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would it not be a way forward to avoid opening the other Session that we follow your suggestion and put a full-stop after “*developed*,” and delete the paragraph of Item 8 on the Programme Committee, so that we have a clear distinction to what was discussed and developed and decided under the Programme Committee, and what was under the guidance and decision of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)? Would that not be a way forward? Because I understand, United States, that would be your suggestion.

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

That is okay with me, because I was the one who proposed it, but I would welcome other views. If Members would like to retain obviously the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) stands ready to consider further developments of this in its next Session in line with its mandate, of course I think that is relevant to add and in fact reflects the CCLM Report, which states that.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

Just a very quick clarification, I entirely agree with you that the three Committees are advisory to the Council and it is for the Council to decide. My point is for the Council to decide, it must have all the information before it, and what I heard from the Legal Counsel and the distinguished representative of the United States, I wonder whether this information was before the Council, I entirely agree with you, in fact two days ago I was arguing the same thing. As for now your suggestion to delete the rest of the sentence after “*developed*,” we would support that and perhaps instead of the word “*developed*” we could have a reference to receiving updates, what the Legal Counsel mentioned.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I have been listening to the explanation of the Legal Counsel and I agree that we also have great concern for this particular line and I agree with the distinguished representative from Pakistan.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Just to add our voice for your suggestion to put a full-stop after “*developed*.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps, taking up what was suggested and ask that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) will be regularly updated, something in this regard, and then remove the rest of the text and remove the alternative. Would that be agreeable? I do not see any objections, so we have solved this issue.

We scroll down, because we have now considered the whole text of the CCLM Report, and I think we could now probably remove the brackets as well under this Agenda Item 2. Can we agree on that?

**Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I was just wondering if we could see the full text, now that we have resolved subparagraph (e), I cannot remember if there was another bullet about the data protection that related to it, and I just wondered if Members wanted to read it again.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I think the last part, the last subparagraph, I do not agree with the word “*endorsed*,” because we have expressed our views, I think “*endorsed*” should be corrected and we should put “*welcomed*.”

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just when there was the scrolling through there, I think there is still bracketed text in the bottom of subparagraph (c).

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to state “*welcomed*” instead of “*endorsed*”? I do not see any objections, it is so agreed.

**Item 7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021) (*continued*)**

**Point 7. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-deuxième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-huitième session) (novembre 2021) (*suite*)**

**Tema 7. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2021) (*continuación*)**

(CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we now continue to Item 7, and there we had only one issue remaining for further internal consultations by the Russian Federation, because that was about the reference to the “*gender sensitive approach*”, which is part of what FAO is already doing, so I hope that Russian Federation could give a green light by using one of the proposed elements in the last sentence.

#### **Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

We try to be flexible, but we still believe that this set of policies shall not and actually do not only address cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, it concerns harassment, it concerns abuse of power. If we want to prolong this line we need to state that it shall be “*gender sensitive, religious-minded, race-conscious*” and not list it shall be dealing with the personal chemistry that can be the reason of such unwelcome behaviours as harassment and abuse of power. We would kindly ask the Membership to stick with the victim centred approach as proposed by the Secretariat, that stands for all sorts of these sensitivities, not only based on gender, but on a number of further reasons.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I have been probably most flexible person in the room, because my only goal is to arrive at a consensus at the end of this day, for all the Items. The Russian Federation is insisting to delete the text within brackets.

#### **Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

We had a fairly long discussion on this issue yesterday, and this was an important point for my delegation, we explained why, we gave several examples of how gender sensitive is agreed language, so that would not be a big problem, we had confirmation from the Secretariat that this is actually not a problem to include either, we gave a proposal of what could be a compromise, there were several others supporting our view, and you also included a compromised text here, including using a gender sensitive approach. I think, with that, we would really urge other delegations, and especially of course our colleagues in the Russian Federation, to be able to go along with some of these proposals. So, that would be my plea at this point.

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I am sorry, but I think I missed the discussion earlier. For us, we cannot accept the inclusion of intersectional approach.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We are especially focused on the last two parts of the subparagraph. Let us delete, because it was an attempt to build a bridge, but if that is not flying, we will delete the other text. However, we still have then, based on the proposal of Sweden, to at least make a reference to a “*gender sensitive approach*”, and of course we could always say, “*including amongst others,*” using “*gender sensitive approach*”, at least trying to comfort all the delegates in the room, I do not know whether that would help for the Russian Federation.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Yesterday, we had a very lively discussion on this question, particularly since my colleague once again explained the basis of our position, and we did have further consultations with other possible options here, we consulted with Capital and as a way out our delegation does not want to slow down the work of the Council, since we still have very important issues ahead regarding the follow up of the Food Systems Summit.

For that reason, perhaps if for our colleagues it is acceptable, we would propose to replace this subparagraph with agreed language from the Report of the Joint Meeting of this year in paragraph 13(d), which refers directly to implementing this Strategy. This is agreed language, I can read it out loud, particularly as I understand the colleagues who insist on using the term gender sensitive approach, they participated in that Joint Meeting, and they agreed on this wording, so I do not think there would be a problem in simply using now the agreed language from the joint meeting.

*“Further encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its policies on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority, ensuring a victim centred approach.”* This wording was agreed upon, as I said, including with the participants of the representatives of the countries who clearly consider important the reflection in the text of *“gender sensitive approach”*, but since during the Joint Meeting, this was not used in the text, I understand that the material presented by the Secretariat fully showed the Organization’s dedication to this approach, it is already included in the Strategy, and we are asking FAO and management to strengthen this Strategy, so repeating specific elements of the Strategy in our view is not necessary.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Argentina es un país que tiene una posición muy ambiciosa en materia de género. Creo que no es necesario que lo tenga que aclarar aquí. Nosotros tenemos posiciones, tenemos un Ministerio de la Mujer, tenemos una clara estrategia de paridad de género, tenemos una cantidad de acciones y de políticas que son muy ambiciosas.

Pero, también, como Miembro de la Sesión Conjunta del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas, que participé en la construcción del consenso que está ahora propuesto por la Federación de Rusia, debo reconocer que como Presidente del grupo del G77 y China, he tenido que tratar de tomar en consideración cada una de las sensibilidades en la heterogeneidad de los países que componen el conjunto de esta comunidad en esta Organización.

Es muy difícil poder tratar de, por un lado, tener una posición como país muy ambiciosa y, por otro lado, ser capaz de no pretender imponer mi propia posición, mi propia política nacional a todo el resto de la comunidad de países en la FAO. Es un equilibrio complejo, pero vamos a tener en el Plan de acción de género y en las Guías voluntarias sobre género en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) la oportunidad para discutir en profundidad de este tema.

Aquí la clave es la cuestión del acoso sexual y ese es el tema que queremos resaltar. Me parece que lo planteado por Rusia en este punto de usar lenguaje acordado en la Sesión Conjunta, es la salida absolutamente más constructiva para terminar esta discusión.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I would like to keep, as we discussed yesterday, the use of *“gender sensitive”*. At this point, I kind of would not want to say this, but referring to the fact that we are deviating from what we, as Members, decided in a Committee, I think we have come back several times during this meeting that Council is another Body, and maybe I could just remind Members that we had a long discussion not so long ago on the Report of the Finance Committee, where I think Members who were part of the Finance Committee actually have now argued in a different way.

In this case, I am not changing my argument, I completely agree with what is in the Joint Meeting, as I agree with the Report from the Finance Committee. Here, I would like, and I think it was quite clear yesterday, also from the comments from the Secretariat, to use the word *“gender sensitive”*, as we discussed in subparagraph (b), would not be anything else than what FAO is actually using.

We are not, and I think that was, and I did not understand yesterday that delegations actually had a problem with the term “*gender sensitive*”, and actually from our side we have thrown great flexibility in changing it and moving it and moving along.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this subparagraph pending because we are not arriving at a consensus and we are getting really now into trouble.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)*

*Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)*

*Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)*

(CL 168/21)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We go now to Item 8.1. We were getting closer, but we were bogged down on the reference to the Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR).

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

Just for clarification about something regarding what our Swedish colleagues was just saying, what is the problem with “gender sensitivity”, I mean we are not saying what kind of gender we are referring to, so what is the problem with gender sensitivity?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any problems, I will give the floor to the Russian Federation to explain why they cannot refer to “*gender sensitivity*”.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

The Russian Federation does not have any problem with gender. If we are looking at the question of the situation for women’s rights in the Russian Federation, you will see that it is better than in many other countries. When it comes to gender, we do not have any problems, what we are drawing to attention here is that we want the situation to be coherent and if we refer to this Strategy, we do not want to take away from a Strategy which is already being implemented, we do not want to identify the specific concrete elements.

When we are in different parts of the Report, nothing hinders us from going into that detail, but here specifically a number of delegates want to identify specifically one concrete aspect, why do we draw attention to that, because with the understanding that we have started discussing that point, a number of delegations have made contradictory statements, for example, with LGBT, so what we want to have is a clear text which gives the FAO the necessary indications in order to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy.

Yesterday, the Secretariat clarified to us that the Strategy already includes the gender sensitive approach, so highlighting one particular comment, based on the comments of certain delegations, in our view is excessive, it is not necessary. We want it to be a very clear, succinct text which does not stop the FAO from using a gender sensitive approach, there is no indication that that should not be

done, but why should we have a specific concrete element which is taken from the Strategy to be given priority attention. In other parts of the Report, we are talking about the right to development and that is a question that is much more important than the gender sensitive approach in the Russian Federation.

We do not have a problem with women's rights, there are categories with other problems, the rights of other categories.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask the Russian Federation, together with the Swedish delegation, to sit together to find a way forward or to find a compromise? I keep this pending.

We go now to Item 8.1, the subparagraph related to the Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR). We included a lengthy text of the Glasgow Pact, and as Australia asked me, also to reference to the Paris Agreement.

Could we not shorten everything by a simpler paragraph, which would read as follows, which also takes up the suggestion of Mexico, and states that, *“highlighted that each Strategy should take into account the relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate Pact, including reflective common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, as referred to in paras 22 and 23 and in Articles 2.2 and 4.3 of the Paris Agreement.”*

That is a short subparagraph but reflects and takes everything onboard what was said yesterday, but I think it will be for everybody understandable to read.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Este tema nos puede llevar a una semana si queremos discutirlo, el trabajo que usted ha hecho, absolutamente, debe ser reconocido. Le agradezco mucho el esfuerzo, vamos a ser flexibles, vamos a acompañarlo en nuestra propuesta y esperemos que todos seamos flexibles para poder seguir avanzando.

#### **Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Ustedes saben que para Costa Rica el tema del medio ambiente y el tema del cambio climático es sumamente importante, creo que el texto, Presidente, que usted ha desarrollado, coincide con Argentina, enrola o involucra el interés de todos los que pensamos en combatir el cambio climático.

Así que, Costa Rica avala este texto. Creo que cubre lo que a nosotros nos interesaría que aparezca en este documento.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree to this compromise?

#### **Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We appreciate your efforts to help us find consensus here. I know we have spent many hours discussing this issue and I think we are very close here. We would like to just add in here a reference in addition to Article 2.2 of the Paris Agreement, Article 2.1.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe that your intentions are very good, we appreciate it very much, but I sense here, I am not an expert on climate issues, but anyhow I sense that we miss here any specific reference to adaptation. I ask your indulgence to be very specific when we say about paragraph 22 and 23, Article 2.1, 2.2 and 4.3. I am not sure if we are talking about adaptation here. So I ask your permission to insert something more about the need to include adaptation on that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps we should then add “as referred to”. Because I do not want to have a very long text but more refer to the subparagraphs in the classical text that would help probably more than inserting more text.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Very much appreciate your proposal for bringing it all together. I mean, perhaps one way, we were happy with the text that you have got but recognizing Brazil's point, perhaps referencing paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Glasgow Climate Pact Conference of the Parties (COP) decision. Adding that? *'The relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate Pact including paragraphs 5 and 6 of the COP decision.'* Because I think it is important to distinguish between the COP decision and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) decisions.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estaba tratando porque yo tampoco soy un experto en el pacto de Glasgow, en cambio climático. Pero estaba tratando de ver si en el artículo 2, que está citado, 2.1(b) dice exactamente... Digo, para ver si nos podemos poner de acuerdo con esto. Dice *"increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilient and low greenhouse gases emissions development in a manner that is not threaten food production"*.

Quizás si pusiéramos en el artículo 2.1(a) y (b), como para poder englobar, digamos, como una especie de contenedor de toda esta posición. Yo creo que, quizás, estaríamos respondiendo, no sé, no quiero hablar por Brasil. Que Brasil lo evalúe, pero quizás podríamos de esa manera incorporar un elemento que no es solo importante para Brasil, sino para todos los países en desarrollo.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I appreciate the interventions made by Canada and Argentina and I think the explicit reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Glasgow Pact helps a lot. But I have a doubt here when you mention here paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Paris Agreement, as I recall, yes those paragraphs 22 and 23 refer to Glasgow also. I do not know if it is just a coincidence or mixing the paragraphs and the texts. I would like your indulgence and consultation if we are not mixing paragraphs here?

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Based on what I have, those are paragraphs from the Glasgow Climate Pact Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) decision, so that would be a useful addition.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Thank you for the proposed subparagraph. Egypt would like to still see reference to scaling up the capacity building and technology transfer but for the matter of flexibility and to proceed with the work of the Council we would be okay with the subparagraph as proposed by yourself, Chairperson.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Thank you for these significant efforts to try to bring about, I guess, not to decouple things. The first thing I would like to suggest is that, to grow this list a little bit more, I do apologise. Firstly, I propose that we change the words *"take into account"* to *"recalled"*, which was the language we were using yesterday. Then including paragraphs 5 and 6 it may be useful if we include ahead of that the actual part of the agreement. My understanding is that it is 1/CP.26 paragraphs 5 and 6 and then adding to that *'and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 6 and 7'*. In a similar way, ahead of paragraphs 17 and 18 we include 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 22 and 23.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You lost the Secretariat.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

My apologies. I think I have lost myself as well. Let me start again, so how far did we get? We have got the proposal to amend *'take into account'* to *'recall'*. We have got 1/CP.26 paragraphs 5 and 6 and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 6 and 7. We then move down to where we are referencing paragraphs 22 and 23 ahead of that we put *"1/CMA.3 paragraphs 22 and 23"*. So that we are not accused of missing any paragraphs out we also include, and this would come before paragraphs 22 and 23, *"as referred to in 1/CP.26 paragraphs 17 and 18"* and then we continue on.



**CHAIRPERSON**

I think now we have all the necessary correct references. With that do we have an agreed paragraph?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I am certainly not a climate negotiator and not an expert on either the Glasgow Climate Pact or the Paris Agreement. It seems to me we could be much simpler here if started out this subparagraph by simply stressing the need for FAO to take into account the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact, then we include everything and acknowledging that our job here today is to provide advice, provide the Council's advice to FAO as it is developing its Strategy. We are not agreeing on the Strategy, so we are not actually negotiating language here. I think we could leave FAO, you know, we could trust their judgement a little bit as to what they think needs to be included.

But I am not going to suggest we delete everything that has been added because I know these are all important references to everyone. What I would like to do though is rearrange this a little bit because I think it is a little bit inaccurate as it currently reads and it is a bit messy now. I am not sure I can do this in real time but it seems to me that we just need to move all of the references to specific paragraphs in both Glasgow and Paris to the beginning of this paragraph and then have the paragraph conclude with the phrase '*including reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) etc.*'

Then the final point, we think all of Article 2.1 of the Paris Agreement should be included in this reference. We do not see the need to limit it to just (a) and (b). I understand we want to highlight adaptation but I think if we say 2.1 that actually includes (a) and (b) so there is no point in limiting it there. I would note that both paras in Glasgow are very long texts, they are very complicated texts, and in fact they were agreed as package deals and it is a little bit dangerous for us to start picking them apart.

So I think we do need to be cautious here but I think where we are now, if we can move everything to the beginning, and conclude with the CBDR language, then I think we will be okay.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que, como lo dije ayer, tengo la absoluta convicción que estamos en la misma línea en términos del compromiso de los Estados Unidos de América y de la Argentina respecto de la problemática del cambio climático. Por lo tanto, no creo que tengamos diferencias importantes en esta cuestión, es simplemente ponernos de acuerdo en la mejor redacción.

Yo no tengo objeciones sobre las sugerencias propuestas por la delegada de Australia, lo único que no estoy convencido es en cambiar "*Recall*" en lugar de "*Take into account*". Pero, pensando que como esto es una estrategia y lo escuché mucho al delegado de Estados Unidos, quizás podríamos reemplazar como una alternativa "*Take into account or recall*", pensando que necesitamos vías para esta estrategia, es "*...should follow guidelines on the relevant paragraph of the Glasgow Climate Pact.*" Creo que estamos capturando concretamente el estadio en que estamos. Se está elaborando una estrategia aquí en la FAO, necesitamos guías. Estamos tomando las guías del acuerdo más reciente que hemos logrado en Glasgow y los párrafos citados refieren a temas de la competencia del mandato que se va a discutir aquí en la estrategia.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have an agreement if we agree with "*should follow guidance from*" because it is an input to the Strategy. I hope that everybody is flexible on that. Then if we have this agreement we see whether or not we should rearrange but rearranging should not lose the agreement we have now.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I appreciate the comments from my Distinguished Colleague from Argentina. However, I am not sure that guidelines is the appropriate word here "*guidance*". Paris is not actually a binding agreement and we are not producing guidelines and Paris and Glasgow do not provide guidelines for FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, I think what is meant is “*guidance*”.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Instead of “*follow the guidance from*”, if we wanted to use the word “*guidance*”, Paris and Glasgow are not providing “*guidance*”. They are providing actual commitments. If we want to use the word *guidance* then I would suggest it should read, rather than “*follow the guidance from*”, we say “*take guidance from*”.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estoy de acuerdo con “*Take guidance*”, me parece que puede ser una salida de compromiso si, obviamente, tiene consenso con el resto de los colegas.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I do not want to unnecessarily extend the debate and I am happy to go back to ‘*take into account*’.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I would like to thank everyone else for the effort, I think we are almost there. The suggestion made by Argentina and reshaped by the United States is a very good one. We can accept that “*take the guidance from*”. The rest of the text remains as is, as it stands.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I mean, following on Australia’s comment, I think “*take into account*” actually probably is what we are best able to do with the findings of Conference of the Parties (COP). So, preference for “*take into account*” but I think we can live with “*take guidance from*”, or “*be guided by*”? Since it is not actually providing guidance.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At least we delete “*recalled*”. We have “*take into account*”, “*take guidance from*”, or “*be guided by*”. Any strong feelings? Because we are so near. Can we go with “*take into account*”?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Maybe we can replace all these verbs for “*reflect*” and then we can go along. Suggestion for the rest of the Members.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nosotros somos flexibles. Estamos de acuerdo con la posición de Estados Unidos de América, con la de Brasil, con la suya, la única que creo que... Y agradecemos, sobre todo, a Canadá que pueda vivir y ser flexible con “*Take the guidance*”, le agradecemos especialmente a Canadá.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

El tema de fondo es el tema que se consideren los acuerdos de Glasgow y el acuerdo de París, que sea cualquiera de esta redacción, “*be guided by*” o “*follow the guidance*” o como sea que se diga, eso creo que nos estamos metiendo ya en un tema de Comité de Redacción. Estamos perdiendo el tiempo valioso pues, simplemente, la idea es que se consideren los acuerdos de Glasgow, los acuerdos de París que fueron suscritos por todos los participantes, en donde nuestro Presidente tuvo una activa participación y Costa Rica mantuvo la posición también para el cambio climático.

Así que lo importante es que diga eso, cómo se diga, yo creo que ya es tema del Comité de Redacción.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us put in “*take guidance from*” and then we leave it, if it is really not correct, with the Drafting Committee. But then we have an agreement on this subparagraph and we will look to the reordering if that would be feasible. Then we move on because it is already 13:05 hours and we still have to do the Food Systems Summit as well.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Just on the reordering, we would be happy to leave that to the Drafting Committee if that would be appropriate.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have an agreement on this so we go to the next subparagraph. Can we move the yellow points above? Then we go to the issue of whether or not we should have a qualifying related to the role of agriculture.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Usted ayer, seguramente por las buenas prácticas de manejar el Consejo, no me dejó terminar mi propuesta porque, la verdad es que, yo había escuchado con mucha atención la sabia reflexión que compartió con los Miembros la delegada de Suecia.

Sobre todo porque ella expresó, si yo entendí bien, que no era la intención dejar una narrativa negativa sobre la agricultura y como hay mucha sensibilidad en los países productores de alimentos, en la agricultura familiar y todos aquellos que tenemos un trabajo importante en esto; creo que, la clave acá es tratar justamente de ir en la línea de lo que mencionó mi colega Pernilla de Suecia, entonces yo lo que sugeriría es incorporar después de "highlight", en lugar de "*The positive role of sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems*".

Porque lo que nosotros estamos planteando es, justamente, esa parte que es la parte de la solución que la agricultura puede proponer en la medida que sea sustentable y eso es, en definitiva, y va, en línea con esta idea de no dejar ninguna duda sobre ninguna narrativa necesariamente negativa; porque sería como una cuestión que creo que va a hacer justicia con nuestros productores, con nuestra agricultura familiar, con cada uno de los que se dedican en nuestros países a la agricultura.

Así que, con mi agradecimiento a mi colega de Suecia que me hizo pensar, sugiero poner: "*Positive role of sustainable agriculture*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable to speak about "*the positive role of*"? I do not see any objections. It is so decided. We have solved another subparagraph.

Let us keep up this good mood. Then we scroll down. I think we have three subparagraphs there and I worked on them to facilitate work again on a draft proposal to hopefully find a way forward because Management clearly has a clear ambition.

My proposal would be for those three subparagraphs: "*encourage Management's ambition to finalize the Strategy and clearly define the implementation process deliverables and performance indicators*". Action plan taking up also the proposal of Mexico. Would that fly?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que es superadora, estamos de acuerdo.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe that I would like to thank Mexico for this proposition. I think it goes in the right direction, but I would suggest that just a small amendment. Instead of "*to finalize this Strategy*", "*to finalize the first draft of this Strategy*" because I believe that we must see yet the first draft of the paper.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is correct. With that do we have an agreement on this sunparagraph? Thank you so much, so we have solved this and with that I think we have solved all the suparagraphs in this Agenda Item 8.2.

**Item 6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (continued)****Point 6. Résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires (suite)****Tema 6. Resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios**

(continuación)

(CL 168/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we go to Item 6, the Food Systems Summit.

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

I think under Item 8.2, subparagraph (m) which I proposed, that we agree with your proposal. “*Supported strengthening of national agriculture...*”, we can put a full stop there and the rest can be.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At least there is another subparagraph solved, thank you so much for your flexibility.

We go now to Item 6. Thank you very much Secretariat. We go first to subparagraph (d). I tried to work on compromised language, which I have put now on the screen, It would read: “*Welcomed the leading role of the RBAs, and encouraged close cooperation with all relevant UN agencies, funds, and programmes as well as all relevant international organizations in the follow-up of the Summit.*”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estamos de acuerdo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we all agree?

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Nous aussi nous sommes d'accord pour cette formulation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope that Luxembourg, via Slovenia, can also agree?

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Let me check with my Slovenian colleague if she still wants the floor. I am sorry about that, Chairperson, I suppose that there was a misunderstanding. She will come back later.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Thanks for your proposal, we can go along with that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have an agreed paragraph.

We go to subparagraph (e) and again I tried to work on a compromised language because I think the consensus in the room was to stress the important role of the Members and whatever we do in an informal setting, I think is up to the informal setting. To avoid a lengthy discussion again, I tried to work on this compromised language: “*Highlighted the pivotal role of Members in the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit through Governing Bodies*”. I leave it like that in part also to maintain peace.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo creo que este, para nosotros este tema es un tema muy importante. Queremos discutir todo este proceso en un lugar donde también los Miembros puedan tomar decisiones, por lo tanto estaría absolutamente de acuerdo en poder llevar adelante reuniones informales o formales; pero, en definitiva, me parece que es una buena propuesta.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Chairperson, if you could please pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

For your proposal we would like to add also “*and noted support expressed by many FAO Members for a continued complementary role of the informal Group of Friends*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the common practice in a Council is that we do not say “*many*” or “*some*”, and I do not think that it is necessary that the Council take a decision of informal groups because we have many informal groups, still have many informal groups on biodiversity, eco-ecology and many which are not based on the decision of the Council, and although I agree your strong wish to maintain or go along with the informal “*Group of Friends*”, I do not think that this proposal would bring us nearer to a consensus. So, I will put it separately because we cannot go in “*many*” or “*some*” because then we lose the whole idea of the Council as we have to work by consensus.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This addition by Slovenia, for us is not good, because it is informal, which we said yesterday is an *ad hoc* group, and until we know about its creation or whatever we cannot presume that it is going to continue to work. An *ad hoc* group which has to go whilst its work is finished. So, we are not very supportive of that idea.

Now the other thing, your proposal, Chairperson, I just want to amend it slightly: “*through their respective Governing Bodies*”. We are talking about the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and each has its own Governing Bodies, their respective Governing Bodies.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We totally support your view on that. It is not the practice and we do not endorse any kind of phrase or wording about “*many*”, “*some*”, “*a few*”, “*several*”, that is not the way we work here. So, this proposal should be deleted and regarding the idea presented yesterday, I am not sure, maybe from Argentina regarding the idea to highlight the work done, the role played, we could go along with that. We are fine with this also.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I just want to start by saying that I personally find the informal Group of Friends in many subjects very useful. It is a place where we can discuss openly, under certain regulations even ideas that we cannot put into this table, because we have to be formal with the countries. But let me ask you a question: does the formation of a ‘Group of Friends’ need authorization or permission by the Council? Does an informal ‘Group of Friends’ need to refer to the Council? So, I think if we want to continue with the ‘Group of Friends’ nobody should oppose that. Is that correct? Is my assumption correct?

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is. As I said, if I want to go with you and all of you in the physical room for lunch, I do not need the approval of the Council. I see you all as my friends and how the lunch was, how the food was, you do not need to report back to the Council. No, there is no formal approval necessary. Anybody can start a ‘Group of Friends’, work in a ‘Group of Friends’ and whatever comes out can be brought to the attention, but there is no obligation to do any reporting to the Council. That is the idea of the whole ‘Group of Friends’ and so it was started. I was myself part of the starting group and co-convener so, for that I do not think we need to address this here in this Council.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We fully support your initial proposal as a compromise and we completely agree with what was said by the Distinguished Delegate from Mexico. Regarding what you said, that nothing impedes countries from creating informal groups and that is not related to matters of the Council.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Thank you for your proposal. Egypt believes that the work of the Group of Friends over the past month has been very complementary to the work of the FAO Governing Bodies and we do not see any

negative repercussions for making a light reference to the work of the 'Group of Friends' as a complementary group for the work of the Council and other FAO Governing Bodies.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros apoyamos su propuesta original, nos parece que no hay ninguna necesidad de incorporar el tema del Grupo de Amigos en el informe del Consejo. Entendemos que si es que el Grupo de Amigos se quiere reunir, no hay nada que se lo impida. También estamos de acuerdo en reconocer el rol que jugó en la Cumbre el grupo de amigos, creemos que fue un importante rol, especialmente por la falta de información que teníamos acerca de la Cumbre.

Respecto a la propuesta de Camerún, pienso, era de poner aquí, incorporar a sus respectivos Órganos rectores. Me surge la pregunta de a quiénes nos estamos refiriendo. Es porque este es el Informe del Consejo de la FAO, tampoco estamos hablando aquí especial de la colaboración entre los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), entonces habría que precisarlo. Nos parece que desde el principio preferiríamos el lenguaje original propuesto por usted.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We support the Chairperson's proposal here. We should not mention the informal 'Group of Friends' because it is unnecessary.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask whether or not the European Union have flexibility listening to the discussion and there is a rising consensus to stick only to the first part and not make reference to the continuation of '*Group of Friends*', so that we have an agreement on this paragraph?

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could please pass the floor to my Slovenian colleague?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States would like to comment that we thank the Members for their comments and we listened to them very carefully and we would like to be flexible and we hope that we can propose something in this sense. We would like to propose that after "*Food Systems Summit*" we put a comma, "*through their respective Governing Bodies*" then full stop. If this could be acceptable to the Members?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is this agreeable?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Sí, para nosotros podríamos aceptar esto incluyendo, pero, insistimos, en que no deberíamos hacer referencia a "*Their respective Governing Bodies*". Los Órganos rectores respectivos, "Sus" como de "Varias agencias". Nosotros estamos aquí en el Consejo de la FAO y podemos hablar de nuestros Órganos de Gobierno salvo que incluyéramos alguna referencia de qué estamos hablando.

Pero, dado que no estamos hablando de la colaboración entre los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), nos parece que deberíamos referirnos a nuestros Órganos rectores.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me parece que la idea está clara con su propuesta original y creo que tenemos un consenso importante entre los Miembros. Me parece que mantengamos la posición original que creo que captura exactamente. Y como dijo muy bien mi colega de México, esto de ninguna manera niega la posibilidad de que los Miembros se puedan juntar. Digamos, he sido [XX] del *Group of Friends*, desde el origen. Así que no lo estoy diciendo desde afuera.

Por lo tanto, digo, el juntarse, muchos nos hemos juntado para diferentes temas informalmente a veces en las instalaciones de los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR), y a veces en un bar o en un restaurant o en diferentes lados, por lo tanto la posibilidad de hacerlo será absolutamente siempre una

decisión de cada Miembro. Así que yo me suscribí, o sea, acá lo que estamos hablando es de los Órganos rectores y me parece que su propuesta original es la que se adapta más correctamente a esta estancia del Consejo.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je pense que ce morceau de phrase a quand même, comme dit le Chili, un problème de syntaxe. Quand on parle de "leurs organes respectifs", on parle des organes directeurs de qui? Des Membres? Pourrait-on dire "à travers les organes directeurs..."? Même si je ne suis pas fort en anglais, je pense qu'il faut relire cette partie en tenant compte de la proposition du Chili.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps the best way is we will keep "*including*" between brackets and there it is not the correct wording because we do not refer to and we say '*through the Governing Bodies*' that was your original proposal.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Muy brevemente permítame sumarme a las otras intervenciones que afirmaban que su propuesta era aceptable. Nosotros estamos muy cómodos con la propuesta original, así avanzamos en el texto y podemos concluir este Consejo que ha sido un Consejo muy activo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, I would like to echo your last words, the activity of this Council.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Possibly you might request that they clean the text following the proposed suggestion from the European Union (EU). They have suggested that they can do without the last part which is bracketed. I think then we can agree on that, to remove that part, because they have agreed already as they are the one who proposed it.

