

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74º período de sesiones

Rome, 27 November - 7 December 1978

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL
PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES DU CONSEIL
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DEL CONSEJO**

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council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/1

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA
(27 November 1978)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I- INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I- INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen. I take pleasure in welcoming you to the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Council. Different members will complete their term at the end of the year, and therefore this will be their last session. The members concerned are Ecuador, Finland, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, New Zealand and Sudan.

I will, of course, have occasion to come back to this matter later on in the Session. We ask them to help today to welcome the President of the World Food Council, Mr. A.R. Tanco, Jr. We are very grateful he has been able to accept our invitation to attend our meeting, especially as I was not able to honour his invitation to attend his Council meeting in Mexico last time. This shows the goodwill the World Food Council holds for us.

I consider this Council Session to be a special one, because we have several Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Deputy-Ministers, and very high officials leading their delegations. The attendance of these Ministers, Deputy-Ministers and high officials shows the great importance which member countries attach to the deliberations of the Council and this will no doubt result in high quality debates and decision making, and I hope that this trend will continue in future sessions.

And now, unless Members have any observations of a general nature to make, I would like to give the floor to the Director-General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL (interpretation de l'arabe): Je voudrais vous présenter M. Sylla, du Mali, qui est notre nouveau Sous-directeur général pour le Département des Affaires générales et de l'information et qui exercera, en même temps, les fonctions de Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil.

Compte tenu de l'expérience, longue et valable, que M. Sylla a acquise dans les nombreux postes qu'il a occupés dans le système des Nations Unies, en particulier en tant que Directeur de la Division des Conférences, de l'information et des affaires extérieures de l'ONUDI, je suis certain qu'il est parfaitement qualifié pour assumer au mieux ses nouvelles responsabilités. Je sais également qu'il recevra l'appui total de tous les pays membres de notre Organisation, que je remercie d'avance pour la coopération qu'ils voudront bien lui apporter.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure we will hear a lot from Mr. Sylla, and therefore I do not think it is necessary for me to call on him right now, but when we come to his turn to say something in a moment over our Agenda or Timetable, then he will say a few words.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

CHAIRMAN: The first item on the Agenda is Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable. You have the Provisional Agenda (CL 74/1) before you, which was distributed last August with the invitations, and the Provisional Annotated Agenda (CL 74/1(a)), which was distributed last Monday. The slight discrepancies between these two documents are explained in three footnotes which appear in document CL 74/1(a), and these are of a minor nature.

I now put to you the Adoption of the Agenda. If there are no comments on the Agenda, then I declare the Agenda adopted.

The next document, which deals with the Timetable, is CL 74/INF/1. Before considering the document, I would like to give the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Although I am not proposing that the presentation to Dr. Sen of the "Agricola" Medal should be an additional item on the Council Agenda, I believe that all Council members may wish to be present on that occasion. My suggestion is, therefore, that this ceremony should take place today at 5 o'clock and that all Council members should be given the opportunity to attend.

It is a fortunate coincidence that Dr. Sen is present in Rome at this time, and I am sure that Council members, several of whom have been his friends for many years, will greatly appreciate being able to participate in this ceremony.

CHAIRMAN; I think, as suggested in the Order of the Day, we shall hold the ceremony in the afternoon.

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Avant d'entamer ma première action devant le Conseil depuis ma nomination comme Secrétaire général, le 1er juin dernier, permettez-moi de renouveler au Directeur général ma profonde gratitude, de lui renouveler également ma détermination de faire tout ce qui sera en mon pouvoir pour répondre à la confiance qu'il a bien voulu me témoigner.

Je voudrais aussi assurer ce Conseil, à travers vous, Monsieur le Président, de mon désir et de ma détermination de répondre à votre attente en me mobilisant entièrement à votre disposition. Le travail que j'ai à faire est un travail facile, dans la mesure où je suis persuadé que vous répondrez à l'appel que le Directeur général vous a lancé, et que cet appel sera entendu; mon travail par conséquent en sera très facilité. Ce qui est certain, ce que je peux vous assurer, c'est que je suis tout à fait à votre disposition, et que cette disponibilité sera quasiment quotidienne.

Ceci dit, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord attirer votre attention sur le calendrier que j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter. Sur les notes en bas de page qui figurent au document 74/INF/1, les deux premières notes vous indiquent que le Conseil se réunira dans cette salle aux heures indiquées dans le programme quotidien de réunion. Aujourd'hui et exceptionnellement nous nous réunissons de 10h à 12h30 et de 14h30 à 17h30, ceci - comme vient de le dire le Directeur général - en raison de la cérémonie de la remise de la médaille "Agricola" au Dr SEN. Les autres jours, il est prévu que nous reprendrons notre horaire normal, à moins, bien entendu, qu'ils n'y ait obligation pour raison particulière de modifier cet horaire-La troisième note concerne le point 21. Ce point 21 comprend maintenant les points 12, 14 et 15. Les questions qu'il traite ont toutes été examinées au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier; elles ne semblent donc pas requérir de présentations multiples. Bien entendu, ceci n'exclut pas la possibilité pour les membres du Conseil qui le désirent, de traiter séparément dans leurs interventions des différents sous-points du point 12 par exemple, tel qu'il figure à l'ordre du jour annoté. Le point 12 néanmoins constitue un ensemble. La documentation se référant à toutes ces questions figure dans le Calendrier au point 21.

La quatrième note nous indique que le rapport oral qui sera fait par M. Santa Cruz, le représentant personnel du Directeur général pour la Conférence sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural sera plutôt une introduction d'information, elle ne donnera pas lieu à décision, mais bien entendu M. Santa Cruz demeurera disponible pour répondre aux questions que vous souhaiteriez lui poser.

La cinquième note enfin concerne le Point 23.1, le titre "Amendé par rapport à l'ordre du jour" ne vise qu'à définir avec plus de précision le sujet traité.

Ceci dit, le Calendrier tel que je vous le présente, s'il est appliqué, ramènera la fin de ce Conseil au 6 décembre au lieu du 8 décembre. Cette réduction de la durée du Conseil ne concerne en rien l'importance des points qui sont inscrits à l'ordre du jour; on est arrivé à cette réduction du fait de l'amalgame que je viens de mentionner et aussi du fait que beaucoup de ces points ayant déjà été traités par les deux Comités que j'ai mentionnés plus haut, ont déjà été vus dans le fond et que, par conséquent, votre Conseil y consacrerait le minimum de temps, ce qui vous permettra de terminer vos travaux deux jours à l'avance.

CHAIRMAN: We now have the timetable. You will agree with me that the items we have on the agenda and the timetable are non-controversial, and that we should be able to go through them as proposed in the timetable - that is, for us to work through and complete our work by the afternoon of the 6th December. We have done this before; in our very first meeting we were able to finish well ahead of schedule, and if we follow the Programme of Work and Budget which has already been distributed to you with the invitation, we should speed up our work.

May I ask for any comment on the timetable? If not, then the timetable is adopted.

With your permission, I would like to defer item 2, that is the election of two Vice-Chairmen and the designation of the Drafting Committee, until the afternoon. We have to consult, and I would like to give a little more time for consultation on this item, so this will come up in the afternoon after the statement of the President of the World Food Council.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

25.1 Oath of Office of the Deputy Director-General

25.1 Prestation de serment par le Directeur général adjoint

25.1 Jura del cargo por el Director General Adjunto

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As you will remember, I had the pleasure of announcing to the 73rd Session of the Council the appointment of Dr. Ralph W. Phillips as Deputy Director-General of FAO, as from the first of January 1978.

In that connection, there is one more solemn and significant ceremony to be performed today. Dr. Phillips will now take the Oath of Office of our Organization.

Before he does so, however, I should like to say a few words about him, especially for the benefit of those of you who were not present to hear my statement at our last session.

When he assumed his present duties, Dr. Phillips was already a familiar and respected figure to many of you, through his many years of service on the Programme Committee and through the great variety of FAO and other international meetings in which he participated, including practically all sessions of our Conference and Council.

Dr. Phillips is well endowed with academic qualifications, having been awarded degrees in Agriculture, Animal Physiology and Genetics, including a Ph.D., as well as two honorary Doctorates of Science.

In the United States, Dr. Phillips has held a number of important academic and government posts and has been the author, or co-author, of over two hundred scientific papers on animal physiology, genetics and production and on international agriculture.

Just before joining us, he served with distinction as Executive Director for International Organization Affairs in the US Department of Agriculture.

I would mention, also, that Dr. Phillips was a senior staff member of the former FAO Agriculture Division from 1951 to 1957, when he played an important role in strengthening our Organization's agricultural programmes.

And now just a few words about Dr. Phillips as a person.

I am sure that all who know him will agree with me that his main characteristics are his quiet friendliness and his courtesy towards everyone he meets; in other words, I believe he is a modest man, whose great sincerity and integrity cannot be doubted.

Finally, after benefiting from his close cooperation over the past months, I shall now reiterate even more wholeheartedly the words I said at our last session: that Dr. Ralph Phillips, in view of his sound experience and excellent personal qualities, merits the full confidence of our Governing Bodies as Deputy Director-General of our Organization.

May I now invite Dr. Phillips to take the Oath of Office.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations; to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the Food and Agriculture Organization only in view; and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization.

Applause

App laudissement s

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: This is a solemn ceremony which has been performed. If you remember, when Mr. Phillips was appointed, Members made long speeches welcoming him to the Organization at our last meeting, and with your agreement I do not want to subject Mr. Phillips to a lengthy bout of speeches again; what the Director-General has said has been said on behalf of all of us. Is that agreed?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I. INRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Exposé du Directeur général

3. Discurso del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, la coutume veut qu'à cette session d'automne, un an après la Conférence, le Conseil commence par examiner la situation alimentaire mondiale et les activités de l'Organisation durant l'année écoulée. Il ne s'agit pas de faire étalage de théories érudites ni de rhétorique oiseuse; il s'agit de regarder la réalité en face et de l'évaluer sans complaisance.

Mon propos d'aujourd'hui pourrait s'intituler "la FAO en action"; je vais en particulier vous dire comment l'Organisation applique les nouvelles politiques adoptées en 1976, comment elle fournit ou mobilise des ressources pour l'action concrète sur le terrain au niveau des pays, et comment ce travail contribue directement à faire passer dans les faits l'instauration d'un Nouvel ordre économique international.

Notre action s'inscrit évidemment dans le contexte de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Vous en trouverez la description dans le document CL 74/2, qui a précisément pour titre "La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture". Je me contenterai donc de souligner quelques points essentiels.

Comme je l'ai dit en juillet au Conseil économique et social, de mauvais résultats dans le secteur agricole, surtout dans les 45 pays le plus gravement touchés, ne sauraient manquer d'entraîner de très graves répercussions.

En 1985, si la tendance actuelle se poursuit, ce n'est plus 66 millions de tonnes de céréales que les pays en développement devront importer globalement chaque année, mais bien 90 millions de tonnes et plus!

C'est aux pays en développement eux-mêmes qu'incombe la lourde responsabilité d'accorder la priorité voulue à leur développement alimentaire et agricole. Certes, beaucoup d'entre eux mettent fortement l'accent sur le progrès de l'agriculture, mais l'effort global n'est pas suffisant. On constate à cet égard un symptôme alarmant, même si d'autres facteurs ont peut-être joué; en effet, la part qui revient à l'agriculture dans l'ensemble des projets du PNUD est devenue l'an dernier une véritable peau de chagrin: de son niveau traditionnel, qui était d'un tiers du total, elle est tombée à quelque 26 pour cent.

Mais il ne suffira pas d'accroître la production vivrière: il est tout aussi important d'associer les plus démunis - petits paysans et travailleurs sans terre - au mouvement général de développement. Comment y parvenir? C'est là le problème essentiel que va s'efforcer de résoudre la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

A eux seuls, les pays en développement ne sauraient venir à bout de la tâche. Il faut absolument que les pays développés rompent avec le protectionnisme renaissant et s'ouvrent aux importations en provenance du tiers monde. Je pense en particulier aux trois pays les plus riches, dont l'aide fournie à des conditions de faveur ne progresse pratiquement pas; il leur faut prendre un nouveau départ et se rapprocher de l'objectif de 0,7 pour cent du produit national brut.

A l'échelon international, il existe de nombreux instruments pour aider les pays en développement à affronter le problème de la faim. Notre quatrième enquête mondiale sur l'alimentation a une fois de plus fait ressortir l'énormité du problème, qui ne fait que s'aggraver puisque la population augmente alors que la production vivrière demeure stagnante.

Toutes nos activités sont résolument tendues vers l'objectif ultime défini dans notre Acte constitutif: libérer l'humanité de la faim.

Depuis toujours, les efforts bilatéraux font beaucoup pour cette cause. C'est pourquoi je me suis réjoui d'apprendre que le Président des Etats-Unis venait de créer une Commission sur la faim dans le monde. L'Ambassadeur Linowitz, qui dirige ses travaux, m'a déjà fait savoir le prix qu'il attache à toutes les réalisations de la FAO et son désir de travailler en collaboration étroite avec moi.