Now, for "*their respective*", we are flexible. That is not a must for us. We can also remove "*their respective*" and leave "*to the Governing Bodies*". I think we are flexible in that. Now, we are remaining with the wording suggested by the EU including, so for me I have no problem, really if we can add, if that can do the trick and bring us together as a Council, I believe that we can live with "*including*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, would we have an agreement in the room?

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

I would just like to ask about what you are meaning about "*Governing Bodies*"? I would like to know more about this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is referring to, for example, the Council as a Governing Body that can give guidance to the follow-up process and whatever comes out of the follow-up process, but it could also be one other Body of the FAO, because we are sitting here as a Council of the FAO and we have several Governing Bodies as is stated in the Basic Texts and the Constitution of FAO. With that, could we agree with the text as it is on the screen and remove the brackets? I do not see any objections, so we have another paragraph solved.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Could you please pass the floor to Slovenia?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Just to thank Cameroon and all of the other Members for their flexibility and yes, we are very happy with this final version.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think there was already a broad support to maintain subparagraph (b) so I think we have solved that as well.

We go to subparagraph (f). There we only have the reference to “*coalitions of action*” as appropriate.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe that this suggestion you present and then we just approve it includes also the previous subparagraph. If you can go up there a bit. Yes, this proposal as it stands now. Letter (d). It is something that is not going to fly and we believe that your proposal included also the deletion of this subparagraph (d). I would like your indulgence and provide us clearance on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

No, Brazil, I will not come back to that if we have dealt with the last subparagraph because it was a separate subparagraph and I will make a suggestion on that.

Let us first now see subparagraph (f). Can we maintain “*coalition of actions as appropriate*”? I do not see any objections so then this subparagraph is also solved.

We go to subparagraph (h) and then we are trying to find a way forward on this subparagraph because we do not have a definition yet of the equal system of support and of science, which I will explain later in the last subparagraph.

Here, I will try to work also on the compromised language which reads as follows: “*highlight the need for mobilizing relevant UN system organizations and all relevant key partners to act as the critical nexus point in relation to transform, as appropriate, our food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda*”. Moving around some of the difficult issues in the precious paragraph. Could this compromise work?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Once again, we thank you for your effort and I still do not understand, yesterday, we mentioned that we had some difficulties with the meaning of the subparagraph and then we still do not see, for instance, what does it mean “*critical nexus point*”? It is difficult to understand that so we do not see too much effect or purpose on this paragraph. I would like to hear from other colleagues about this. I really do not understand the meaning of that.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We appreciate your work to come up with this alternative text and we are fine with it. The only thing we would suggest is to change “*our food systems*” to “*Members’ food systems*” and as we understand it this is in part to capitalize on the energy generated by the process and that drives us to mobilizing other partners. That is how we understand that subparagraph.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

A quick note on the content of your proposal. It reflects the concerns Brazil has. If we understand it correctly then we need to mobilise the UN systems, organisations and partners to act together in order to transform food systems of Members. So, in this case Members will not transform their own systems, it is the Organization’s cross partners who will do that. What in this case is the role of the Members, if we are not referring to joining efforts of all and yet we talk about the transformation of food systems of Members, that is not very clear. It means that somebody is going to transform our food systems for us.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was just picking up the language that was mentioned in subparagraph (b).

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I think our Russian colleague makes a good point and I think we can fix that by saying, “*to support the transformation as appropriate of Members food systems*”.



**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I would like to thank also the delegation of the United States. I think it adds some meaning on the subparagraph, but I suggest that we delete this element, “*critical nexus point*”. I believe if we say, “*departments to support the transformation*” it goes direct, we save words and the whole meaning of the subparagraph is much clearer for us. The idea is to delete, to act as the critical nexus point in relation, and to say that the relevant organisations and key partners to support the transformation. Something like that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The subparagraph would read, “*to highlight the need for mobilising relevant UN organisations and all key partners to support the transformation as appropriate*”.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

I can also align with Brazil in the proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I think we have another agreed subparagraph.

Now we continue to the last subparagraph. We had a long discussion and I tried to work again on a compromise language, which would read, “*request further written information on the Hub including its staffing, financing and functions including its reporting structure and delivery of information to Members. The position of the CFS including its HLPE, within its mandate of food security and nutrition, the ecosystem support and of science and the stakeholder advisory group, including and incorporating Members feedback through the relevant Governing Bodies.*” Can we agree on this paragraph?

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Thank you all once again for your efforts in trying to deal with all of the programme implications. Here as I remember our discussion with the Programme Committee and during our Session of the Council, Members asked for information including the idea of not repeating or duplicating efforts inside FAO.

The idea to have some information on the Hub is very important but I would stop on that. The rest of the paragraph is the relation or the questions on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the rest I do not recall any consensus on our discussions on that. So, my suggestion is to put a full stop after “*information to Members*”. And with that we could go along.

As I mentioned yesterday, I believe the Chairperson of CFS has already proposed some informal group discussions on that, so in that sense those informal groups could discuss the potential role of CFS on the subject.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Gracias primero por su propuesta, como siempre en general muy constructiva y amplia.

Me parece que lo que planteó el colega de Brasil tiene un punto importante. Creo que cuanto menos es más en este contexto y en este proceso. Creo que hemos escuchado todos a la Consejero Legal la cual estableció que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) está en la FAO, o sea, es parte de la FAO; por lo tanto, eso no menoscaba la importancia la relevancia que tiene el CSA como plataforma.

Hemos hablado ya de esto en mis intervenciones así que yo acompañaría a la posición de Brasil en este punto. Y, en todo caso, si después tenemos que discutir, o sea, creo que además hay un error, ¿no? en la propuesta, si me permite, Presidente. Con mucho respeto, creo que el *HLPF*, el foro político de alto nivel sobre el desarrollo sostenible, no puede estar dividido del propio CSA, pero reitero, yo me quedo con la posición de Brasil.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I know the Hub is not a decision or an idea of FAO, neither of the other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). This statement here, certainly to whom it is directed, the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General, who mentioned that, this is for me to her that we are addressing this. But nevertheless, let me just try to propose something. What you have suggested to me looks good, but it is too long. I agree with Brazil that we should shorten it. So look forward to further details on the operational modalities of the suggested Hub. Can we leave it at that?

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I agree with Brazil and Argentina. I think we will never be able to cover all the possibilities of information that we require. I think if FAO will put a full stop after “*information to Members*”, we would be on the right track.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We can go along with the proposal from Brazil, but we do think it is worth clarifying a little bit further because the Hub, as we understand it, is only one component of the follow-up system. So the references to the Stakeholder Advisory Group and the science ecosystem are not technically part of the Hub, as I have understood it.

If we could just add in the first line there, “*Requested further information on the Hub and the other components of the follow-up system*”. Then I think we would cover everything that we are interested in receiving further information on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other reflections? So I think what we see now, we could delete everything after Members.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is true that we are working on it, but I feel that written information is too, what should I say, too neutral and too loose, because if you use written information then you have to complete it, what are the Terms of Reference of that written information. May I also suggest that everything boils down to the working operational modalities of the Hub and with what the United States has just said, the other component of the follow-up system.

I am not very comfortable with written information because it is too loose. It does not say much on what we are expecting to receive, I do not know, from whom. So my suggestion is the same that we work around, we use the wording, the functional operational modalities of the suggested Hub and other components of the follow-up system to the Summit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to remind, it is an advice, but it was the advice of the Joint Meeting to ask for written input so that it is clear what is meant and hopefully without different interpretations.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could please pass the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to thank you for your proposal which was very acceptable for us. But we have prepared also to work on this new version of your proposal so if we are going back to your new version of your proposal, we would like to propose to add after including, “*the governance*”, and then the rest of the sentence and at the end, we would like to propose also in light of the discussion yesterday and of the proposal made by, I think, Argentina to use other Members, as well as the potential role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). So this would be our proposal for the Members.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Well, let us try to be flexible here. First of all, let us put it very clearly, from New York we received suggestions, it is up to Governing Bodies now to decide what to do step-by-step. So, in the case here regarding the proposal made by the United States and the other suggested components of the follow-up system, because so far it is just a suggestion, I would put into practice the governance because we are not intending to change anything here in terms of the governance of FAO. That is not our intention. We have clear mandates, and we are not prepared to engage in any negotiation to alter anything here.

Also, the idea to mention here the potential role of Committee on World Food Security (CFS), it is for our point of view, there is no use for that. CFS is already dealing with that informally. Its President has already asked Members to engage in informal conversation. So as far as I am concerned, the discussion inside the CFS has already taken place informally and we can go along with that kind of modality. If in the future something concrete emerges, and something concrete has the approval of all Members, the consensus position of all Members, we can move forward. Right now, it is very premature to prejudge anything.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I think I have listened carefully to Brazil. I think with the addition of the reference to the potential role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) here, which does not prejudge what that role would be, it is simply inviting FAO as the host of the Hub to provide us with its thoughts on what, if any roles, CFS might play in the overall structures. If we include that reference here, then I believe we can eliminate the paragraph earlier on. I believe it is subparagraph (d) so that we do not have to deal with that.

With respect to governance, I agree with the point that we do not want to be changing any governance structures. I do not think that is what is meant here though. I think the meaning here is simply to provide us with information about it. It goes along with the reporting structures, what the governance process will be for the Hub itself, and it is reporting to the advisory group and how the advisory group will operate. So it is not the governance of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), it is the governance of the structure that is being set up, whatever that is going to look like and I do think the governance is something that we certainly have an interest in and would like to have an opportunity to discuss.

**CHAIRPERSON**

United States, what would it concretely mean for the proposal, all your suggestions?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

My proposal then would be that we agree with the change made by Brazil to include "*and other suggested components of the follow-up system*". We retain governance and we retain the bracketed language on the central role of Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Escuché con mucha atención a los colegas, sobre todo recién a Estados Unidos y también a Brasil. A ver, la primera cosa, yo creo que Brasil tiene razón. Una de las cosas que más consenso ha tenido respecto de este debate ha sido que los Miembros han dicho que no quieren crear nuevas estructuras. O sea, que no está previsto construir o crear algún tipo de mecanismo alternativo o nuevo de lo que ya tenemos. Por lo tanto, "*including the governance*" acá me parece no apropiado. Yo agradezco la sugerencia de Eslovenia en representación de la Unión Europea, pero me parece que en este caso no sería conveniente.

Después con respecto al tema del "*Potential role of*" del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA). Tiene mucha razón la representante de la Unión Europea, yo mencioné esto. El problema es que a veces uno menciona cuestiones en un contexto particular, en un contexto determinado y no es que todo lo que uno dice es aplicable a todos los contextos.

En este caso puntual, es muy interesante lo que nos dijo la Asesora Jurídica en la cual el CSA está en la FAO. Entonces, en todo caso yo preferiría borrar esa última parte, pero si la idea es pensar o

explorar una salida más inclusiva, deberíamos incorporar: "*As well as the potential role of the all technical committees: COAG, COFI, COFO o CCP* y otras plataformas". Y creo que, quizás... pero, digo, sinceramente creo y otra vez nuevamente como dije antes, creo que lo menos es más en estos momentos del proceso de discusión de este Informe.

Pero repito para mostrarme flexible, podríamos si es necesario, porque es muy importante, me parece que deberíamos de incluir todos los comités técnicos y también otras plataformas. Si es necesario incluir eso, yo tengo texto para hacerlo, pero en primer lugar me quedaría en la opción planteada por Brasil.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to remind everybody it is already 14:05 hours and we have to proceed.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We support the logic and the rationale of the distinguished delegate from Brazil and from Argentina particularly when it comes to adding suggested components, but I think that we should make it who suggests these components so suggested by the UN Secretary-General, because if we do not include that it is not clear who will suggest these components precisely. So we suggest after suggested, to include by the UN Secretary-General. And also, we would prefer not to delete the reference to governance as our discussion has shown as it goes into detail of the FAO structure and Governing Bodies.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I would like to echo what was stated by the distinguished delegations from Argentina, Brazil and the Russian Federation. I would like to support the proposal by the Brazil delegation and delete the governance and also delete the potential roles of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

The text states "*including*", so it is not an exclusive list, but it is going to be added so everything can be incorporated. But let us try to find a way forward because we are losing a lot of time.

#### **Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia.

#### **Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States would like to clarify that we understand from the Legal Counsel of the FAO that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is not part of FAO, it is hosted by FAO, so it is not on the same level as the Technical Committees of FAO. So, this is why we are proposing this reference to the potential role of the CFS.

Additionally, we want to remind once again in the statement of action of the Secretary-General, it explicitly mentions the essential role of the CFS in the follow-up process. I hope this helped to clarify our position to the other Members.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

A few points on this. I think we agree with the retention of governance because what we are interested in hearing about is how decisions are made regarding these various components. To make that clear, perhaps it would be helpful to change from "*including the governance*" to "*including their governance*", to clarify that section more, perhaps moving the text offered by the Russian Federation a little later in the sentence.

The other suggested components of the follow-up system, suggested by the UN Secretary-General, and then including their governance. And then taking note of the fact that it is very clear the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is an important element near and dear to many Member's hearts, but that there is disagreement on that, perhaps as well as on the potential role of CFS as appropriate. Just to give it a little more flexibility around that but retain the reference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I call upon everyone's utmost flexibility to find a way out of this subparagraph (b) because I think then we are almost there on this Item.

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

I am sorry for this intervention, but I appreciate the chance. I heard that many of our colleagues prefer the inclusion of delivery of information, but delivery of information in a timely manner. So, I would like to just add, meeting regularly of any information is timely. So, "*delivery of timely information*", I prefer.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Primero que todo quisiéramos recordar que la declaración de la Secretaría General no es un mandato a los Miembros, creo que es algo que a veces muchas veces se olvida. Algo que quisiera recordar es que usáramos el nombre que está en el documento respecto al Hub, que entiendo que es "*Coordination Hub*". Creemos que es un énfasis que es importante, es un Hub de coordinación y que eso se haga a través de todo el texto cuando nos refiramos al Hub, usar su nombre, el nombre de lo que estamos hablando. ¿Si lo pueden agregar, por favor? "*Coordination Hub*."

Por último, claro, entiendo que debo saber cómo funciona, pero claro, cuando estamos hablando que todos prácticamente hemos estado de acuerdo en que no queremos nuevas estructuras cuando ya empezamos a hablar de su gobernanza, staff, financiamiento, funciones, me parece bastante claro que suena como una estructura, ¿no?

Finalmente, quisiéramos eliminar la última parte del párrafo y dejarlo hasta Miembros. Y, tal vez sería sí, bueno, incluir alguna forma cómo debería hacerse, quizás una reunión informal que usted pudiera invitar, para que se entregara esta información y recibir comentarios de los Miembros podría ser algo útil porque para el próximo Consejo, falta bastante tiempo para eso, el saber cuándo vamos a recibir esta información y en qué forma le podríamos dar algún *feedback*.

Antes de que se establezca definitivamente y sea solamente información supongo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you also for that question. I will come back to that later because I think it is important how we proceed if we have the information and I think waiting until June will be too late, but let us first see if we can get the substance clear. May I press you to see where we can find a consensus?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo no sé si voy a ayudar o no, trato siempre de hacerlo. Pero yo le quiero preguntar si usted me lo permite, si usted lo considera a la Asesora Jurídica para de una vez por todas terminar con las dudas si simplemente puede responder a esta pregunta, si el comité de seguridad alimentaria es parte de la FAO o no es parte de la FAO.

Porque, según lo que yo veo en los textos básicos, lo observo dos veces que está en los Textos Básicos, entonces quiero terminar de discutir esto porque así nos evita otras discusiones futuras. Se lo agradecería muchísimo, pero explícitamente para que no tengamos duda de la respuesta, sí o no por favor.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope that the Legal Counsel is there.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I will simply read out paragraph 8, Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization. Paragraph 8 reads, "*The Committee on World Food Security is and remains an intergovernmental Committee in FAO.*"

**CHAIRPERSON**

Although it was not a 'yes' or 'no', the answer was quite clear.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I was taking the floor to see if we can try and get a compromise on maintaining as well as the potential role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as appropriate by adding the following text after, “*as appropriate and in accordance with its mandate.*”

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

If I could come back to my previous comment. My intention is to add “*timely*” between delivery of any information. Further timely meeting information would be, of course, preferred. No. In the third line, “*delivery of the information*”. So return of information. “*Timely delivery of information.*” “*Delivery of timely information.*”

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are so hesitant to make any comment or reference to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and you can easily understand why. But with the comment made by the European Union, I see a very big contradiction. You cannot say that this Body is not part of FAO. You want to entrust the Council of FAO to give responsibilities to nobody. This is something that personally I cannot understand. The best way to do it is to leave the CFS to discuss it with in its own structure and get a decision.

Why do we want to fuss the Council if we are not recognising that it is part of FAO’s Council, to entrust some responsibility to the Body which is not part of it. That is the big contradiction I see. But when I look at the text of FAO and everything, everywhere in the FAO website, CFS is considered a committee of FAO.

If you go to the website, it is like it is treated the same way as the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and Committee on Forestry (COFO). So, I am of the opinion if I want to conclude please, if we are working with your suggestion I think if we put a period after everything the US has said, we put a period “*suggested by the US Secretary-General*”, we put a period there, and we do away with everything following.

Unless the EU comes back and tells us, okay, we are FAO so the Council can entrust some responsibility to CFS. Then we can reverse our position at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I put a bracket after.

**Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)**

I will just follow-up in addition to what Cameroon and Chile were saying. I would take out the word “*written*”, because we are ruling out any other kind of information that we might proceed. Maybe there might be a consultation or something and I would say, “*requested further information*”, not just written one. And then I fully agree with Cameroon just to put a full stop after “*UN Secretary-General*”, and I think that is a very wide and good compromise.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Usted pidió buscar consenso. Repito lo que dije antes, cuanto menos en estos casos es más. Tratemos de seguir la propuesta de Camerún y con eso terminemos esta discusión enorme y que no nos va a llegar... no vamos a ponernos de acuerdo. Entonces, tratemos de cerrarla en donde sí, en términos generales, estamos todos incluidos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Hopefully we find a way forward.

**Mme Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD (France)**

J'aimerais revenir sur la position du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA).

Nous sommes en 2009, le CSA est un Comité de la FAO; il s'avère que les États Membres considèrent que la sécurité alimentaire ne relève pas que de questions d'agriculture et décide de sortir le CSA de la

FAO. C'est l'objectif de la réforme, sinon à quoi aurait-elle servi? Il fut donc décidé que le CSA ne devait plus être un Comité seulement de la FAO. D'ailleurs, à l'époque, la Présidente du CSA en était l'Ambassadrice d'Argentine, et c'est elle qui a mené la réforme du CSA, le faisant sortir de la FAO puisqu'il ne traite pas seulement d'agriculture, est-ce clair?

Il y a eu de longues discussions effectivement sur les textes du CSA, qui est un Comité "*in FAO*" et pas "*of FAO*", comme l'a rappelé ma collègue de la Slovénie, pour bien dire que le CSA n'est pas un Comité de la FAO, au même titre que le Comité de l'agriculture (COAG) ou les autres Comités, et qu'il doit faire rapport à la Conférence de la FAO puisqu'il est hébergé par elle, mais également directement à l'ECOSOC, ce qu'il fait tous les ans. Je pense que la situation du CSA est claire, c'était l'objectif de la réforme.

Par ailleurs, je pense qu'il est difficile de traiter ce paragraphe sans traiter le paragraphe d) où l'on mentionne aussi le CSA en parallèle. Il y a en effet tellement de langage additionnel qu'on ne sait plus exactement quel est l'intérêt de ces mentions.

En revanche, le document CL 168/6 concernant le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires ne peut pas ne pas traiter aussi de la position du CSA, puisque le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a rappelé qu'il avait un rôle essentiel dans le suivi du Sommet.

Donc, je pense qu'il faudrait peut-être remettre le paragraphe d) et le traiter en même temps, ce qui me semblerait peut-être, si on y réfléchit, offrir l'opportunité de trouver une solution.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not think we are getting nearer to a consensus conclusion of our Council.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Building on the earlier points made by Argentina and trying to accommodate positions, perhaps as well as the potential role of FAO committees as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates, because to be honest, I would not mind hearing if there is an envisaged role for the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), or an envisaged role for any of those other committees, and obviously the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). So that is a generic normal for all the committees and might give the space for everyone to get what they want from this.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

First of all, I would like to thank the Legal Counsel for the explanation that clarifies once and for all the situation of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) without disturbing interpretations that do not exist. Secondly, I would like to thank the distinguished delegates from Cameroon, Israel and Argentina. I fully concur that the shorter the paragraph here. So we put after "*UN Secretary-General*" a full stop.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I just wanted to support what was said by the distinguished delegate of Brazil.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

For the sake of clarity, we also support the proposal made by Brazil to put a full stop after "*Secretary-General*".

#### **Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Nos preocupa la cantidad de corchetes que hay después de la mención del Secretario General, apoyamos la propuesta de Argentina, creo que esto facilitaría enormemente cerrar este punto.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Is there any flexibility in the room to have a full stop after "*Secretary-General*"? So that would delete everything after "*Secretary-General*".

#### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros creemos que es donde podemos avanzar hoy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We know for certain that we have to come back in the Council to many aspects certainly when we have information. Could we agree on, otherwise we go into the evening with this?

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could pass the floor to Slovenia?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Slovenia. Could you be very brief? Do not repeat your position but whether or not there is a possibility to have a full stop after “*Secretary-General*”?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, we are flexible and in the spirit of compromise, we can accept to stop after “*UN Secretary-General*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think with that, we have and we also delete, “*and written*”. We have had a compromise, then the only subparagraph which is still remaining is subparagraph (d). Could we delete subparagraph (d) after this description? I do not see any objections so with that, we have a clean text.

Sorry, Japan.

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

I just advise that suddenly my proposal disappeared in the last subparagraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We delete everything after the “*Secretary-General*”. That was the consensus which we were arriving at. Could you go with the consensus? I do not see the objection of Japan.

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

My intervention to add, “*in a timely manner*” between “*information*” and [XX].

**CHAIRPERSON**

Where do you want to have it?

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

We would like in subparagraph (c) that, “we Member countries appreciate the information” and the information received is very important for our national pathways. For the follow-up process, information is very important to request what has happened across the world, to our follow-up process. That is the bigger reason why I request to add this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we say, “*suggested by the Secretary-General, in a timely manner*”? Would that facilitate your concern, Japan?

**Mr Jasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have an agreed paragraph, and we have an agreed Item 6. Although what was asked by Chile, I think if we have the information, it is important to see how we address the information. I will consult with the Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, but it could mean that we have to organize if we want to take decisions, an extraordinary Council, to address the issue if we have to take formal decisions, but it depends on the information which we are given, so that can be decided later on behalf of and with the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. If we need to have an extraordinary Council that probably will be in the beginning of February because



we need first that information with which we can decide on that, and we will consult in an open and transparent manner with everybody.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Regarding the idea to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, I do not think that is a good idea. We can proceed, if necessary, when we receive any written information on that. We can receive that and keep it and if necessary, we can talk informally on that. I do not think right now it is necessary, but it is up to you, but I do not think it is a very good idea to convene a meeting of the Council just for that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That was exactly my idea. Let us just first have the information, then I consult with the Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons and then we see whether or not there is such a need, so we do not decide anything. We wait and see until we have the information and then we see what needs to be done.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Ahora acabo de escuchar la posición de Brasil. A mí me parece que lo importante, Presidente, es que a través de su conducción podamos llevar adelante en los momentos que tengamos la información suficiente, las consultas necesarias de las maneras en que sean apropiadas.

Quiero decir, tanto lo formal como lo informal de acuerdo con el contexto, las circunstancias, pero necesitando obviamente la información que necesitamos para poder intercambiar ideas. Así que le agradezco desde ya, lo que usted puede hacer en esa dirección y agradezco a Brasil los comentarios.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Looking to the clock, we have to break now for half an hour for our interpreters. And we are getting nearly there, we are getting really close, so let us maintain the momentum. Let us reconvene at 15:00 hours and hopefully, we finalise the last paragraphs. Thank you for your great effort.

Meeting adjourned until 15:00 hours.

*The meeting rose at 14:34 hours*

*La séance est levée à 14 h 34*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 14.34*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>TENTH PLENARY SESSION DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>3 December 2021</b>

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:06 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 06  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 15.06  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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- Item 7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2021) (*continued*)**
- Point 7. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent trente-deuxième session) et du Comité financier (cent quatre-vingt-huitième session) (novembre 2021) (*suite*)**
- Tema 7. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 132.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 188.º período de sesiones (noviembre de 2021) (*continuación*)**  
(CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Members of the Council, dear friends, the room here is getting emptier and emptier. I am feeling lonelier and lonelier in this room but good to have still some friends in the room itself but probably everybody is now virtually in their warm offices with nice coffee and tea, etc. Let us continue and start with some good news, which is always good if we go to our last Session before adoption of the Council.

We turn now to Item 7 and I understand that the informal consultations between Sweden and the Russian Federation have led to a compromised proposal which we put forward on the screen and hopefully, everybody could agree to that.

If you go to Item 7. I will read out the text as an alternative 2.

*“Appreciated FAO’s efforts in the prevention of and protection against harassment, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, highlighting the importance of the victim-centred approach, encouraged FAO to further improve the effectiveness, independence and fairness of sexual harassment investigations,” and now comes the paragraph, “and encourage FAO to continue strengthening its policies in this regard, which should be gender-sensitive, given that women are the most vulnerable staff asset, according to FAO’s relevant statistics.”*

That is the paragraph that was agreed by Sweden and the Russian Federation. I really hope that it can meet everybody’s concern and that we keep the text as it is, because it is a very delicate balance. Can we approve this text because then we have finalized the Item. I do have to apologize that I cannot give Observers the floor at this moment because those are the Rules and Procedures.

Can we agree to this text? I see no objections. Great. And can we also agree to then the Council endorsed the Report of the Joint Meeting?

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

I just propose a minor revision on this paragraph. That is the “*endorsed*” replaced by “*welcomed*”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask, China, why are you against the wording of “*endorsing*”? Because we agree to all paragraphs.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

Yes, because due to the detail of the Report, we have different views. So, we just welcomed the Report, not endorsed the whole Report.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We support the proposal of the Distinguished Delegate from China because the alternative text that we agreed on together with the delegation of Sweden does not fully reflect the conclusions reached during the Joint Meeting. So, this compromise proposal is an effort to move forward in the work and therefore, we support this proposal that has just come from China.

#### **Ms Alison STORSVE (United States of America)**

I think in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), we said, “*With these considerations, the Council...*” and that then accounts for the changes. And if we have with these considerations, I wonder if we could still endorse or approve the Report, if that meets the point that the

Russian Federation just raised and China. If not, “welcomed” is fine, but I think we just should be consistent across the Committees.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think certainly, we have to include “with these considerations” to be consistent with the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) but also with the CCLM Report we changed it to “welcomed” yesterday. Can we have with these considerations the Council welcomed the Report of the Joint Meeting. Is that agreeable?

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

China prefers “welcomed”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, China, I was stating that. With these considerations, “the Council welcomed the Report of the Joint Meeting”.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

Okay, thank you. I can go along with you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, we have finalized Agenda Item 7. Good start after the break.

**Item 6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (continued)**

**Point 6. Résultats du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires (suite)**

**Tema 6. Resultados de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios (continuación)**

(CL 168/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now we go to the remaining subparagraphs of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report. We had two paragraphs pending, one on the use of multilaterally agreed concepts and one on the Food Systems Summit. Let us first deal with what was multilaterally agreed.

**Mr Andrian MCADAMS (United States of America)**

I think we have obviously got some other things to take care of and in an effort to move forward in a way that I hope all Members would agree, what if we just ended the sentence here, “after concepts and language.” I think that leaves it quite neutral and hopefully Members could agree to that language.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The proposal would be “stressed the importance that all documents produced by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) use multilaterally agreed concepts and language.” Is this agreeable? I do not see any objections. So, then we go to Argentina on this.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solo para apoyar. Siempre apoyando.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we go to subparagraph (d). We kept this pending, given the discussions on Item 6. Now we have concluded Item 6.

**Item 11. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (continued)**

**Point 11. Rapports de la quarante-huitième session (session extraordinaire) (4 juin 2021) et de la quarante-neuvième session (11-14 octobre 2021) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (suite)**

**Tema 11. Informes del 48.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (4 de junio de 2021) y el 49.º período de sesiones (11-14 de octubre de 2021) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria**

**Mundial (continuación)**

(C 2023/19; C 2023/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us see how we can solve this Item on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I believe, after our discussions regarding the Food Systems Summit, and we had a very profound discussion on that, either we could delete any mention here or import some language that we have already agreed from that. That is my suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I always choose the easiest way. Now we have concluded Item 6. Can we just delete this subparagraph? I do not see any objections. With that, we have finalized our Report on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

**Item 12. Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration (continued)****Point 12. Rapport de situation sur la collaboration entre les organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome (suite)****Tema 12. Informe sobre la marcha de las actividades de colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma (continuación)**

(CL 168/11)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Good pace. We go to Item 12, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) Collaboration.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I think that the same applies here. We had discussed the issue of the UN Food Systems Summit. So, I would suggest to make it simpler, and maybe stop at “*their complementarities*” and full stop.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would that be agreeable? I do not see any objections. It is so decided.

Another Item solved.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee****Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme****Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)****Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)****Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)**

(CL 168/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 8.2, the remaining subparagraphs. We had long discussions whether or not, again, to include “*technology transfer*”. Could we not go with the proposal I said because it is still under development? I think it is the easiest way out and we certainly can continue discussing it when we have the first draft of the Strategy in front of us. Could you go along with my compromise?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

As much as we appreciate the work and efforts exerted by the Chairperson in coming up with this subparagraph, we would like to remind Members that we have actually showed a lot of flexibility regarding mentioning technology transfers in other paragraphs.

But we would like to draw the attention of the Council that since we keep mentioning the importance of using multilaterally agreed language, the language of technology transfer has been used in a lot of the UN and other relevant bodies, especially for the UN Agenda for Development 2030 and I do not see the logic behind removing the word “*transfer*”, especially when we are using very broad language, such as scaling up and encouraging good practices, not even commitments, for sharing knowledge and technology transfer.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quisiera tratar de que esto no genere una situación de discusión fuerte ni mucho menos. Quiero tratar de explicar por qué los países en desarrollo hacemos y ponemos fundamento tanto énfasis en el tema de la transferencia de tecnología. No es estrictamente cómo nosotros lo estamos viendo.

Es imprescindible para poder resolver gran parte de nuestras problemáticas tanto, incluso, en el caso de que se habla de transformación de los sistemas alimentarios de acuerdo con cada contexto, de acuerdo a cada realidad. Para nosotros es imposible poder llevar adelante ningún proceso de cambio, de transformación, si no hay una transferencia de tecnología.

Y cuando hablamos de transferencia de tecnología es obviamente de acuerdo a lo que las partes puedan transferir o lo que la FAO pueda transferir en términos de conocimientos. Tecnología, en ese sentido, tiene un aspecto muy positivo que a mí me parece que la posición que plantea Egipto refleja realmente los intereses y las preocupaciones de los países en desarrollo.