J'ai le ferme espoir que cette Commission réussira à convaincre tous les responsables américains qu'il faut voir plus large et plus loin lorsqu'on envisage la qualité, les modalités et le volume de l'assistance à fournir pour remporter une victoire décisive sur la faim dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, je me suis placé jusqu'à présent dans une perspective mondiale. Permettez-moi de vous citer maintenant quelques faits concrets, importants par eux-mêmes et qui en même temps illustrent, fût-ce de manière fragmentaire, combien l'action de la FAO est devenue efficace.

Au cours des derniers mois, notre souci immédiat a été d'affronter les crises exceptionnellement nombreuses provoquées un peu partout dans le monde par des sécheresses, des invasions de criquets, des inondations et des épizooties.

Autrefois, nous ne disposions pour l'aide alimentaire d'urgence que d'une allocation du Programme alimentaire mondial. Heureusement, nous pouvons depuis 1976 faire appel aux ressources du Programme de coopération technique, encore très limitées, mais rapidement mobilisables. Fort heureusement aussi, les appels que j'ai lancés pour obtenir des dons volontaires d'aide alimentaire ont suscité chez des donateurs plus nombreux une réponse immédiate et généreuse. Au total, on a pu mobiliser 570 000 tonnes de vivres d'une valeur de 145 millions de dollars pour des pays en détresse.

Mais, dès novembre, les allocations du PAM étaient pratiquement épuisées et la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence était tombée à moins de 50 000 tonnes. Par bonheur, le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire vient de décider d'accroître l'allocation d'urgence du PAM, mais de 10 millions de dollars seulement. Il demeure donc essentiel de reconstituer la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

En même temps, je me permets d'insister sur la nécessité d'atteindre rapidement l'objectif de 950 millions de dollars fixé pour les contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial, qui mène une action si efficace sous la direction de mon collègue, M. Garson Vogel, en collaboration étroite et amicale avec la FAO.

Autre point sur lequel j'insiste: il faut que les négociations en cours aboutissent, avant la fin de l'année, à la conclusion d'un nouvel accord international sur les céréales et d'une nouvelle convention relative à l'aide alimentaire. Malheureusement, Monsieur le Président, je viens d'apprendre que les négociations qui se déroulaient depuis plusieurs jours à Genève ont été rompues et ajournées sine die. Comme je l'ai fait observer au Conseil économique et social, il est pour le moins paradoxal que des négociations d'une importance si cruciale pour le tiers monde soient freinées par des mésententes entre pays développés et non pas entre eux et les pays en développement.

Pour en revenir aux urgences, Monsieur le Président, ce sont 437 500 tonnes de céréales et d'aliments de protection qui ont été efficacement mobilisées et expédiées, sans compter les quelque 30 millions de dollars consacrés au redressement agricole; une partie de cette aide a été acheminée cette année vers les pays du Sahel par notre Bureau des opérations spéciales de secours. A cet égard, je rappelle l'accord conclu avec le CILSS, (Comité intergouvernemental de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel), aux termes duquel l'USAID (Aide bilatérale des Etats-Unis) fournira 25,6 millions de dollars pour la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs dans le Sahel; sur cette somme, plus de 13 millions de dollars seront aussi acheminés par la FAO.

Criquet pèlerin: Autre crise grave: on a vu reparaître des essaims de criquets pèlerins qui ont fait peser une lourde menace sur les pays du Proche-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Est. Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous dire que mes efforts en vue de mobiliser une assistance volontaire, en sus de celle qui a été immédiatement fournie par le Programme de coopération technique et par le Fonds de roulement, ont été généreusement récompensés par des dons s'élevant à 1 650 000 dollars. Je tiens à remercier de leur aide généreuse, rapide et efficace la Banque arabe de développement économique en Afrique, le Canada, le Danemark, la République fédérale d'Allemagne, la Suède, l'Arabie Saoudite et le Royaume-Uni. Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi à la Communauté européenne, qui vient, depuis deux jours à peine, de décider d'allouer à la FAO une aide d'urgence de 1 800 000 dollars: cette aide s'ajoute évidemment au montant de 1 650 000 dollars que je viens de mentionner. J'ai d'ailleurs le plaisir de vous annoncer que nous sommes sur le point de conclure un accord de coopération avec la Communauté, non seulement pour les cas d'urgence mais aussi pour des activités de développement.

Certes, il serait injuste d'établir une hiérarchie parmi les donateurs que je viens de citer, mais je tiens à mentionner nommément le Gouvernement de l'Arabie Saoudite qui, aux côtés des donateurs traditionnels, a envoyé en cette occasion une contribution extrêmement généreuse.

Une autre bonne nouvelle encore: aux termes d'un accord que j'ai signé avec elle, la Banque arabe de développement économique en Afrique va affecter 15 millions de dollars à des projets, et notamment aux projets sahéliens dont je parlais tout à l'heure; cette somme considérable, provenant de contributions des pays arabes producteurs de pétrole, permettra d'agir puissamment sur les problèmes de la sécheresse et sur les autres obstacles à la production alimentaire en Afrique.

Cet accord a été conclu à Khartoum en juillet dernier, lors de la réunion au sommet de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine, à laquelle j'assistais comme l'an dernier. Dans ses résolutions, la Conférence de l'OAU félicite la FAO de l'action qu'elle mène par exemple contre la désertification, la sécheresse, les ravageurs et les maladies.

Autres régions: N'oublions pas non plus que des pays d'Asie et d'Extrême-Orient ont été aussi victimes de sécheresses et d'inondations. Le Lao, le Viet Nam et les Philippines ont subi de véritables catastrophes; la Chine, frappée par la pire sécheresse du siècle, a réussi à se tirer d'affaire par ses propres moyens. L'est de l'Inde a été ravagé par des inondations inouïes qui n'ont épargné ni hommes ni bêtes et qui ont dévasté maisons et cultures. La reconstruction se fait avec un minimum d'aide extérieure.

C'est maintenant à une épizootie de peste porcine africaine qu'il nous faut faire front dans certains pays d'Amérique latine. Ce fléau risque d'entraîner des conséquences économiques et nutritionnelles aussi graves qu'étendues. En m'appuyant sur la résolution de la Conférence régionale de Montevideo, je vais donc prendre contact avec les institutions et gouvernements intéressés pour aider les pays touchés à réagir d'urgence. Toutefois, j'ai pu dégager du programme de coopération technique des crédits dépassant un million de dollars qui ont servi à financer en partie les premières opérations d'urgence dans les pays touchés.

Monsieur le Président, même si les urgences nous ont beaucoup occupés ces temps derniers, nous n'avons naturellement pas pour autant négligé nos autres activités. En Afrique, l'intérêt de nos idées et de nos plans est reconnu. Ainsi, nos projets d'étude prospective sur les pays du Sahel et de plan alimentaire pour l'Afrique ont reçu de nombreux éloges et ont été accueillis avec enthousiasme par la Conférence régionale d'Arusha.

A ce propos, je voudrais aussi rassurer ceux que pourrait encore inquiéter notre ferme résolution d'empêcher la FAO de devenir une tour d'ivoire bourrée de documents poussiéreux, que personne ne lit et qui ne servent à rien parce qu'ils sont trop abstraits et visent des horizons trop lointains. Lors de séjours récents à Genève et à New York, j'ai eu l'impression que nous faisons un travail de pointe en matière de politique et de planification. Je pense en particulier à "Agriculture Horizon 2000" et à nos études sur les produits, conçues pour aider la CNUCED et l'ONU à faire avancer l'indispensable "dialogue Nord-Sud". Nos Etats Membres y trouveront une base objective pour leurs études économiques et leurs plans dans les secteurs vitaux de l'alimentation et l'agriculture; de plus, ces travaux pourront aussi aider à résoudre concrètement les problèmes que pose la marche vers un Nouvel ordre économique international.

La sécurité alimentaire mondiale demeure un de nos objectifs primordiaux. J'ai déjà dit qu'il reste beaucoup à faire à cet égard. Mais le programme FAO d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire me permet toutefois de parler avec un certain optimisme.

Depuis la Conférence, 9,1 millions de dollars de plus ont été promis à ce programme; le total s'élève ainsi à 27 millions de dollars. Les Pays-Bas ont généreusement promis une nouvelle contribution de 12 millions de florins et la Suisse, qui a déjà donné 4 millions de francs suisses, m'a fait savoir qu'elle a l'intention d'en verser autant chaque année. D'autres pays ont aussi fourni des contributions.

Plus de 17 millions de dollars ont déjà été alloués à des projets visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire dans des pays vulnérables. Beaucoup d'autres projets agricoles sont en préparation et seront bientôt prêts.

Monsieur le Président,, J'ai renforcé la coordination interne pour l'instruction des demandes d'aide de tout type émanant des pays; celles qui relèvent du programme d'action pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires en bénéficient naturellement.

Vous verrez dans la note d'information relative à ce programme que jusqu'à présent un seul pays a refusé d'autoriser le virement au compte spécial de sa part des excédents en espèces du dernier exercice ou de verser une contribution d'un montant équivalent.

Certains pays ont donné plus que leur part des excédents en espèces. D'autres font des contributions distinctes, mais parallèles, pour les activités de prévention des pertes alimentaires.

Il faut cependant rappeler que ni l'objectif de 20 millions de dollars, ni même l'objectif minimum de 10 millions de dollars par an pour le programme d'action n'ont été atteints. Pourtant, chacun reconnaît aujourd'hui que la prévention des pertes alimentaires représente un des plus puissants moyens d'assurer des disponibilités alimentaires suffisantes. J'espère donc que le Conseil donnera suite aux recommandations du Comité financier sur cette question.

Investissements: Les investissements en faveur du développement alimentaire et agricole conservent une priorité très élevée dans les nouvelles stratégies et politiques proposées et approuvées en juillet 1976 à la suite de l'examen des programmes.

Depuis 14 ans, le Centre d'investissement a préparé des projets dans 85 pays en développement. Le financement de 332 projets a été approuvé, représentant au total un peu plus de 13 milliards de dollars d'investissements.

Près de la moitié de ces fonds, soit quelque 6 milliards de dollars, ont été réunis au cours des deux dernières années. Le tiers est prêté par des institutions de financement, le reste est fourni par les pays eux-mêmes.

La FAO a aussi assuré pour une large part les travaux d'identification et de préparation relatifs aux projets du FIDA. Cet organisme, qui est dirigé par mon éminent ami l'Ambassadeur Al-Sudeary, n'est opérationnel que depuis le début de l'année. Nous avons déjà entrepris 8 missions pour son compte, et deux autres vont avoir lieu dans les deux mois qui viennent.

Grâce à la coopération amicale entre le FIDA et la FAO et à notre souci de complémentarité, nous allons pouvoir ensemble intensifier nos actions pour la plus grande satisfaction des pays bénéficiaires comme de nos organes directeurs respectifs.

CONFERENCES ET REUNIONS DE 1978: Monsieur le Président, je voudrais maintenant évoquer certaines importantes conférences et réunions qui se sont tenues cette année. Je citerai bien entendu tout particulièrement nos propres conférences régionales. J'ai assisté au moins en partie aux délibérations de chacune d'elles. J'ose affirmer que rien n'a manqué à leur succès: présence d'un nombre exceptionnel de ministres de l'agriculture, haute tenue des débats, et aussi incidences très concrètes et pratiques de leurs travaux. Les recommandations et résolutions de ces conférences sont résumées dans un document dont vous êtes saisis.

La Conférence des Nations Unies sur la coopération technique entre pays en développement qui s'est tenue à Buenos Aires n'a certes pas été une entreprise de tout repos. Mais ses décisions, malgré l'absence de promesses fermes d'appui financier, exigent manifestement des organisations de la famille des Nations Unies une réaction concrète. D'ailleurs, la FAO est depuis des années à la pointe des activités de ce type: elle aide les mouvements d'intégration régionale et donne son parrainage et sa participation aux efforts entrepris à l'échelon des groupes de pays dans divers domaines critiques: sécheresse, infestations acridiennes, protection des plantes et contrôle phytosanitaire, épizooties et formation dans de nombreux secteurs. La Conférence a donné à la CTPED une nouvelle dimension et un nouveau champ d'action. Nous allons intensifier nos efforts en conséquence, comme l'indique le document dont je parlais à l'instant.

Monsieur le Président, une autre conférence très importante à l'échelle de la planète est à signaler: c'est le Congrès forestier mondial, organisé par le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie, à l'efficacité et à l'hospitalité duquel je tiens à rendre hommage ici. Le Congrès a dégagé des conclusions à la fois profondes et nouvelles. Je constate avec plaisir qu'il a en particulier souscrit à nos thèses sur le rôle de la forêt au service des collectivités - c'est-à-dire au service de l'homme - ainsi que sur l'approvisionnement en bois de feu.