No como una posición de confrontación con ningún colega, ningún país desarrollado — todo lo contrario. En general esta transferencia se da gracias a la colaboración y a la participación de los países desarrollados que lo hacen todo el tiempo y también a través de la cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular, que es un tema central para los países en desarrollo.

Por lo tanto, yo invitaría a quienes tienen sensibilidad con el tema de transferencia de tecnología para por ahí encontrar alguna manera de capturar esto que estamos planteando que, repito, me parece es algo muy lógico en nuestra Agenda. Perdón, Presidente, por tratar de explicar la racionalidad y el apoyo a la posición de Egipto.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We could do it in two ways. We could say “*dissemination, transfer on mutually agreed terms, and scaling up of...*” or we could say “*science, knowledge, innovation and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms*”.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could please pass the floor to Slovenia for the European Union?

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Apologies because we are taking the floor regarding Item 11. You went a bit too quickly for us. We could agree to the deletion of the last paragraph in Item 11, but we would like, if possible, to go back to Item 11, I do not know, or after this Item, to check again and to have the possibility to look into subparagraph (e) of Item 11, with the indulgence of you and everybody, if it is possible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first finalize this Item, then we go back to Item 11. If we want to conclude today, we have to be as brief as possible.

**Ms Josyline C. JAVELOSA (Philippines)**

The Philippines would just like to support the position of Egypt and Argentina and to your proposal, Chairperson, to include the transfer on mutually agreed terms of science, knowledge and innovation

and technology. As other developing countries, as a beneficiary or a recipient, we are very much interested in having information about science and technology, not technology per se but also on models of technology transfer that are acceptable to the parties concerned. And in a similar way, as a donor of technology, if we have information to share, we would like to know those kinds of models.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

With the addition of transfer on mutually agreed terms, I think that makes it acceptable to us and I think it reads best in the formulation you have at the end of the sentence rather than the one in the middle. So, we would have a preference for that tail end.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I do not want to leave a lengthy comment. I still do not understand why it is making a problem to include “*technology transfer*”. I do not want to take a lot of time from the Council. I can read Article 32 of the Agenda 2030 and that includes clearly technology development and transfer.

Since we are trying to be very flexible, I will try to come up with a conclusion for this paragraph, if we want to add “*technology transfer on mutually agreed terms*”, then we should be talking about “*commitments*” rather than “*good practice*”. So, if you want to add “*mutually agreed terms*”, I have no problem but then we should scale in [XX] of commitments regarding sharing of science, knowledge, innovation, etc.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

We appreciate your efforts at finding a solution to this and, again, we understand this was a debate in 8.1 and the United States showed a lot of flexibility on that. So, again, we appreciate other countries showing flexibility on this. As it stands, we can accept your proposal, again, “*with the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms*” but we would also look to have “*and voluntary transfer of technology*” and with that, we can accept it. We would go with “*good practices*” and, again, thanks, everybody for the flexibility. We are showing a lot of flexibility here too, so thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think yesterday we agreed not to include “*voluntary*” because we use now the exact wording of Agenda 2030, and if we include “*voluntary*”, then we change the language of the Agenda 2030. So, I would prefer, really, to stick to the agreed language of Agenda 2030 and not to include “*voluntary*” because I think we should not make our life more difficult than it already is.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We are thankful for the efforts and the contributions of everyone. We believe that this issue is very important to developing countries, so we firmly support the idea of inserting here the need for transfer of technology.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps also a way out if we just say “*scaling up of good practices and sharing science and innovation and the need for transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms*”.

**M. Clément NDIKUMASABO (Burundi)**

Je pense moi aussi qu’il est très important de garder les mots “dissémination, transfert de technologie”; en somme, je suis pour la proposition déjà mise en exergue.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we agree as follows? “*Dissemination, scaling up of good practices and sharing science, knowledge and innovation and the need for transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms*”. I do not see any objections.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Just to be clear, we would not be agreeing to “*commitments*”, which I think is in brackets now but also understanding that these are in Agenda 2030 but we also have raised the issues of taking things and

putting them into other contexts. So, again, I think we have shown flexibility here and especially with the change of “*the need for transfer of technology*” and we would ask that “*the need for transfer of technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms*”.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I just wanted to raise that there is wide support for the idea of including “*transfer*”. We are still not sure, we need some more time to consult regarding the language used now in a very good spirit and very flexible way in order to come up with mutually agreed language for this mutually agreed point.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

On the use of this word “*voluntary*”, is it not covered by mutually agreed terms? The mutually agreed terms could include “*voluntary*”, so do we have to specify “*voluntary*”?

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are looking up the paragraph which we agreed yesterday already on this. Egypt wanted to consult, so we keep this pending. Because yesterday we agreed on a paragraph where we did not use “*voluntary*” but only used the agreed language of Agenda 2030. We keep this pending.

We scroll down. Here we have the pending paragraph on ethics. Any proposals on one of the three alternatives?

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Before I even hit the button, you could see me thinking. I would suggest at this stage, alt (b) might be the best to try and work on, and my recollection is for this paragraph that it was more about is it the role of FAO to even do this? Could we not say, “*encouraged FAO, within its mandate, to identify how it could address...* ”?

Although that is already there at the end, “*within FAO’s mandate*”. I was not helpful then. I am sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any compromised proposals?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradezco primero la propuesta de Lynda de Australia. Nosotros ayer habíamos planteado la propuesta del lenguaje multilateralmente acordado, que es el primer párrafo alternativo. Veo que no está volando. Estamos tratando de ver si puedo ayudar a solucionar el consenso, si es que logramos, para acomodar las preocupaciones de algunos Miembros.

Quizás en la propuesta y estoy pensando en voz alta, quizás la propuesta de Australia debería más que decir “*To identify how we could address*”, si es realmente necesario, lo cual es distinto. Entonces, habría que cambiar en “*How we should be addressed ethical or...*” A ver, “*Not ethical*”, podría ser, “*Reflejar si debiera*” porque, digamos, es una cuestión de encontrar la lógica de si realmente necesitamos o no hacerlo. Me parece que va más por el lado de un escenario que hay que evaluar, no que deberíamos, me parece mandatorio. No, no estoy convencido. Lo voy a seguir pensando.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Let us try and combine alternative (b) with alternative (c). We start with alternative (c), so “*recognized the need for the Strategy to consider a set of principles that include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for harm and possible communication*”. And “*encouraged FAO to address this within its mandate*” might be a starting point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Australia, for helping us to find a way forward.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Como siempre, Australia proponiendo salidas constructivas y propositivas. Acompañamos a Australia en esta posición.



**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci à tous les collègues, je voulais indiquer que nous pouvons accepter la proposition alternative b), avec "could" proposé par l'Argentine. Il me semble que ce langage court permet de répondre aux préoccupations des uns et des autres.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other reflections?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros podríamos acompañar la propuesta, la alternativa (c), con las modificaciones de Australia. Como ya lo hemos indicado no nos parece que FAO tenga ni el mandato ni el *expertise* para referirse a cuestiones éticas.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

One more attempt and then it is someone else's turn.

I understand that perhaps what is missing from (c) now is a direct reference to the ethical considerations and noting our earlier debate about the ambiguity around what ethical considerations are, alternative (c) now seeks to address what they are. We are talking about the set of principles, voluntary participation and so on. So rather than ending it with "*encouraged FAO to address this within their mandate*", perhaps we could say, "*and encouraged FAO...*" or even we could say, "*and recommended FAO address these ethical considerations within its mandate*".

I have just changed it to "*recommended*" there to try and pick up on the could/should debate that has happened. I am not at all wedded to "*recommended*" and happy for alternative proposals. I just want to try and pick up the ethical considerations here.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nuevamente quiero agradecer a Australia por sus aportes, tratando de ser flexibles podría acompañarla, pero quisiera poner "*Ethical*" entre comillas, porque no sabemos si son todas las consideraciones, entonces creo que eso sería la mejor manera de poder, creo yo, encontrar un *way forward*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would this suggestion help Chile as well?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros creemos que, repetimos, FAO no tiene ni el mandato ni el *expertise* para eso. En todo caso, tal vez podríamos ver o iniciar un trabajo en el sentido de ver cómo otras agencias se hacen cargo o tratan de referirse a hacerse cargo de este tema en su trabajo, pero más allá de eso en este momento no.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I will continue to build on Australia's useful suggestions, and maybe taking into account what Chile just said and going back to the spirit of asking for more information, maybe we can modify that last addition, "*and recommended FAO report back to Members on how it will take these ethical considerations into account...how it may take these ethical considerations into account within its mandate*."

**CHAIRPERSON**

Could we agree on subparagraph alternative (c) with the last changes?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nos parece que debería construir sobre las experiencias en otros Organismos de Naciones Unidas; tomando la experiencia de otros Organismos de Naciones Unidas.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, we could add that to the paragraph. If we say “*report back to Members on how to build upon the experience of other UN Organizations may take...*”

**Ms Ekaterina VYBORNOVA (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

We would like to support alternative (b) regarding this subject of ethical considerations.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

I had taken my hand down to try and consider what you had put forward. What I was going to suggest, to try and capture the discussion on the need for essentially technical expertise, was to have it such that it was written after, “*within its mandate, and with the support of the relevant UN Organizations with technical expertise.*” That does not take into consideration your comment there about built upon experience so that would probably need a little bit of wordsmithing.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

[XX] Nuevamente agradeciendo los aportes de todos los colegas, pero trabajando sobre el texto donde Australia acaba de proponer más texto. A ver, por un lado veo un inconveniente en general que es cuanto más le agreguemos, más complicado va a ser. Pero, bueno, voy a tratar de seguir siendo constructivo y acompañar a Australia en esta sugerencia, pero hay un tema que no comparto que es recomendar que la FAO haga una devolución a los Miembros.

Porque estamos hablando de guías para la estrategia y, por lo tanto, yo no haría ningún elemento de diferenciación o división entre un aspecto o un elemento de la estrategia y de la estrategia. Por lo tanto, la estrategia va a volver naturalmente a los Miembros para ser analizada y no deberíamos hacer una separación o una diferenciación de sus elementos.

Consecuentemente, sugiero poner desde, “*...and recommend Reporting back to Members*”, directamente ponerlo entre corchetes.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have to conclude fast now, because otherwise we will use too much of our interpretation time. If we delete “*recommended reporting back to Members*” to make the text simpler. Anyhow, we will get the Strategy back and we will see how it will be included in it.

Then we still have two brackets to decide on.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Ma délégation réaffirme sa préférence pour le paragraphe alternatif b), mais dans un esprit de flexibilité, et je souligne que nous en avons déjà fait beaucoup, nous pourrions proposer sur la base du langage alternatif c): “*and on how building upon experience of other UN Organizations*” puisque que je suis d'accord, en effet d'autres organisations ont une expérience dans le domaine. C'est le cas de l'UNESCO qui vient d'adopter plusieurs directives dans le domaine éthique: “*building upon experience of other United Nations organisations, may take these ethical considerations into account within its mandate*”.

Je ne suis pas sûre que l'on ait besoin de la fin de la phrase: “*and with the support.*” Toutefois, si l'Australie est d'accord, mais je crois que ma collègue l'est puisque l'important est surtout de tirer parti de l'expérience d'autres organisations des Nations Unies.

Enfin, je demande à supprimer les guillemets dans “*ethical considerations*” puisqu'on fait référence au début de la phrase, et par ailleurs, comme je l'ai déjà souligné, la notion d'éthique est déjà bien reconnue au niveau international, notamment par les organisations des Nations Unies.

J'espère donc que l'on pourra, sur la base de cette grande flexibilité de ma délégation, trouver un compromis sur cette phrase.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

Actually, I withdraw my asking for the floor but at this stage I could support the text as proposed by France now and hope that there is enough flexibility to move on.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are in favour of using some language that is not controversial and this addition, if we can replace “*ethical considerations*” by “*a set of principles*”. Because ethical considerations is just coming here out of the blue. We are talking about a set of principles and if we are concluding, it is good to conclude with the term that we use upfront. So, I do not know how people look at it. I would prefer if we can advance by saying, on how “*building upon the experience of other UN Organizations, may take this set of principles into account within its mandate*”.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Gracias Camerún porque interpretó el tema de por qué las comillas. Sí, justamente ese era el punto, el punto de plantear el tema de los principios. A mí me parece que con esto todos hemos buscado una flexibilidad importante para acomodar las preocupaciones de algunos colegas y me parece que hemos hecho un esfuerzo todos por tratar de agregar texto, de mejorarlo. Creo que, con estas consideraciones de Camerún, nosotros podríamos acompañar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Is there flexibility in the room to go along with the proposal of Cameroon?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je pense que nous avons beaucoup discuté, au titre des autres points de l'ordre du jour, de la nécessité d'utiliser du langage agréé. Nous en avons ici et je réitère le fait que la notion d'éthique est aussi traitée par les autres organisations des Nations Unies.

Dans un esprit extrême de flexibilité, ma délégation pourrait accepter de remettre les guillemets à “*ethical*”, mais encore une fois, il est important d'avoir ce terme dans la phrase.

Nous pouvons aussi, si les collègues préfèrent, faire référence à d'autres instruments, y compris signés par la FAO. Si cela rassure les collègues, nous pouvons prendre note du “*Rome Appeal on ethics of artificial intelligence*”, signé par la FAO. Donc, un élément qui est déjà pris en compte par la FAO et fait déjà partie de la politique de l'Organisation. Je répète, si cela peut rassurer les collègues: “*Recalling Rome call for AI ethics signed by FAO*”.

Donc, ma délégation peut tout au plus accepter de mettre des guillemets au terme “*ethical*”.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Sometimes when you teach, you know what to go to your... I remember, I was discussing this with one of the students. I was covering a thesis and I was supporting him and we were discussing exactly this set of principles in drafting a research paper, and this is something that... I believe that we all agree that using controversial terms, because it is... it does not advance us too much, to be strict on controversial terms.

We are trying to be flexible and trying to bring everybody together but if there is no flexibility, we try to see how we can use... And I come back to the same argument again before. You cannot, without mentioning it from the top, bring it all of a sudden out of the blue. So, what is mentioned up is a normal follow-up of what is done, and I really plead with our colleagues to take into consideration that the sentence or the paragraph should flow and leave no ambiguity to the analysis or interpretation.

So, the flow here is a set of principles. We should be up and at the end.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just in terms of the role of ethics in this whole conversation, I would just draw the attention to the implementation of the immediate Plan of Action regarding the Council, which says, “*decides that in the context of its oversight function, the Council will ensure that there is transparent, independent and professional audit and ethics oversight*”.

So, in that regard having a listing that has ethical principles does not seem to be that problematic. And in that regard, having the ethical considerations being a chapeau over the top of this list, was I think a

useful addition, to let us bring this forward. So, keeping those principles but having it under the chapeau as an example of what ethical considerations there might be, I think is useful.

Then just a question around the, “*and possible communication*”, because I do not really see that as being a principle. So, I would suggest going “*anonymity, confidentiality and potentials for harm*” and then take out the “*and possible communication*”.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

No sé, tal vez voy a decir algo que no sé si funciona, pero por lo menos es más inclusivo y es poner “*May take this set of principles and ethical considerations into account*”. Ahí está toda la gente de un lado, del otro, está todo el mundo comprendido. “*Ethical*” siempre entre comillas, eso sí.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros quisiéramos apoyar lo propuesto por Camerún, nos parece que es una forma de llegar a un acuerdo, a un consenso. Quisiera señalar solamente que todos hemos estado haciendo un esfuerzo por llegar a un consenso y acomodar las preocupaciones de algunos países. La mejor opción para nosotros sería borrar este texto, por lo tanto, todos estamos haciendo un esfuerzo para llegar a un consenso y que todos quedemos más o menos contentos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this pending. Let us scroll down.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We go to Item 9. There we have the remaining paragraph to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report. I know that there were informal consultations that could have arrived at a compromised proposal. I think the consultations are still continuing. Otherwise, we go back to... Because we do not have much outstanding anymore.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

I believe my Slovenian colleagues would like to address you.

**Item 11. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (*continued*)**

**Point 11. Rapports de la quarante-huitième session (session extraordinaire) (4 juin 2021) et de la quarante-neuvième session (11-14 octobre 2021) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (*suite*)**

**Tema 11. Informes del 48.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (4 de junio de 2021) y el 49.º período de sesiones (11-14 de octubre de 2021) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (*continuación*)**

(C 2023/19; C 2023/20)

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We just wanted to remind you that we agreed that after this Item, we will move back to Item 11 for this subparagraph (e) that we would like to have a look at again.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us do it now. We go to your subparagraph.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Can we comment on this?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course. Although I hope we had an agreement on it.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

We hope so too. We actually were very uncomfortable regarding this paragraph but we can understand the Members, that this is important and we hope that they will understand also our proposal which is meant as a compromise. We would like to propose here that after, “*the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) use,*”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Subparagraph (e).

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Yes. After “*use, as appropriate*” and then the rest. We would just like to propose that we add “*as appropriate*”. For us, it is very important.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope that we have flexibility in the room to go along with this. I do not see any objections, so this Item is solved. Then we go back to Item 8.2, because there is already white smoke from informal consultations on the Finance Committee text.

**Item 9. Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (28-29 October 2021) and 188th (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)**

**Point 9. Rapports des cent quatre-vingt-sixième (7-9 juin 2021), cent quatre-vingt-septième (28-29 octobre 2021) et cent quatre-vingt-huitième sessions (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité financier (suite)**

**Tema 9. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 186.º (7-9 de junio de 2021), 187.º (28 y 29 de octubre de 2021) y 188.º (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)**

(CL 168/9; CL 168/16; CL 168/20)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will turn now to Item 9. Let us see whether or not we have white smoke here in Rome.

**Mr Hammad B. HAMMAD (United States of America)**

On this, since we seem to not be able to come to an agreement on this expanded text, the United States would like to propose an alternate text for this paragraph. The text begins with, “*noted the findings of the Finance Committee on*”, and then the names of the Reports.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do hope that with this, “*noted the findings of the Finance Committee...*” more work will be done in the Finance Committee, certainly on these issues, and I think we could leave it at this stage, and I would like to urge everybody to go along with this compromise. Japan, can you also agree to this compromise?

**Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

I did not think about the issue but just the emerging proposal made by US colleagues, maybe I can go along with this new proposal.

**Mr Denis CHEREDNICHENKO (Russian Federation)**

Many thanks to the United States delegation for this compromised proposal. Speaking on behalf of the Russian Federation, we believe that the views on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report and the Chief Executives Board (CEB) recommendations are opposites and we might be using this opportunity not to repeat the arguments that we already repeated before. We are fine with the recommendation to note the findings. So, we support the United States proposal.

Given that subparagraph (a) and the following subparagraph (i) are to be deleted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, that was what I was going to say.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This new proposal from the United States deserves some time, I think, I do not know whether the Finance Committee had the means to go do research and publish its findings. So, I am a little bit sceptical about the wording here. It needs much more close-up perusal before we can adopt it. We would prefer to work on the text above. If we cannot agree, then we will be obliged to erase the entire paragraph, but we are not satisfied with the proposal of the United States.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We do not have the time anymore to go back and forth in this text. We have discussed it from A to Z and from Z to A and at this moment, there is no possibility to arrive at a consensus on this subparagraph.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Perhaps for clarity we can say, “*noted the recommendations of the 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance Committee*”, and continue it like that.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

At this stage, I just want to thank the United States and the Russian Federation for showing flexibility on this and we are also flexible enough to go along with the proposal posted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As we have an emerging consensus, I make an appeal to Cameroon to go along with the emerging consensus.

**Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think Australia just brought in new dimensions which we can accept at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for all your flexibility. With that, I have solved Item 9. Of course, with these observations, “*the Council welcomed*”, as we did with previous paragraphs. With that, I think we have concluded this Item.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee****Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme****Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)****Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)****Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)**

(CL 168/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

The only Item now which we still have to work on is 8.2 and then we can give all the Members of the Drafting Committee the joy to go through the draft Report. I go back to 8.2. We first have still to deal with subparagraph (g) and I am looking to Egypt as it was consulting on mutually agreed terms.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Showing a lot of flexibility, we would accept the language in this paragraph after adding “technology, transfer of technology and mutually agreed terms”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope that also the United States can now go along with the text.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Thank you for showing flexibility. Again, I think we have mentioned and I know that this was mentioned that this comes from Agenda 2030, but again, we do have issues with taking things out of their context and putting them in others. So, this is a Science and Innovation Strategy. Again, we are not talking here specifically about climate change, and so adding this in there, we do not think is helpful.

But in order to show flexibility, in order to allow people to have a weekend, we could accept it if we would put on “voluntary” after “technology”. So “technology, the need for transfer of technology on voluntary mutually agreed terms” and again, we would point to other multilateral agreed documents that have that wording in it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We keep this pending for now. We scroll down to go back to ethics. Or first subparagraph (m), I think, which is still under discussion. I think the easiest way forward would be just to say, “look forward to strengthening cooperation with other UN Organizations, funds and programmes as well as with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).”

Could that be agreeable? I do not see any objections, it is so agreed.

We go back to the *ethics*.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que ya habíamos hablado de “...as well as”. ¿Podemos volver a donde estábamos por favor? “We look forward to international cooperation with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as well as FAO’s committees.” Creo que, de acuerdo al concepto planteado por la Asesora Jurídica, me parece que sería lo más lógico para esto.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

Once again, I would like to ask to the floor for Slovenia, please.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, would like to point out again that we heard the explanation of the Legal Counsel but we understand that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is hosted by FAO, is in FAO, but is not one of the Technical Committees of FAO. Also, we have the Membership in the CFS is not the same as the Membership in FAO.

Therefore, we would like to propose that we can agree to delete the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), as you proposed, but we would like to appeal to the Members to be flexible and to keep the reference to the CFS in this subparagraph.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo agradezco mucho los comentarios de Eslovenia en representación de la Unión Europea (UE). Obviamente, todos podemos interpretar libremente pero, de acuerdo con los Textos Básicos, y por eso yo no hablé de comités técnicos, hablé de comités en términos generales a los efectos de capturar absolutamente todos.

Y respondiendo por ahí algún otro comentario sobre que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) no estaría en la FAO, no entiendo por qué estaríamos discutiendo el CSA en este Consejo si no fuera por esa razón. Por lo tanto, me parece que lo más razonable es plantear “FAO’s Committees” en la idea de capturar absolutamente todo.

Doy un ejemplo, si el tema de la ganadería es un tema que naturalmente tiene muchos temas vinculados al tema de innovación, a temas sumamente importantes y que son muy relevantes hoy, en particular con las discusiones que hemos tenido en Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio

Climático (COP26) en Glasgow y en la Cumbre sobre sistemas alimentarios de 2021 y en diferentes cuestiones, y eso requeriría por ejemplo consultar al comité de Agricultura (GOAG), seguramente. Entonces, me parece que esta visión más amplia nos permite capturar a todo el sistema, gracias.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can have, I think, a very long discussion. Could we not just say because we try to strengthen cooperation, could we not say, “*looked forward to strengthening cooperation within the UN system*”? Because we have to start concluding our work, if we want to finalize our work today, could we not just say “*strengthen cooperation within the UN system*”?

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord rappeler à mon collègue argentin, qui mentionnait les textes, que l'Article VI de la Constitution de la FAO cite les Comités de la FAO, mais ne fait pas état du CSA, pour la simple raison, comme l'a expliqué la Conseillère juridique, que le CSA a un statut différent.

Il ne figure pas parmi les Comités contenus dans l'Article VI de la Constitution de la FAO, précisément parce qu'il a un statut particulier et qu'il est tenu de faire doublement rapport, ainsi que l'ont bien expliqué la Conseillère juridique et ma collègue du Luxembourg. Ceci dit, j'ai pensé utile de rappeler les textes, car il ne s'agit pas d'une interprétation, mais bien de ce qui est écrit.

Ma délégation vous remercie Monsieur le Président et je pense que grâce à votre créativité, nous pourrions nous montrer flexibles pour ce qui nous concerne avec: "within the United Nations system".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Argentina, would it be acceptable for you as well?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Gracias, Presidente, por su creatividad y flexibilidad para usar los términos de mi colega de Francia. En todo caso, con mi colega después en algún momento tomaremos un café y lo discutiremos, pero creo que nosotros tenemos claro, por lo menos a nuestra manera de ver, lo que dicen los Textos Básicos y la creación del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) muchos años después de la creación de la FAO. Pero eso no significa que sea distinto a lo que yo le dije. Pero no importa, lo importante es salir y seguir adelante, así que gracias, Presidente, por la flexibilidad y la creatividad.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, hopefully, Cameroon also can join the consensus now so that we only speak about “*within the UN system*”.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Sure, I think if the full stop goes after “*the UN system*”, then we are happy. And that is, we have to come back to this discussion because I am confused with all this discussion around the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The rules of procedure of the Committee on World Food Security is in the latest version 2017 of the Basic Texts of FAO, so it is the same, it is presented the same way as the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Committee on Forestry (COFO). So in this discussion on whether it is part of FAO or not, I am really confused. Please do not bring so much confusion in our heads to find out what is. It could have a special status. Yes, because it is within FAO because it is in the Basic Texts of FAO and will have the same status as the other Technical Committees.

But we can go along with your suggestions, Chairperson, with full stop after “*the UN system*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If everybody is willing to have a coffee, it would be better, perhaps a glass of wine, and then certainly I will join you. But we put a full stop and delete this and hope that we have then a consensus on this paragraph, and I do not want to prolong the discussion on Committee on World Food Security (CFS)



as of this moment. Certainly, it will come back but let us focus now on work because we are still not there yet.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We agree with your suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then we go back to ethics after some time to think about, is there anywhere for it on subparagraph (c) because I think that was meeting the most support, but we are still not there yet. Any wisdom?

I think the latest proposal was from Costa Rica to speak about “*take these set of principles and ethical considerations into account.*” That was the latest proposal. Would that be agreeable?

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think we have to... we need to progress and as I said earlier, I like a very good French word that was the French sentence “*pédaler dans la choucroute*”. So, this is where we are now. We are not advancing too much. So let us try to be flexible. Costa Rica has proposed that we use that, but I would prefer to change the word “*and*” by “*or*”. “*These set of principles or ethical consideration into account.*” So if that can do the trick, we are fine.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do hope that this will bring us to a compromise.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

From the beginning when we were looking at (c) with the list of the principles, we did not have any reasons for concern, but now coming back to this point, and rereading the text we have a few questions. For instance, the principles that we listed, to what extent are they applicable to the Strategy, and look at informal, voluntary participation?

This is an FAO Strategy in the area of science and technology, if we take this principle then, are we speaking about the voluntary participation of countries in the implementation of the Strategy, but this is an FAO Strategy. To what extent is this selection of principles really relevant for science and technology? I am not trying to in any way hamper the process of consensus, but we wonder whether these principles are really applicable. We have “*recognized the need*”, that is a strong language here, to recognize the need for the Strategy and so we have some questions.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, but I do not think we have the time to answer all those questions. And I think the questions will be answered in the Strategy, which is going to be developed. So may I also make an appeal to you to go with the consensus we have now for 99 percent and go with these set of principles or ethical considerations so that we have an agreement and of course, we delete possible communication because that is not a principle.

And we maintain “*building upon experience of other UN Organizations*”. Could we then have an agreement in the room?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Tenemos una pequeña sugerencia de texto antes de “*...other relevant UN Organizations.*” Porque obviamente es muy distinto, y todos sabemos es muy distinto lo complejo que es hablar justamente de ética en materia de ciencia y tecnología. No tanto sería importante ver lo que se ve en organismos que ven este tipo de materias, de la materia que estamos discutiendo hoy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that is what we always do. I then see nodding in the room. With that, I do hope that we have the consensus. I do not see any objections.

Then we turn to the last remaining paragraph of today. Oh no, we still have to do one on 8 but that is easy. Then we go back to the transfer of technology.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

We would again just ask at the very least to put in brackets, our suggestion which is now made twice on “*voluntary and mutually agreed terms*”. We do not see those as being the same thing. And we would ask again, especially in this context, to put on the last line, “*technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, Secretariat. “*Voluntary*” for voluntary transfer.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

First, we can, I think, delete “*commitments*” because we agreed that we can go with “*good practice*”. So trying to be a bit flexible on the first part of the subparagraph.

On the second part, I would like to echo the intervention made earlier this afternoon by the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan regarding the difference between “*voluntary*” versus “*mutually agreed*”. If we are talking about a mutually agreed or a mutual agreement, that means it is a voluntary agreement. That is why we do not understand the logic behind insisting on adding this word.

On the other hand, as you earlier mentioned, Chairperson, when we go back to the Agenda 2030, the language used in the second section of technology refers to “*mutually agreed terms*” without any reference for the word “*voluntary*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Would it help if we say “*as referred to in Agenda 2030*” at the end?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

This is not how it is referred to in Agenda 2030. I do not want to transfer this issue into an Egypt issue. It is a matter that is very important to all the developing countries, and there are, as we have seen in the room, a lot of interventions from distinguished colleagues asking for the same point. So as a matter of respect for their opinion, I think it is important to put it in the same way it is mentioned in the document for Agenda 2030.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Egypt, is there flexibility to just speak about “*transfer of technology*” or “*mutually agreed terms*”?

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Thank you very much, and again, we appreciate the comments from all the delegations, but we would insist on including “*voluntary*”. We do not see them as the same thing as “*mutually agreed*”. We see it as ensuring that these things are not coerced. Voluntary – we see these things as not being forced. We do think that both of those need to be in here under this context. And again, when we are referring to these things, this is in a different context. So, while of course, we support the 2030 Agenda, we do not think picking and choosing and advocating applies to this. We would insist on both of those. Thank you for your flexibility. Unfortunately, we do not have any flexibility on this.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We take note of everyone urging each other to show flexibility. I think that that is exactly where we need to land and I think, as people have entered into the language of transfer of technology that leads to other tradeoffs, that I think we are seeing right now. So in that regard, we support the inclusion of “*voluntary and mutually agreed terms*” in the spirit of having the “*technology transfer*” included there as well.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Même commentaire que le Canada, je pense que nous avons inclus le langage demandé. Nous l'avons entendu et il est important d'équilibrer la phrase, celle-ci nous convient: “*voluntary transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms*”.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

This is a very general discussion with the COVID-19 vaccine, and we are really concerned about what we are discussing here when it comes to food, which is an essential element in the life of people. We can do that for machines, you can do that for vaccines as today the COVID-19 vaccine which is when the technology is not shared. But are we really serious when we are talking about willing to transfer the technology in food because it is a two-way traffic. If we take the example of planting material and so on, and all the technology which is around the planting material, if where the origin of the same planting material is considered, and the people there, they resist in transferring it, because it should be voluntary – it is jeopardizing the food production itself in the global world.