Je dois encore mentionner la réunion du Comité des pêches. Vous étudierez plus tard son rapport et je me contenterai aujourd'hui de souligner deux points. Premièrement, l'organisation des activités à l'échelon régional nous pose des problèmes très difficiles. A mon sens, ces problèmes exigent un examen en profondeur auquel il faudra consacrer tout le temps voulu au cours du prochain exercice. Deuxièmement, je ne voudrais pour rien au monde ralentir ni relâcher nos efforts en vue d'aider les pays en développement à exploiter leurs zones économiques exclusives.

A ce propos, je dois des remerciements au Gouvernement norvégien: non seulement il a généreusement accueilli en 1978 la réunion que les gouvernements des pays Scandinaves tiennent chaque année avec mes collègues et moi-même, mais il a aussi fait connaître depuis son intention de créer un fonds fiduciaire de quelque 3 millions et demi de dollars pour faciliter les travaux sur l'exploitation des zones exclusives. Cela nous permettra d'aider nos Etats Membres en développement à mieux utiliser leurs ressources halieutiques.

Cet aperçu des grandes réunions de l'année ne serait pas complet si je passais sous silence les deux sessions du Comité administratif de coordination au cours desquelles les chefs de secrétariat des organisations de la famille des Nations Unies se sont penchés sur un certain nombre de questions importantes.

L'une d'elles revêt une gravité particulière: je veux parler de la dernière en date des tentatives faites par quelques gouvernements qui prétendent, à propos de certaines activités que l'ONU et les institutions spécialisées financent sur leur budget ordinaire approuvé, retenir une partie de leurs contributions ordinaires ou poser des conditions quant à leur emploi.

Dans le cas qui nous occupe, cela va se traduire par des coupes sombres dans les crédits alloués à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, à l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, à la FAO et à d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, qui sont en même temps sommées de n'affecter à l'assistance technique aucune part des crédits ouverts.

Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU et les chefs de secrétariat ont affaire aux gouvernements et non pas aux parlements; mais nous ne pouvons pas manquer d'affirmer sans ambages, à la fois collectivement au sein du CAC et chacun pour son compte, que ces prétentions sont contraires aux obligations imposées aux Etats Membres par la Charte des Nations Unies et par les autres instruments constitutifs. Les Chefs de secrétariat ne sauraient accepter de s'y conformer en violation des statuts de leurs organisations.

Mais j'ai aussi une bonne nouvelle à vous donner à propos de la situation du Programme ordinaire; lors d'une visite que j'ai faite récemment en Autriche, le gouvernement m'a fait savoir que, pour compenser la chute de la valeur réelle de sa contribution en dollars au Programme ordinaire, il compte verser un supplément de 240 000 dollars pour l'achat de biens et services en vue de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Cependant, la baisse du dollar depuis la dernière session de la Conférence, qui avait adopté un taux de 879 livres, nous fait craindre que le compte de réserve spécial créé à ce moment ne soit épuisé d'ici la fin de l'exercice.

Le CAC a étudié une autre question fort importante; il s'agit de la réorganisation du mécanisme du CAC pour donner suite à la résolution 32/197 de l'Assemblée générale sur la restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies. C'est là un ensemble complexe de décisions qui pourraient avoir de sérieuses répercussions sur le plan financier et administratif aussi bien que sur le plan technique.

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, d'évoquer deux ou trois points importants inscrits à votre ordre du jour.

Tout d'abord, vous vous en souviendrez, l'Ambassadeur Andrew Young avait proposé, en prononçant la Conférence McDougall, que soit créé un Corps international de volontaires de l'alimentation. Je devais faire rapport au Conseil sur ce point.

Pour me faciliter la tâche, j'ai nommé un consultant spécial et j'ai pris l'avis de personnes compétentes de tous bords. J'expose dans le document qui vous est soumis mes idées sur la possibilité de promouvoir une participation plus active des jeunes au développement rural. Loin de proposer la création de nouvelles structures administratives, je mets l'accent sur des approches pratiques utilisant les mécanismes existants. J'ai noté avec plaisir que le Comité du programme approuve pleinement mes propositions.

Je voudrais maintenant vous dire quelques mots du point 13, sans toutefois en discuter. En fait, je ne suis pas prêt à parler du niveau du budget de 1980-81, et je ne pense pas qu'une discussion sur ce point puisse avoir la moindre utilité.

Je viens d'entreprendre l'examen et la synthèse de tous les éléments complexes entrant dans la préparation du programme pour 1980-1981; ce travail a commencé dès la dernière session de la Conférence et s'est poursuivi lors des réunions des Comités du Conseil, des Conférences régionales et enfin de nombreux organes statutaires et consultatifs.

Tant pour la programmation que pour les coûts, il y a encore certains facteurs qu'il serait prématuré d'évaluer dès maintenant. Toutefois, on sait d'ores et déjà que le Programme ordinaire devra impérativement faire place à de nombreuses activités prioritaires; il devra tenir compte notamment des conséquences de la troisième Conférence générale de l'ONUDI et des faits nouveaux concernant les sciences et techniques ainsi que la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Des augmentations de coûts seront inévitables, et notamment celles que l'on appelait autrefois "obligatoires", par exemple pour les locaux et le personnel, sans parler de l'effet conjugué de l'inflation et des variations du change.

En un mot, je ne me fais aucune illusion, ni sur la masse énorme de services que les Etats Membres attendent de la FAO, ni sur la répugnance qu'éprouvent de nombreux gouvernements à relever fortement les budgets ordinaires des organisations internationales alors qu'ils ont des difficultés économiques et financières sur le plan national. Tout ce que je puis dire pour l'instant, c'est que je chercherai à faire pour le mieux en établissant le budget sommaire dans les semaines qui suivront votre session.

Je pense que le Conseil sera intéressé à savoir que la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, qui s'est réunie il y a une dizaine de jours à Paris, vient de voter à l'unanimité moins une voix et douze abstentions son budget pour 1979-1980. L'augmentation par rapport aux précédents budgets a été d'environ 33 pour cent, dont 27 pour cent pour les charges obligatoires telles que le coût de l'inflation et environ 6,1 pour cent pour le coût de l'accroissement des programmes. C'est ainsi que le budget de l'Unesco, qui s'élevait à 224 400 000 dollars pour le biennium de 1977-1978, atteindra 303 millions de dollars pour l'exercice 1979-1980, soit une augmentation de 79 millions de dollars en deux ans. Je pensais qu'il était utile de mentionner cela.

En revanche, mon évaluation du programme de coopération technique est à tous égards précise et explicite. Le document et les observations du Comité du programme parlent d'eux-mêmes.

Dans les opérations du PCT, la qualité est aussi importante que la quantité. Comme en témoignent tous les observateurs, et d'abord les gouvernements intéressés eux-mêmes, il est de fait que les projets du PCT répondent tous aux critères proposés et approuvés: ce sont de petits projets de brève durée, concrets, rapides, économiques et efficaces, qui ne font pas double emploi mais qui complètent et parfois catalysent d'autres formes d'assistance.

Ne croyez pas que nous donnions dans l'autosatisfaction ou que nous ne voyions rien à améliorer. Bien au contraire, nous proposons nous-mêmes de modifier le programme pour accentuer encore ses caractéristiques essentielles: rapidité et souplesse.

Il ne s'agit pas de changements fondamentaux; ce qui est fondamental, c'est la décision historique adoptée par le large consensus d'une majorité écrasante et enthousiaste. Elle est fondamentale pour l'exécution du mandat assigné à la FAO par son Acte constitutif, pour la qualité et la vitalité des rapports de l'Organisation en tant que telle avec les Etats Membres qui la constituent, pour la fourniture d'une assistance technique immédiate et de petite échelle aux Etats Membres qui en ont besoin.

Le Programme de coopération technique n'est pas simplement un symbole; au contraire, avec notre politique de décentralisation au niveau des pays, il est la pierre angulaire de la nouvelle FAO que nous construisons depuis trois ans.

Ces innovations se sont accompagnées de nouvelles orientations de nos programmes. Je rappellerai à cet égard l'importance qu'ont prise l'investissement dans les secteurs alimentaire et agricole, la mobilisation des sources nationales, internationales et multilatérales d'aide alimentaire et agricole d'urgence, les programmes d'action dans des secteurs techniques cruciaux et, d'une façon générale, la

qualité de nos services techniques et leur adéquation aux besoins réels des pays. Je rappellerai aussi l'importance que nous attachons à accorder une attention suffisante aux politiques et plans de production et de distribution de vivres, à l'aide alimentaire et au développement rural en faveur des plus pauvres.

Nous ne nous contentons pas de prêcher la bonne parole ni d'ajouter encore des mots à tout ce qui a été écrit sur les stratégies globales et les objectifs du développement. Nous menons sur un large front une action concrète dans le secteur le plus décisif pour l'instauration d'un Nouvel ordre économique international. Un tel ordre ne saurait s'instaurer et n'aurait aucun sens en l'absence de conditions adéquates d'emploi, de bien-être et surtout d'alimentation pour les masses affamées des campagnes.

C'est pourquoi je m'estime autorisé à revendiquer pour la FAO - et surtout de la part des financiers, banquiers et coordonnateurs les moins sensibles aux arguments du coeur - que soit envisagé avec une faveur particulière le soutien accru qu'exigent ses fonctions, ses programmes et ses moyens d'action.

Vous reconnaîtrez aussi, j'ose l'espérer, que vos décisions et votre appui passés témoignent que la FAO en action est parfaitement capable de tirer parti d'un tel surcroît de moyens pour aboutir à des résultats tangibles et valables. Poursuivons donc d'un même pas notre marche en avant, puisque nous partageons la même vision de l'avenir et la même conscience de notre mission commune, qui est de construire un monde meilleur.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applau soi

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Director-General, for this very interesting and inspiring address. Before I give the floor to Colombia there is one particular point which the Director-General has made which has a bearing on our work. Of course, everything he has said has a bearing on our work, but this particular matter we have to take a decision on now, and that is that item 13, the level of the budget, which is listed for our timetable on the morning of Friday the 1st of December, should not be discussed. That is because consultations, discussions, the house is still working on it and in fact there is no document on it and therefore the Director-General has requested the Council to defer the discussion of this item until our next session. We should take a decision on this now so that members do not ask for documents or go back and refer to unnecessary documents and come and make a discussion which may not really be very fruitful to all concerned. I hope that members will agree not to discuss item 13 as suggested by the Director-General. May I have your comments on this first?

Very well, we will not discuss item 13.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : Como vemos que ninguno de nuestros colegas ha pedido hacer uso de la palabra, y como aún es temprano, no nos resignamos a que después de la interesante declaración que acabamos de escuchar la primera sesión de esta mañana termine así, en forma tan silenciosa.

El hecho de que ninguno de los miembros del Consejo hasta ahora haya intervenido se debe, pensamos, sobre todo a la forma eficaz, organizada y austera como usted ha comenzado a conducir nuestras deliberaciones, Sr. Presidente.

Como es obvio, no vamos a referirnos en detalle a los diversos asuntos tratados por el Director General; esto lo haremos en la medida en que esos puntos vayan apareciendo en los diversos temas del Programa de que va a ocuparse esta sesión del Consejo. Solo queremos ahora destacar el carácter afirmativo y pragmático de la declaración del Director General. El se ha dirigido a nosotros con su peculiar lenguaje claro, franco, realista y hasta, afortunadamente, agresivo.

Las palabras del Director General han confirmado las bases esenciales de la nueva orientación política y programática que él ha imprimido a nuestra Organización en los últimos tres años, dirigido todo ello a contribuir a la obtención de los objetivos del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

Nosotros hemos seguido con atención y con simpatía esa nueva orientación y estamos en condiciones de reafirmar el pleno apoyo del Gobierno de Colombia, cuyo Presidente de la República y Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores y Agricultura han declarado pública y enfáticamente que en todos los organismos

regionales y mundiales los delegados de Colombia estaremos en favor del fortalecimiento de las organizaciones regionales y mundiales para convertirlas en instrumentos actuantes y eficientes con realizaciones positivas. Esa afortunada coincidencia entre las dos posiciones hace, para mí como delegado de Colombia, fácil, grato y satisfactorio el cumplimiento de las instrucciones de mi Gobierno en el sentido de reiterar nuestra adhesión a los objetivos para los cuales fue establecida la FAO y a la persona y a la labor del Director General.

Sr. Presidente, agradecemos que usted nos haya concedido la palabra; solo hemos querido hacer esta breve declaración porque consideramos que el importante discurso que ha pronunciado el Director General es un buen augurio para el feliz éxito del período de sesiones que estamos iniciando esta mañana.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ambassador Bula Hoyos. Not long ago, of course, you were wearing my shoes. Now you are on the other side and I hope that you are not trying to incite other people to make long speeches! However, you are most welcome and we welcome you very much in your new capacity as leader of your delegation instead of being the independent chairman and I am sure that I can count, and the Director-General and the Secretariat can count, on your wide experience on the matters of Council to guide us in our debates. Now, as you know, the Director-General's statement is not really for open discussion, as said by Ambassador Bula Hoyos. We come up against it in almost every item and we take into account in the discussions what the Director-General has said and therefore at the appropriate points members will no doubt make their contributions to the discussions on it.