So, we are not in favor of keeping “*voluntary*” here because it has far heavier bearing. We will probably accept the word “*mutually agreed terms*” because that one it is, even in many treaties, you see that it should not be “*mutually agreed terms*” but “*voluntary*”. I do not think it is good to put it here when it comes to food production.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

In the meantime, I was looking to Agenda 2030 language, and that is why I was referring to it because if you go through the Agenda 2030... as you know, a long list of speakers which will not bring us nearer probably.

In the language in Agenda 2030, there we speak about “*transfer of technology*” or “*transfer of technology in mutually agreed terms*”, so in both ways. So in Agenda 2030, there is no mention of “*voluntary transfer of technology*” so that is why I was stating if we just refer to Agenda 2030, then we have the context in which we are speaking about the “*transfer of technology*” or “*the transfer of technology in mutually agreed terms*”, so that we do not make it broader than it is necessary. We will do that. Would that be helpful for the United States? Because we really cannot block our, I would say, work in Council on this if the Agenda 2030 has found the solution.

#### **Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Again, we want to thank you for your original compromise language. I think recognizing the sensitivity of this, and again, we very much support the 2030 Agenda. And we are looking at these languages too and I think that is that is one of our issues with taking certain sensitive subjects such as “*transfer of technology*” and applying them in other venues. We, again, can agree to this, but we would still insist on “*voluntary*” and “*mutually agreed terms*”. We thank you for your understanding and colleagues, that we are not flexible on this.

#### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

We have heard in discussion agreement that the term “*mutually agreed terms*” encompasses the voluntary nature. It seems to me at the moment, the issue is tying the word “*voluntary*” directly to the “*transfer of technology*”. So, I am wondering if a creative solution may be to put a comma after “*agreed terms*”, and we seek to link “*voluntary*” to the entire sentence so that it is not looking like it is picking on one issue in its entirety, so at the end, we could say “, *noting these activities are voluntary in nature*”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I was thinking the same. To put this in the beginning of the sentence, “*the voluntary dissemination and scaling up of, etc.*”, but we could better do it at the end. Does that do the trick? Because we have to move on. Please.

So, if we speak about “*transfer of technology*” or “*mutually agreed terms*”, though “*noting these activities are voluntary in nature*”.

Pakistan, and let us not have a long discussion. Could it be agreeable for you?

#### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I fail to see why there are all these weightages on the word “*voluntary*”, if two parties agree on “*mutually agreed terms*”, does not voluntary form part of it? Why do we why are we insisting on the “*voluntary*” bit? What does “*mutually agreed terms*” mean? Perhaps we should be told what does that mean. Does that not include voluntary?

**CHAIRPERSON**

But I do not think we have a lengthy... and because then we will have to bring in the lawyers and then we will have, certainly, two hours more. So, I think the proposal of Australia was quite charming to find a way out.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I do not have a specific proposal, but this term here “*voluntary*”, I think we had an agreement in the previous discussion we had before regarding Climate Change. So we would avoid this terminology if it is better for everybody to be on board, and we could use a specific reference to Agenda 2030 and maybe split the mention of where is it, and maybe we could move to close this Session of the document.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

Actually, we have discussed several times on this issue, and the paragraph where it says “*stressing the need for the dissemination*”, is only stressing, it is not ordering, it is not obliging. Therefore, I do not think it is very important to put in here the word “*voluntary*”. Why? In fact, it says “*stressing.*” It reflects the importance of dissemination and scale of knowledge, it only reflects the importance. Therefore, it is reflecting only the importance, so there is no need of putting the word “*voluntary*” at all. In fact, on top of that, it continues. So, we have to cancel that “*voluntary*” which is in brackets. And in fact, “*the transfer of technology*” or “*mutually agreed terms*” and on top of that, we have also emphasized on “*mutually agreed terms*”. If they agree, they will disseminate. If they do not agree, they would not. Therefore, I am in line with the phrase which was used again and again by Cameroon as well as the advice from Pakistan.

So please omit the word “*voluntary*” because it is not necessary and just make a full stop after “*technology on mutually agreed terms*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are all quite tired, and we still are not there yet. But I do remember that at Item 8.1 we agreed in subparagraph (d), “*we stress the importance of developing countries in formulating etc. on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the national plans that we speak as appropriate, including via capacity building, technology transfer, open mutually agreed terms and financial resources inter alia*”. There we could agree on “*transfer of technology upon mutually agreed terms*”. So, I think we could be consistent with our agreed conclusion under 8.1.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I agree with your earlier statement that Australia's suggestion was quite elegant. And I think in that regard, perhaps even making it a little broader saying, “*noting all these activities are voluntary in nature*” that applies to all of the points above.

And I think to turn the discussion a little upside down, would we want to suggest that any of these activities are involuntary? We do not look to any involuntary activities. So, I think when we are talking about sharing of science knowledge, those are all voluntary. We do not want to coerce the recipient. We do not want to coerce the donor.

So I think, in that regard, on all sides for all of the different dimensions of good practice, they should be voluntary. So just to support the Australia's suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps, because I see again a long list of speakers, if we remove “*voluntary*” before “*transfer*”. Could the Secretariat just bear with me? And we insert the language at the end. Would that mean that we have an agreement in the room?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like again, to echo the voices of our distinguished colleagues from Cameroon, Eritrea and Pakistan.

I think it is very clear that the paragraph itself used a very broad language. We are talking about stressing the need and the scaling of good practices. We have already shown a lot of flexibility, removing the word “*commitments*” and accepting the idea of scaling up and stressing the need. There is the paragraph itself which has no commitment and has no obligation on any of the countries to practice any of the activities mentioned in the paragraph.

And again logically speaking, we are talking about a mutually agreed term. That means it is voluntary in nature. And I do not understand why we insist on using language that was not even used in the same document and in Item 8.1 when we used “*technology transfer on mutually agreed terms*”, and also the language of the new Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.

And the question is why do we need to insert a new language in this paragraph specifically? I really do not understand, Chairperson.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, quiero agradecer a Australia nuevamente porque creo que muchos de los consensos que hemos logrado en estas discusiones en el Consejo se lo debemos a las propuestas de mi estimada colega de Australia y creo que, en este caso, ha hecho un enorme esfuerzo por intentar acercar un consenso.

Yo voy a hacer otra propuesta porque creo que la lógica y, la verdad que, la racionalidad de lo planteado por Brasil, Camerún, Egipto, Eritrea, etcétera, es absolutamente razonable. Yo haría esta propuesta a ver si puede volar. Después de “...*need for transfer of technology*”, pondría “*The need for transfer of technology, in line with paragraphs 41 and 17.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*”

Y borraría todo el resto del párrafo. Me parece que estamos claros a qué nos referimos. Planteamos que no es fuera de cualquier contexto, sino en el contexto de lo acordado en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y como principio, porque tengamos en claro que lo que estamos hablando aquí son de principios guías para la estrategia sobre innovación. Por lo tanto, lo único que estamos diciendo es eso, que son guías que estamos considerando y son guías que surgen de acuerdos ya comprometidos. Yo espero que esta alternativa pueda ser aceptada por todas las partes.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Yo creo que aquí ha faltado un poquito de sentido común, que es a veces el menos común de los sentidos. Porque como bien lo dicen Egipto, Eritrea y Pakistán al decir que hay un convenio, un *agreement* en dos partes... Me parece que hay frases que están sobrando aquí en este párrafo porque al haber un “*mutual agreement*”, obviamente tiene que haber disponibilidad o voluntad de ambas partes. Entonces, bueno, pero me inclinaba mucho por la salida elegante de la colega de Australia y me parecía, pues, que ahí tal vez eso podía complacer los deseos o el requerimiento al buen flexible de Estados Unidos de América. Pero ahora con esta propuesta de mi colega de Argentina me quedo más que satisfecho.

Yo creo que ahí no hay ya por qué preocuparse porque la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible es muy clara sobre todo esto es voluntario, así que yo creo que con este texto que propone el colega de Argentina, deberíamos estar de acuerdo. Ojalá que satisfaga la inquietud de Estados Unidos.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think going back, because we did have our hands up to Australia for the elegant solution, I think, again, there seems to be for us, a difference. I think Canada captured it well in terms of what we see as “*mutually agreed*”, and which we see as “*voluntary*”, and we think both of them are very important to capture in this.

I think in the same sense where some delegates have said, it is already captured in “*mutually agreed terms*” we do not agree with that. We think that one goes to ‘voluntary’ to make sure that these things are not forced. And as we talked about “*mutually agreed*” is these things are not coerced. So we would, again, and I think, possibly could help for some of these, if we moved, “*mutually agreed terms*”, we could move that also to the end so instead of we are noting all these activities are

“voluntary” and “mutually agreed” in nature, that I think could possibly make that a little bit easier for others to agree.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Very briefly, we would like to support the eloquent proposal proposed by the Ambassador of Argentina. So we go “*in line with paragraph 41 and 17.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Again, I think, you know, just to reiterate that we do not favour pulling out specific paragraphs of the 2030 Agenda and applying them to other things. We would, again be happy to talk about the 2030 Agenda, but we would strongly prefer the Australian proposal so to delete “*in line with paragraph 41 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda*”, and just leave the last part that is in brackets.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We totally favor the proposition made by Argentina. We think it reflects the reality of what we have discussed in the proper forum. We believe that there is a clear and very intelligent reference to what is the purpose of this paragraph here, according to our multilateral agreement in Agenda 2030.

So, we are not prepared to add new language or we do not have this time or the luxury to embark on a negotiation here to add some new language that was not included, not only in Agenda 2030, all climates change treaties, documents and instruments do not mention the word “voluntary”. In the case of Brazil, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to accept this insertion right now on Friday very late at night.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

Actually, we have to understand that the main objective of this paragraph is to highlight the importance of dissemination. It highlights only the importance of dissemination after all. It does not say or it does not order or it does not oblige. Therefore, I think I really appreciate the phrase which was made by Argentina. We have to mention “*in line with paragraph 41 and 17.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” and then after that, full stop. I think this is enough. And this phrase mainly stresses the importance. It does not order and it does not oblige anybody. It means it is voluntary. So there is no need of putting once again the word “voluntary”. So I really agree with the phrase which was done by Argentina.

Let us make full stop after “*Sustainable Development*”. And I do not think is important to mention once again and again the “voluntary”.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

We support Argentina's proposal.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Apoyamos la propuesta del Embajador de Argentina, lo que tendríamos que cerrar por ahí.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

We have spent too long on this Item. I support Argentina as well.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Perhaps our last attempt to meet all the concerns if we put a footnote at the end. So an asterix with a footnote and we bring the text, “*noting that all these active...*” No, sorry. We delete “*noting all these active...*” We put the “*noting that all these activities are voluntary and mutual in nature*” as to a footnote because the whole Agenda 2030 is a commitment but not forced. Would that meet all the concerns so that we have a footnote with noting that all these because it is a factual statement? Then we have the main body referred to as the text as it is now. Then we have the footnote. Then we all know what we have addressed in the Council.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your attempt to compromise. The United States would not accept a footnote in this. We would again insist on “*transfer of technology*”. And I think, you know, going back to your original compromise language, which did not include “*transfer of technology*”. I think, again, if this, if we cannot come to an agreement, we would suggest just deleting the whole subparagraph and moving on.

But much is the case here, we thought we liked the ending as is and in terms of maybe agreeing with Argentina's proposal, if we deleted the specific paragraphs and just said “*in line with the 2030 Agenda, noting that all these activities are voluntary and mutually agreed in nature*”. We would happily accept that. Otherwise, we would suggest deleting the paragraph and note that we have talked about this in other Agenda Items.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Last attempt and I hope that it will be agreeable to all, stating the need for “*transfer of technology in line with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and noting that all these activities are voluntary and mutually agreed in nature.*” Would that be a final compromise so that we can move on? I really would like to urge everybody because otherwise we run into the possibility that we do not have a Report of the Council.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Thank you for your great efforts. We could leave the dimension to the articles, we could go along with your suggestion, to just mention the Agenda 2030 but in no circumstance we are in a position to accept this mention to “*voluntary*” that once again, does not appear in the Agenda in the Climate Change text.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was just going to welcome your suggestion with all those paragraphs. So that does not help you at this point, but I support your proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to be creative because we cannot get bogged down. One final attempt. If we say, “*stressed the need for voluntary dissemination, scaling up*” and we delete in the second line...delete “*the need*” in the second line. No, delete “*the need*” – the two words – and delete then, “*and noting*” and everything after “*Sustainable Development*”. Would that be agreeable? Because this is also in line with the Agenda 2030.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Once again, “*voluntary*” does not appear in the Agenda 2030. Sorry. If the text stands as shown without “*voluntary*”, we can move on.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think our issue with moving it there, would make it “*voluntary dissemination*” whereas our issue is with the “*voluntary transfer of technologies*”. And, again, I would just remind colleagues, we know we have heard this reference about Glasgow, about it does not appear in the climate change negotiations. This is not the Climate Change document. This is the Science and Innovation Strategy. So, again, it goes towards us taking subjects that are not applicable here and putting them in others, and I think that really goes to show that that is the case. We would, again, insist on the “*voluntary mutually agreed*” at the end.

**CHAIRPERSON**

By the way, I think Agenda 2030 is not only environmental, and also when we look to Chapter 17, the goal is related to all transfer of technology and science and technology. So, it is not the only the environmental section which we are dealing with.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think we are realizing there is not going to be consensus here. We would suggest deleting this paragraph and moving on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, United States, but there is also no agreement to delete this subparagraph. So that brings us not closer to a consensus.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Maybe to help us find a way out, it would be helpful to understand the opposition to the term “voluntary”, because I have to say, I do not really understand why we would not want to have “voluntary”. So, if the delegates who feel strongly about that could explain it, then we might be able to find a way to find language that gets us out of this.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Chairperson, as you have explained this is not the terminology we are used to employing and you have strongly suggested that we use Agenda 2030 as a model. We are perfectly happy with that. So instead of using “voluntary” that does not exist, use the term “*as mutually agreed*”. That is the compromise we see right now. It is mutually agreed language. I do not see a better way to move on.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Thank you, Chairperson, in an effort to try and tie this off, at least for now, can we amend the beginning such that we say, “*agreed on the need for further discussion regarding the dissemination and scaling up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge and innovation and for transfer of technology in line with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in particular voluntary provisions*”.

That is very clunky, but it might be a starting point to get us out of the bind today.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Australia, for your ultimate attempt to get us out of the deadlock.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to refer to the valuable question from the distinguished representative of Canada, about why we do not appreciate adding the word “voluntary” to the paragraph. I think the question should be, why should we add it? Especially that in previous paragraphs in Item 8.1 as the Chairperson mentioned we refer to the same terminology which is technology transfer.

We did not even discuss adding the word “voluntary” and, as the distinguished representative of Brazil mentioned clearly, that Agenda 2030 and all other documents that are mutually agreed within the UN system do not refer to this word, and actually the Chairperson also explained this, the question for us is why do we need to insert a new language now?

I do not see any substantive discussion. All what I see is insisting on using one word. I am not trying to give a logical explanation of why we should add it, especially that all the language in the paragraph is very broad and speaking about good practices and no obligations and no commitments.

**Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I fully support Egypt in regards of the word “voluntary”. How would this word affect this Strategy which is yet to be developed? Therefore, I fully agree with Egypt.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I believe this is the best way to shy away from a difficult issue. Thank you, Australia, for probably trying to help, but I do not think it is sufficient to give us a solution for this difficult discussion for one simple reason – it is very, very far from what we want to achieve because where we would be, the



value for further discussion regarding the dissemination of good practices and sharing insights, this is a...

So, let us go back to your compromise suggestion, Chairperson, and the only attempt that we would like to have here, and certainly to avoid the word "voluntary", is stressed "*the need for the dissemination and scaling of good practices and sharing of science, knowledge, and innovation and for transfer of technology*", which...

No, let us leave the language in the 2030 Agenda, which is agreed... No, the line... No, which is agreed... No, in the line after "*technology*", then we put "*which is agreed*", because the text I have in front of me is not... "*which is agreed by the international community when adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*". Probably we are adding words, but they are not meaningful. But we cannot go with the alt proposed by Australia because it is taking us very far away from what we want to achieve here.

**Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)**

I would just like to say that I have been listening to this discussion going on and it seems to me, having heard the arguments from the different sides, it is going to be extremely difficult to find a solution, because it is going back and forth, and it seems like there is not a possibility. I find it very hard to see that there would be a way which would combine the different views.

With that in mind, I would very much like to thank Australia for the proposal which would not close a door. It will show that there is disagreement, yes, but it will also keep the door open for continuing this discussion. So, that is all that it is saying and, in my mind, having heard everything, I honestly do not think that we are going to get very much further today. So, I would therefore support the Australian proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can maintain our positions, but then we can sit here for six hours. We can have a weekend, and then come back, and Monday we can sit for another eight hours, but it does not bring us closer. So, we have to now find a way forward.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La verdad que bajé la mano porque estoy preocupado, digamos, si no podemos trabajar sobre la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible aquí, estamos complicados como Organización y como comunidad global. Pensé que ese era el gran acuerdo que teníamos todos, la Agenda 2030. Prefiero no hacer más comentarios porque me parece que no voy a ayudar a construir consenso.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just thinking of all the other good conclusions that we have come to in the rest of this Item, I would suggest at this point, so that we can get out of it and at least pass those on to the future, to delete this paragraph and we will have a chance to debate these things again once we have the Strategy in hand.

We are at an early stage in the development of this. It is clear there is a lot more to talk about and so having given guidance in all the other points already to FAO to work on this Strategy, perhaps let us let FAO work on those things, come back to us when the Strategy is ready and then perhaps we will have gained the wisdom that you have exhorted us to find to come up with a solution on this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Trying to make it more general, could we not say because we need now, really there is no compromise for deletion, there is no compromise for Australia's proposal to send it forward for further discussion. Could we not say because it has to be further worked out in its entirety, so we do not have to take final decisions? Can we not say, "*stress the need for the dissemination, scaling-up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology, and innovation in line with Agenda 2030*" and all the other ordinances, we will certainly come back in the next Council when we have the first draft, but at least then we find a way forward and all the elements are in Agenda 2030. Would that help at least for now?

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think that goes back to your original compromise and yes, we are supportive of that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can we please move on, and we will see how it will be in the Strategy itself? So, that we say, "*stress the need for the dissemination, scaling-up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology, and innovation in line with Agenda 2030*"?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Since the transfer was one of the main priorities for us to add, all that I can say is that we need more time to consult and then maybe come back with hopefully positive news.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us take the hopeful reaction of Egypt because it was the only pending Item.

**Item 22. Any Other Matters**

**Point 22. Questions diverses**

**Tema 22. Asuntos varios**

*Item 22.1 Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies*

*Point 22.1 Allocution d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO*

*Tema 22.1 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO*

(CL 168/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Now let us first go to the Item 22, *Any Other Matters*, and then come back to this issue. Under *Any Other Matter*, because this was the last Item and then we can go to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and Drafting Committee Members to do their work.

*We now go to the Any Other Matters* and that is the statement to show all our appreciation of the staff of FAO and again as I said, in the beginning of the Council, I think we should appreciate the staff of FAO, not only the staff in headquarters, but also the staff in all FAO Offices worldwide for the hard work they are doing, and the very difficult circumstances related to COVID-19.

**Mr Jacob SKOET (Staff Representative)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for those very encouraging and appreciative words. That is very generous of you and very pleasant for us to hear.

Independent Chairperson of the Council, Director-General, Secretary-General of the Conference and Council, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. The Staff Representative Bodies are grateful for again being given the opportunity to speak before the Council.

Sharing with you the perceptions and concerns of the staff we represent is always important for us. We trust that the feeling is mutual and that you value this direct, honest, and hopefully constructive feedback to you from the staff who have the duty and the honor for delivering concretely on the important mandate of the Organization.

Two years into the term of the Office of the Director-General, we would like to reconfirm the positive trend in relations with FAO Management and the Staff Representative Bodies. We do perceive a sincere desire on the side of Management to do better with respect to conditions of service and staff well-being. We feel that our concerns and views are taken into consideration, and we are able for the most part, to entertain a constructive and respectful dialogue with Representatives and Management. In the same vein, we hope to see the inclusion of our General Service colleagues in the field under our former representation in the near future.

Today we would like to focus on our perception regarding concrete progress to improve conditions of services staff and staff well-being.

As background, there was probably no doubt to anybody, two years ago, that major reforms of Human Resources Policies and internal justice mechanisms were sorely needed at FAO. The Employee Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2019-2020 pointed to issues such as career stagnation, harassment, and fear of retaliation, as major concerns for staff. Putting in place improved policies to guide professional development, create a staff friendly work environment, and ensure that Organization has the quality, motivated human resources it needs is a priority for all of us. We have expressed our appreciation for the HR Strategic Actual Plan developed by the Director of HR and presented to the Finance Committee in November 2020. We also support the Action Plan developed following the Employee Satisfaction Survey, under the leadership of Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol, and named the E2S Action Plan. This has laid out a clear way forward and generated a lot of expectations on behalf of staff.

And we recognize progress already made in a number of areas including the re-introduction of the language allowance for general service staff, improved conditions for maternity and paternity leave, the separation of the Offices of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer (although we are still waiting for agreed Terms of Reference for the Ombudsman function), the introduction of a Multi-Source Assessment of Directors in the Framework of the Performance Evaluation and Management System (PEMS), and the recent launch of a Mentorship Programme, to name some. We also understand that, in contrast with the past, the regular improvement processes have finally allowed for a certain number of promotions for long-serving staff.

Nevertheless, at this point in time, we are being questioned by our members about the delays in putting in place a series of other more critical long-overdue reforms that will make a real difference to colleagues and to FAO. We perceive a growing sense of impatience and frustration that progress is not more expeditious or more palpable.

Based on our exchanges with Management and discussions in the Staff-Management Consultative Committee, we are convinced that Management and the Human Resources Division, under its new Director, are aiming in the right direction. Proposals for policies that allow for job reclassification based on the ICSC Master Standard, as well as the possibility for staff growth for staff members who have assumed higher levels of responsibility – in line with the E2S Action Plan – are under preparations. The same applies for Recruitment Policies that provide opportunities for career growth and promote gender parity, as well as a flexible working arrangements policy, although the persistence of COVID-19 still makes it difficult to implement a permanent policy in this respect. We also know that a serious effort is underway to improve the internal appeal process.

However, we are concerned over the amount of time it is taking and worried that staff do not have sufficient information to understand where the Organization is headed in terms of HR Policies and the reasons for delay.

We are aware of the challenges faced by Management and the HR Division in particular. These include the abysmal state of Human Resources Policies two years ago, while at that critical juncture the HR Division also found itself with severely depleted capacities, which have had to be rebuilt. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside its other more dramatic impacts, has also deflected a lot of attention and efforts from other important long-term policy issues.

We interpret the time it takes as an indication of the thoroughness with which new policies are being prepared and of the extensive consultation taking place within the Organization. However, we have reminded Senior Management of the need to bring new policies under development to open consultation with the Staff Representative Bodies sooner rather than later. We have also stressed importance of clear communication to all employees on the status of development of these new policies.

We look forward to engaging constructively with Management on the draft texts of new policies to ensure that they reflect the experience and goals of FAO and its employees. We hope that priority Human Resources Policies can be put in place soon and look forward to working with Management on their proper implementation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much as the Representative to the Staff, and I would like to give the staff not only a big thanks for your statement, but a big applause for everything you are doing for everybody worldwide. Thank you so much.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy” (continued)*

*Point 8.2 Grandes lignes et feuille de route de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de science et d’innovation (suite)*

*Tema 8.2 Esquema y calendario de la Estrategia de la FAO para la ciencia y la innovación (continuación)*

(CL 168/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I go now to Egypt.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Can we bring the document back so that we can have another read for the paragraph?

**CHAIRPERSON**

So, the paragraph would read “*stressed the need for dissemination, scaling-up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology and innovation in line with Agenda 2030.*”

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Can we propose a small amendment?

Can we add that “*in sharing and transferring of science, knowledge, technology*” and it all goes on? So, we add after “*sharing*”, we add “*sharing and transferring*”.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Unfortunately, I think that just brings it back to exactly how we had objected to from the very beginning. So, we can keep transfer of technology, but again, we would then insist on putting under voluntary transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms. I apologize but I do not think that this brings us any closer with the addition again.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I ask everybody that we leave it more general and see what we do with it when we have the first Draft because it will certainly come back.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

For showing more flexibility, can we at least add the number of paragraphs in Agenda 2030 as proposed earlier by the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina? I think it does not make any harm for anyone because Agenda 2030 includes these two paragraphs.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would say “*in line with Agenda 2030*”, in particular or including paragraph... because then we mentioned the two paragraphs, and what were the paragraphs? If Argentina could mention it –it was paragraphs 42 and 17.7, I think?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Presidente, ¿me dio la palabra o yo entendí mal? Perdón.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, I was giving the floor for the two paragraphs you mentioned.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

It is 41 and 17.7.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. I was close.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I was looking through Agenda 2030 earlier, and I would say Target 17.7, it is not a paragraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sorry, paragraph 41 and Target 17.7. With that, could we then agree to this paragraph? I do not see any objections. Then we have concluded...Sorry, Egypt.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would also mention 17.6 but I think 17.7 is more relevant.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Again, I think, our issue is to continually add things to this. It is not the same as the original compromise and I think again if there is not a consensus, I think we need to delete this sentence. I know you said there is not a consensus to delete, but it is our understanding if there is not a consensus then the option is to remove it and to continue working on this in the future, but as is, we would not accept this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

But United States, you ask so much of us, and you asked flexibility of all the Members of the Council. You agreed to make a reference to Agenda 2030 and now we say, “*the general paragraphs stress the need for the dissemination, scaling-up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology and innovation in line with Agenda 2030.*” Then we say only including paragraph 41 and Target 17.7. I do not see why this could now be a problem?

Because, I think, we make it general, we refer to Agenda 2030, that was why we were aiming to make the paragraph general, and I think we asked a lot of flexibility of Egypt and many developing countries and many Members of the Council. Why not go along with this text please? Let us finish our work and there is no option for deleting this paragraph because that would be not fair to what we have done with other paragraphs.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I think our issue goes back to discussing technology transfer in this setting and again, those references and those exact...

**CHAIRPERSON**

But, United States, in the text it is now “*transfer of technology*”.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Right, and that is why we can agree to this if we get rid of those last two parts because those are the paragraphs that are specifically referencing that, and we would like to say overall the Agenda 2030.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Paragraph 41. I read out paragraph 41: *“We recognize that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. The new Agenda deals with the means required for implementation of the Goals and targets. We recognize that these will include demobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed. Public Finance, both domestic and international, will play a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalyzing over sources of finance. We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector...”* etc.

So, it is not only about technology. It is about finance, it is about means of implementation. So, I do not see how it can do harm to the text of sharing science, knowledge, technology and innovation. It is not a particular paragraph only to technology transfer, and it is only stating “including” so we have all these paragraphs of Agenda 2030.

This time I really would like us, also you, to show some flexibility to finalize our work, please.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Chairperson, it is so difficult to be where you are now. Really difficult, because you are doing your best effort to bring people on board, but certainly there are...“voluntary” for this paragraph, we are not comfortable with that, and the voice that we are raising is like a poor echo in our ears. So, I am really pleading because we have done everything to accommodate everything that came on board. Sometimes when you press an orange, there are times where even a single drop will not come out from that orange. This is where we are now.

We are really concerned about the outcome of this negotiation and the outcome of the Strategy itself. We are really worried, and we are only now discussing some of these issues when it has to come to the approval of the Strategy, that we will be, we foresee already, very difficult discussions. If the Council here cannot agree on general principles, then let us see if we cannot do things differently because if this thing went to the Drafting Committee as it was, they probably would have agreed there and would have seen a way forward, but now that we are here, we are not in favour of deleting it.

We are in favour of what Egypt has brought forward and let us move on. Unless there is a clear will to sabotage this paragraph, and I use properly the word ‘sabotage’ and I hope everybody gets me right.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have to move on. What I will do, I will put the paragraph in the Report for Adoption, and we will see what happens during the Adoption of the Report, but we have to go to the Drafting Committee otherwise we cannot finalize our work anyhow. So, we will put this paragraph as it is in the text, put it in the Report, and we bring it for adoption, and we will see where we are with the Adoption of the Report.

With that, I think we have concluded.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Very quickly, and just for the record because as you mentioned that will be discussed again during the adoption. Can you please check if there any other countries, any other Member States in this Council, that refuse, object the format and the phrasing of the paragraph at its current state?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see any other objections. So, we will bring this in the Report and we will see what happens during the Adoption of the Report. Thank you so much for all your hard work. We are now adjourning this meeting for the Drafting Committee.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We cannot say we are submitting something to the Drafting Committee so that it should come back for the discussion in the Plenary, no. We are sending these to the Drafting Committee to be resolved there. They should do everything to resolve it there. Not that we presume that it will come back to the

Plenary for discussion again. We are not comfortable with that because the Drafting Committee has its role and it has to play this role. So, that is why I said this is a point of order. This is the guidance that we are having, and we are not comfortable with that. Allow the Drafting Committee to do its work. If they can agree, fine. If they cannot agree, then we report now to the Plenary, and when they report to the Plenary, we see, we will take the decision what to do with it in the Plenary, but we cannot presume that they go there and to come back as it is in the Plenary.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Cameroon. I know exactly with 30 years of experience, what the role of the Drafting Committee is within FAO and of course, we will send the text of the whole Report, not only this paragraph – the whole Report to the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee will make this Report to the Council and based on the Report of the Council, the Council will see what it will do.

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I am sorry. I have to go back to the 8.2. I just want to see the subparagraph (f) because maybe we missed it. We want to put “*local communities*” after “*Indigenous People*”. That is all, Chairperson. It is agreed language anyways of the Council.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. We will go back to 8.2. Subparagraph (f), Indonesia?

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Yes exactly.

#### **Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

#### **Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

#### **Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

#### *Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)*

#### *Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)*

#### *Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)*

(CL 168/21)

#### **Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Unfortunately, I need to refer back to subparagraph 8.1 (e). We have just received instructions from our Capital that we cannot accept the language that has previously been agreed to. We could offer some very simple language as a replacement, but I am in your hands as to how you would like to proceed with that. The United States is not in a position to agree to the language.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Please refer to the paragraph on which you have new instructions.

#### **Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I lost my connection for a minute. Did you hear my intervention?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

No, I only heard that you have instructions that you would like to reopen a paragraph, so we would like to know which paragraph you would like to reopen and what your proposal is?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

The paragraph we are referring to is 8.1(e). This is obviously the paragraph with the Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) language in it. We have been instructed that we cannot agree to that language as it is. We could propose a very simple alternative. Our alternative language would simply be, *"highlighted that the new Strategy should take into consideration as appropriate relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate Pact"*.