Therefore, I would like again to thank the Director-General on behalf of all of you for this interesting statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 hours

Le séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/2

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA-
(27 November 1978)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with our agenda I would like to call upon the President of the World Food Council, Dr. A. Tanco, to address us.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
DISCOURS DU PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'ALIMENTATION
DISCURSO DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

Dr. A. TANCO (President of the World Food Council): Director-General Edouard Saouma, Executive-Director Vogel, other distinguished guests and members of the Council: We all know that I have been invited here as a stopgap measure because the Vice-President and Vice-Chairman of the Council have not yet been elected and this gives time for delegations to negotiate further. But nevertheless this is the first time that the President of the World Food Council has been present at an FAO Council session, not because we have not been invited, not because the FAO has not been invited to the World Food Council sessions, but for one reason or another we have not taken advantage of this opportunity to attend.

I want you to know that my attendance here on behalf of the World Food Council is a token of both our esteem and friendship for the leadership of the FAO today, Dr. Bukar Shaib and Edouard Saouma, also of the importance we attach to the role of FAO in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in the world and therefore the importance of the FAO Council.

The first thing I would like to do is to congratulate the FAO on the quality of its leadership. The professional reputation and the vigorous leadership of Dr. Bukar Shaib is well known not only in his country, the largest in Africa, but also throughout the developing world and indeed in all the food circles in the world. Director-General Saouma, on the other hand, has impressed all developing countries with his dynamism, the fact that he has done so much in so little time in this key food organization of the world. In fact, listening to him this morning on his theme of action organization on his FAO action report we are more than ever impressed with the leadership and the vigour which he has instilled in this institution. Whether it is asking for funds for emergency food aid, getting the food aid swiftly to the countries that need it, helping that most critical of regions, the Sahel region, tackling the newly reborn problem of locusts, providing TCP assistance to Asia, including among others my country, in a very swift fashion, his leadership has resulted in a vastly stepped-up programme of action of FAO.

In particular, his report this morning dwelt on obtaining additional funds, not only from Saudi Arabia but also from some other Arab and OPEC countries and this is one of the most critical things called for today.

FAO, then, is revitalized relevant now to countries, not, in the words of Dr. Saouma himself, an ivory tower full of dusty documents.

I do not intend to try to match the report of Dr. Saouma. I want to add only a few remarks, with your permission. First, allow me to introduce to you the new World Food Council team. Emulating the FAO we have installed within the last few months an entirely new managerial team at the World Food Council. At the helm we have Mr. Maurice Williams, an American from a developed country. Most of you know him, most of you knew him either as the USAID Deputy Administrator, particularly those from Bangladesh where he spent a great deal of time trying to coordinate efforts of assistance to that country at a critical time, or in Africa, as one of the prime organizers of the help to Sahel. Most recently he has been Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD in Paris and as such has been administrator of billions of dollars worth of assistance over the last few years, indeed a friend of the Third World.

We are also very pleased that we have obtained within the last few weeks the services as Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Council a distinguished gentleman known to many of you in the FAO, Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, who was the first Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to FAO, in fact was Chairman of the Agricultural Committee while he was Permanent Representative of FAO and subsequently became Chairman of Finance Committee of FAO and most recently was Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh.

In No. 3 position is an Australian, Mr. Kalloway, who is still concurrently Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation of the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, and only the last few weeks a Latin American from Brazil, Dr. De Gaspari, who is a Brazilian economist and used to head the technical staff of the President of Brazil.

With this kind of a team I think we will attempt to emulate the vigour, the movement, of the FAO and try to match it, although its footsteps are large indeed.

I do not intend to discuss FAO/World Food Council relations, because this is part of the agenda and will be taken up at the proper time, other than to repeat that the World Food Council is not in competition but in partnership with the FAO. Neither will I bore you with a lengthy repetition of the results of the Mexico meeting or the Manila Communique. I simply want to take up two or three points about our Manila and Mexico meetings. The first one pertains to the need to develop food plans and food policies in developing countries. As you all know, the dynamism of the FAO and the World Food Council notwithstanding, the main job of food production lies in the developing countries themselves. In this connection, in Mexico we tried to approach the contradictory statements made repetitively when one talks about the increased investments, increased external or internal resources going into food production in developing countries. On the other hand, the developing countries themselves, as you all know, say, "We do not have enough external resources being put into food production in our countries." Developed nations do not achieve the seven tenths of one percent of official development assistance that is asked of them. At the same time when one approaches the developed countries, when one approaches international financial institutions, the common complaint that is heard is that they have a lot of resources, more than enough resources, but that there are very few bankable projects. The term is used of absorptive capacities of developing countries. This dead-end dialogue has been continuing for many years now, as all of you are familiar with. In Mexico the 36 ministers and plenipotentiaries of the World Food Council instructed us to try and break this impasse once and for all. They instructed us to try and request developed nations to get together to identify the bottlenecks towards increased resources going to world food production efforts in developing countries. They asked international financial institutions to do the same. Then they asked developing countries to get together through their regional organizations or regional banks to identify the bottlenecks towards increased priority for food and increased investments, both internal and external, toward food production in their own respective countries.

The World Food Council has been faithful to these orders. Already the World Bank has agreed to coordinate meetings of the international financial institutions. The OECD has agreed to coordinate the position of developed countries, and other bilateral institutions and the regional banks, as well as the respective regional United Nations bodies of Africa, Latin America and Asia, have agreed to serve as a forum for developing countries to get together and themselves identify the bottlenecks toward increased investments in their own countries.

I say that because if these series of conferences which will end up, hopefully, in a round-up meeting in Bellagio early next year, if this does succeed in arriving at identifying bottlenecks and thus arrive at concrete and tangible programmes of action to remove these bottlenecks, then the role of the FAO will be critical. Because critical to increased investments is the preparation not only of food plans such as the African food plan prepared by the FAO but, even more important, the preparation of project studies, of project proposals that are bankable for developing nations to implement their food plans with; and in this, par excellence, the FAO's role is paramount.

The only other thing about Manila and Mexico is this whole problem of nutrition. It is like many other things: everyone talks about it but nobody does much about it. Both the FAO and the World Food Council have stressed the problem of malnutrition repeatedly in the past. It would seem to me that we now have a golden opportunity for the FAO to lead in tackling this whole problem of malnutrition together with agencies such as the WHO and UNICEF. We have already identified two micro-nutrient deficiencies which appear to be capable of solution within the next decade, the problem of goitre which affects two hundred million people, according to your fourth World Survey, and severe vitamin A deficiency which causes blindness in one hundred thousand children every year. It would seem to me that FAO has a special role in this battle against malnutrition, since it has admittedly the largest and most competent nutrition staff of all the international financial institutions. Because of these two - the role of FAO in policy and planning and the role of FAO in nutrition - may I add to the eloquent plea of your Director-General the pleas of the 36 member nations of the World Food Council for the fullest financial support to be given to the FAO in the next biennium. At a time when resources are short, that is the time to give more money to where it is more important and that would seem to me to be the whole area of food and nutrition.

I have one more point before closing, and that is this. Despite the Casandra-like warnings of people who speak about the food scene, despite the despair and the pessimism that is rife among many circles, the 36 ministers and plenipotentiaries of the World Food Council, together with the leadership of FAO, I am confident and believe that now is the time when conditions are ripe for us to be able to solve the food problem within the next decade; certainly, probably not - as the Director-General was reminding me during lunch - probably not within the next six years, which was the goal established by the World Food Conference four years ago, but certainly within a decade. I say this because for the past few years

mankind has had the technology to double or even triple crop yields, particularly in commodities grown in the tropics and sub-tropics where hunger is most serious. It has been demonstrated clearly that farmers in the developing countries will shift to new technologies if these prove sufficiently productive and profitable. The experience of the People's Republic of China in wheat and rice, the experience of India in wheat, the experience of Pakistan and the Philippines in rice, the experience of Colombia in rice, of Kenya in maize and countless other developing country examples, are sufficient proof that this is possible.

Secondly, sufficient fertilizer supplies have become available, as you will know, at prices well below the peak of 1974. Thirdly, international assistance mechanisms exist, and some would say the will in developed nations to provide assistance exists, so that funds and technical assistance can be provided to food production in sufficient quantities for the first time in many, many years.

Fourth, it would seem to me, having gone around in the last year and a half as World Food Council President, talking to the leadership of many developing countries, that the world's political and international leaders have become much more aware of the food problem and much more desirous of diverting resources into solving these problems. This, my friends, to me is a most vital ingredient which has not been present in many parts of the world recently. In fact, the creation of the World Food Council itself, together with the Global Hunger Action Programme it is now pursuing, is witness to this growing political awareness since 1974. I am saying that because it would seem to me that the FAO council, the World Food Council and other bodies concerned with food now have a golden opportunity to seize the conditions present today. As the world has put a man on the moon in the last few years, it would seem to me that the technology and the will combined can, in fact, catapult food production into vast increases within the next few years. Again, what is needed is for us to act in concert. In the last analysis, as I have said, it is countries themselves that will determine whether we win or lose our fight against hunger and malnutrition.

It is for institutions such as FAO to assist these countries in this battle, and of course we are all aware of the critical role that FAO played towards this end.

Allow me to close fittingly - since the World Food Council has now met in two developing countries in the last two years, the Philippines and Mexico - with the appropriate words of the Heads of State of these two nations. In Manila President Marcos quoted Thoreau: "There is no ill which may not be dissipated like the dark if you let in a stronger light upon it. Yet, if the light we use is but a paltry streak and narrow taper, most objects will cast a shadow wider than themselves." What is now needed, my friends, is not "a paltry and narrow taper" but a stronger light. And that light can be provided - using the words of His Excellency President José Lopez Portillo in Mexico whose campaign theme was the phrase "La solución somos todos" - the solution is all of us together: the FAO, the World Food Council, all the nations of the world acting together.

Aplause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dr. Tanco, for this very interesting address. This sort of interaction between the World Food Council and the FAO Council, will, I am sure, lead to a better understanding and better cooperation between the two councils, so that we do not seem to work at cross-purposes, as had happened in the past. I am sure that under your presidency the World Food Council will come closer and closer to FAO. Of course you are within FAO, and the FAO management and the management of the World Food Council grow close together. Thank you very much.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Drafting Committee

2. Election des Vice-Présidents et constitution du Comité de rédaction

2. Elección de Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Comité de Redacción"

CHAIRMAN: If you will allow me, I should like to take the easier job first designating the Drafting Committee. Since these people are going to be the real victims and will have to work at all sorts of odd hours, perhaps we might put them in the document first. I have been advised, after consultation, that as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, or the Rapporteur, the suggestion is to nominate His Excellency M.A. Papageorgiou the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO of Greece.

Mr. Papageorgiou is well known to all of us; he has taken an active part in deliberations of FAO and I think this appears to be a very good suggestion. I now put it to the House that Mr. Papageorgiou be the chairman of the Drafting Committee. The members of the drafting committee will be represented by a country and discussions have been held and the following are suggestions for your approval. For Asia the country recommended is India. Is India acceptable? Next, for Europe, we have France. For Africa we have Ghana and Zaire. For Latin America, we have Cuba. For North America we have the United States of America. Finally, for the Near East we have here a suggestion of Libya.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was really rather surprised that all regions have not been included. I think it is a custom to do so and I thought that the South West Pacific area had not been represented. I did at a certain stage express views on this and I am surprised not to see them included. I do not see why the Drafting Committee should not include everyone.

CHAIRMAN: There have been discussions on this. The list I have now is eight and if you want to have a big Drafting Committee then we can include New Zealand to represent the Pacific. Does the house support this? New Zealand, I hope you are not going to refuse!

M.L. CAMERON (New Zealand): I was certainly going to express some concern on behalf of the South West Pacific region but we will certainly accept that and thank the Council very much for including the region in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Now we will go back to the question of the Vice-Chairman. As you know, according to our Rules, we are to have first and second Vice-Chairmen, in other words two Vice Chairmen. The Secretariat has worked on those assumptions and looked back into the record and suggestions have been made, but as many members may know, we have a grand old man amongst us who is going to retire, and that is Mr. Frank Shefrin. We feel that since this is the last session that Mr. Frank Shefrin is attending and since he has served the FAO for a very long time - in fact, I hope Mrs. Shefrin is not here but I have heard it said that Mr. Shefrin has been married to the FAO longer than to his wife, and I thought that if the house will agree I will call on the Legal Adviser to advise us on how we can suspend or amend the Rules for this particular occasion so that we can honour one of our members. If you agree to do this, I will then call on the Legal Adviser to explain to us how we can have three Vice-Chairmen instead of two.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Chairman, from your introductory remarks I take it that the proposal now is to have, for this particular Council session, three Vice-Chairmen instead of two. As you have pointed out, the Rules of Procedure of the Council provide for the election of a first and a second Vice-Chairman. In the event that the Council would wish to elect three Vice-Chairmen the relevant Rule would have to be suspended for the present Council session. A provision for suspension is contained in Rule VIII paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council which reads as follows: "A Rule of Procedure of the Council may be suspended by the Council provided that 24 hours'notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects". Mr. Chairman, you may therefore wish to put it to the Council whether the Council would wish to suspend the Rule on the election of two Vice-Chairmen only for the present session and to elect three Vice-Chairmen. If the Council were in agreement with the suspension and the waiver of notice, nominations could be then called for the election of three Vice-Chairmen.