Alternatively, we could edit the paragraph as it exists now by striking the phrasing that begins *"including"* and goes all the way through the reference to the CBDR.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voulais juste suggérer au paragraphe évoqué par mon collègue indonésien de rajouter des "s" à *"people"*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us first deal with this issue because this one is much more serious. The other one is, I think, solvable.

The United States reopened subparagraph 8.1 (e) and proposed a new paragraph alternative.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Nosotros comprendemos que muchas veces las instrucciones pueden ir y pueden volver y estas cuestiones pueden ocurrir. El problema es que para nosotros ya este tema estaba cerrado y ya mandamos a nuestra capital el texto. No tenemos posibilidad en este momento de hacer consultas. No estamos en condiciones de poder cambiar lo que ya hemos acordado sin las consultas pertinentes.

Supongo que esto también será absolutamente de comprensión por parte de la delegación de Estados Unidos de América y es, básicamente, algo que nos sorprende porque, repito, es una cuestión que hemos acordado no solamente acá, sino que nuestras autoridades se han acordado.

Pero no es mi intención juzgar este tipo de problemáticas que todos los países pueden tener. Pero hacer las consultas de rigor en nuestra cancillería, nuestro Ministerio de Ambiente, requiere algún tiempo así que, de parte nuestra, necesitamos hacer las consultas y lo vamos a hacer lo antes posible.

También existe la posibilidad de que, si Estados Unidos prefiere resolverlo, también como han pasado en otras oportunidades con otros Miembros, se pueden disociar del párrafo, pero por supuesto es mucho mejor si logramos estar todos juntos.

Voy a hacer las consultas de mi parte y me imagino, bueno, supongo que otros colegas tendrán que hacer lo mismo si es que ya también mandaron sus consultas o sus mensajes sobre el párrafo a la capital.

Quiero saber también de parte de Estados Unidos si también está dispuesto a reabrir el párrafo sobre el derecho al desarrollo, que es otro de los párrafos en el que en su momento habíamos sido flexibles, sobre todo teniendo en consideración que hemos podido lograr hacer un acuerdo importante en este tema. Requiere saber si, también, la decisión es la disponibilidad a reabrir el párrafo sobre derecho al desarrollo.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just note we had agreed to the paragraph earlier, but we have no issues with the two versions that have been proposed by the United States and would be fine with them as well.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is true that we are walking on the principle of 'nothing is agreed, until everything is agreed'. If we give room to reopening the paragraphs, I am not so certain when we finish this discussion with this paragraph if the United States said they will be able to come back to it after consultation. I do not know, I do not remember if they said, then we are fine, we have reopened it. But if they did not say so before, then we are really uncomfortable with that. If we will be in a position to come back to so many paragraphs again, this will not help us in this Council, and there are many paragraphs we are not



comfortable with, our government could not have said that we use our common sense and understanding of the way the process is going on to accept those paragraphs. We can reopen them also.

Chairperson, be mindful of the fact that if you leave room to that, then it will come back to the paragraph that we do not agree with.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Egypt has two concerns about this request. The first one is operation as most of our previous colleagues said, distinguished colleagues from Argentina and Cameroon mentioned. If we reopen the discussion again on most of these paragraphs, then it will not go anywhere, especially that also we have had already enough coordination with our Capitals and then some countries like Egypt, it is the weekend already, so I am not sure how fast we can get re-approvals on these documents.

The second concern is regarding the substance of the paragraph itself. Egypt is very well concerned about the principles mentioned in this paragraph and we believe it is very important to keep it included in the outcome of this Item.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I am a little confused and perplexed because of course, everybody had sent our information, our deliberations here to our Capital. It is natural, but anyhow I am a little confused because yesterday when we received the proposal made by the U.S. delegation, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) were included in the United States proposal. So, now 24 hours later, there is a retreat when you were supposed to finish our discussions here and send the complete text to the Drafting Committee. I am puzzled. I really do not know what to say, because yesterday the problem regarding CBDR was mentioned by the United States delegation in its proposition. I do not know what to say. We have to consult Brasilia. We do not have any easy answer right now.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Brazil. I think you are not the only one who is perplexed.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je sais que vous êtes fatigués, mais nous nous demandons, car le paragraphe fait référence aux instruments auxquels les États-Unis sont partie, l'Accord de Paris, le Pacte de Glasgow, y compris le paragraphe qui a été rejeté concernant le transfert de technologie, qui fait allusion au Programme 2030, si l'on fait seulement référence aux instruments qui ont déjà été adoptés par tous les États, ratifiés même par certains, qu'en sera-t-il de la stratégie elle-même? En effet, nous sommes encore en train de débattre et n'arrivons pas à nous accorder. Qu'en sera-t-il? Nous demandons donc à la délégation des États-Unis de faire preuve de souplesse et de ne pas rouvrir le débat.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give China the floor, then we will break and see what we have to do.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I want to support Cameroon, Egypt, Brazil, Congo. I do not think we should reopen the debate. We have spent too long on this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The interpreters have given so much extra time. We have to break, and we use a half hour break to consult and I do hope that the United States can go back to their Capital to ask for new instructions, so that we can continue our work. Also, it was clearly stated that if we allow one delegation to reopen paragraphs, many paragraphs could be reopened. I think we are all on the Friday evening, happier with a nice dinner over lots of good wine, than continuing negotiations, but we break for half an hour and come back in this room at 18:30 hours.

Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting was suspended from 18:02 to 18:34 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 18 h 02 à 18 h 34*  
*Se suspende la sesión de las 18.02 a las 18.34*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We had to break to see how we continue our work with the unexpected opening of a paragraph, but perhaps after a good cup of coffee and a break, we can find a way forward. I would like to ask the Secretariat to put on the screen the text of the paragraph we were addressing. And to see whether or not we can find a creative way forward to solve the issue and meet the concerns of all of us.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We have had a chance to consult further since the break and we do have a proposal that we would like to present, that we hope will help us reach a consensus. As I stated previously, we would take the language starting at "including" through "eradicate poverty as referred to in", delete that and put it in a footnote.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Wait one moment. Keep this paragraph; make a new paragraph alternative, so that we can clearly reflect. Then we go to the footnote.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Recalling Article 2.2 of the Paris Agreement, which states, "*The Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in light of different national circumstances.*" Then, I think we would have to do a little bit of cleaning up of the text above.

That cleaning would consist of, we prefer to say, "*take into consideration as appropriate, guidance from the relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate Pact, and notes in this regard, including*" and then continue through paragraph 6 and 7 of the Glasgow Climate Pact "*decisions caught.*" I think the rest is good.

Striking the (a) and (b) after 2.1. Let us see. Yes, can you scroll down? Climate Pact, Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) again "*decisions*", and last line "*further notes articles*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any reflections or remarks from delegations?

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Firstly, I completely understand process discussions that have occurred around this. I am comfortable with what has been proposed and I am hoping that we can take this as a compromise, recognizing the inclusion of information in the footnote.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Nous pouvons accepter ce paragraphe avec la note de bas de page.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other reflections on those new proposal?

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Estamos todavía en el proceso de consultas. Estoy intentando ayudar a una alternativa que sea razonable. Desde ya, por supuesto, agradezco al colega de Estados Unidos de América el esfuerzo. Voy a leer la propuesta a velocidad de dictado en inglés. "*Highlighted that FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change should take into account the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular its Principle 7 with a footnote of all the content of the principle, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the multilateral understandings as well as a multilateral understanding reached in the Glasgow Climate Pact.*"

Es muy difícil el ejercicio que estamos haciendo en este momento. Entiendo que también es una situación difícil la de la delegación de Estados Unidos y no es nuestra intención poner más dificultades a ninguna delegación. Por el contrario, estamos tratando de evitar un escenario incierto que sería donde todo se reabra y es muy complicado.

Espero que este texto pueda funcionar y quizás también para nosotros con esto podríamos llegar a, entiendo, acomodar la preocupación de Estados Unidos y también la de los países que han en gran, gran cantidad —no importa si son muchísimos—, pero son muchos los que han pedido que este principio estuviera dentro del Informe.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us look to the bright side of life and see whether or not, based on new circumstances, we can find a new compromise which can meet the concern of all.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I always hope that I am bringing some bright news for the Council, but I have a simple question. What is the difference between "*including the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities*" in the footnote rather than having it in the main text?

I understand that the document is reflecting the discussion of the Council and that we have seen a lot of discussion in this regard, and we understand very well that this is part and parcel of the discussion, part and parcel of the Glasgow Pact, and, as we have seen before, when we had a proposal before for including the principle of technology transfer in the footnote, that was not accepted.

Why should we include it now in the document in this Item? I am just trying to get enlightened here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I pass the floor to the United States because it is their proposal.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

The problem we have with the language that was earlier concluded is that by highlighting one particular provision in calling it out explicitly, it implies that that provision is more important, or carries more weight than other provisions in that same text.

As you all know, the Glasgow text and the Paris Agreement too for that matter, were very carefully negotiated, difficult negotiations, by climate negotiators, not by us, and they represent a balanced outcome, and by pulling out specific text and putting it in this context, we are changing that balance, and that is what we are not prepared to accept.

We need that language reflected as it was agreed to in those fora, which we think is the only appropriate way to address those issues. So in the spirit of compromise, we have agreed that we have offered for your agreement, that we would include a specific reference to Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) in the footnotes. We would prefer to have no reference to any specific language.

We think we could get by simply referencing Glasgow and Paris and having all of the relevant provisions of both agreements taken into account in the preparation of FAO's Strategy. FAO is not a party to Glasgow, FAO is not a party to Paris. So we do have some questions about the relevancy in this context, but despite all of that, we are prepared to go along with having this language in the footnote.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I am trying to digest the recent suggestion by the Distinguished Delegation of the United States. Anyhow, as I try to understand the idea here is to eliminate the specific mention to the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and to translate that into a footnote, what is the purpose of the delegation of the United States with this suggestion? Because for us, it is difficult to understand that. Do you have any comments on that?

Because, and as I mentioned before, 24 hours ago the United States presented a suggestion of text that included this notion, inside the main text. So I would like to try to see if you can accept the proposition, to see what is the explanation behind that because I do not see the reason, a good explanation for that. I would like to receive more information from the United States to try to understand the reason for this recent proposal.

**Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)**

I apologize that I cannot use the video at this moment. As the Brazilian delegate just said, and others, we also think the procedure is a problem in developing the text and I think we are not satisfied with that. But having said that, we appreciate the effort and the discussion here, and we would like to echo the United States.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I will try to be very brief, and I appreciate the intervention from the delegation of the United States to explain their position. I would like to support the intervention from our distinguished colleague from Brazil, and I would also like to elaborate that when we are talking about using the same language that is agreed in Glasgow or the United Nations 2030 Agenda, we are not doing that because FAO is a Member of any of the two forums. We are doing that because even in Item 8.1 itself and I think in a later paragraph, we request the use of multilaterally agreed language in the Strategy. Therefore, I do not understand why we try too much to avoid and to refrain from using a multilaterally agreed language in subparagraph (e), and then we request using multilaterally agreed language in a later paragraph and the Strategy.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I recognize that this is going to be a hugely sensitive topic for this evening, but just to say that I think seeing the text there, that still reflects the various paragraphs that were of interest that we agreed to. Ultimately, what matters is what are the words that are in the report. I think this does get some of the keywords that I think everyone is looking for. So, we are okay with the alternative proposed on the footnote. Hoping that having those words on the screen at least, and in the report, will be able to bring us all together.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I pass the floor back to the United States for answering some of the questions.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Well, I would just point out that we did propose multilaterally agreed language yesterday and it was rejected. So that is the reason we have fallen back to this language. And again, it is important when we import multilaterally agreed language from other contexts, that we keep the context and we feel like we have not done that with the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) language, which is part of a broader, more balanced package, and so that is, we are trying to restore that balance with this language.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Hice un gran esfuerzo por tratar de buscar acomodar las preocupaciones. Mi propuesta no voló, así que creo que tenemos que volver a la propuesta original y, por otra parte, creo que tenemos sobre todo remarcar que la base de todos nuestros acuerdos debe ser respetada. Es el marco general. Estamos marcando simplemente guías para la estrategia de cambio climático, cuestiones acordadas por nuestros Gobiernos.

Yo tanto entiendo la situación incómoda de la delegación de Estados Unidos, que intenté proponer un párrafo alternativo justamente para ver si podía ayudarlos. Obviamente fracasé, no voló. Los puntos que han marcado Brasil y Egipto son muy razonables. Le pido, por favor, entonces que elimine mi propuesta y nos mantengamos con la propuesta original que captura todo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Just looking to see whether or not we can work on elements to find a compromise. Would it be acceptable for the United States to make any reference to the Rio Principles?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

First, I want to thank the Argentina delegate for his attempts at finding another solution here. With respect to Rio, we are struggling to see the relevance here. The way this paragraph was originally proposed in the text we received several days ago, the reference to Rio was a vehicle for introducing the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) language. Since we have the CBDR language in there in this proposal, we are not sure what is added by including Rio at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any reflections from delegations? Another possibility is, of course, besides what you proposed, to make a reference to Agenda 2030 and its principles. For example... Because we could ask, but we have done more before, that *"the Strategy would be consistent with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 2 and SDG 12, recalling the shared principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda, including paragraphs 10, 11, 12, and 13, as well as paragraphs 24, 40 and 41, to the extent relevant."* Then, continue with your text, and at least we have a balanced approach of all the principles which we share.

Would that also be a way forward?

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

What we would like to check on is highlighting that the new Strategy should take into... or recalling... Sorry, where are we. *"highlighting that the new Strategy should be taken into consideration as appropriate"*. Just a second, Chairperson. Could you put Argentina's proposal back up?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you but what I was referring to, was not the proposal from Argentina. Because I was referring to Agenda 2030 and the principles. I will put the text forward so that we can see it on the screen for everybody.

What I was referring to, in an attempt to see whether or not we can find a new compromise, is that *"FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change should be consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 2 and SDG 12 and recalling the shared principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda, including paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 as well as paragraphs 24, 40 and 41 to the extent relevant."*

My proposal would be to continue with your text. You can make two paragraphs, of course, or two (a) and (b) but then continue with your text. But this is what I... I make of the context broader, the 2030 Agenda and then the specific agreements related to the Glasgow Pact.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Sin prejuizar sobre su propuesta que todavía no la terminé de digerir, le pediría verificar si en realidad no quiso decir 13 en vez de 12 en el *"Sustainable development goal"*, me parece que es el ODS 13, no el 12.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That was specifically related to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, but of course, we can insert any SDG. It is just an attempt. If it is not working, we will withdraw my proposal, but for me it is to see whether or not... Because at this moment none of the texts have had consensus. That was my attempt as a Chairperson.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Like our distinguished colleague from Argentina, I am myself trying to digest the valuable input from your side. I just want to know if we can have a look on the original paragraph. To my understanding, there is not a big problem with keeping the paragraph as was agreed upon yesterday. But if, for the

sake of the input from your side as well, if you can give us some time to digest the new paragraph, it would be appreciated as well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us try to put everything on one page so that it can be seen on the screen. After what I propose, you have to put "*to relevant extent.*" because the idea would be done to include the United States' proposal.

#### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I do not understand the point behind referring to specific principles without drafting them in the document itself, without mentioning them clearly in the document. If we are referring to a specific paragraph and Agenda 2030, why do we not refer specifically to the principles we are trying to mention clearly in the document? However, if it is a matter of showing more flexibility, we can accept the input from the Chairperson.

#### **Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Well, we have got something else to propose here that I think builds on what Argentina had proposed and also builds on what was previously agreed at the 166th Session of the Council. can we start with Argentina's proposal? I think that would save some typing. So, it would read, "*highlighted that FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change should align with the SDGs, based on the three dimensions of sustainable development and shared goals and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda, The Glasgow Climate Pact, the Paris Agreement and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*".

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Primero quiero agradecerle a usted, Presidente, que ha intentado también, cuando creíamos que estaba todo cerrado, de buscar una salida. Como siempre le agradezco, Presidente, pero ahora teniendo en cuenta lo planteado por mi estimado delegado de Estados Unidos de América, creo que para que pudiéramos, por lo menos nosotros, empezar a ver la luz, después de "*...the Rio declaration on environment and development*", deberíamos incluir, me parece "*The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principles, in particular principles 6, 7, 8 and 9.*" En todo caso, hacer una nota a pie de página con los principios, en particular el que hemos discutido hasta el hartazgo que es el principio siete. A ver, creo seriamente que el nivel de flexibilidad que estamos teniendo es enorme, siendo la hora que estamos y tratando de ayudar a comprender la incomodidad y nadie podrá negar jamás que hemos intentado seriamente buscar la manera, tratando por todos los medios de buscar un acuerdo. Yo igual todavía sigo haciendo consultas, pero estoy tratando de ver si podemos salir de este atolladero.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We thank the effort made by the distinguished delegates for Argentina. I do not know, maybe instead of using this last paragraph, last suggestion, as an alternative, we could combine. I do not know, let us see if it can fly.

The original proposal of the United States plus this recent mention to all these declarations on environment, I believe that maybe we can alternate here. We can start with "*highlight the FAO new Strategy*" and use this language as a chapeau and then use a mention, the paragraphs or the articles or the paragraphs that are mentioned, that we can see in yellow right now. To be more specific on what we are dealing with, in an effort to try if we can reach an agreement this evening.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Brazil, is this what you were referring to?

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

The idea to use the first part of the sentence as a great chapeau for whatever we are going to do for this Strategy and then, as it was a proposition also from the United States to mention specifically what we consider important here. So, we try to focus our attention on mitigation and adaptation also. We keep the chapeau when we mention "*principles*", and then we specify what is important when you are dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is a trial run. Let us see if it can fly.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Ne pourrions-nous pas simplifier et sur la base du paragraphe alternatif c), terminer tout simplement à "*environment and development*"? Le cas échéant, à "*their principles*", même si c'est redondant. Mais je rappelle que nous avons déjà tous accepté ce langage court, en avril dernier, au paragraphe 24, alinéa i), du rapport du Conseil. Le seul rajout ici se rapporte au dernier événement, c'est-à-dire au Pacte de Glasgow. Donc, arrêter la phrase à "*environment and development*" aurait le mérite de la simplicité et d'un langage agréé.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

I want to thank everyone in the room for their willingness to work on this at this late hour. We can go along with the proposal by France. We think that, in fact, is a very elegant solution to a very difficult problem.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Reflecting that that is agreed language from the previous Council, I think that is helpful. I think we can live with that too.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I am not sure if we are going in the right direction. One hour ago, we had a text that we all could live with. Suddenly everything changes and we are trying to accommodate positions. Of course, it is hard for everyone. But what is the concern of some delegations to try to make a specific commitment or reiterate their commitments regarding the principles, the commitments that we have already made in multilateral agreements? It is hard to understand that, to make it clear, including to the Management who is going to propose us the first draft.

If you do not indicate very clearly what we are supposed to expect from the text, it is difficult and if it is so difficult to mention, for instance, all the needs of developing countries in this text, right now, such as the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle. I suppose that our work and the negotiation process for this strategy is going to be very hard to accomplish, because it seems that people are afraid to mention commitments and principles that we have already adopted 20, 30 years ago.

I do not know if you are facing this problem right now here at the Council, I truly believe that we are going to have many, many problems to finish, to accomplish our mission that is to deliver a new Strategy for FAO. I am afraid that we try to create some problems right now, but the real problem is going to be the future, when, to finish a Strategy on Climate Change will be, it seems very difficult to do it.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to carry on what our distinguished colleague from Brazil just mentioned. To be honest, I think one hour ago, we had a paragraph all agreed upon and just a few minutes later, we have three, four paragraphs, I think at least speaking for myself, lost focus. I am not sure which paragraph we are now trying to reach an agreement about, and I think most of the delegations are trying to show flexibility, and to accommodate the request on a specific paragraph, although we have already agreed upon and I am afraid maybe a few minutes later, we have another delegation asking to open the floor again on another paragraph that we have agreed upon.

I really think it is a matter out of respect for the agreement that we had very recently, not in April but just yesterday, is to get back to the main paragraph that we agreed upon and to see if there is any change that could accommodate the request of any delegation here, and then try to find a consensus upon it and then move forward. Otherwise, we will keep having recommendations for new paragraphs and new language and we will not finish anytime soon.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Sometimes when you are short of ideas, it is always good to go back to the initial idea, because here, we are kind of stuck because we are not creating new ideas. My suggestion is to reread what we

agreed on first. We will go back to that because you know, everything that we are adding that it is just, you know, like "*saupoudrage*", as we say in French.

My suggestion is to get back to the original text before the United States came with a new paragraph. When they decided that, you know, they cannot, they got instructions, and that is it. All that we are doing now is just trying to resolve the issue, because we have never resolved that issue going in circles like we are doing now.

My suggestion is to go back to the initial idea, which was almost agreed on. Then we will gain some time using that Strategy and I strongly suggest, we are in your hands, Chairperson, but I strongly suggest that we go back to the initial idea, which we tend to support more than what we are doing now.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Ya perdí la cuenta cuál es el tiempo que estamos dedicándonos a este tema, he hecho un enorme esfuerzo por tratar de acomodar. Quizás también por ahí puede llegar el momento en el cual algún país pueda considerar que por ahí puede justificar sus propias dificultades y desasociarse del párrafo acordado. Pero bueno, si esa no es la alternativa, yo quiero recordar dos cosas que ojalá ayuden a entender por qué estamos acá.

Número uno. Si vamos al *verbatim* de las discusiones del Consejo que algún colega mencionó, la Embajadora del Reino Unido hizo mucha insistencia en que era necesaria una segunda estrategia de cambio climático en el marco de la COP26. Y que eso era fundamental porque iba a haber un tema de financiamiento que fue finalmente capturado en el punto 2.1 del Pacto de Glasgow para, sobre todo los países más pobres, y mencionó expresamente a los países de África, pero no solo los países de África.

Entonces, lo que está en discusión aquí y lo que está detrás de esta discusión no es tratar de poner incómodo a un colega, a un país o a un país Miembro. Eso no es lo que está en discusión. Para los países en desarrollo lo que está en discusión es cómo se va a financiar las transiciones justas de los países en desarrollo.

Entonces, lo que estamos diciendo simple y llanamente, es que se incluyan los principios que guíen la nueva estrategia de cambio climático que fue aceptada en el marco del Consejo de la FAO bajo el argumento que iba a ser alineada con la COP26 para encontrar los mecanismos de financiación para las transiciones justas de los países en desarrollo.

Entonces, ¿porqué estamos hablando de una nueva estrategia de cambio climático si no podemos incorporar aquí los principios o las guías que puedan justificar las transiciones justas financiadas para los países en desarrollo? Entonces, podemos decir lo que queramos, pero no podemos tener doble discurso.

El discurso es completo, el compromiso con el cambio climático debe ser completo. Es para que el mundo pueda preservarse y la vida humana pueda preservarse y que se permita a los países en desarrollo, que son las principales víctimas de toda esta historia, que puedan encontrar mecanismos de financiación para poder desarrollar sus transiciones justas.

Entonces, terminemos con esto. Yo he hecho todos los esfuerzos y no veo flexibilidad de parte de nadie; entonces, volvamos a la propuesta original y veamos cómo logramos claramente... Hay tres pilares que deben estar incorporados: adaptación, mitigación y financiamiento. Y creo que el párrafo original lo capturaba.

Entonces, no lo sé, he hecho todos mis esfuerzos, pido mil disculpas a todos los colegas porque les hice proponer párrafos cuando ya teníamos acordado uno, pero lo hice con toda la intención de no quedar o no aislar a ningún país en esta discusión, sino que sea un compromiso de todos. Pero, creo que, a esta altura no tenemos alternativa que volver al párrafo original.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Clearly, there is a lot of passion around this issue, and I think our distinguished colleague from Brazil made a very cogent point, that if we are having this much trouble now, what can we expect to lie ahead of us once we have the actual Strategy that we need to agree on, but I think that is the point.



Clearly, there are very divergent views here that do need to be discussed and eventually need to be reconciled. This is not the only opportunity or even the best opportunity that we will have to do that. So we have, while we have contributed to this difficulty, we have also tried to find solutions within the context of what we are able to do here, what we have agreed to in Glasgow, and what we have agreed to in Paris.

If we want to return to the original text, we have offered an alternative that essentially keeps the original text, just restructures it, so that part of it is in a footnote. If that is not acceptable, we also are willing to support the very elegant and simple solution that our distinguished French colleague has offered. That, as Brazil acknowledges, kicks the can down the road. But we know we are going to have those discussions anyway, and we welcome those discussions. It seems to us, we have two alternatives, and we are prepared to live with either one of them.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We had the first one that was the original paragraph, which was agreed, but that reopened.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je vois que les esprits commencent à être fatigués et à s'échauffer. Je voudrais souligner que nous nous sommes tous mis d'accord dès le début sur le principe que "*nothing is agreed until everything is agreed*". Aussi, je pense qu'il faut travailler dans le respect de ce principe, qui anime toutes les négociations, et éviter de passer du temps à dire qu'un paragraphe était agréé, car, bien sûr, nous travaillons dans cet esprit-là.

Ainsi, je comprends que la proposition initiale ne convient pas. J'ai essayé de proposer un langage simple sur la base de celui que mon collègue argentin avait élégamment proposé. Dans un effort de constructivité et de créativité, au paragraphe alternatif c), pourrions-nous ajouter ", *including*" après "*the Paris Agreement*"?

Ainsi, la phrase serait la suivante: "*[the Paris] Agreement, including article 2.1 and 2.2, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*" puisque je comprends que le principe en question est reflété dans cet article. La phrase s'arrêterait donc après, "*and Development*".

Je ne sais pas si cette solution permettra de favoriser le compromis, mais elle aurait au moins le mérite de la simplicité.

#### **Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

We could certainly live with that suggestion that was just made and in the spirit of compromise, we were also going to put on the table, the Principles 6, 7, 8, and 9 so that they are explicitly there and recognizing that some delegations are very keen on seeing them reflected. Again, it is not the ideal solution for us but if we list all four of those, we would be able to live with that as well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Any remarks on the latest suggestions? If we perhaps delete?

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quería preguntarle amablemente, ¿cuánto tiempo usted calcula que tenemos para hacer las consultas en nuestras capitales?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

At least this evening, I do not speak about tomorrow, but this evening, we have time until 21:00 hours.

#### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Je pense à la proposition faite par la France. Si nous ajoutons "les principes" après "*agenda*", donc en mettant: "les principes pertinents du Pacte de Glasgow, de l'Accord de Paris et de la Déclaration de Rio", je ne sais pas si cela peut satisfaire tout le monde.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Are you proposing, to put the relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Pact, behind the Glasgow Pact or something different?

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Non, suite à la proposition de la France, à partir de "*agenda*", il faudrait ajouter "les principes pertinents du Pacte de Glasgow". J'aurais bien voulu mettre l'Accord de Paris avant puisqu'il vient avant, ou bien même la Déclaration de Rio qui est encore précédente.

Voilà, "...*relevant*...", et dans l'ordre chronologique: "...la Déclaration de Rio, l'Accord de Paris et le Pacte de Glasgow relatif au changement climatique..."

Voyez donc d'analyser et si nous pouvons sortir de cette impasse, ce serait une bonne chose.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At least we put it now in order. Would this help to find a way out? I did not forget what was said by Cameroon, otherwise we have to go back to what we agreed on earlier but let us see first whether or not this will bring us further to a consensus.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Agradecemos muchísimo a nuestro colega de Congo y también a la colega de Francia y a todos los que intentan buscar una solución. Yo creo que tenemos un tema pendiente en esta línea de estar reabriendo esta discusión, es el tema del derecho al desarrollo que también deberíamos tomarlo en consideración.

Yo creo que podemos trabajar con la propuesta de Congo y voy a hacer mis consultas rápidamente. Me gustaría incluir también en ese mismo párrafo o, perdón, en un párrafo subsiguiente lo que hemos discutido antes y que no pudimos acordar que ya estaba ese párrafo sobre el derecho al desarrollo. Me parece que reflejaría o capturaría la preocupación central de los países en desarrollo que es todo lo que yo ya expresé más el derecho al desarrollo que es un tema importante también.

Voy a ver si puedo encontrar el párrafo estaba en el texto, pero voy a tratar de hacer las consultas lo más rápido posible.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

No había terminado, pero es culpa mía. El texto sobre el derecho al desarrollo, ¿ustedes lo pueden traer por favor? Para que sea la continuación de la propuesta que debe estar en el texto.

I would like to thank Argentina and Congo for their positions to work together and try to find a solution. I believe that we see some merit in the proposal. Of course, it is not what we had before, and we are able to work with those lines proposed by Congo and Argentina. I also heard that the distinguished Ambassador from Argentina, he is also proposing something about the right of development. I would like to hear from that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are looking for that paragraph.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would like to support and commend the intervention made by the distinguished colleague from Congo and also all the inputs from the distinguished Members. We would like to add the reference, to add this above the Action Agenda, maybe when we are making a reference to Agenda 2030 and the Glasgow Pact, we can add it after the words "*the 2030 Agenda*" then add this Action Agenda and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Also, in reference to the valuable intervention from the distinguished colleague from Argentina, Egypt would like to reiterate its support and principle for adding the reference to the right for development. We also need to see the paragraph itself so we can approve the language used.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I did not forget what was said by Cameroon. Otherwise, we have to go back to what agreed on but let us see first if this will bring us further towards a consensus.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Ese es el párrafo, la idea era para poder balancear la flexibilidad que estamos mostrando todos en tratar de acomodar la preocupación de algunos colegas. Como falta el subpárrafo, "*highlighted the respect or underline*", pongamos lo que le parezca más correcto.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

We really do appreciate the efforts everyone is making. Unfortunately, I think we are getting further away from the consensus now. It seems the more language we add, the more potential problems we raise. I will be very specific. We have problems with the specific reference to the Rio Principles 6, 7, 8, and 9, and we have problems with highlighting with respect to the right of nations to develop, and as I stated previously, our issue is that these are taken from another context and applied in this context without all of the other language that was included with them to help achieve the balance that existed when this language was agreed to.

That is where we are at this point. To me, I go back to what our colleague from Brazil said, that yes, we do have many diverse opinions that we clearly have not reconciled this week and we will have to continue to work on. We are very well prepared to continue discussing and working on this, but I do not think we are going to resolve them tonight.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us scroll up to the start of the discussion. This is where we started, I think one half hour ago.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

Thank you so much, Chairperson, for facilitating this discussion in these late hours. I just want to reiterate that actually we are ready to support your compromise that we have at the beginning, and we are surprised when there are some new inputs and revision because now, we feel this has been a big compromise that we can go along with.

The last one compromise from Congo and colleagues and distinguished representatives, I think maybe that is the last time we can try, provided that this will be balanced with the idea of the right of development that I think was mentioned not only by Members, but also in a Group Statement. So, countries in the group have supported in big numbers regarding that issue. So, I think that is our position at this stage and we are in your hands. We are ready to continue discussion on this.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I see that you have pasted now the original paragraph because as we are moving in circles, I did not see the way out. Now that you are back to the original paragraph, we would like to know what is the problem here, so that we strive to resolve it, because giving an alternative paragraph has shown to be not helpful. So, let us go to the basic in problem analysis. What is disturbing the US here because we are coming back to this paragraph because the United States requested that. What is their problem? If they can tell us exactly where their problem is, we can try to see if there is a way to accommodate their wish and if there is a way to advance. I have the feeling that we are taken hostage here and I am using a very strong word tonight, but this is what it is. Chairperson, we are in your hands, please. I am not directing, because I am not the Chairperson, any questions to anybody, but that is through you that we are trying to see if we can have clarification on what is the real problem here so that we face the problem and try to handle it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Cameroon, for your question and we hand the question back to the United States.

**Mr David HEGWOOD (United States of America)**

Thank you to my colleague from Cameroon for trying to get to the heart of the problem here. I explained earlier, I will try to be clear what our concern is with this language and the paragraph that was originally agreed to. By the language on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) that is explicitly cited in this paragraph comes from the Glasgow Climate Pact which is a much

broader agreement that contains many provisions that were the result of a very difficult negotiation, a negotiation that many thought was not going to succeed, and ultimately, because of compromise on many sides and because the negotiators were able to find balance with provisions that are not reflected in this paragraph, they were able to come to a consensus.

Now we are taking that language out of that context and elevating it here by specifically calling it out. It is being elevated, given a higher importance than other provisions, and that was not the intention when it was originally negotiated. So, that is our specific concern with the way this paragraph is formulated, and that is why we propose the alternative that we take the explicit reference to CBDR out of the text itself and put it into a footnote. So, that we can address the concern about maintaining the proper balance and the proper emphasis.

#### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Nous avons trop parlé et cela commence à nuire un peu. Je remercie les collègues qui ont appuyé notre proposition, faite dans le but de trouver un consensus, mais quand j'entends la réaction du collègue des États-Unis, je me dis que c'est comme être tombés dans un traquenard parce que le contexte de la Déclaration de Rio, celui de l'Accord de Paris et celui du Pacte de Glasgow vont dans le sens de la lutte contre le changement climatique. C'est un tout, que nos États ont négocié. La FAO devrait prendre la portion qui concerne l'agriculture pour apporter sa contribution à la réduction des effets du changement climatique liés à l'agriculture.

Je rappelle au délégué des États-Unis qu'en marge de cette Conférence des Parties "COP(26)" de Glasgow, il y a eu le dialogue "FACT" (*Forest, Agriculture, Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue Global Event*) sur le commerce des produits agricoles qui contribuent à la déforestation et auquel j'ai moi-même participé.

Tous ces instruments concourent donc à lutter contre le changement climatique, aussi lorsqu'on nous dit que faire référence à ces instruments n'est pas logique, je ne le pense pas.

Que le collègue des États-Unis alors montre leur bonne foi, afin que nous puissions parvenir à une solution de consensus. Tout ce que nous sommes en train de faire va dans ce sens, trouver un consensus pour permettre à la FAO d'adopter une nouvelle stratégie liée au changement climatique, à la lumière du rapport qui nous a été fait par le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC).

Si nous avons accepté de rouvrir ce débat, c'est dans ce souci-là, pour faire preuve de flexibilité parce que nous savons que la question du changement climatique ne touche pas seulement les pays du Sud, mais que tout le monde en souffre. L'effort que nous devons faire doit être un effort commun.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I could not agree more, the distinguished representative of Congo stated everything. If we can go back to his proposition, I am not sure...I believe it is the last one. If the Secretariat could scroll down? Yes, is that it or is there another one? Yes, this one. I believe that we, first of all, as Congo mentioned, everything here is pertinent. We are not talking about football, soccer, baseball. We are talking about climate change, and everything here pertains – is related to climate change. We are not creating anything, we are just reiterating what developing countries consider important, fundamental in our common fight against climate change.

Once again, we try to be very flexible here in this paragraph, in this proposition. Without mentioning, because it seems that tonight we cannot mention principles that we all agreed in the past. We have just to mention numbers. It is a little bit strange for me, anyhow but here we are trying to accommodate positions without mentioning anything, just numbers, figures, but it is okay, let us try to move. But it seems that some delegations are not willing to cooperate, and rest assured, I am very comfortable with this text, although it is full of numbers, without faces that I can recognize. But anyhow, we can reach the articles of the declaration, facts, and treaties and we will know to what we are referring here, but let us be assured that during the negotiation of this Strategy, all these names, principles, commitments that we made, are going to come back. That is for sure.

Here tonight, we are just stating numbers, but during the negotiation, which many Members here at the Programme Committee did not consider that we needed a new Strategy. The current Strategy is just four years old, but anyhow, some Members insisted very much that we needed a new one. A brand new one.

Let us do it, but remember that we have to mention what are the demands, what are the commitments that we have made along the years, along the decades. So, I believe that we have a very good text that tries to balance all the commitments and all the concerns expressed tonight.

Anyhow, I do not know what to say here. I believe that this is the minimal that we can go.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Hay dos cosas o hay una cosa que yo lo tengo muy, muy claro y porque soy testigo que es así. Estados Unidos tiene un compromiso muy fuerte con el tema del cambio climático, por lo tanto, de ninguna manera esta discusión puede poner en tela de juicio el compromiso de Estados Unidos.

Por lo tanto, lo que estamos tratando es de buscar la manera de encontrar un acuerdo, una solución de compromiso. Hicimos las consultas en capital, la primera respuesta que tengo es que el párrafo que recién acaba de analizar mi estimado colega de Brasil originado en una propuesta alternativa de Congo, nosotros podemos ir con este párrafo.

Y respecto al derecho al desarrollo podemos seguir discutiéndolo. Quería solamente, y era mi compromiso confirmarle esa respuesta, que hasta ahí podemos llegar. Yo lo único que le digo es que nosotros somos testigos de cómo Estados Unidos alienta a los países de nuestra región para asumir compromisos respecto al cambio climático, así que yo no tengo duda de ese compromiso. Y yo creo que este párrafo o este planteo que estamos analizando y que está en la pantalla, yo invito o invitaría a Estados Unidos a reanalizarlo. Me parece que tiene que ver con lo que siempre nos han planteado, me parece que esta es la línea que hemos siempre estado de acuerdo, no sé...

Yo estoy tratando de ser lo más constructivo posible. Creo que, en el marco de todos los países que hemos hablado de esta cuestión, yo creo que este párrafo puede ayudar a destrabar. Le pido a Estados Unidos, por favor, que haga otras consultas como las acabamos de hacer nosotros para tratar de buscar la flexibilidad necesaria y llegar a una solución de compromiso.

La solución de compromiso no puede ser solamente acomodar la preocupación de un solo país. La solución de compromiso es que al final todos quedemos un poco insatisfechos. Creo que todos con este párrafo estamos insatisfechos, no es todo lo que quisiéramos, pero es lo que creo pueda ayudar a encontrar el consenso.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We break for 5 minutes to make sure that Capitals can be consulted. We break for 5 minutes.

Distinguished delegates, we are not going to start yet. We need another 10 to 15 minutes to hopefully get a possible greenlight for a way out. So, please may I ask your indulgence to wait for another 10 to 15 minutes before we start and hopefully, we can then move fast.

Yes, I know. Do not remind the Chairperson about the time schedule.

If we start around quarter to nine, I hope that we can finish at 21:00 hours. Then I will explain what we do after that.

*The meeting was suspended from 20:15 to 20:36 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 20 h 15 à 20 h 36*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 20.15 a las 20.36*

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is always the Chairperson if things do not go in the right direction, but we have to reconvene tomorrow at 09:30 hours because the United States is still consulting, getting instructions from the highest level in Capital, that means the political level. We will reconvene at 09:30 tomorrow morning.

They are consulting of course, on the paragraph proposed by Congo, to see whether or not that could be acceptable, but we adjourn now for today. I apologize for that, but this is as far as we can get at this moment.

Hopefully, we will get further tomorrow morning but we will reconvene at 09:30 hours, hopefully a brief meeting after which, directly afterwards the Drafting Committee will convene for going through the Report and hopefully we can adopt the Report at 15:00 hours tomorrow afternoon, looking at the most bright side of life at this moment.

We will reconvene tomorrow at 09:30 hours in this room or virtually. It is as it is. Thank you for all your efforts. We are almost there. Let us think about that, and then we will see each other tomorrow at 09:30 hours sharp. Thank you so much. Have a good rest. Come back tomorrow morning. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned.

***The meeting rose at 21:09 hours***

***La séance est levée à 21 h 09***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 21.09***

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE UNDÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>4 December 2021</b>

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:36 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 36  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la undécima sesión plenaria a las 09.36  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

*Item 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)*

*Point 8.1 Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)*

*Tema 8.1 Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)*

(CL 168/21)

## CHAIRPERSON

Good morning distinguished Members of the Council, Excellencies, dear friends. It is a beautiful Saturday morning, the sun is shining, so let it stimulate us to have a cheerful conclusion of an excellent and fruitful Council, with excellent results. We have to solve one subparagraph that should be easy if we think and hope. We have six countries in the room and 31 in virtual rooms, so we have a good quorum.

We will finalize the last outstanding subparagraph and then we go directly into the Drafting Committee with a positive flow for going through the Report. The idea would be to adopt the Report at 15:00 hours this afternoon and then we can enjoy in a positive way a shortened weekend.

With that, I would like to go back and put the subparagraph on the screen where we left yesterday. It was a proposal of Congo, which brought us almost to an agreement. Let us see where we are with this subparagraph. I open the floor now for the Members of the Council to see whether or not we can agree on it.

### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I know we went through the arguments yesterday and I will not repeat those, but I do need to say that the United States cannot agree to this subparagraph as it is currently written. I would like to propose something I think can solve this and move us forward, and that is the deletion of the words “*including their principles, in particular principles 6, 7, 8 and 9.*”

## CHAIRPERSON

After the deletion, “*including their principles, in particular principles 6, 7, 8 and 9,*” but for the rest we can maintain text as it is? Would it be agreeable?

### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

We still do not understand what is the problem of making a reference to the document. If we make a reference to the document what is the problem in making a reference to the principles included in the document? Especially that we already deleted the principle itself, so we did not make a reference to the principle itself. I do not see a problem of making a reference to a principle inside a document that we are making reference to.

## CHAIRPERSON

We have had a long discussion yesterday about this, about the arguments, of course all the references are there and of course all the principles are already in the declaration. Let us not have another long discussion about the arguments because the arguments have been exchanged, I think this morning we have to see whether we can find a final agreement.



**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Once again, we are facing a great challenge here to try to digest one formulation after another. As I mentioned yesterday that the final part of the paragraph was proposed at least in part, the specific mention to specific paragraphs of Glasgow, by one delegation. It is also difficult to understand this kind of moving forward and backward.

Anyhow I would like to explain to my Capital why we are so uncertain in our path here, trying to draft a paragraph on this issue that is very important to everyone, which was a few months ago declared by many delegations. Once again, those delegations were so declared that the current Strategy on Climate Change was old, old-fashioned, outdated – we needed one, a brand new one, and then we are stuck here.

I do not know, I would like to receive more information, more feedback, but it seems strange that we got this setback here, because suddenly what was committed, was discussed in Glasgow just a few weeks ago, cannot appear here. That is the minimal compromise: receive information why it is not possible to mention all these articles.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

In answer to your question of whether we can live with the proposal by the United States, we are fine with it. Just to clarify, my understanding is that all they are asking to delete is the piece in the middle regarding “the principles 6, 7 and 8”, but that the remainder of the paragraphs on Paris Agreement and Glasgow, that would all be retained. On that basis, we are fine with it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I understood exactly the idea, we will put it in yellow only what is now highlighted, that would be removed. All the other references, also to article 2.1 and 2.2 are remaining.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I think we went through the justifications for our position on this yesterday, but in short, we acknowledge that the language we discuss here could affect climate change negotiation positions elsewhere and we do not want to be picking and choosing pieces out of context, and again we went through the full explanation yesterday.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I would just like to highlight a very important point. What we are discussing here is not in terms of the principles only, this is a lot of relations that has happened already. We are just going over and beyond to delete more references to any principles that are relevant to the priorities for the developing countries.

I just want to highlight that it is not only about deleting a very small sentence, this paragraph has been totally changed from its original format that was approved earlier, the day before. That is just a highlight. If you would like to discuss this one then I would like also to discuss the possibility of including paragraph 10, 11 and 12 of the Agenda 2030 to insert it in the text.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I believe we had a perfect night, that may help us to be in a negotiation mode with positive thinking. In as much as we wanted to be complete in quoting, because a quotation if for all the time when you are quoting, you should quote right. That is why we are proposing that those principles should be there. It is quoting.

Now, we want to be positive and we do not know if we can put that, finish the quoting in a footnote, because we want to have with us the United States and that we want to be clear enough when we are quoting. If the United States can accept that we put these elements in the form of a footnote that clarifies which principle we are talking about, then I think we can work and stop this discussion here.

But this is simply a proposal, I need to hear from my other colleagues what they think, but it is my first thinking at this point.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Escuché muy atentamente a mi colega de Estados Unidos de América, creo que el primer punto que tenemos que tener claro para poder analizar lo que la colega planteó es que no es aquí que los diferentes países que han intervenido para defender principios que están acordados, haya sido porque somos países que intentan poner obstáculos a un acuerdo. Aquí lo que ha ocurrido es que un país planteó una propuesta que es la que fue acordada y por razones que no importan ha tenido que cambiar su posición dentro del propio proceso de negociación.

Entonces, creo que la primera cosa que deberíamos es partir de un grado de humildad suficiente para decir, "Bueno, hemos cometido un error. Bueno, ahora vamos a buscar la manera de resolverlo". Creo que eso es lo que yo infiero de lo que está planteando mi colega de Estados Unidos. A partir de ello, yo quiero hacerle dos preguntas, quería saber si dentro de su propuesta está la posibilidad de, por un lado, cuando dice "*Rio Declaration on environment and development, including their principles*" y sacar... y quiero saber si sin identificar esos principios... No estoy afirmando nada, estoy explorando si se podría aceptar dejar "*Including their principles*", y sacar "*In particular*", sin identificar los principios.

Y, por otro lado, su actitud respecto al punto adicional que era complementario de este párrafo que tiene que ver con el derecho al desarrollo. O sea, son las dos preguntas que quisiera hacerle para ver cómo seguir y entender todo el marco completo de lo que estamos conversando.

**Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (México)**

México ve con mucha preocupación el estado donde nos encontramos y debo expresar que veo con mucha preocupación la forma en que hemos venido operando en el Consejo.

Temo que no encontremos una respuesta a esta situación y me gustaría proponer, si es que queremos terminar, una solución un poco radical, que con respecto a este tema solamente quede en el Comité de Redacción algo como que, "En relación con la política de cambio climático propuesta por la FAO, el Consejo la recibe. Y, debido a un proceso de discusión, se llamará a una sesión extraordinaria para finiquitar su análisis".

Yo no creo que tengamos la obligación de terminar todo. Soy un convencido de que bajo presión y cansancio nada se resuelve, entonces, nuestra propuesta es que este tema se dé por terminado y se pase a una sesión extraordinaria.

**M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

J'espère que la nuit nous a porté conseil et que l'objectif ce matin n'est pas de tuer la Stratégie dans l'œuf. Je demande au délégué du Mexique de prendre encore son mal en patience. Nous n'allons pas aller trop vite en besogne.

L'Argentine a posé deux questions très importantes. Nous attendons donc du délégué des États-Unis qu'il nous donne une réponse, car jusqu'à présent ce qui nous préoccupe est le fait de ne pas comprendre réellement cette logique. Lorsqu'on cite et précise qu'il s'agit de tel et tel paragraphe, pourquoi cela dérangerait-il? On a pourtant cité toute la Déclaration de Rio, en donnant seulement la précision du contenu auquel nous faisons référence. Pourquoi cela dérange-t-il alors que nous sommes tous partie à cette Convention de Rio sur l'environnement?

Je félicite aussi le Cameroun qui a fait une proposition, mais nous attendons la réponse des États-Unis pour nous aider à comprendre et que l'on puisse avancer.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

As Congo, we believe that we are trying to move here, the paragraph that we are dealing with, the distinguished delegate of Argentina and Cameroon have made a proposal. Maybe the idea is to put this on the screen and try to see if the proposals made which are valid, can fly. After those proposals are reflected, maybe we can hear the distinguished delegation of the United States to see how we can move forward. I would like to see the proposal on the screen and to hear some reflections on that.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I was trying to understand the footnote proposal but nonetheless, just to answer the question that has been raised, again I am not going to rehash all the justifications we provided yesterday, but the issue that we take in listing these principles, some of them do not apply to climate and they have been superseded by the Paris Agreement. Therefore, Chairperson, can you please clarify, are there now two proposals on the table – the first being to delete in particular principle 6, 7, 8 and 9 - and the second being to footnote? Are there two separate proposals? If you could clarify that it would be appreciated.

**CHAIRPERSON**

There are two proposals. One proposal is the proposal of Cameroon to put a footnote where we make the reference to the four principles, and a separate proposal from what I understand from Argentina, to have not a footnote but only the principles. We are seeking your guidance on that.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

May I offer a possible third alternative?

I would like to offer in the first proposal proposed by our Argentinian colleague, that we have “*including their principles*”, but add the two words “*as relevant*”. I think, I hope anyway that this compromise might allow us to move forward.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

What I understand is that my Argentinian colleague’s proposal was to remove “*in particular*” only - but to keep the reference to 6, 7, 8 and 9 and that is what we would like to see in the document.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, gracias a mis colegas de Brasil, Camerún y Egipto, y gracias a mi estimada colega de Estados Unidos de América. Yo lo único que hice, porque no estoy proponiendo párrafos, seguimos trabajando sobre el párrafo que quedó de ayer, en el que hice dos preguntas. Una ya la respondió mi colega, quería saber sobre el tema del derecho al desarrollo, cuál era la posición que tenía Estados Unidos sobre este tema como para entender en términos generales el paquete general de la preocupación de los países en desarrollo.

Es solamente esa consulta. Nosotros estamos tratando de reflexionar sobre lo que está planteando Estados Unidos. Estamos con espíritu constructivo tratando de ver cómo salimos de esta situación. Pero quisiera, con todo el respeto, si es posible, saber la posición de Estados Unidos sobre este tema, si podemos definir un poco, si tenemos un esquema ya completo en términos de lo que es la problemática y la preocupación de los países en desarrollo.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Our delegation followed the discussion with great attention yesterday evening, and we are somewhat disappointed with the way the discussion has started this morning because in fact we see an effort to avoid the use of what is already agreed language.

We have no doubt as to the fact that the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is relevant, especially for developing countries, and we are in full solidarity with the position of the Ambassador from Argentina.

The possibility of compromise is linked not so much in blanking out what has already been agreed on, and which has meaning for the vast majority of countries – and we cannot avoid taking into account their interest and their needs in terms of combatting climate change from the text. Therefore, our proposal would be to follow the proposal of Argentina, mentioning principles 6, 7, 8, and 9. It is a good proposal and is a step in the direction towards finding a compromise.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero clarificar que el proceso fue largo, que esta propuesta que hizo mi colega de Congo ha incorporado diversos elementos. Yo insisto y agradezco a Estados Unidos de América el intento de ver cómo logramos salir y convencido que vamos a encontrar una salida, me gustaría saber si también...

Y también agradezco el mensaje de la Federación de Rusia, pero creo que acá lo que tenemos que tratar de encontrar es una manera de salir juntos, donde estemos todos adentro y no dejemos a ninguno de los países fuera del consenso.

Entonces, quiero volver a preguntar sí podemos saber cuál es la posición de Estados Unidos, porque básicamente esto nos permite entender el paquete general de la problemática de los países en desarrollo. Por eso hablo del punto vinculado al derecho de las naciones al desarrollo. Estoy tratando de ayudar para buscar los mecanismos de equilibrio.

Quiero saber cuál es la posición, por favor.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

In response to the question posed by the distinguished colleague from Argentina, I do want to mention that at Glasgow the United States did propose an extremely ambitious programme to support developing countries. Now, onto the question about how we move forward here, again our proposal that we would like to offer now is “*including their principles as relevant.*” So we do not agree with the inclusion of “*in particular principle 6, 7, 8 and 9*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

To be clear, also not in the footnote?

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I am sorry but we cannot accept those in the footnote.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

Just to reiterate, we are at the process of launching into the Strategy on Climate Change and so at this point, if we are listing these documents we make a reference to the principles as relevant, which presumably FAO in its wisdom will review, and take on board into the Strategy. I take the point of colleagues who are insisting on principles listed, but in this case, it is the principles are mentioned as being relevant, obviously we only want to take on board the relevant principles.

I think in the spirit of being able to close the Report and move forward, this to me seems like a reasonable compromise. I know it is difficult for many countries to accept it, but noting where we are on the process, to me this seems pretty good and we will get back to it again as we go through the Strategy.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

It is true, this is again the style of the decision and very few people would like to be in the background because we do not know whether people have red lines or not. However, here we have made a suggestion, putting “*as relevant*” in the text does not do the trick for us, because it is not good. Because you cannot say, because what they say is it is on climate change.

If they want to address what was in the Glasgow Pact and so on, we cannot see. But now if in the text of the footnote which I submit again to the United States and for their consideration and I wish they can come on board and keep us out of this difficult situation, let me read as follows: “*in particular those principles relating to paragraph 2, on Adaptation*”. We can do away with the numbering.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Como siempre lo he dicho, para Costa Rica los temas de cambio climático y medio ambiente son muy importantes y, si por nosotros fuera, ojalá se pusiera en este texto todos los acuerdos que han habido referentes de este tema. Pero, obviamente, eso no está en acorde con lo que otros Miembros y colegas quieren.

Sigo sin entender por qué la colega de Estados Unidos de América no quiere que aparezcan los principios enumerados pero, en todo caso, debo entender que al decir la declaración de Río “*Including*”, o sea, incluyendo también sus principios, pues obviamente se da por sentado que están también los principios seis, siete y nueve, estos que es seis, siete, ocho, nueve.

Así que por Costa Rica y en aras de lograr un acuerdo en esto, yo estaría de acuerdo con la propuesta de Argentina y si quieren ponerle también "*As relevant*" que decía la colega de Estados Unidos, no tendría ningún conveniente porque lo importante es mencionar estos acuerdos que han habido entre todos los países y que, incluso entiendo, por lo que me informó mi Presidente, que Estados Unidos dichosamente en la cumbre sobre el cambio climático (COP26) en Glasgow estuvo muy proactivo en todos los temas de cambio.

Entonces, sigo con la inquietud de por qué no se quieren poner esos principios, especificarlos, pero si no los pusieran, por Costa Rica no habría inconveniente y estaríamos conformes con que diga: "La Declaración de Río, incluyendo sus principios".

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us try and work towards a compromise, a final compromise. Because I think we have exchanged the arguments.

#### **Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

As we did this in Rio, we are capable of aggregating and putting everyone inside the same boat and we did this in Rio 1992, we did this in Glasgow and we believe we can do this right now. Regarding the proposition made by the United States, I do not have any problem with "*as relevant*", we can go along with that, but just to remember if the Secretary could scroll up a little bit, just to see what we had yesterday because it seemed that we had a proposition made by United States to make this ...

At least yesterday night it was not impossible for the United States to mention Common but Differential Responsibility as a footnote. I do not know today, because of course things change, but let me see if this proposition made by the United States yesterday is still as valid. I would like to hear from the United States.

#### **Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I think we still have a bit of a way to go to conclude this paragraph. For us, we still feel that while we put reference to the articles in Glasgow, in Paris, which I think are essentially the same as with the one that the United States wants to delete and from Paris Agreement.

I still do not understand why some paragraphs, some principles from the Paris and from Rio cannot be included. We would also like to reach consensus, but without sacrificing the needs of the developing countries. I plan to look positively the proposal by Cameroon, to put it in a footnote, by stating which principles are important to the developing countries as a compromise, because it is not in the body of the text anymore but it is in the footnote.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us break for five minutes to consider now the different options and see which ones will bring us to a compromise.

*The meeting was suspended from 10:15 to 10:21 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 10 h 15 à 10 h 21*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 10.15 a las 10.21*

Distinguished delegates, welcome back. Let us give a last attempt to see the proposals which came on the table, also what was proposed by Cameroon. Could we have as a final compromise, the following, "*Including their principles as relevant*" with the footnote proposed by Cameroon, "*in particular those principles relating to Adaptation*". Then, we delete reference to the specific articles but we insert the footnote proposed by Cameroon.

I think that is hopefully a compromise that could bring all parties together on this Item. Could we go? I make now a plea to the flexibility – and many have shown flexibility. I know how hard and how difficult it is and we know that we have a lot of work ahead of us when it comes to developing the Strategy. However, I think it would be a great input for the development of the Strategy that we have at least an agreed paragraph for giving the guidance on how to further develop the Strategy.

We delete the specific reference to the articles, but we keep the footnote as was suggested by Cameroon. Can I make a real plea to go along with this final compromise and conclude our meeting this morning so that we can go to the Drafting Committee?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

To be honest, as you know, Egypt will be hosting the COP27 next year. We are not happy with the general language used in this paragraph. I think it is becoming a totally different paragraph than the one we discussed earlier, but at the same time and as we are trying one more step of showing flexibility, we can accept the proposal by Cameroon and also by the Chairperson. We only would like to add a reference in the footnote - also we did not like the idea of the footnote – of making a reference to paragraph 12 of the Agenda 2030. That is the least we could ask for.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I appreciate the suggestion from our colleague from Cameroon endorsed by the Chairperson and I appreciate too the reminder that this is guidance to shape the Strategy and it would be stronger guidance if all of us can agree and reach consensus. The United States would be okay to agree to “*including their principles as relevant*” and the footnote that says “*in particular those principles related to the paragraph on Adaptation.*” I would ask for just a moment on the reference to paragraph 12.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

We would like to support what Egypt has said. I think we really are not happy with the situation, we reserve the right in the future if this is agreeable, to still bring issue back in the discussion.

On a separate note, I just want to suggest regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the first line, if still possible to put “*SDG based on equal treatment of the three dimensions*” and goes forth.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We would like to caution bringing now new elements because I was hoping that we could reach an agreement with the flexibility of all, but if we are going to bring in more text proposals, I think we are getting further away from consensus.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I regret to say we cannot accept the reference to paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda. I thought we were getting close to consensus. Again, we can accept the proposal of our colleague from Cameroon “*including their principles as relevant*” with the footnote that says “*in particular those principles related to the paragraph on Adaptation*”. But this is the most that we would be able to accept.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo quiero agradecerle a Indonesia, a Egipto por la propuesta y también a la Delegación de Estados Unidos por el esfuerzo de tratar de seguir intentando acercarse a buscar el consenso.

Quiero insistir en saber, porque no tengo la menor duda, mi pregunta no es una pregunta con ninguna intención negativa, al contrario, es totalmente constructiva, saber respecto del párrafo que viene después, que es el de “*highlight the respect for the right of nations to develop*”. Lo digo por el compromiso claro que asumió Estados Unidos en la COP26 y porque sé que ese compromiso existe y, quizás, podamos pensar en que eso pueda completar lo que quizás pueda quedar desbalanceado de la flexibilidad que han mantenido los países en desarrollo en esta conversación.

Entonces, lo estoy preguntando en un sentido para ver si podemos ayudar a buscar el consenso. Quisiera saber si Estados Unidos puede ser flexible en ese tema para ver si eso nos puede ayudar.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We all know how long we were discussing the development in different contexts. I would like to remind everybody, if you read the text there is a specific reference to article 2.1 and 2.2 of the Paris

Agreement, which I think already takes care of the Agenda 2030 language – and the Agenda 2030 language is already mentioned in the text itself.

Therefore, as Chairperson, I try to find a way forward, I think we have exhausted all our discussions, arguments, and flexibility.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

The United States feels the same way. We came to the table in Glasgow with an ambitious support for the developing countries, we think that these concepts are included in the references we already have in this, and I want to caution us to not stray too far.

This is guidance on the development of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change; we do not want to turn this into a forum for debating other issues better covered in other *fora*. Again, I stated what we can live with, we very much want to reach consensus on this because this Strategy is very, very important to the United States. We have shown Global leadership on climate change, and we are committed to assisting developing nations, and so we would stand as I said, with the "*as relevant*" and the footnote as proposed by Cameroon.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this is the moment to see. , Because first of all, as what was said by Indonesia, we know that we will have further discussions, all these Items, when we are informally further discussing the Strategy on Climate Change and we certainly should come back because we are only at the beginning of the Strategy and this was said also by Management in the roadmap.

We will discuss the elements of the Strategy in Regional Conferences and there will be further informal consultations with all the Members. Let us see whether or not we can get a paragraph agreed, which at least gives direction for the development and we all know that all the issues we discussed yesterday, this week and today, will come back.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

We are almost there. It is true we said it sometimes yesterday that "we are almost there" and there we are again – we continued. Let me very much appreciate the inclusion of our colleague from Egypt.

It is a valid point, but again I wish to say to our colleague, recognizing his input, so strong and so helpful, and this suggestion was supported by the honorable representative of Indonesia. Let me send just a message, let us join the consensus this time as you said Chair, if we avoid adding new words it will complicate again, so we will not be close to a consensus.

I am pleading with my colleague with Egypt that the reference to the paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda which is absolutely correct, but probably we can - for the sake of consensus and for the advancement of this process - let us see if the flexibility of our friends from Egypt and Indonesia, we can do away with this last part of the footnote and agree to send this document to the Drafting Committee.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

Like Cameroon, we fully support the idea to reach an agreement and I believe we are close to that. I thank all the distinguished delegates from Egypt, the mention here to paragraph 12 is a very good one, but I believe, as Brazil, that when we say, "including their principles", we are referring to all principles, included in Rio, Agenda 2030, Addis Ababa and so on.

Therefore, according to my reading, all of them are included and we are going to send a clear message to the Secretariat when they prepare the first Brazil draft to us and I believe that all these elements will be incorporated, I am sure they will be incorporated into the draft because that is the message. I believe that some delegations, specifically the United States delegation, has some difficulty right now, but I am sure they will fulfil their commitments regarding all the principles and commitments made in all these facts and instruments.

I believe that we are signalling, and we are transmitting to the Secretariat, to the Management a good sign that that is what we want. A balanced text that includes mitigation, adaptation and the principles

are that we all are agreed upon in the text. Anyhow, this is the beginning of our journey just the first message to those who are going to produce the draft.

Then, I hope that everyone here at FAO can come back and discuss and talk freely about all the main aspects that are important to all of us including developing countries that should be reflected in the future FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Once again, I can move and accept your proposal for the text as a compromise right now in the Council.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I know how much I am asking from all the delegations and their flexibility, but I do hope with a compromise we could send a clear signal.