CHAIRMAN: It is quite clear now what we can do, and I suggest to you that we suspend the rule requiring the election of two Vice-Chairmen so that we can elect three and also that if no member has any objections, then the 24-hour notice clause should also be suspended. I put it to you that we take the actions advised by the Legal Adviser. If there are no comments, no objections, then I take it that we can suspend the Rule for this session for the purpose that was explained. Therefore we can go on to select our Vice-Chairmen. Now I do not want to classify Frank. What I want to do is to put to you that we elect Mr. Frank Shefrin of Canada as Vice-Chairman by acclamation now.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): In many years in the FAO I have been involved in many and active arguments and in many active debates and nothing pleases me more, than that in my last session here I should be in the middle of some rather active discussions and active debates, only I should have been happy if I was one of the ones who was one of the fighters rather than being merely, shall we say, a party to what was happening. I must also say that during my many years I had the interesting experience of I have said the issue is not a legal question, it is a question of substance that is important and I would like to think of myself as being a matter of substance rather than a legal question!

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all my friends for honouring me in this way. However, I look upon my Vice-Chairmanship as a job and not an honour; in this case I would expect to participate fully as an active participant, as a Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: You are certainly a man of substance, there is no doubt about that! May I call for nominations for the first Vice-Chairman?

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Con enorme satisfacción y gran complacencia hemos aceptado un delicioso encargo que nos ha sido formulado por la región latinoamericana, a través de la Presidencia de dicho grupo, la delegación de la República de Costa Rica, que lamentablemente en esta ocasión no pertenece al Consejo.

Se trata, Sr. Presidente, de pedir a este ilustre órgano que considere la candidatura de Su Excelencia la Sra. Florence A. Chenoweth, Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Liberia, para una de las Vicepresidencias de esta sesión del Consejo.

Indudablemente la solicitud que se nos ha hecho no podría haber sido más agradable para nuestra delegación. Estoy convencido de que cualquiera de los representantes que hoy se encuentran en esta sala la hubiera cumplido con el gusto con que lo hace la delegación de Venezuela.

La Excelentísima señora Florence Chenoweth, Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Liberia desde el año 1976, es altamente conocida por los miembros de este Consejo a través de las sabias directrices que ha sabido otorgarle a la política agropecuaria de su país y a la sana influencia que ha desarrollado en su propia región.

A la señora Chenoweth le cupo el honor de ser la primera mujer liberiana graduada en agricultura, y su amplia preparación académica ha culminado con la obtención de un honroso Master en Economía de la Agricultura otorgada por la Universidad de Wisconsin.

La señora Chenoweth, antes de entrar en posesión de su actual cargo de Ministro de Agricultura de Liberia sirvió a cabalidad a su Gobierno en varios e importantes puestos oficiales relacionados con el sector agrícola.

Es por todo lo anterior, Sr. Presidente, que reitero con gran satisfacción, en nombre de la región latinoamericana, la candidatura de la Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Liberia, Sra. Florence Chenoweth, para el cargo de Vicepresidente de este Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard that Venezuela has nominated Mrs. Florence Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture of Liberia, to be the first Vice Chairman. Any seconds?

M. KADIATA-NZEMBA (Zaire): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation appuie fermement la candidature présentée.

CHAIRMAN: I now put it to you that we elect Mrs. Florence Chenoweth as the First Vice-Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissement s

Aplausos

Mrs. F.A. CHENOWETH (Liberia): I would just like to say this to all of those who have supported us as we have just been nominated to serve you as First Vice-Chairman. I have taken an active interest in matters relating to FAO and relating to the Council for quite some time, and since as an agriculturist we believe in action and not a lot of words, I will promise you that it will be my pleasure to serve you as your First Vice-Chairman and I will serve as such to the best of my ability.

CHAIRMAN: I now call for nominations for the Second Vice-Chairman.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt): (Interpretation from Arabic): It is my pleasure to present the candidature of Ambassador Rahman, the representative of Bangladesh, for the post of Second Vice-Chairman. His Excellency was the first Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Soviet Union, and then he was High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the Government of India. He is currently Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy.

It is my pleasure, therefore, to nominate him for Second Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Ambassador Rahman, the head of the delegation of Bangladesh, has been nominated as Second Vice-Chairman. Are there any seconds?

H. MENDS (Ghana): Ghana has great pleasure in seconding the nomination of His Excellency S. Rahman for the post of Second Vice-Chairman for this Session.

CHAIRMAN: I now put it to you that Mr. Rahman of Bangladesh be elected to the Second Vice-Chairman for this Session. If I hear no objections, then I take it that Mr. Rahman has been duly elected.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S. RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to thank you and the distinguished delegates for nominating me as the Second Vice-Chairman for the current Session of the FAO Council. I understand that this honour is not only in appreciation of the great love which all the friendly countries here present have for Bangladesh, but also in appreciation of the great efforts Bangladesh is making in order to solve her agricultural and food problems in the near future.

While recognizing and admitting the fact that we are lucky to have you, Mr. Chairman, as our Chairman to guide the deliberations of this Council Session, I extend my whole-hearted cooperation and that of my delegation to you, Mr. Chairman.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1978

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, 1978

4. El Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, 1978

4.1 Developments in Commodity and Trade Matters

4.1 Faits nouveaux concernant les produits et le commerce

4.1 Evolución observada en el sector de los productos básicos y el comercio

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The details of the present world food and agricultural situation are contained in the Mini-SOFA (document CL 74/2), and in the updating document (CL 72/2-Sup.1). However it may be useful if I briefly remind the Council of the highlights of the situation and of some of the main problems and issues to which it may wish to give special attention. At the same time there is some new information to give you that is not in the documents, and I should also draw attention to certain new features in the documents.

I would single out six broad problem areas and issues. None of these will be new to the Council, but in each case there are some recent developments to report. First, food and agricultural production in the developing countries continues to increase much more slowly than is required, particularly in the poorest of these countries. Second, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition has increased. Third, in spite of the high level of global cereal stocks, there is still no viable system of food reserves. Fourth, food aid remains insufficient. Fifth, only slow progress has been made in improving the conditions of international trade in agricultural products. And sixth, the flow of financial resources to the agriculture of the developing countries is much less than is required to meet production targets.

Some of these matters will be taken up in detail by the Council under later Agenda Items, especially world food security under Item 5, nutrition under Item 10, and food aid under Item 11. But it is also necessary to include them in any general review of the world food and agricultural situation.

To begin with production, the preliminary estimates for 1978 shown in Table 1 of the updating document appear to be largely confirmed by the new information so far available. It now seems probable, however, that the increase in world food production shown as 3 to 3.5% will be closer to the lower end of this range. In the developing countries, both food and agricultural production are now estimated to have increased by about 2.7% in 1978. Thus the average annual increase in agricultural production in these countries during the first eight years of DD2 remains not only well below the 4% target, but also below the 3% achieved in the previous decade. Although there was an encouragingly large recovery of production in Africa in 1978, its DD2 rate of growth remains less than half that achieved in the other developing regions.

The record world cereal harvest in 1978 is now estimated at about 1 410 million tons (including rice in milled equivalent), which is slightly more than was expected earlier. It was recently announced that the U.S.S.R. cereal harvest reached a record level of more than 230 million tons (including pulses) in 1978.

The desert locust invasion in Africa and Asia, and the outbreaks of African swine fever in Europe and Latin America that have been striking features of 1978 will also affect the 1979 production prospects in a number of countries. Otherwise, it is still too early to say much about these prospects, except to mention that, since the preparation of our updating document, the United States Government has announced that in 1979 its set-aside programme will again be in force for coarse grains as well as for wheat.

The last session of the Conference asked us to study 'the factors responsible for some countries achieving a production performance above the average and some below'. We have done some preliminary work on this, and you will find some summary data on individual country performance, in the Mini-SOFA. But I must emphasize the great complexity of this question, because of the many different factors involved. One major aspect that we are now pursuing further is the relation between production performance and the flow of financial resources.

I turn now to the spread of hunger and malnutrition. The Council will already be familiar with the disquieting conclusion of FAO's Fourth World Food Survey. This year's Mini-SOFA contains a tentative assessment of food supplies and nutrition in the developing countries up to 1976. These data, together with what we know of per caput food production in 1977 and 1978, suggest that there is not likely to have been much improvement since 1972-74.

As regards world food security, it is at least encouraging to be able to report that the total carryover stocks of cereals (outside China and the U.S.S.R., for which we have no figures) is expected to reach about 200 million tons by the close of the current 1978/79 seasons. At this level, they would be about 21 percent of annual consumption in the countries concerned. But the stocks are still very narrowly distributed geographically. Most of them are concentrated not only in North America but in an extremely narrow belt of this region, where transport problems even in a normal year are such that, in the event of widespread harvest shortfalls, it would be difficult to move them quickly enough to where they were needed.

This adds even greater urgency to the need to establish the internationally coordinated system of national food reserves envisaged in FAO's International Undertaking on World Food Security. Progress here has for some time depended on the UNCTAD negotiations on a new international grains arrangement. As the Director-General has already stated in his speech, the reconvened negotiating conference on a new international grains agreement has again been adjourned without success. The Council will be able to discuss this disappointing development when it takes up the Report of the Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Once again in 1977/78 food aid shipments failed to reach the World Food Conference's minimum target of 10 million tons of cereals. The preliminary allocations for 1978/79 now appear to have met this target, for the first time since it was established. However, in the absence of the guarantees provided in quantitative terms under a new Food Aid Convention, it remains to be seen whether shipments during the current year will actually reach this figure, and whether future commitments will continue to be made at this level. The contributions for 1978 to the International Emergency Food Reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals reached only 315 000 tons. The last session of the World Council agreed that this reserve must be replenished on an annual basis.

Concerning international trade in agricultural products, in 1977, for the second year in succession, the developing countries slightly increased their share of world exports of agricultural, fishery and forest products, and there was a small improvement in the terms of trade of their agricultural exports in relation to manufactured goods. However, the long-term trend in their share of world agricultural exports has been downward, and the rise in their terms of trade has already been reversed in 1978. FAO is attempting to analyse the changes in the degree of protectionism for agricultural products, and the results will be reported when the next session of the Conference examines progress in International Agricultural Adjustment.

The Mini-SOFA this year contains more information than usual on the market situation for main commodities, and on trade problems and policies. This is because, with no session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, developments in commodity and trade matters are dealt with under the Council's Agenda item on the State of Food and Agriculture.

There has continued to be intensive activity in international trade negotiations. As regards individual commodities, the infornai price arrangements under FAO auspices for jute and sisal have been continued, and also extended to abaca. There has been further work on the feasibility of an international agreement for bananas. Under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, FAO and UNCTAD are jointly servicing the preparatory work for an agreement on tea. The preparatory work on rubber has been completed, and a negotiating conference for an international agreement is under way.

More generally, the resumed session of the UNCTAD negotiations on a Common Fund for an Integrated Programme for Commodities is due to end only today. The GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations continue, but it remains to be seen if they can be successfully concluded by the end of this year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I come to the question of the flow of resources for the agriculture of the developing countries. As regards external resources, our latest data indicate that, although there was a large increase in real terms in 1977, the total commitments of external assistance for agriculture were little more than half the target figure. Next year we hope to have figures of actual disbursements as well as commitments.

Information is particularly scanty on domestic expenditure on agriculture. We are making special efforts to improve the supply of information, including the issue of a new statistical questionnaire to Member Governments, and hope that high priority will be given to supplying the information requested. If you can help us in this way, we should from next year be able to provide a much better analysis.

In the meantime, the two documents before you contain some preliminary information on total investment (public and private, and domestic and external) in agriculture. These data are being analysed more fully for the final version of the State of Food and Agriculture 1978. The first results of this analysis are not very encouraging. There appear to have been increases in rather few developing countries either in agricultural investments in the real terms or in their share of total investment. However, the analysis completed so far covers only capital investments, and does not include the current expenditures on agriculture (for example, for fertilizers and other inputs, and for government services like extension). We have now begun to analyse the available data on the current expenditures, and it is particularly in this important area that we hope to obtain additional information from the new questionnaire.

I think this is all that I need say at present. My colleagues and I are of course ready to answer any questions that may arise during the course of your discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Professor Islam. This is a very important subject. Before I give the floor to Members, I have been informed that items 4 and 4.1 are covered by the same document, and if you noticed, the introduction by Professor Islam also covered the two-. So when you are discussing, you can take the items 4 and 4.1 which are Commodity and Trade Matters. I give the floor to Brazil.

B. de AZEVEDO B.RITO (Brazil): My delegation attributes particular significance to the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture by our FAO Council. We feel that this review is specially useful in providing individual countries with a global picture against which they can measure their own efforts and evaluate their own expectations, both for production and for markets. We are grateful to the Secretariat for presenting us in document CL 74/2 with an excellent summary of available information upon which the Council can base its own conclusions of the current situation in the field of food and agriculture.

We are also particularly appreciative of the excellent over-view of the current situation presented this morning by the Director-General. His observations and suggestions provide in our view an excellent framework for a renewed and strengthened international cooperation in the area of agricultural development. More than that, they give the direction FAO should take to further attune its programmes to the needs of the developing countries and the requirements of the New International Economic Order. I make a specific reference to the statement of the Director-General in the context of Item 4 of our Agenda, since we feel that the examination of the food and agricultural situation should be closely linked to the policies and programmes to be followed by this Organization.

With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to highlight a few aspects which we feel deserve the attention of the Council at this stage.

Taken globally, estimates of food and agriculture production, both in 1977 and 1978, justify in our view a degree of measured optimism in the light of stable levels of growth in production, particularly for cereal crops. Increased production and higher stocks of both wheat and secondary grain suggest a relatively easy supply situation in global terms. Such an assessment needs, however, to be qualified. As document CL 74/4 points out, food and agricultural production of developing countries taken as a whole continues to lag far behind the target of 4 per cent of annual growth, with the alarming result that the number of malnourished in those countries is approaching the staggering figure of half a billion people. While it is true that there has been some progress in some regions and countries, the lack of progress in others is significant. Food import requirements in other developing countries may well have reached the level of seriously handicapping their developing efforts.

One might well ask - and this Council should certainly do - what has been the response of the international community to the plight of developing countries. While official commitments of external assistance for the agriculture of the developing countries have shown some recovery in 1977 compared to 1976, it remains true that financial transfers to those countries remain much below the necessary target for external inputs to permit the 4 per cent annual growth envisaged in the International Development Strategy. Unfortunately, this is only part of the story, for neither have the production efforts of the developing countries been matched by developed countries in the crucial area of access to markets. Increased protectionism in the industrialized world has proved a constant source of frustration for all those who are trying to raise and improve living standards in the developing world by raising the levels of agricultural production and agricultural exports.

After indicating briefly its assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture, my delegation would like to present to this Council a few observations on our own current agricultural situation. As is well known, drought in the early part of the year in 1978 has affected adversely a number of important Brazilian crops this year. The fall in production has been particularly significant, as the documents indicate, for soya, corn, and rice, for which estimates of production for the current year are the following: rice 7.3 million tons (compared to 8.9 million tons in 1977), soya 8.9 million tons (compared to 12.5 million tons), maize 13.7 million tons (compared to 19.3 million tons). For a number of other important crops, however, production has increased for the year of 1978. That is the case, for instance, for bananas, with a production of 4.3 million tons; for coffee with 2.4 million tons; for sugar cane with 129 million tons; for black beans with 2.5 million tons; for oranges with 6 million tons; and for cassaba with 26.5 million tons.

Taken as a whole, the rate of increase of agricultural production in Brazil in 1978 might not reach one per cent - significantly below, therefore, the 6.3 average annual growth rate of the period 1970 to 1977. Again, this point is well reflected in the comments of the Secretariat. The fact that the level of growth was 9.6 per cent in 1977 underlines the downturn caused by unfavourable weather

conditions. Exports of agricultural products, which reached 7.5 billion dollars in 1977, will reflect the same trend of production. The present rate works out at 5.7 billion dollars of agricultural export, perhaps not more. The magnitude of this figure shows that, even in an unfavourable year, Brazilian agriculture is able to provide an important export surplus in most crops.

To give a few examples, taking the 1974 to 1977 average, one can see that 78 per cent of the soya, 78 per cent of the coffee, 87 per cent of the cocoa, 23 per cent of the sugar, and 40 per cent of the oranges produced in Brazil have been exported. The average growth of agricultural production in Brazil has been substantially higher than the 2.8 per cent population growth rate, and above the 4 per cent rate of growth envisaged in the International Development Strategy. Early estimates for 1979 suggest that agricultural production might repeat or even surpass the excellent performance of 1977. Brazil continues to expand its agricultural frontier as a matter of high priority. While in 1977 and 1978 around 44 million hectares were under cultivation, estimates for 1979 indicate that the cultivated area might reach 48.5 million hectares. Between 1974 and 1979 the area under cultivation is estimated to increase at an annual rate of 4.6 per cent - above therefore, the 4 per cent envisaged in the Second National Development Plan.

I have provided this Council with a few figures in order to underline the scope of the Brazilian contribution to a world where hunger will become scarce and where the basic human right to adequate food and nutrition will be universally respected. In spite of a number of constraints - the most serious being the cost of external inputs like fertilizers, and the perennial question of access to markets - Brazil has shown a steady increase both in the area under cultivation and in the productivity of the land.

One and a half centuries ago the Brazilian nation was enlarged and strengthened by the arrival of our brothers from the proud people of the Hausas, the Yorubas, the Ibos, and of the Fulani, all of the coming from your native Nigeria. I feel we can both be proud of what we have since achieved together on the other side of the Atlantic. I thank you very much Mr. President.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate for Brazil. There are indeed a lot of similarities between your country and mine. If one looks at a map, it has been said that in prehistoric times Brazil and Nigeria were in fact joined together because the bends fit. Therefore, we have the same crops and the same people.

M.E. HRAOUI (interprétation de l'arabe): A l'occasion de la soixante-quatorzième session du Conseil, qu'il me soit permis, M. le Président, de vous souhaiter, à vous et aux Vice-présidents, le meilleur succès dans vos travaux avec l'espoir que nous serons en mesure d'atteindre notre objectif, grâce à votre compétence et grâce à la façon tout à fait remarquable dont vous conduirez certainement les débats.

J'aimerais maintenant faire certaines observations relatives à la déclaration de M. le Directeur général ainsi qu'aux documents, dont nous sommes saisis par le secrétariat, relatifs à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1978.

Qu'il nous soit permis de féliciter le Directeur général pour son allocution très complète de ce matin et de féliciter également les fonctionnaires de l'Organisation qui ont participé à l'élaboration et à la parution du document sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1978. Ce document montre bien que le taux d'accroissement de la production agricole mondiale en 1978 n'a pas dépassé le chiffre de 2 pour cent. Les statistiques publiées et relatives à l'année 1978 semblent indiquer que l'on peut s'attendre à une meilleure situation en 1978 par rapport aux années précédentes: mais si l'on compare ces statistiques à la situation que nous connaissons maintenant il ne faut pas nous cacher la réalité: de graves problèmes se posent à l'heure actuelle, notamment la malnutrition et la sous-nutrition en Extrême-Orient, en Asie. Il existe toute une série de nations très déshéritées dont les stocks de riz ne permettent pas de couvrir plus de 5 pour cent de la consommation.

Les autres stocks céréalières représentent 17 pour cent de la consommation et c'est la première observation que je désirais faire.

J'en viens à ma seconde observation: 45 pour cent des réserves céréalières mondiales sont détenues par un seul pays et une partie importante de ces réserves risquent de ne pas trouver un accès sur le marché car on voudra les vendre à un prix très élevé. Or, il faut bien voir que les stocks des pays en développement sont en voie de diminution.

J'en viens maintenant au problème du criquet pèlerin qui constitue une menace très importante pour l'agriculture du Proche-Orient, de l'Afrique de l'est et de l'Asie du Sud-Est. Vous êtes tous parfaitement conscients des dégâts considérables provoqués par les criquets pèlerins dans ces régions du monde. Nous ne pouvons donc qu'exprimer nos vifs remerciements au Directeur général pour la façon très rapide dont il a réagi en aidant les pays affligés par les acridiens. Nous tenons également à remercier tous les pays qui ont fait preuve d'une grande générosité en nous donnant des ressources nous permettant de mener cette lutte. Je tiens à remercier en particulier le Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite qui nous a donné un demi-million de dollars; également la Banque arabe de développement africain qui nous a fourni 400 000 dollars pour nous aider dans notre lutte contre cette invasion acridienne qui constitue un véritable fléau.

Des différentes statistiques qui nous sont proposées, il ressort d'un grand nombre de ceux qui souffrent de la malnutrition sont passés de 400 millions à 450 millions. Ce chiffre à lui seul doit appeler notre attention sur le problème de la famine mondiale; problème qui exige de la part de tous ceux qui peuvent le faire, qu'ils nous tendent la main, qu'ils nous aident et qu'ils nous assistent. A cette occasion, je tiens à remercier l'Organisation pour l'étude tout à fait remarquable sur la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde. Des études comme celles-ci peuvent permettre à certains de croire que nous sommes tous pleinement conscients de la situation. Nous ne perdons pas de vue toute fois que l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture a la responsabilité de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, qu'il ne doit pas exister de rivalité, ni de concurrence dans un domaine dans lequel la FAO a joué un rôle de pionnier depuis les trente dernières années.

Pour ce qui est du Programme de la sécurité alimentaire, nous notons avec plaisir qu'on attache à l'Organisation toute l'importance que mérite ce Programme. Nous pensons que l'individu, l'homme, a un droit sacré à l'alimentation et que les aliments sont la meilleure alternative qui existe aux médicaments et que si la FAO appuie le Programme de sécurité alimentaire par son budget, cela permettra de répondre aux besoins croissants des Etats Membres et aux demandes croissantes des Etats Membres.

Nous sommes donc reconnaissants à l'Organisation de ce qu'elle envisage de faire dans ce domaine. A cette occasion, nous tenons également que soient pris en compte les remerciements que nous adressons à l'Organisation pour la façon rapide dont elle a répondu aux demandes des régions nécessiteuses du monde, notamment, celles qui ont eu à souffrir de la sécheresse, je pense au Sahel, à l'Ethiopie, à l'Afrique et je pense également aux autres régions du monde qui ont subi des désastres naturels, inondations par exemple: je pense au Soudan, à l'Inde, au Bangladesh, au Viet Nam et à la Thaïlande.

Nous espérons également être en mesure d'augmenter le montant des réserves alimentaires internationales d'urgence pour que cette réserve internationale atteigne 500 000 tonnes. Par le passé, ce programme a atteint des niveaux aussi bas que 50 000 tonnes. A cette occasion, ma délégation tient à exprimer son appui pour la proposition soumise par le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, ayant pour objectif de donner une solution aux problèmes alimentaires, et j'espère qu'un grand nombre de nos pays seront en mesure d'augmenter leur apport aux banques pour permettre à celles-ci d'agir de façon plus efficace, pour lui permettre d'atteindre les objectifs qu'il s'est fixés, notamment dans le cadre de ses programmes dans les pays en développement.

Pour ce qui est des produits de base agricoles, nous prenons acte de ce que la situation s'est légèrement améliorée au plan du commerce international des produits agricoles de base; néanmoins, ces améliorations ne correspondent pas à nos attentes. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous suivons de près la politique de "dumping" pratiquée par certains pays exportateurs, qui a certaines conséquences négatives affectant le commerce des pays en développement et notamment leurs exportations de produits agricoles. Certains pays industrialisés, certains pays avancés exagèrent leur politique de protectionnisme et n'ouvrent pas suffisamment leurs marchés aux pays en développement. Nous constatons avec regret également que les pays tant importateurs qu'exportateurs n'ont pas encore réussi à s'entendre sur une convention sur le blé qui aurait pu être suivie par une convention sur l'aide alimentaire. Nous regrettons vivement que les Etats membres du GATT n'aient pas réussi à s'entendre sur un engagement international relatif à certains problèmes comme par exemple le "dumping", le refus de l'accès à certains marchés. Nous estimons qu'il est extrêmement regrettable que ces négociations n'aient pas encore été couronnées de succès en raison de divergences de vues entre pays industrialisés eux-mêmes. Il ne s'agit pas en effet de problèmes entre pays du Nord et pays du Sud pour ce qui est de l'assistance à l'agriculture; nous sommes tout à fait satisfaits de l'accroissement du volume de cette assistance à l'agriculture des pays en développement. Les chiffres globaux de cette assistance en 1977 ont été de 6,4 milliards de dollars, augmentation de 23 pour cent par rapport à l'année précédente. Il s'agit donc d'une augmentation sensible due à un grand nombre d'organisations internationales, nationales, et aux pays de l'OPEP. Les pays de l'OPEP, en effet, ont versé 350 millions de dollars pour l'agriculture alors que les Etats riches d'Europe n'ont versé pour leur part que 35 pour cent de la somme globale. Autrefois, ces pays fournissaient 40 pour cent de cette aide.