#### **Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

At the outset, Africa wishes to thank you and your team for producing really excellent summaries during the whole week. We thought that you were excellent in taking note of what the delegation said and try to reflect those comments in a text that would gain consensus.

On the issue of the Strategy on Climate Change, South Africa was one of those delegations that made a clear statement that when FAO develops the Strategy it should take cognizance of developments in other legally binding areas on environment, the UNFCCC, Rio, Paris and so on. South Africa made a very strong statement on the issue of CBDR, and we were grateful that you included that in your summary.

What we should not lose sight of in this paragraph is that we are merely highlighting what this Strategy should align itself with. In that sense, we are grateful that in this paragraph all the relevant instruments are mentioned whether it is the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa, Rio, Paris, Glasgow they are mentioned. Of course, we would want to have a specific reference to CBDR where they instil the principle 7 of Rio or paragraph 12 of Agenda 2030. That we would like to have reflected.

However, we do believe as Cameroon has said, that we are close to a consensus. As Brazil has also said, South Africa interprets the reference to especially Rio and Agenda 2030 to encapsulate all the 27 principles of the Rio Declaration, which includes principle 7 on CBDR, and that is not excluded. In that context, I think we are close, and we can move forward to accept your compromise.

#### **M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)**

Le Congo vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, pour les efforts de conciliation que vous êtes en train de faire. Comme de l'opinion du Cameroun, du Brésil et de l'Afrique du Sud, nous sommes venus ce matin dans un esprit constructif et nous appelons nos collègues de l'Égypte et de l'Indonésie à accepter la proposition.

Les débats ne font que commencer et nous aurons le temps de discuter du contenu de la Stratégie. Il s'agit seulement ici de poser le cadre pour que cette Stratégie soit élaborée.

C'est donc dans cet esprit constructif que nous adhérons à votre proposition.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China)**

Thank you, Chairperson, for your great efforts. We fully followed the discussion yesterday and today in order to find a way out of this difficult situation. We can go along with consensus, but I still want to emphasise that the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities is positive, this positive principle is very important for developing countries for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) leaving no one behind and also it is very important for FAO for the next new Strategy on the Climate Change.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think and I do hope we have now the final compromise and we will put it on the screen. This would be hopefully the final compromise, which could meet the consensus of many and hopefully all.

#### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

We just need more time to consult.



**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Tuvimos un debate muy intenso. No fueron los países en desarrollo los que pusieron obstáculos para llegar al consenso, quedó claro eso. Quedó claro que no fuimos nosotros, los países en desarrollo los que propusieron el párrafo que ayer, después finalmente... tuvimos que reabrir. También fue claro que todos los países en desarrollo tienen posiciones nacionales en este tema y que no existe ningún país en particular que pueda imponerle a los demás países sus posiciones nacionales. Todos, cada uno de nosotros tenemos posiciones nacionales históricas sobre el tema del principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas (CBDR).

Yo lo que quiero que quede claro es lo siguiente: siempre, siempre hemos tenido una vocación de buscar y construir consenso con mucha paciencia, sobre todo con mucha humildad, sobre todo escuchándonos. Y cuando cometemos errores, tenemos que reconocerlos y a partir de ahí tratar de buscar los caminos para la flexibilidad y el consenso.

Quiero que quede claro en el *Verbatim*, para el *record*, que es lo que está en este párrafo expresamente incluye el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas. Nosotros podemos entender la sensibilidad de algunos países, la respetamos, pero también debemos ser respetados los países en desarrollo. Entonces, que quede claro porque el *Verbatim* va a quedar en definitiva como *record* para que nadie pueda tener diversas interpretaciones o interpretaciones confusas sobre este texto.

Y con esos comentarios, sobre todo porque no lo hago en mi rol de ser el Representante de Argentina, sino que lo hago en mi rol todavía de Presidente del Grupo G77+China que, pido claramente que las necesidades de los países en desarrollo estén capturadas en las guías de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático. Por eso dije que esto en el *Verbatim* debe quedar para el *record*.

Con estos comentarios, Presidente, Argentina como siempre construye y ayuda y acompañará el consenso. No podemos tapar el sol con las manos. Necesitamos tener claro que los países en desarrollo no van a poder llevar adelante sus procesos de transición justa sin los procesos de mitigación y adaptación, si no existe una estrategia global que se haga cargo de los costos que esto va a implicar y sobre todo las diferentes transferencias de tecnología que puedan facilitar ese proceso de transiciones justas.

Con todos estos comentarios, Presidente, y con todo el esfuerzo que todos hemos hecho para lograr y acomodar las sensibilidades de los diferentes países, espero que este mismo principio sea aplicado para todos los países en desarrollo cuando hayan situaciones también de sensibilidad en cada uno de nuestros países.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You can be assured this will be reflected in the Verbatim and thank you for your support for the compromise.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

First, I would like to support the ambassador of Argentina on behalf of the Asia Pacific and China Group. Second, I want to reiterate again that the issue of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is fundamental and is important for us. We would like to put on the record that we always encourage the Strategy on Climate Change that will be developed will always have this in mind and then be reflected in this Strategy.

The third one, I would also like to underline also the issue of development. It is also important for us including the right to development.

With that, Indonesia will not block the consensus and then we will support your effort, Chairperson.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I said to Argentina, you can be assured that your statement will be reflected in the Verbatim.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Just as our dear colleagues from Mexico and Argentina, Indonesia, Brazil and Cameroon have mentioned, we have many concerns about the language in this paragraph. This is not the ideal format

for the paragraph. This is not the common understanding for the principles that were discussed earlier during the discussions of the Council.

We have shown a lot of flexibility, we have seen flexibility say going only in one direction towards the developing countries, they are only the countries that are asked to show more flexibility. However, since there was always solid support from most countries for the paragraph in its current format, Egypt would like to join consensus and to approve the paragraph.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Egypt for your flexibility, your hard work but also your support now for the final compromise.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Thailand would like to echo our voice and to thank the Chairperson for your patience and support in building the consensus among the Members of the Council.

Thailand would also like to join other Members who spoke earlier that we know that now we almost to have the consensus on this particular issue and these issues.

We know that all of us here have a common goal to achieve the 2030 Agenda and also the issues of the climate change is one of the issues that is very crucial for the developing countries. That is why we would like to join this consensus.

**Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

We accord the other colleagues for the consensus. We support this.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

As has been pointed out by other colleagues, there is a reference to principles and when the Strategy is developed, these various principles can be taken into account. In view of this, we can also support the proposal as it is on the screen.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not have any other speakers on the list. With this, we have a compromise and agreement from the compromise. With this last compromise, we have finalised our work on the Report. Thank you so much for all your efforts, wisdom and flexibility.

We now can send the Report to the Drafting Committee and the Drafting Committee will start directly after the adjournment of this meeting. We will reconvene in plenary at 15:00 hours this afternoon.

Thank you so much. The meeting is adjourned until 15:00 hours. I wish a lot of wisdom to the Chairperson and the Members of the Drafting Committee to finalize the work.

Thank you very much, meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 10:54 hours*

*La séance est levée à 10 h 54*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 10.54*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<b>Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Session Cent soixante-huitième session 168.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Hybrid Meeting, 29 November - 4 December 2021 Réunion hybride, 29 novembre - 4 décembre 2021 Reunión híbrida, 29 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2021</b>
<b>TWELFTH PLENARY SESSION DOUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DUODÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>4 December 2021</b>

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 17:26 hours  
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 17 h 26  
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la duodécima sesión plenaria a las 17.26  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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**ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACION DEL INFORME**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Good afternoon, good evening, good morning, distinguished Members of the Council, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Also a warm welcome to the Director-General. We are now, I would say hopefully, at our last Session of the 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council.

Before I turn the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, I already would like to thank wholeheartedly the team who is sitting next to me, behind me who made it possible that we have now the Report in all languages available and for the hard work we have done.

I would like to thank the staff, the messengers, and especially, the interpreters and the technicians for the hard work done in difficult circumstances, because this is the first hybrid meeting of the FAO Council and we have seen that it is always difficult when you have people sitting here in person in the room as well as in the virtual room. Great thanks to the interpreters, to the technicians, to Mr Sergio Ferraro and his team for everything he had done to make it possible.

Of course, also to everybody who is working behind the screens to make it possible. Give them a real warm applause for their work.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

It was a great and intense week, but we made great progress on substantive issues. Before we go through the Report, I first would like to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Chairperson of the Drafting Commission)**

Let me start by thanking the Council for placing its confidence in me to chair the Drafting Committee of this 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council, the first of its kind to be held in a hybrid format. I want to thank the 12 Members of the Drafting Committee – Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Guinea, Luxembourg, Peru, the Russian Federation, Spain and Sudan – as well as the European Union for meeting under exceptional circumstances and for their keen attention, hard work and dedication.

The Drafting Committee carried out its work with a constructive spirit and I applaud the collaboration that has led to the finalization of the Report for adoption before the Council this afternoon. It is thanks to the professionalism and collective experience of the Members that our work was completed in a timely and efficient manner. The Report for adoption before you reflects that we avoided any substantial changes to the conclusions of the Council, sticking to the consensus of the Plenary on concepts and substance.

With that, I note that there remains one line open in the text, paragraph 21 in the compiled Report, from Item 8 on the Programme Committee Reports that inadvertently had not been closed by Plenary and where two options remained for the verb. Noting that it is not the Drafting Committee's mandate to negotiate substantive meaning of text, this text is returning to you, Chairperson, and the Plenary to finalize discussions.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat, including the interpreters and supporting staff, for their excellent and efficient support to the Drafting Committee meeting, which greatly facilitated our work. With this I recommend that the Report be adopted *en bloc* following conclusion of the one pending Item.

**Item 8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**Point 8. Rapports de la cent trente et unième session (session extraordinaire) (29 juillet 2021) et de la cent trente-deuxième session (8-12 novembre 2021) du Comité du Programme**

**Tema 8. Informes del 131.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (29 de julio de 2021) y el 132.º período de sesiones (8-12 de noviembre de 2021) del Comité del Programa**

(CL 168/8; CL 168/19)

**Item 8.1** *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (continued)*

**Point 8.1** *Mise à jour sur l'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique (suite)*

**Tema 8.1** *Información actualizada acerca de la elaboración de la nueva Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático (continuación)*

(CL 168/21)

## CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. All our, and certainly my personal, thanks to you as an efficient Chairperson, and to all the Members of the Drafting Committee for the work this morning.

Arriving at the point where we are now, going through the text, making sure that it is edited well, that we have all the things on board as it is always necessary to do. In all our hard work and the many hours we spent, we missed one set of brackets, and that is in paragraph 21, when it comes to the “endorsement” or “welcoming” of the Reports of the 131st and the 132nd Sessions of the Programme Committee.

When we went through the Verbatim, it was clear that we did not formally go into the question of the set of brackets, so that has to be solved now, here in Plenary, and I do hope with all the wisdom and flexibility you have shown this week, that we can find a way out and find a compromise for that wording. We have seen many subparagraphs, which already were solved in this respect.

There were two proposals. One was stating “endorsing” and one was “welcoming”, which we have done with other subparagraphs. I put forward to you which of the two should we take?

### **Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I think we should opt for the word “welcome” and I will explain why that should be so. The three Committees, Finance, Programme and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) are advisory Committees of the Council, and this was made clear in discussions on one or two Items, one of them was adoption of the local currency. I remember you reminding us of that.

Two days earlier, there was another Item and I had made the same point. They are advisory Bodies, they are not decision-making Bodies. What are they? 11 Members or 12 Members? The Council is 49 Members and we hear different views from Members of the Council. The Report is supposed to reflect the views of the Council, not the Committees. The Council can welcome the advice given by these Committees but the Council’s Report should have the views of the Council because the decision-making Bodies of this Organization are the Council and the Conference.

We see in the Report the Finance Committee, the Joint Meeting, the CCLM it says “welcome”. Why should the Programme Committee be different?

Then, I have another point to make on the Programme Committee’s Report. Paragraph 20 starts off with “the Council welcomes the Report”, and then paragraph 21 goes on to “welcome” again. Surely, we should say it once and that is said in paragraph 20, “the Council welcomes the Report of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee”. Therefore, we “welcome”. I would suggest we delete paragraph 21.

### **Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

I would like to also thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and the members of the Drafting Committee. I would like to say something about paragraph 21. I want to echo my support to Pakistan, that in paragraph 20 we should use “welcome”.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

First of all, let me congratulate you, the Chairperson, for steering such a difficult Council in terms of organization and so on, because it is the first experience with the hybrid Session and let me congratulate you for that.

We have a Report now. Let me congratulate also the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and all the Members of the Drafting Committee for bringing before us the Report. Personally, I was expecting that the Chairperson will request that we adopt the Report *en bloc* but now, with this issue on paragraph 21, I am a little bit embarrassed because we were ready to go very quickly.

Pakistan has made the case for not using “*endorsed*”. I will support that very strongly, not to use endorse because we said it. If we look at the Verbatim, we said the Committees are advisory Bodies and they report to the Council. I remember after my statement, the Legal Counsel read us the relevant Rules of Procedure which would apply and she said it is up to the Council to decide.

Pakistan said again, and I will confirm it, these are not decision-making Bodies, except for the Finance Committee, which has an element of decision recognized by the Basic Texts. The other Committees are not decision-making Bodies. And when we look at the Report of the Programme Committee, there were so many changes that we brought in the way it was produced, when we look at all the strategies and so on. So, how can we adopt something in which the Council itself has deliberated and changed so many things? It does not make sense to endorse such a Report.

Finally, I looked, and I am still looking, into the Basic Texts to try to see if there is a provision for endorsement of the Report of the Committee. I saw none. Therefore, we are of the opinion that if we cannot delete totally that sentence, then, if we have to keep it, we welcome it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us not have a very long discussion.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Briefly, we would like to say that we think that the word to be used would be “*welcomed*” and we would agree with the statement put forward by the honourable delegate of Pakistan.

**Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia, Presidency of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia is taking the floor on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. First of all, we would like to thank you and the FAO staff for the work done this week. It was a very long and intensive week. We also would like to thank all the Members of the Council for the great work that we did together.

Regarding paragraph 21 on Item 8, we would like to say that in general our preference would be to use “*endorse*” because this was a usual practice in FAO. As we can see from the Reports that are also on the FAO web page, it was a usual and normal practice to use “*endorse*” and we do not understand why we need to change this now.

Also, by using “*endorse*” it is also an important recognition of the work done by the Committees and that the Council stands behind their work. Having said that, and seeing that the majority of the Members cannot agree to this, and in a spirit of compromise, we can also agree to “*welcome*” in order to join the consensus and not to go into lengthy discussions.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée par la Slovénie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. Nous félicitons le Comité de rédaction et tous les collègues, et nous notons que le Comité de rédaction a renvoyé à la plénière un point de substance puisqu'il demeurerait une incertitude. Il incombe donc à la plénière de lever cette incertitude.

De manière générale, ma délégation considère que la pratique habituelle à la FAO est d'approuver les rapports et je souhaite que cela soit consigné dans le compte-rendu. Au cours des dix dernières années, sur 22 rapports du Conseil, au moins 20 ont approuvé les rapports des Comités. Donc, je pense que l'argument évoqué par certains collègues, selon lequel les Comités ne sont que des organes consultatifs, ne tient pas au regard de cette pratique bien établie.

Nous estimons que c'est une pratique conforme à la bonne gouvernance et qui permet aussi de reconnaître le travail des collègues. En aucun cas il ne nuit au travail du Conseil puisque ces rapports sont généralement approuvés avec des considérations. Comme l'a souligné la Slovénie, nous sommes flexibles. Nous nous joignons au consensus, mais je le précise, en aucun cas considérons-nous qu'il s'agit d'une nouvelle pratique et nous réitérons notre point selon lequel la pratique habituelle de la FAO est bien d'approuver les rapports.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, France, for joining the consensus and for your flexibility. Of course, your remarks will be reflected in the Verbatim Records.

#### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

The United States also would like to go on record saying that historically the FAO practice has been to endorse the work of the Governing Bodies, as our colleague from France pointed out, in the last 22 Reports. We feel that it would undermine or weaken the role played by those Governing Bodies and the extensive work that they put into their conclusions.

We also feel there are ways for this Council to add to or make additional comments on the Reports of those Bodies and there are ways to say with these considerations Council endorses or approves but we do take note that there has been a move away from endorse and we would like to go on record saying that this is not a precedent that we should be endorsing. That said, we are prepared to be flexible, given what we have heard already today.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, your statement will be reflected in the Records but thank you for your flexibility and joining the consensus.

#### **Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Egypt would like also to highlight that we prefer the use of the word “welcome” in paragraph 21. Especially that in similar paragraphs, commenting on the Reports of the Committees, paragraph 18, 28 and 31, the language used is “welcomed” and that is why we do not see any logic of changing specific paragraphs to use the word “endorse” instead of “welcome”.

#### **Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)**

Japan joins the consensus and sincerely hopes that the good relationship between Council and other Governing Bodies – Finance Committee, Programme Committee, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) – will not be altered by this change.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I have no other speakers, so we have consensus about choosing the word “welcome” in paragraph 21. Thank you so much.

#### **ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)**

#### **ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)**

#### **APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)**

With that we have solved the remaining paragraph and I now put forward the proposal from the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee to approve the Report *en bloc*. Can we approve the Report *en bloc*?

#### **Ms Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)**

If you could kindly pass the floor to Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms Snezana DOLENC (Slovenia) (Observer)**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States, would like to make a short comment on the Working Method of the Council, especially regarding this last part, on the analysis and adoption of the Report.

We regret that we did not have enough time to analyse the Report openly, so we hope that in future you can take this into account. We know that it was a very long week with very long and important discussions but, still, we think that it is very important, especially for the EU, to have enough time to consult and to make our internal considerations regarding the Report.

We hope that in the future we can consider also this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Certainly, we will discuss this when we evaluate this Council at the next informal meeting of the Chairpersons and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

**Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)**

Prior to adopting the Report, we would like to make a short statement to be included as an Explanation of Position in the Annex to the Report pertaining to paragraph 25 (g) and with your permission, Chairperson, I can read that statement now.

It is our view that FAO must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions in other *forum*, including at the WTO. This includes calls that undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that is not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms. The United States would also like to note that references to the 2030 Agenda should be consistent with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which “*emphasizes that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law*”.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As this is an Explanation of Position, we put that to the Annex. We have, hopefully, now an agreed Report. May I, again, bring forward to you, based on the request of the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to adopt this Report *en bloc*? Can we adopt this Report *en bloc*?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

Thank you very much. This Report is now adopted *en bloc*.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

I would like to thank all the Members of the Council for their hard work, their willingness to work strongly together on strong and substantive input in the Report and of the work of FAO. Also for their flexibility. When we discuss the Strategies, we had a strong input but we needed a lot of flexibility.

We know that at this moment we are starting the process for further developing the strategies and the work, but we have a firm basis and certainly some of the issues will come back.

With that, before we are going to close, I give the floor to the Director-General.

Director-General, great to have you with us and I pass the floor to you.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Thank you, Mr Hans Hoogeveen, our newly elected Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC). Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, good evening from Rome. This week’s hybrid meeting was the first one for the ICC, with many substantive Agenda Items and with a number of new Council Members. All of your debates and certain provoking ideas have been appreciated. They reflected the



Members' perspectives on many key areas of the Organization's work, especially on FAO's two thematic Strategies, namely the Strategy on Climate Change and Science and Innovation Strategy.

The most importantly highlighted comments and concerns with compromises. As we started with the implementation of FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031, we needed to move from the wording to action. We need to learn together and work together as we take the bold steps forward to achieve FAO's mandate, mandate that, like no other time in recent history, is so critically important for the well-being and the livelihood of people, planet, family, farmers, women and the youth.

2022 will be remarked by the extraordinary efforts leading to extraordinary results, transforming our agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable and overarching the *four betters* and ensure better food security for a better future for all.

Our actions are our future.

Let us continue to be prudently optimistic as we build back better globally, nationally and locally. Let us continue to be prudent in following the pandemic health measures in place to ensure the health and the safety of all of us.

I wish to thank the ICC, Mr Hans Hoogeveen, for his coordination and management during this challenging week.

I thank the Council Members for their cooperation, suggestions and contributions. I wish you all to have health and a happy holiday, you deserve it.

Thank you

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Director-General. Thank you for your leadership of the Organization, bringing us forward and closer to trying to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. We also have to thank Italy, not only, as I said at the beginning of the Council, for hosting the Pre-Summit, but also hosting the three agencies, the Rome-Based Agencies, as we all call it, and especially, hosting our wonderful Organization. Italy, thank you so much, and I give the floor to Italy.

#### **Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General for the kind words that he addressed to my country during his opening remarks on Monday morning and for the work done together to contain the COVID-19 contagion.

I want also to thank the Secretariat, all the interpreters and the staff for the work done to organize this Council Session and especially you, Chairperson, for your guidance and for your constructive approach during this long week.

Let me also thank all colleagues for their passion and flexibility, even during very complicated negotiations. We are all aware that multilaterally this plays a crucial role to tackle food insecurity and to face the COVID-19 effects. During this week, we have experienced that we must overcome our differences because going it alone, it is not an option.

Since Italy is very committed to multilateralism and we believe that linguistic and cultural diversity is one of the United Nations strengths, please let me now turn for a few minutes to French.

#### ***Poursuit en français***

Au cours de notre Présidence du G20 et dans le cadre de la COP26, nous avons travaillé pour renforcer le consensus entre les pays sur les sujets les plus sensibles, autour d'un traité partagé par tous: personnes, planète et prospérité. Un résultat tangible de notre engagement multilatéral en est la Déclaration de Matera et la Coalition alimentaire, un mécanisme d'accélérateur multipartite pour lutter contre les effets multiples du COVID-19, dirigé par la FAO et ouvert à tous: les États, la société civile, en passant par les universités et les acteurs privés.

Nous remercions la FAO pour son travail sur ces mécanismes. La FAO en effet, avec les autres organismes ayant leur siège à Rome, est l'un des piliers de l'action multilatérale. Il s'agit, en d'autres

termes, d'un lieu d'échange et de croissance fondée sur différentes cultures, approches, idées, visions et ambitions. Nous faisons de notre diversité notre richesse.

Merci. Thank you. Xiéxié. Gracias. Spasiba. Shoukran. Grazie a tutti.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Fue un Consejo intenso, un poco extraño en este modelo híbrido después de tanto tiempo. Seguramente el próximo Consejo lo haremos mejor, tendremos lecciones aprendidas de todo lo que pasó, habrá más diálogo entre los Miembros y seguramente más posibilidad de construir más consensos de manera más fácil.

Pero de todas maneras creo que lo más importante es que al final, aunque a veces los debates se ponen difíciles, siempre privó la idea de que el consenso debía ser la salida. Así que, en ese sentido felicito a todos mis colegas, gracias Presidente y sobre todo al equipo que lo secunda y a todos los intérpretes que han trabajado intensamente y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Quiero hacerle una consulta porque nos sorprendió y pareció, por supuesto todos los Miembros tienen derecho a hacer sus declaraciones individuales, unilaterales y está bien, pero queríamos saber concretamente si esta declaración de mi estimada colega de Estados Unidos de América es una declaración estrictamente de Estados Unidos o si esto forma parte del Informe del Consejo en su 168.º período de sesiones.

Porque interpreto que es una declaración unilateral de Estados Unidos y que por supuesto es sumamente respetable y tomamos nota porque claramente no es nuestra intención reabrir una discusión sobre el tema del comercio ni la historia que tiene la FAO respecto de las commodities, el mandato que tiene la FAO sobre este tema. Entonces como no tenemos intención de abrir una discusión, interpreto que es una declaración unilateral, pero quiero saberlo de parte suya, Presidente así nos clarifica a todos.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As we heard, that is a unilateral statement. Let us give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Council to see how we work with a unilateral statement in the Report of this Council.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Indeed, this is a statement from one Member of the Council. I understand the Member, in making this statement, requested that it be added to the Report as an Annex, which can be entertained by the Council. There is precedent for that, for statements of individual countries to be annexed or added as a footnote, or the third option is it stays on the record of this Council Session in the Verbatim Records. It is entirely a matter for the Council, but all can be adopted in terms of procedure and precedent.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)(Original language Arabic)**

I will be brief in this statement. First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson and all the Members of the Council. I would also note that this Report has been adopted *en bloc* and this adoption *en bloc* was thanks to the flexibility of the developing states, despite the fact that there was an obstinate refusal of certain terminology that is used in other United Nations *fora*. We look forward to more flexibility in the use of language and the United Nations terminology in future Sessions of the Council.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solo para clarificar, si la Secretaría puede hacerlo, interpreto entonces que va a quedar en las actas de esta reunión como parte de la declaración de los Estados Unidos, que obviamente me parece muy importante, pero teniendo en consideración que esa declaración no fue parte de ninguna... nadie lo conocía, nadie tuvo acceso.

Me parece que lo lógico sería que aquí se incorpore a las actas, pero no al Report porque en definitiva el Report es aquello que todos los Miembros conocíamos y participamos en la discusión del Comité de Redacción.

Entonces, me parece que lo lógico es que quede en las actas y claramente la posición del país que expresó su posición.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Of course, it is not to negotiate sections of the Report. The Report is adopted *en bloc*.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I appreciate the question. As I stated when I delivered the United States' Explanation of Position, we would agree to adoption of the Report *en bloc* with the addition of our Explanation of Position in the Annex to the Report. As I recall, and we can check the Verbatims, Chairperson, you then gavelled, closed the Report adoption, and so my understanding is that would mean that our unilateral United States Explanation of Position would be included in the Annex to the Report.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Entiendo que ningún país tiene un tratamiento especial en la FAO, por lo tanto, no podemos aprobar algo sin haberlo visto, sin haber pasado por el Comité de Redacción, los Miembros no han tenido ningún tipo de posibilidad de conocer el contenido en este... nos enteramos recién, no tuvimos ninguna posibilidad, ¿no?

En todo caso imagino que podrá haber un anexo de posición nacional, algo que quede claro que no es que los Miembros aprobaron una declaración unilateral de un país que no conocían, que no pasó por un Comité de Redacción. Debe quedar claro técnicamente ese tema, ¿no? No quiero hacer un gran debate sobre esto, pero los Miembros no conocían la declaración.

Nosotros fuimos de buena fe y acordamos el párrafo que nos propusieron, flexibilizamos posiciones, facilitamos el consenso, hicimos todo lo que nos pidieron para tratar de buscar la manera de acordar. Si nos sorprenden con algo ahora, nosotros estamos en una situación que me parece ningún Miembro tiene un trato especial, entonces en todo caso me parece que podrá haber, y técnicamente no sé cómo funciona, un anexo de posición, algo que sea... que se pueda anexar, digamos, pero no es parte del Report.

Y si no es así, en todo caso debería de haber sido, no sé, una *footnote* con alguna declaración individual, unilateral de un país. No sé técnicamente cómo funcionaría, pero sí tengo bien claro que no hubiera sido posible que ninguno de los Miembros del Consejo hubiera podido presentar una declaración después del Comité de Redacción sin que nadie la conociera y que en ese sentido, en el momento, digamos, pudiéramos ser sorprendidos.

Yo le pido a mi colega de Estados Unidos de América que entienda que es difícil encontrarnos en un escenario de sorpresa, porque hasta ahora todo lo que hemos hecho lo hemos hecho en público, digamos, lo hemos hecho tratando de buscar consenso en público. No sé cómo se resuelve, es un tema técnico que me excede.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this is not the first UN Governing Body that has dealt with this issue and I have seen in at least my past several times that unilateral positions were annexed to the Report. However, I give the floor back to the Secretary-General, also with his long experience, and he can give a little explanation. He can help us further.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I would echo your words from your experience in the UN system. What is clear is what has happened so far today, and that is that there is a statement from one Member of the Council and the request was for that to be included in the Report itself. And, the Council had agreed to that. It will be clear, though, when it is included in the Report, that the content of that statement belongs to that one Member only; and it is not subject to scrutiny or does not represent the views of the Council as a whole, but singularly of that one particular Member. I hope this helps.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It certainly helps because I see Argentina nodding

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Thank you for adopting the Report *en bloc* but I am a little bit embarrassed, even with the explanation of the Secretary-General. The Item under scrutiny was the Adoption of the Report and nothing else. You did not open the floor for Members' statements. So, thinking of any person who wants... Probably we would have listened to the statement of the United States after the Adoption of the Report. There is procedurally something that went wrong because we were...

The Agenda Item was Adoption of the Report. How come you are not making statements on the Report which is presented before you for adoption? What I am suggesting, because it is a country statement, that it should be only in the Verbatim. Because if we want to adopt the Annexes, the Report should be adopted with these Annexes. I have not a written statement of this Annex, so it is an element of the Verbatim and that is it.

We would not appreciate or would not like to see any Annex of this Report because that is the procedure.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We can play the video but I put forward the Adoption of the Report, then the United States asked for the floor and then we adopted the Report.

#### **Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

While I agree with the representatives of Cameroon and Argentina and we are concerned with this issue, we are concerned with having this Annex on a unilateral statement in the Report. We do not think this is a good precedent. That is why I support the statement made by Argentina and Cameroon.

Our Report should reflect our discussions and the discussions made by all the Members of the Council. It has gone through the Drafting Committee. This is a procedural issue. We do not think it is legitimate to be done this way. We also think that the statement of the United States should be included in the Verbatim Records. When we adopted the Report, we were not expecting this. We do not think this falls into our procedures.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We also share the concerns expressed by the Ambassador from Argentina, Cameroon and a number of other delegations, including China. We think that acting in this way and including in the Report the statement on one Item by one country, we are opening up a Pandora's box here. We should be informed previously on what country and on what Items statements are being made. Because we have to be able to counteract with our own statements, and therefore the Adoption of the Council Report can become a real issue if we include to the Report statements of single countries reacting to the statements of the other.

Therefore, I think that this statement should be reflected in the Verbatim Record of the Report and not in the Report of the Council itself, which does pass through the Drafting Committee and the text is known to all countries before its adoption, and the text can then be included in the Report.

From our point of view, this could open up a real Pandora's box, if this procedure were to be followed in this way.

#### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

It seems I have struck quite a chord here this evening. My understanding is any Member of this Council does have the right to express its view via an Explanation of Position, which is what I did. I would like to ask if we might ask our Legal Counsel if that is indeed permitted. I do recall past Council Reports with written explanations of position stating minority views of one Member. If we could please ask the Legal Counsel.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I pass the floor to the Legal Counsel.