C'est également avec satisfaction que nous avons noté que la plus grande partie de l'assistance passe maintenant par l'agriculture, notamment pour les pays en développement qui ont bien besoin d'investissements agricoles et qui ont bien besoin de développer leur production agricole. Le chiffre global de l'aide est toutefois encore loin de l'objectif fixé par le Programme alimentaire mondial, à savoir 8 millions de dollars par an.

Nous tenons à exprimer tous nos remerciements à la Banque arabe de développement économique en Afrique, qui a versé 15 millions de dollars aux pays africains pour qu'ils soient déboursés dans le cadre du programme d'assistance technique à la FAO. Sur ce chiffre, 3 millions de dollars ont déjà été versés aux pays du Sahel pour leur permettre de lutter contre les conséquences de la sécheresse. En outre, la même banque arabe a accordé 400 000 dollars de subvention pour la lutte contre les criquets pèlerins. Nous attendons beaucoup de l'avenir, et nous espérons que la Banque arabe sera en mesure d'accroître l'aide qu'elle apporte aux pays qui en ont le plus besoin, ceci à l'issue du sommet arabe qui a prévu un chiffre plus important pour les pays africains.

Nous tenons également à remercier la FAO pour les différentes activités qu'elle déploie dans les différents domaines de l'investissement agricole.

Nous sommes également très satisfaits des efforts réalisés par le centre d'investissements de l'Organisation dans le domaine des investissements agricoles. L'aide attribuée pour l'agriculture a représenté récemment 2 millions de dollars, tandis que, par le passé, ces chiffres s'articulaient aux environs de 6 millions de dollars.

Nous tenons à louer les efforts du FIDA, et nous sommes très satisfaits de la collaboration fructueuse qui s'est instaurée entre le FIDA et la FAO.

Nous espérons également que les pays riches répondront aux appels qui leur sont faits pour une assistance financière accrue mais nous constatons que celle-ci a diminué. Leur pourcentage de PNB est passé de 0,52 pour cent à 0,31 pour cent tandis que l'objectif fixé par l'assemblée générale des Nations Unies est de 0,7 pour cent.

J'en appelle donc aux pays riches pour qu'ils prêtent une main secourable aux pays pauvres, puisque ce monde ne saurait aspirer à un avenir meilleur et ne saurait parvenir à la paix et à la prospérité aussi longtemps que la famine et la faim menacent les déshérités du monde et aussi longtemps que le fossé séparant les riches et les nantis du Nord et les pauvres du Sud continuera à s'accroître.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, haremos unas breves referencias al Suplemento 1 que complementa y actualiza las informaciones del documento básico CL 74/2, aunque en realidad el Suplemento solo confirma las tendencias ya previstas.

Se nos dice en el Suplemento que de acuerdo con las perspectivas favorables que ya se habían señalado para la producción en 1978, esa producción ha aumentado, pero el mayor aumento se ha producido en los países desarrollados.

También hay una referencia a las buenas condiciones del tiempo, que permite en 1978 una producción mundial récord de cereales, lo cual a nuestro juicio no debe causarnos complacencia pasiva, porque creo que aún todos recordamos la crisis de 1965 y 1966, a la cual siguió el aumento excepcional de la producción en los países en desarrollo, de un 6%, cuya situación es la que describe este documento. Esto confirma claramente que las pocas veces que se producen aumentos de producción en los países en desarrollo se debe solamente a factores coyunturales aunque no se han logrado establecer las bases sólidas y definitivas sobre las cuales los países en desarrollo puedan asegurar el crecimiento progresivo de su producción.

Finalmente, nos llama la atención en el Suplemento una frase que no hemos entendido a cabalidad y que tampoco aciaró el funcionario que presentó el tema, que trata de la declaración de un gobierno manifestando que para la cosecha de 1979 volverá a estar vigente la reserva del 20% de la superficie destinada al trigo y se espera el anuncio relativo a los cereales secundarios. Si se trata de recongelación de áreas de producción como ha sucedido en el pasado, la delegación de Colombia no vacilaría en afirmar que esa sería una actitud desafortunada que debemos deplorar porque es incoherente con la situación que se padece en otras regiones del mundo.

El estudio del documento CL 74/2 sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación conduce a conclusiones importantes en relación con el propio estado de esa situación y también con el comercio internacional de productos básicos de que se ocupa este documento al final y que, de acuerdo con lo que ha señalado usted, señor Presidente, corresponde al Subtema 4.1 del que también nos estamos ocupando.

Debemos hacer constar en nuestro informe que la leve recuperación de la producción apenas si no ha llevado al estado anterior a la crisis que se agudizó a partir de 1972; es decir, seguimos paralizados, sin avanzar hacia las metas que reclama la comunidad, mientras que los desnutridos en los países en desarrollo han aumentado de 400 a 450 millones, que representa el 25% de la población de nuestros países. La producción mundial agrícola y alimentaria aumento solo en un 2% en 1977; en los países en desarrollo, con economías de mercado, el aumento fue el 3%, sin embargo, ese aumento anual promedio dista mucho del objetivo del 4% del cual se viene hablando desde hace muchos años.

Al registrar las mejoras que se han producido, nos corresponde igualmente hacer constar que aún perduran muchos problemas y que los progresos continúan siendo excepcionalmente lentos en relación con los objetivos a largo plazo.

En el marco de los países en desarrollo nos complace registrar los aumentos, de la producción en algunas regiones, pero nos preocupa la situación en Africa que describe este documento. Por ello la delegación de Colombia encuentra acertada la respuesta inmediata y favorable que la FAO ha dado a los Ministros africanos de Agricultura para la preparación de un plan alimentario regional africano. En el documento se afirma que la primera fase de este plan se ha terminado recientemente. Sería deseable que la FAO continuara ofreciendo su asistencia a la demanda de esos altos representantes de los gobiernos de Africa.

Convendrá destacar en nuestro informe la seria advertencia que se hace en este documento sobre el hecho de que si continúa el retraso en la producción en Africa y en los países más gravemente afectados en general, esa situación alcanzará proporciones inmanejables, pero además de registrar estos hechos, nos corresponde también analizar las causas de ese estado de cosas y tratar de señalar algunas posibles soluciones.

El incremento de la inversión agrícola en los países en desarrollo continúa siendo requisito indispensable para el aumento de la producción. El Banco Mundial, los Bancos Regionales y otros organismos de crédito están aumentando sus inversiones en el sector.

Del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, el FIDA, se habla por lo menos en dos partes de este documento CL 74/2 en las páginas 30 y 40 del texto español, pero en ambas ocasiones nos da la impresión de que tal vez se le atribuye menor importancia de la que el FIDA tiene y va a tener en el futuro en el campo de la asistencia financiera para la agricultura.

Somos conscientes de que el FIDA no es la panacea que de la noche a la mañana va a arreglar todos los problemas de la asistencia financiera, pero confiamos en que este importante organismo, que apenas tiene un año de vida, sí va a corresponder a las esperanzas de solucionar en buena parte el problema de las inversiones. Esperamos que una vez que se hayan comprometido los recursos de más de 1 000 millones de dólares en los primeros dos o tres años, como está previsto, los fondos del FIDA se van a reconstituir y la acción de este fondo continuará beneficiando gradualmente a los países en desarrollo como esperamos siempre en estrecha y creciente cooperación con la FAO.

En cuanto a los resultados en los diversos países de que habla el documento en la página 6 del texto español, consideramos que se destacan las razones por las cuales existen diferencias de rendimiento productivo entre los diferentes países en desarrollo. En Colombia actualmente nos autoabastecemos de todos los alimentos con excepción del trigo, en el cual somos tradicionalmente deficitarios, pero para el incremento de la producción triguera estamos explorando nuevas posibilidades. El nuevo Gobierno colombiano goza de completa estabilidad política y económica no obstante los problemas universales en este último campo. Estamos estimulando el crecimiento de la producción por todos los medios posibles; el Gobierno ha concedido alta prioridad a la agricultura como fortalecimiento de la natural ocupación agrícola del pueblo colombiano; hemos establecido precios de sustentación para estimular a los productores y proteger a los consumidores; en el país está en curso un programa de desarrollo rural integrado en el cual coopera la FAO, dirigido a dotar a los medianos y pequeños campesinos de servicios y compensaciones que estimulen su trabajo.

Todas estas medidas del Gobierno colombiano están dirigidas a beneficiar a los medianos y pequeños agricultores; es la esencia de la política socioeconómica de nuestro Gobierno; el Ministro de Agricultura ha declarado que los alimentos son la base de la paz social.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia desea hacer unas breves referencias al capítulo titulado "El comercio internacional de productos agrícolas", en el cual con franqueza y realismo se plantea la difícil situación en que se encuentran los países en desarrollo. El valor total de la explotación mundial de productos agrícolas en 1977 aumentó en un 12%. Por dos años consecutivos los países en desarrollo tuvieron una ligera recuperación en la participación de los beneficios derivados de esas exportaciones, pero en seguida, a partir ya de 1978, esa situación ha cambiado de nuevo en desmedro de los países en desarrollo.

Igual cosa ha sucedido en la relación de intercambio entre los precios de los productos agrícolas exportados por los países en desarrollo que han descendido y los de las manufacturas exportadas por países desarrollados, que han subido.

En nuestra opinión, la situación es clara y en ese juego es fácil reconocer quiénes tienen el libre arbitrio de esa situación e impiden que los países en desarrollo avancen satisfactoriamente. Apenas mejore la situación en otros países, ellos aumentan los precios de los bienes de capital que nosotros necesitamos para nuestro desarrollo.

En una ocasión, echábamos la culpa, injustamente, al alza de los precios del petróleo, que ahora se han estacionado según dice este documento; en cambio, los valores unitarios de la exportación de productos manufacturados aumentaron con el doble de rapidez que los precios de exportación de los productos agrícolas. Esto hay que señalarlo en nuestro informe. Es como la presentación de una parodia aparentemente hábil con la cual se nos entretiene.

La delegación de Colombia llama la atención del Consejo sobre la sección "Problemas y políticas comerciales" que han realizado pocos avances en la solución de los problemas del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas. Las leves mejoras logradas no consiguen invertir la desfavorable tendencia a largo plazo, las políticas proteccionistas siguen vigentes, las barreras a la importación continúan siendo altas, la liberación de las importaciones provenientes de los países en desarrollo son casi insignificantes. Cuando en el pasado nos referimos a estos males crónicos, siempre se nos ha dicho que debemos esperar, pero ya la paciencia toca a su límite, la aplicación del sistema generalizado de preferencia ha sido lenta y acomodaticia, los debates y las negociaciones sobre el programa integrado para los productos básicos aún siguen desde 1976, después de la Junta de Nairobi, siguen resultando concretos. El fondo común no ha podido constituirse, mientras tanto siguen las consultas o se suspenden, según lo declaró el Director General esta mañana.

Nosotros siempre hemos pensado que en el seno de la FAO los representantes de todos los gobiernos nos reunimos con el espíritu de plena cooperación y entendimiento, sin distinguos.

Con este espíritu, la delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe hagamos un enésimo llamado más, franco y categórico a los países desarrollados para que revisen su actitud y asuman la responsabilidad política, moral y social que les corresponde, para que finalmente ofrezcan su cooperación seria, sincera, amplia y constructiva en asistencia de los países en desarrollo, particularmente de los MGA para que estimulen en éstos el crecimiento de la producción agrícola y eviten nuevas y graves crisis como las del pasado.

Igualmente, la delegación de Colombia propone que exhortemos a países desarrollados a que realicen sus propósitos de abrir los mercados a la exportación agrícola de los países en desarrollo, que eliminen las barreras y las trabas, que no se inquieten con los pequeños progresos económicos de los países en desarrollo, lo cual parece que los lleva al alza de los precios de los bienes de capital de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia quisiera seguir creyendo en la frase del Sr. Pierson y de los miembros de su Comisión cuando afirmaron que el desarrollo es una empresa común pero ante la marcha de los hechos a que nos hemos referido, tal vez nos va a corresponder estar de acuerdo con los buenos vecinos y distinguidos amigos de China, sabios de todos los tiempos, quienes afirman que los países en desarrollo deben valerse por sí mismos. Esto es lo que queremos. A eso aspiramos, pero no nos dejan, no nos lo permiten quienes tienen los medios y el poder.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Una vez más debemos agradecer muy especialmente a la Secretaría por la gran calidad de los documentos presentados en este caso, me refiero al documento CL 74/2 y CL 74/2 Sup. 1. Son documentos que son leídos con mucho interés y son pasados de una parte de la administración a otra, y son tomados como un índice de referencia de inestimable valor por las autoridades de mi país.

Quiero agradecer de manera especial al profesor Islam por la excelente introducción que ha hecho, que ha aclarado algunas dudas que teníamos al respecto. Posteriormente, me referiré con mayor precisión a algunos aspectos de los mismos.