#### **Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Council in the Basic Texts, Rule VI paragraph 2 states that the Report of the Council shall embody, and here I quote, "*the text of all Resolutions, recommendations, conventions, agreements, supplementary conventions or agreements and other formal decisions adopted or approved by the Council, including, when requested, a statement of minority views*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the position of the Legal Counsel is clear, but in this case perhaps, could you repeat exactly what we should do?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

It is my understanding that the request was made prior to the adoption. Of course, this would have to be checked. It is also my understanding that if there has been a request and not an objection to that request, that it would be acceptable for this minority statement to be annexed to the Report, clearly stipulating that it is a minority statement. However, this, of course, is subject to the processes and the steps that were followed leading up to the Adoption of the Report.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

Our delegation would like to respond. After this statement, should the Chair then ask other Members of the Council if they are in agreement. Because this issue, if I am not mistaken, was not asked and therefore we had this statement and immediately we were adopting the Report. Therefore, other Members were not able to respond and therefore I think I would like to ask also Legal Counsel this question, if other countries were not given the possibility to respond or to answer on whether the statement should be included in the annex or the Verbatim Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I give the floor to the Legal Counsel.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

The Rules do not clarify whether or not a request needs to be accepted or considered. Here, I would probably defer to the practice of the Organization. Nevertheless, I believe, though, what the rules do require is that it needs to be clear that the request was made and that the Members are aware of that request and have had the opportunity to at least respond to the request. Nevertheless, I do not see anything in the rules which precludes the annexation of such a document if it has been requested.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Thank you, Legal Counsel, for emphasizing the Rules of Procedure, which I have in front of me and which says what you said. I believe that the minority views can only be expressed on an Item in the Agenda. If an Item is not on the Agenda... We do not work on it... Anything can come from the blue.

This Item was not in the Agenda and cannot be expressed as a minority view. Because the Agenda is adopted by the Council. It was not in Any Other Matters. It was not even handling a specific issue in the Report. I am really confused at this time with what is happening and the only thing we can accept, and we have to look at it, is that the Verbatim should state what the United States have said but not an Annex or an addendum because it was not discussed as an Item of the Council.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

J'ai bien écouté la Conseillère juridique et, le Règlement intérieur du Conseil sous les yeux, d'après ce qu'indiquent la Conseillère juridique et ce Règlement intérieur, je pense que la délégation américaine avait le droit de faire sa déclaration et de demander que cela soit inclus dans le rapport. Dès lors qu'il n'y a eu opposition d'aucune délégation avant la fin de l'examen du rapport, alors, il s'agit d'une déclaration qui peut être incluse dans le rapport en vertu de l'Article VI du Règlement intérieur du Conseil.

De notre point de vue, ma délégation ne s'oppose pas à ce que la déclaration des États-Unis soit incluse dans le rapport dès lors que cela a été demandé expressément par la délégation américaine.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

This is a question that is raised at the end. There is not a written statement. Without seeing it in writing, without seeing it in Chinese, with many assumptions to it, we do not think we should include it. We do not think it is appropriate to add it in our Report. I want to ask the Legal Counsel, is it in compliance with the procedure?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I understand that the query is whether this has been in compliance with the process. Here, I believe I would need to check the video and audio but, nevertheless, the processes would normally allow. I can refer only to Rule VI, which does permit, when requested, a statement of minority views. I would have to look to the past precedence to see whether or not there should be a circulation of that statement in advance. I am not sure whether the Secretary-General could assist me in that regard, but I am afraid I am not in a position to say whether or not this would be appropriate or not, or consistent or not.

I am afraid I think I would need to go away and just double-check what has been the precedent practice in the past.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I think there are probably a couple of things that might be worthwhile recalling for all of us.

First of all, exactly what happened today is that a Member requested, before adoption of the Report, to make a statement and requested that statement to be included in the Report as an Annex. This is quite clear. This was followed by adoption of the Report thereafter. I think that is quite clear. We do not need to go back to any video recordings for that.

I think there is one principle here that needs to be borne in mind and that is that the Council is supreme. The Report of the Council is the outcome, beyond the specificities that the Legal Counsel has quite rightly listed, the Report of the Council, the Council can decide what form it looks like, what it contains and has to be in agreement with that Report. Council is still alive. This Session is still alive in Plenary Session. So, on the one hand, for example, we were talking about the Drafting Committee Report. The Council in Plenary has the perfect right to accept that Report *en bloc*, amend it, delete it or ignore it totally. The same goes with the request of a statement to be added, in this case, by a Member, defining it clearly as a statement of that Member itself. Therefore, the treatment of its Report is still open to the Council, now that it is still in Plenary Session.

I think it is quite important, as a principle, to bear in mind that the Council is supreme.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

While recognizing that this may open a can of worms for Council 169, from what the Legal Counsel explained, my understanding is that the statement was made following the Rules and I think the delegation of the United States was clear in what they were asking for, and they hope to do a paragraph of the document. I guess other Members would have had the opportunity to do the same, had they considered that.

In this case, my understanding from what Legal Counsel said is that it should be fine this time. Who knows, in Council 169 we will end up with lots of different Explanations of Position but I did not hear anything that would oppose it and I think that Secretary-General was quite clear, that it would be clearly noted as being an individual position of one country and that it is outside of the main Report that has been considered by Drafting Committee and approved by Members *en bloc*.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

After listening to all our colleagues, I tend to say something which all of us agree on. We are not denying to any Member the right to make a statement. This should be understood by everybody. But now that it is done, you would have asked us probably. I am not at your face but if we agree as a Council that that statement should be in the Verbatim or in an Annex, and it is the Council which is supreme to decide on that. It is not a single country that would say I want my statement to be, it is the Council to decide.

Therefore, if you put it before us now, probably it might go to a vote. I do not know. But that is the only option you have in front of you now, that for the Council to accept that it should be in the Verbatim or in an Annex. Because the Report is not a Report of one country, it is a Report of the Council and all Membership.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Hay algo que es más importante que esta declaración que son cuáles son las reglas del juego. Y las reglas del juego están construidas por los Textos Básicos y por la buena fe y las buenas prácticas, a veces todo está incluido en los textos básicos y a veces no, están en las buenas prácticas, en la costumbre, en básicamente las maneras de construir una relación entre los Miembros en pos de construir consenso.

La buena fe, las buenas prácticas requieren que los Miembros, todos, estén en las mismas condiciones a los efectos de poder llevar adelante la tarea. Nosotros primero, y tenemos que recordar esta historia porque me parece importante porque si no, va a aparecer que fuéramos todos estúpidos, que estuvimos en un debate enorme, gastando recursos de la Organización todo el día de ayer porque había un párrafo que un país en particular no estaba de acuerdo.

La situación llegó a que incluso Hubiera comunicaciones con nuestras capitales para tratar de buscar la manera de que ayudemos a facilitar el consenso y todos hemos hecho un gran esfuerzo, un gran esfuerzo, gastamos muchas horas, mucho esfuerzo personal de mis compañeros de trabajo, de los compañeros de Consejo, suyo Presidente, de todo su equipo, los intérpretes, todos recursos económicos de esta FAO.

¿Para qué lo hicimos? Lo hicimos porque lo que no queríamos era aislar a ningún país, no poner a ningún país en una situación incómoda y por eso acomodamos las posiciones en la construcción de una posición de consenso. ¿Qué significa consenso? Que todos estemos insatisfechos con el texto, creo que lo hemos hablado muchas veces, Presidente.

Entonces lo que es difícil de entender es que después de todo el esfuerzo que hemos hecho, después de la cantidad de tiempo dedicado, la cantidad de recursos gastados cuando deberían haberse gastado seguramente en otras tareas que son las prioridades de nuestros países más pobres, resulta que vinimos aquí con la idea que con todo el esfuerzo hemos logrado... vamos al Comité de Redacción.

Recién le acabo de preguntar a mi colega, el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, le dije, "Por favor decíme si leíste este anexo, esta propuesta de anexo antes de llegar a esta reunión". Me dice que no la leyó, que no la sabía, que no la conocía. O sea que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción tampoco lo sabía, ninguno de los Miembros lo sabía y obviamente que todos los países tenemos derecho a presentar nuestras declaraciones, pero el procedimiento debería ser transparente, a mí no me parece que fue muy transparente, sinceramente lo digo.

Si va como acta, como va en las actas no hay problema, porque en definitiva todos tienen derecho a hacerlo, incluirlo dentro del Report es como meterlo de una manera poco transparente. Porque como corresponde si esa era la idea, y que es absolutamente legítima, el colega de Egipto que había planteado específicamente un planteo de transferencia de tecnología que era un tema importante para los países en desarrollo, también podría haber hecho su propia declaración y cada uno podría haber hecho su declaración.

Pero lo que se intentó fue evitar jugar a que haya declaraciones de minorías que siempre debilita el consenso de la Organización, no es una buena práctica, es pésima como práctica. Es un antecedente horrible para pensar en trabajar todos juntos y sobre todo si no lo sabemos porque todo lo que hicimos fue para tratar de acomodar las preocupaciones de un país, legítimas, hemos ayudado mucho para llegar a ese consenso. Quizás ni siquiera esa ayuda fue valorada en la medida en la cual nosotros trabajamos para ese consenso, entonces ser sorprendidos en el último minuto con esta cuestión más allá si la filmación dice, sí lo dijo antes, lo dijo después, no estábamos discutiendo... a mí por lo menos.

Entonces yo quiero solamente terminar mi intervención y que va a ser la última porque no voy a volver a hablar, la verdad estoy desilusionado, así que no voy a volver a hablar. solamente quisiera

hacerle una pregunta a la Consejera Legal, ¿qué efectos concretos tiene una declaración de un país en el marco de este Consejo simplemente como expresión unilateral dentro del Report?

Quiero saber qué efectos tiene, qué diferencia de efecto tiene, jurídicamente hablando, entre que esté en el Reporte o que esté en las actas. Quiero entender si hay algún efecto para toda la organización, para los Miembros, para los miembros del Consejo, eso es lo que quisiera saber. Quiero entender el efecto porque el procedimiento es horrible, ahora el efecto esto es lo que no lo sé, me gustaría por favor Presidente que consulte a la Consejería Legal urgente.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

As Members are aware, there are records and reports contemplated in the Rules of Procedure of the Council. The records serve as an official record of the proceedings of the Council. Nevertheless, they reflect the individual views and are not binding as such on the Members of the Organization, but they are the official record of the debate and how they took place, and of the deliberations and processes. It is for this reason that Members are given an opportunity to check them for accuracy. They are official records of how the discussions proceeded.

By contrast, the reports of the Council, as reflected in Rule VI, paragraph 2 is the official final conclusion of the Council and it is for this reason that it, therefore, communicates all the resolutions, the recommendations, conventions, agreements, etc. Thus, it is the final outcome and the guidance. Nevertheless, as regards the potential effect of a minority statement, clearly it would have, as an annex or a text included in the Report standing as part of the official outcome of the Council, while at the same time clearly expressing minority views, thus not expressing the Council's views and not being endorsed by the Council as a whole. Nevertheless, they would have a standing different and higher, in my opinion, but, of course, this would be for Members of the Council to decide, than the Verbatim Records.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China)(Original language Chinese)**

I have two points to make. Firstly, I think the decisions of the Council should be transparent and fully informed. Secondly, I think it is a technical point. I want to ask the Secretariat if, when we check the Verbatim Records, the video and audio recordings, will we check all six languages? Will we check all the working languages?

What if there is a disparity between these working languages' records? Because, for example, I am listening to Chinese and if there is disparity between Chinese and English, then what shall we do? This is a technical issue. I want to ask the Secretariat or the Legal Counsel to explain.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

With respect to the question from China, this is a very valid question. Naturally, the integrity of the language services and goods that we provide in supporting the Governing Bodies for us has to be unimpeachable. This includes the interpretation that is occurring right now when I am speaking in one language to the others, the translation of documents pre-session, and it also extends to Verbatim Records, and the recordings of live webcasts that are posted of Governing Bodies' meetings.

If I may also pick up, just to perhaps help the Council, on something the Legal Counsel, when she was listing the right of a minority statement to be recorded in the Report of the Council, I would like to maybe just complement that. And that is, that is a right that cannot be impinged upon.

I have been in the governance business at FAO for 15 years, serving as the Secretary of one Governing Body or another, and on a number of occasions I have seen Members exercise that right to have a minority statement be recorded. And on no such occasion have I seen opposition, in terms of practice, to such a statement being recorded in the reports of those Governing Bodies. And, as I said earlier, clearly specifying that those were minority statements of that particular country or groupings of countries.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I understand the query concerns the integrity of the Verbatim Records and accuracy of the records of the meeting. Certainly, the Rules do provide for the opportunity for Members participating at the



session, and here I refer to Rule VI paragraph 1, “to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions”. Therefore, clearly Members have the right to verify the content of the records and to ensure that they are accurate and correct. Indeed, it would be our role or the role of the Secretariat rather, to ensure that they were responsive to any request for correction.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Il est assez fascinant d'examiner ce débat. Je voudrais de nouveau remercier la Conseillère juridique et juste rebondir sur un élément évoqué par le Secrétaire général de la Conférence.

Le Conseil est souverain, bien sûr, mais le Conseil est souverain dans le respect des règles. C'est une différence assez forte et en l'espèce, il me semble que les règles qui figurent dans les textes fondamentaux ont été respectées. La déclaration a été faite par les États-Unis avant l'adoption du rapport. Le Conseil était tout à fait souverain pour s'y opposer, il ne l'a pas fait. Le rapport a été adopté, c'est un fait. Nous pouvons le regretter ou pas.

Ce débat montre peut-être que nous pourrions avoir des discussions sur la manière de procéder, mais rien dans les textes n'exige que la déclaration, que la “minority view” soit circulée avant.

En l'espèce, l'interprétation de ma délégation est que les règles ont été respectées.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

We were listening carefully to all the discussions, the legal explanations made. We thank everyone for that. Of course, it is possible to have the inclusion of one minority view, in this case one Member, dissociating from the consensus that we reached with such difficulty along the week. It is possible in an exceptional case. But we believe that it is very bad for the institution, for the Organization, the adoption of this possibility without listening very carefully to the Council as a whole, making the statement and then the adoption of the Report *en bloc* with a one second lapse, I do not think it is a good idea. It should be avoided very clearly in the future.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

The rule of consensus by default means, as you, Chairperson, have mentioned before, that everyone is equally unhappy. We understand that every delegation may have different positions on each of the paragraphs of the final Report. However, we need to accept the result because we understand that the document should reflect different positions of all the Members of the Council.

The United States negotiated this paragraph specifically and insisted on changing the language and approved the final version of the paragraph. I do not think we can accept any reservation on this approval after adopting the final Report.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

I would like to thank Legal Counsel and the Secretary for the explanations provided. I would like, once again, to go back to the comment of the delegate from China regarding also the translation. When our delegation heard the latest explanation of the Secretary, and we listened in Russian coming from English, I can ask that in the first case it was said that when the delegation makes its statement in the Verbatim, and then it said when the delegation makes its statement and it is included in the Report.

Now, I would like to draw the attention to the fact because interpreters are human beings and if our delegation is listening to the interpretation into Russian, we have to understand specifically, exactly, whether we are receiving the correct interpretation and in this case we can take decisions or react to suggestions only on the basis of the interpretation.

What happened today, we had a statement and, as Brazil has said, seconds later we adopted the Report. How carefully, how accurately and clearly did the interpretation reflect the statement of the United States? Should it be included in the Verbatim? Should it be included in the Annex? On this basis, we cannot really control what was exactly said in the Russian interpretation to begin with and therefore our decisions are based on that, a decision taken in the space of seconds. In these conditions it is very difficult.

Multilingualism is important and control of accurate interpretation of the language must exist, otherwise those who listen to the interpretation, the languages, can be in situations in which their understanding is falsified. The Chairperson must state very clearly that there has been a statement and then we can understand clearly whether it should be maintained or not, and we can understand what the issue is.

If, in this situation, in my understanding, many countries are not in agreement with the fact that it be included, then my question to Legal Counsel is, the last word should be to the Council and what legal procedure can help us address the situation? Is there a legal procedure for this? We would like to draw attention to this fact, if there are points where we have worked for consensus and understanding, but then we want to maintain our own position, then I should be able to make my statement and ask for my statement to be included in the Report. I think that many delegations would be in a similar situation.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I will break for five minutes to see how we find a way out of this, because otherwise we are going around in circles. The procedure is not clear. Let us see how we find a way forward in a positive manner. We will break for five minutes.

*The meeting was suspended from 18:49 to 19:47 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 18 h 49 à 19 h 47*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 18.49 a las 19.47 horas*

Good evening, distinguished Members of the Council, as you have seen, we have consulted. I have consulted with Legal Counsel, I have consulted with the Secretary-General, I have consulted with several Members of the Council. The situation is as follows.

Both the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel say that we can reopen the Adoption of the Report because we are still in Session of the Council. We can reopen anything until we have adjourned. Therefore, we can reopen the Adoption of the Report and that means that we can see what happens then.

It is clear that every Member of the Council has the right to make a Statement of Position and ask it to be reflected in the Report. We cannot deny it and the statement itself is not for approval of making the position but it gives the right to every Member of the Council to also make a statement of position on this paragraph or any of the paragraphs.

I have listened carefully, many more Members would like then to make a statement of position as well, as the statement of the United States, and then probably we have to adjourn the meeting until next week because we do not have much interpretation time and several Members have said to me that they have to consult with Capitals on the statement of position.

The other option is that I reopen the Adoption of the Report and I ask United States to put their statement of position in the Verbatim. Then, as many of you requested, it will be taken up in the Verbatim. We know that the statement position has been made but it stands as it is.

The latter one is, I would say, the best option if we want to conclude the Council today. However, it depends again, that everybody has to go along with this.

With that, I would like to reopen, with your indulgence, the Adoption of the Report and ask this time the flexibility of the United States to put their statement of position in the Verbatim so that we can conclude the Council.

I can ask everybody's position but then we have not enough interpretation anymore and I think that would be the most effective, efficient way out. With that and with your indulgence, I reopen the Adoption of the Report and put forward the Adoption of the Report and ask the United States whether it would be acceptable for them to put the statement of position into the Verbatim.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

For the record, our delegation made every effort to follow the Rules. At the end of Item 8.2 you stated the text still in yellow in the paragraph would go to the Drafting Committee for clarification and finalizing and that we would see what happened at Report adoption.

We received those instructions and we approached the Chairperson and the Secretariat to ask about the procedures prior to Report adoption and prior to Report adoption, we flagged up and I stated that we had an Explanation of Position. I requested that it be reflected in the Report of this Council. You as Chairperson noted our position, stated it would be reflected at the Annex and asked Members to adopt and no one objected.

Following that, a number of Members called into question, it appears, our ability to issue an Explanation of Position. The Legal Counsel and the Secretariat explained that we are within our rights to do so. Therefore, we respectfully ask one last time. I am happy to read our explanation one more time, if that is necessary, but we would like to ask that it be included in this Council Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If you insist that the statement has to go into the Report, I have to give the same possibility to all the Members of the Council to give also a statement of position on any Item discussed during the week and any Item in the Report because that is following the procedure for all of us in an equal way.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I am in your hands as to how can our Explanation of Position best be included here. I remember we issued Explanations of Positions in past Councils, I believe 162nd and 167th Sessions. If you could clarify how this Explanation of Position can be included in the Report, please.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If you want to have it as an Annex in the Report, it is the only way. But if you want to have it reflected in the proceedings of this Council, that is why I asked you is there not a flexibility to put it in the Verbatim. It is clear, your position towards that article. Nobody is doubting that. It is also not for discussion or approval. But that would be the best way forward, if we want to conclude the Council today.

Otherwise, I have to adjourn the Council until next week so that I give the possibility to all the Members of the Council to issue a statement of position on any Item of the Council. I have to do that because we only have interpretation time until 20:00 hours today.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

Can I please request the Secretariat to let us know how the Explanation of Position was handled in the Council Reports for Council 162 and 167?

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

If I recall, and I would have to double-check, those statements were included as a footnote in the Report.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je dois dire que d'un point de vue procédural, je suis un peu surprise. Vous l'avez dit, je pense que les règles sont claires, l'expression d'une vue minoritaire par un pays, quel qu'il soit, est un droit souverain prévu par les textes fondamentaux de notre Organisation.

Maintenant, je ne veux pas entrer dans la substance mais dans la question de l'intégrité des textes. Je ne suis pas sûre non plus qu'il y ait la possibilité de rouvrir un point déjà examiné, ni rouvrir un rapport déjà adopté. Je m'interroge sur la légalité de ce point. Encore une fois, je pense qu'il est de notre intérêt à tous de garantir l'intégrité des textes et que c'est vraiment notre responsabilité collective, quelle que soit la substance.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I can give the floor to the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel, which will say the same as what I have said, but that will mean that we have to go to next week, if there is no solution for finding a way forward in the Verbatim. Because, as I explained, I have consulted.

First, I contacted the Legal Counsel, then the Secretary-General. They have clear positions, which I have stated. Everybody was surprised, and we are not denying any right to make a statement of position but what I understood is that many Members were surprised by the late hour of the statement. That is why we are now in this difficult situation.

That is why I explained there are two options out. The option is if the United States remains on the position it has to be reflected in the Report, then we have to give the same position to other Members, to prepare a statement of position, if they want to, and it has to be done with interpretation and that will not be feasible today and that means that we have to go into next week.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I recognize the difficult position we are all in this evening and if the other Members can accept the process that was used during 162nd and 167th Sessions of the Council, then we can ask that our Explanation of Position be noted as a footnote in the Report to paragraph 25 (g) so that the footnote would read that *“the United States issued as an explanation of position”* and the Verbatim text of that explanation of position is included, the Verbatim is included in the Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have to listen a couple of minutes to other Members, what they want to do and how they want to proceed. The request of the United States is that we put a footnote in the Report with a reference to their statement of position, which then will be annexed to the Report and then we adopt the Report again.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation)(Original Language Russian)**

May I ask the distinguished representative of the United States once again to repeat, first of all, the exact text of the footnote you are suggesting and, second, where will the full text of the United States be placed? Will it be an Annex to the Report or will it be reflected in the Verbatim of the Report? I would like clarification.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I am prepared to read at dictation speed, our Explanation of Position. With your permission, I will go ahead and do that. *“It is our view that FAO must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions in other forums, including at the WTO. This includes calls that undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that is not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms.”*

*The United States would also like to note that references to the 2030 Agenda should be consistent with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which quote “emphasizes that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law.”*

To clarify the question of our colleague from the Russian Federation, we are requesting that a footnote be placed at paragraph 25 (g) that says *“the United States issued an explanation of position and the full text of the explanation of position is included in the Verbatims of the Report”*.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I also would like to thank the delegate from the United States for the suggestion of having this as a footnote with an Explanation of Position. But in this case, and after consulting our distinguished colleagues from several developing countries, I think in this case we would like to see the paragraph 25(g) in its original format since we have had a lot of negotiation on the paragraph that weakened the language and made it more broad to respond and try to bring the United States in on the consensus for this paragraph.

However, since the US would like to have still an Explanation of Position on this paragraph, I think we can bring back the original format of the paragraph that speaks about technology transfer clearly and also adding the word commitments for the paragraph.

**Mr Maarten DE GROOT (Canada)**

I have the sense that the United States had followed the procedure, whether or not we agree with it earlier, and I think they are trying to follow precedent now from 167<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council as a way to get it into a footnote. We have no objection to that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other requests for the floor? Egypt, your position, is it to reopen the discussion on paragraph 25 (g)? I have to be very clear because if that is the case, we have to adjourn the meeting because we cannot have interpretation anymore and we have to reconvene next week. Or is it also a statement of position which can be with the same manner, with a footnote be annexed?

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

I think my position was reflected through consulting other delegates from developing countries and it is not for me only to decide. If we open the floor for other interventions from developing countries, I think we may reach a joint conclusion on this.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En primer lugar permítame agradecerle a la delegada de Estados Unidos de América su intento de buscar una solución, creo que como usted lo dijo muy bien Presidente, esto requiere poner a todos los Miembros en igualdad de condiciones, lo cual después de haber escuchado a Egipto y entendiendo que todos hemos hecho un gran esfuerzo por buscar un consenso, pero también entendiendo la situación o la posición de la delegada de Estados Unidos que ha necesitado hacer esa declaración o que se incluya en la *footnote*. Por supuesto me hubiera encantado terminar la sesión del Consejo hoy, me parece que los Miembros en el caso de que se reabra, tendríamos que hacer consultas.

No sé si va a haber tiempo para poder hacerlo con dos o tres minutos para la interpretación, entonces, no pretendo interpretar la posición de los otros colegas, es simplemente preguntar si los demás colegas entienden que van a requerir también de tiempo para poder hacer sus consultas.

La verdad que lo más importante es que todos los Miembros estén en igualdad de condiciones y por eso creo que hay que consultar a ver qué opinan los demás Miembros, sobre todo aquellos que hicieron el esfuerzo para tratar de acomodar la posición del Miembro que más tenía dificultades con el párrafo propuesto durante las negociaciones que hemos tenido en el día de ayer.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hope we carefully listened because United States said a footnote, that was a statement of position and the statement of position will go into the Verbatim and not as an Annex.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Only one minute.

*The meeting was suspended from 20:07 to 20:08 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 20 h 07 à 20 h 08*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 20.07 a las 20.08*

***Continúa en español***

Estaba conversando con algunos colegas tratando de ver cómo podríamos tratar de ayudar a cerrar esto hoy, si no tuviéramos objeciones... por eso hay otros colegas que están pidiendo la palabra, si no hay objeciones de otros colegas en aceptar la propuesta de Estados Unidos, podríamos ver la manera de buscar un consenso.

Estoy viendo que hay algunos colegas del mundo en desarrollo que están pidiendo la palabra, prefiero escucharlos primero, pero prefiero esperar a ver qué dicen ellos y luego vuelvo a pedir la palabra.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia would just like to support the proposal by the United States.

**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

We have had an extensive debate on the issue of the right of a state that has a minority view, to have their view reflected. The Rules of Procedure are very clear. In the Conference of FAO, there is no provision to reflect a minority view and therefore a specific decision would be required to reflect that. For the Council and its Committees that is not a requirement, it is already in the Rules.

Views have been expressed that the best approach is for this to be reflected in the Verbatim Records. I think the United States have gone and made a compromise that in terms of a footnote that was done in the past, that their view be reflected as a minority view in the Verbatim record. For South Africa that is acceptable.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Our initial position is that we leave everything in the Verbatim but in the spirit of consensus I believe that the United States has surprised us. I hope this will not be customary, that every time we are surprised by this so that we too will get prepared.

In the spirit of compromise, we are in a position to accept a simple footnote that will say the United States made a statement which is recorded in the Verbatim. I think that will suffice and then we can now finalize this Council.

I hope many people will follow us in that compromised solution.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Una vez más seguimos trabajando para facilitar el consenso. Después de lo expresado por Camerún, creo que estamos en condiciones si nuestra colega de los Estados Unidos está de acuerdo con lo expresado por el Delegado de Camerún, podríamos concluir... perdón, mi colega de Brasil ha pedido la palabra y no me gustaría yo ser el que cierre un debate.

Simplemente digo que estaría disponible, con todo lo que hemos dicho, ¿no? De que no creo que tengamos que volver a vivir este tipo de situaciones y tenemos que ser muy cuidadosos en el futuro de que nadie puede interpretar de que no estamos trabajando de manera absolutamente clara, garantizando a todos los Miembros las mismas condiciones y la misma igualdad de situación, donde todos somos importantes, no importa el peso específico de cada país o el peso sistémico, todos somos importantes.

Nosotros estamos aquí en la Organización más democrática de todos los Organismos que están aquí en Roma, entonces es muy importante, es muy importante que todos los Miembros seamos respetados. Con todos estos comentarios y si Brasil no se opone, yo estaría ayudando también a facilitar el consenso.

**Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I fully support the intervention made by Argentina and Cameroon and we hope that this kind of situation is not repeated in the future.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think nobody wants to have a repetition of this. We would like to have a weekend now.

**Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt)**

Just to confirm we can go with the position mentioned by Cameroon and supported by Brazil and Argentina.

**Mr Hongxing NI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We also support Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon and Egypt. We support their positions. We do not want to see the situation repeated in future.

**Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)**

Después de una semana muy difícil donde los países en desarrollo hemos demostrado la gran disponibilidad, la gran flexibilidad para trabajar los temas que nos encomendaron, me quiero sumar a la posición de Argentina, Brasil, Camerún, China y Egipto, esperamos que esta situación no se repita o tratemos de evitarla en futuras sesiones del Consejo.

**Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)**

In fact, we had a very long day of discussion and sometimes the discussion was not very fruitful because we were always repeating several times one Item. Therefore, I appreciate if we would not do such things in the future. Anyway, for the sake of compromise, I really agree with the position of Argentina, Cameroon, Brazil, Egypt and China. We should put that one as a simple footnote and the Verbatim.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

As previous colleagues, we support the proposal made by Cameroon and supported by some other Member countries. For us, I think this merited a discussion in the informal consultation. We also would like to flag the importance of the integrity of the statements made by Members during the discussion to negotiate a conclusion of Agenda Item, so the integrity of the statement of Members on this discussion can also be preserved in the Verbatim record and can be reflected also in the whole discussion of the Council and the integrity of this discussion will be preserved.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

We also support the statements made by Argentina, Cameroon, Brazil, Egypt and we can go along with the consensus.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

Nada más para también sumarme a la propuesta de Camerún avalada por Argentina, Brasil y otros Miembros del Consejo. Sin embargo, debo de decir que sí me queda un sinsabor por lo que ha pasado, esperando pues que estas cosas no se vuelvan a repetir porque aquí se trata de que todos los Miembros estamos unidos y haya consenso en todas las decisiones.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think with this, we have a consensus, hopefully, now on the Report.

I put now forward to you the final adoption of the Report with the simple footnote and a statement in the Verbatim. That is the compromise. Can we agree to that? I see no objections, it is so decided.

***Decided***

Now we can go to the closure of the meeting. I think we had an excellent week. A difficult week at moments. Let not this moment overshadow the intensive discussions we have had this week on many Items, the substantive discussions, the direction we have given, with consensus, towards the further development of the Strategy on Climate Change, the Strategy on Science and Innovation, the finalization for the work on Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). I think we are making progress. We know that some of the issues will come back but we also clearly stated that we are very much dedicated and passionate for the work of this organization.

We are very dedicated and passionate to work together, to unite and also to have informal consultations on those strategies to make the Strategy acceptable to all of us but also supportive to countries, especially developing countries, in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

I really would like to thank you for your passion, for your flexibility, your commitment, the long hours but do not forget that we had 20 hours less than previous Councils because of the new interpretation rules.

Next year, we will evaluate this Council and see how to proceed. I said at the beginning, as well as the Director-General, our actions are our future. Let us not forget that we had an exciting video of the youth, the dance of the youth for our future, and let us also not forget that we remembered our dear

colleague, Ms Eudora Koranteng, who passed away. It was a symbol for what we stand for as Africa, as regions, as the Members of FAO.

Our actions are our future.

For me it was an honour and a pleasure, even with the difficulties, to chair this Council. Let us have at least a good Sunday before we start working again on Monday. Thank you so much. The meeting is closed.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*The meeting rose at 20:22 hours*

*La séance est levée à 20 h 22*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 20.22*