La exposición del señor Director General, de esta mañana, una vez más ha encarado con profundidad y acierto los problemas de los países en desarrollo, ha señalado con preocupación la necesidad global de estos países en desarrollo y sobre todo se ha detenido en indicar las necesidades de importación de cereales, la cual aumentará de 66 a 90 millones de toneladas en 1985. Es por ello, que me detendré

un momento en este punto para hacer saber en esta oportunidad lo que estamos haciendo en nuestro país para resolver este problema. Por ello, si usted me lo permite, mencionaré algunos hechos y algunas cifras de interés que podrán dar una idea más cabal de la actividad de la Argentina en el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Interesa esta mención no tanto por tratarse de uno de los pocos países en desarrollo productor eficiente de alimentos, sino por la enorme capacidad de expansión potencial de su producción, con la que se podría enfrentar con mayor éxito las sombrías perspectivas que se han señalado para otras regiones del mundo afectadas por el hambre y malnutrición.

La producción de maíz de la República Argentina en 1977/78 así como la de lino, arroz y sorgo han sufrido un aumento considerable, no así la producción de trigo que será este año de alrededor de 7 millones de toneladas con una capacidad de exportación de 3 millones y medio de toneladas. El problema del trigo es un problema de precios, de condiciones meteorológicas, al cual me referiré más adelante. Con ello, la participación Argentina en el comercio mundial de cereales ha aumentado en el último bienio, del 6,7 al 8 por ciento y la participación en el comercio de carne ha pasado del 11,2 al 23 por ciento en el último año.

La República Argentina ha exportado 583 mil toneladas de carne en 1977 y exportará 700 mil toneladas en 1978.

Cabe señalar que por diversas razones de naturaleza comercial y estructural, estas cifras de producción de cereales y carne no han sufrido variaciones de importancia mayor en los últimos años.

No obstante, la República Argentina está decidida a incrementar en forma drástica su producción y para ello, acaba de finalizar estudios destinados a revelar la potencialidad del país como productor de granos, y señalar la presencia de cuellos de botella que impiden la expansión normal de este sector.

Desde hace 40 años, la producción argentina de maíz y trigo se mantiene en una cifra que no ha sufrido drásticamente variaciones. ¿Cómo es posible esto en la era del empleo masivo de fertilizantes, de la tecnificación del agro, de las nuevas tecnologías de siembra, cultivo y cosecha? Estos dos productos, maíz y trigo, mientras la producción de la Argentina no registró modificaciones, su producción en el total mundial se incrementó en un 217 por ciento. El crecimiento reciente de la producción de soja y sorgo fue compensado por la disminución de las áreas sembradas con lino, avena, centeno y sobre todo alfalfa. De modo que prácticamente no sólo no ha habido incremento importante en los rendimientos sino que no se han incrementado las superficies de siembra.

Un análisis exhaustivo y completo efectuado hace poco en el país sobre estos problemas, indica que con una aplicación más extensa de la tecnología existente en el país se puede lograr una cosecha de 38 millones de toneladas. Nuestra última cosecha fue de 28 millones de toneladas.

Un segundo nivel que prevé el estudio realizado implica la utilización de tecnología avanzada media, que significa un mayor empleo de agroquímicos y fertilizantes para el curso de la próxima década, la incorporación de nuevas tierras a los cultivos y una producción de alrededor de 68 millones de toneladas de diversos granos y oleaginosos.

En el tercer nivel que se espera alcanzar a finales de siglo, y que requiere la aplicación de alta tecnología y que se refiere básicamente a la extensión del riego por aspersión, supone una producción de 102,5 millones de toneladas, de las que 80 millones quedarían como saldo exportable.

Cabe señalar que el empleo de la tecnología que llevaría a estas cifras no se aparta de las conocidas, disponibles y aplicables en otras regiones de características similares o menos favorables a las del país. Ahora bien, ¿cuáles han sido las causas de este estancamiento relativo que ha vivido el país en el campo de la producción agrícola? Tengo conciencia de que no se trata en esta reunión de mencionar problemas particulares de cada país, pero sí deseo mencionar que han sido varios y la conjunción de todos ellos ha hecho que el resultado sea verdaderamente triste para nuestro país. Sin embargo, este problema está en vías de ser resuelto a raíz de un programa de construcción de nuevos silos de antepuerto con una capacidad de 2 millones de toneladas financiados por el Banco Mundial recientemente. El país está dispuesto a hacer un gran paso adelante en este sector y ya en el último año se han construido silos con una capacidad aproximada al millón de toneladas. Se está mejorando la infraestructura a través de una más racional explotación de las vías férreas y fluviales existentes. Al respecto, permítaseme señalar nada más que en el embarque de granos efectuado en el último mes de agosto derivado de compromisos de exportación, se ha llegado a la suma de 2 141 119 toneladas, lo que significa un 22,3 por ciento superior al récord de los 10 últimos años, acaecido en 1977. En lo que va del año, las exportaciones de granos llegaron a 14 millones de toneladas, con un promedio mensual de 1 750 000 toneladas.

Con respecto a la carne, pese a mantenerse las dificultades de comercialización en los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, que siguen poniendo trabas al ingreso de este producto y subvencionan su propia producción, así como el desaliento que provoca en el productor la existencia de 44 millones de cabezas en 1976/78, se ha incrementado hasta llegar a 60 millones en 1977/78, lo que significa un incremento de casi el 25 por ciento. El consumo de carne de los argentinos sigue siendo uno de los más altos del mundo, con cerca de 100 kilos per capita por año.

Por último, una leve mención a las superficies destinadas a los cultivos. Sobre un total de 2 800 000 kilómetros cuadrados de superficie continental, existe una superficie cultivada permanentemente de 29 800 000 hectáreas. Además, los campos naturales y artificialmente ocupados por haciendas y susceptibles de ser empleados e incorporados a la estructura con poco esfuerzo suman 137 100 000 hectáreas. La superficie forestal del país abarca entre montes y bosques 63 300 000 hectáreas.

El esfuerzo que se está realizando en el país se ha hecho en condiciones muy difíciles de coyuntura mundial y se debe exclusivamente al esfuerzo de todos los argentinos y a una política sana de expansión nacional. La riqueza del país depende exclusivamente de su producción agropecuaria y sus posibilidades de vender sus productos en el mercado internacional. Es este mercado con sus fluctuaciones de precios, sus estímulos, y posibilidad de acceso a todos los países, el que condiciona exclusivamente la evolución de la economía argentina. Por este motivo, estamos especialmente reconocidos a la FAO, no sólo por la tarea rectora que efectúa en este campo a través de su información y sus estadísticas, sino por la importancia que ha dado al sector del comercio internacional de productos agropecuarios. La Argentina quiere jugar su rol en este sentido y está dispuesta a hacerlo.

Un pequeño comentario sobre los aspectos de problemas y políticas comerciales señaladas en el documento CL 74/2 . En la página 37 se comenta el interés de la FAO en preocuparse por estos problemas que afectan esencialmente los niveles de producción de los países en desarrollo. Agradezco al distinguido representante del Líbano y de Colombia de que hayan tenido la gentileza de mencionar, especialmente los países en desarrollo y sus accesos a los mercados de países de valor altamente adquisitivo. Estamos plenamente de acuerdo en que es necesario que se apliquen los problemas de acceso a los mercados que existen para una amplia gama de zonas templadas de producción. En la página 39, también deseo destacar la importancia que tiene para mi país el hecho de que los prestamos del Banco Mundial de la Asociación de Fomento aprobados en 1979 para la agricultura fueron casi un 75 por ciento superiores a un nivel medio de los tres años anteriores.

Por último, del análisis que hemos efectuado, surge evidentemente la necesidad del esfuerzo propio, como recientemente parece haber sido mencionado por el distinguido representante de Colombia, que fue dicho por el representante de China, el esfuerzo propio en resolver sus propios problemas y contribuir a incrementar las posibilidades de enfrentar con éxito el hambre y la malnutrición.

Pero también es importante la solidaridad internacional no sólo en los planes de ayuda, que en muchos casos se dan in extremis, sino en permitir a los países en desarrollo incrementar sus productos y estimularlos para ello. Esto será muy difícil mientras subsistan restricciones al comercio de esos productos y a su natural acceso a mercados de valor altamente adquisitivo. Estos mercados sostienen en general agriculturas ineficientes basadas en complejos problemas de apoyo sectorial.

Por ello, nos congratulamos con la FAO una vez más en hacer hincapié en estos problemas y le auguramos una mayor comprensión de los mismos a los países responsables.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, at the outset we would like to wish you and your distinguished Vice-Chairmen all success in the conduct of this Session.

This morning we heard the Director-General's address reviewing the World Food situation and the activities of FAO during the last one-year period. As always, we heard him with great interest and have been impressed by his insight into the various problems facing the world in the field of food and agriculture. We agree with his various approaches to meeting the manifold problems. With his comprehensive approach we feel that FAO will go a long way towards achieving those objectives of eradicating hunger and malnutrition from the world. I would like to assure him of our support and do hope that the Council would give him and his organization the much needed support that is to our minds imperative when we consider the nature and the dimensions of the problems he has highlighted.

We would on this occasion like to congratulate Dr. Ralph Phillips on formally assuming his high and responsible office. We wish him all success.

We also take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Sylla. His is an onerous assignment, and we feel that the job is in competent hands.

We have read document CL 74/2 with great interest and would like to compliment the Secretariat for presenting a comprehensive picture of the World Food and Agriculture situation. It is an even picture, with both dark as well as light aspects. The favourable aspect of the current food situation, that is, the high level of cereal stocks with prospects of a further rise in 1978/1979, is more than offset by the disturbing fact that the number of malnourished in the world are probably increasing. Cereal import requirements of MSA countries continue to increase, while the balance of payments difficulties prevent them from importing adequate quantities.

While fertilizer prices have reached an increase, fertilizer assistance has declined, placing further burden on the MSA/LDC. Official commitments of external assistance for the agriculture of developing countries has shown an upward trend, but we are nowhere near the attainment of the target set by the World Food Council in 1974. Similarly, commitments of food aid in cereals have increased, but we have still not achieved the figure of 10 million tons. Indeed, there are some disturbing developments which need immediate attention. Cereal imports requirements of the MSA have increased by 1.2 million tons as compared to 1976/77. There has been a serious and potentially dangerous outbreak of desert locust. Food and agriculture production in developing countries continues to lag far behind the basic target of 4% annual growth. Contributions to the IEFRC have still not reached 500 000 tons in any one given year. With regard to the increased dependence of developing countries, this problem should be viewed both in the short-term as well as the long-term perspective. In the short term, the obvious and only answer is increased food aid. Leaving these countries to depend on their own means will place too heavy a burden on their meagre resources which they might not be able to bear. In the long term, the answer is increased investments in both internal and external resources in agriculture. The situation caused by the outbreak of desert locust is another matter which deserves the immediate attention of the Council. The response by the Director-General has been both prompt and positive, and we take this opportunity of thanking him for his help to Pakistan in meeting this grave situation. We also thank all the donors who have contributed so far, but as much more needs to be done, we would urge all those in a position to do so to contribute generously in meeting this potentially disastrous situation.

It is true that the present high level of global stocks produces the ideal opportunity for the implementation of the Food Reserves Provision of the FAO's International Undertaking on World Food Security, but this question is closely linked with the negotiations for the establishment of Internationally Coordinated Food Security Reserves which have been carried out within the broader framework of negotiations concerning the new International Grains Agreement.

Unfortunately, there has been little progress in attaining this agreement to revise the International Wheat Agreement of 1971. These talks have been adjourned indefinitely. This is indeed a matter of concern.

As regards the current food situation in Pakistan, we are in a somewhat difficult position due to wheat shortage resulting from rust attack on last year's crop. We have taken steps to import rust-resistant varieties from other countries, and we expect to have better results this year. This incidentally is a good example of DAC in operation.

We have also read the portion of CL 74/2 on development assistance and investment of agriculture with considerable interest. Mr. Chairman, with your kind permission I would like to say a word about the investment in agriculture in Pakistan and this is with reference to Table 19 on pages 34-35. As it would be apparent from this table, Pakistan is already doing its utmost to develop its agriculture. The fifth Five-Year Plan which was launched earlier this year has accorded topmost priority to the agriculture sector. The new Agricultural Development Programme is a rational mix of technological change, economic measures, and institutional structuring. It seeks to achieve a more effective and enlarged use of modern inputs with a view to achieving a substantial increase in agriculture. This is combined with our efforts to build institutions and infrastructure in the agricultural sector to sustain growth in future, also. An allocation that represents 32.1 million, representing 21.7%, that is, well over one fifth of the total public sector of the planned outlay, has been earmarked for agriculture and related water resources development.

I will not take your time by quoting expensive figures but will merely highlight some of the main objectives of our agricultural development during the period 1978/1983 in broad terms. These are to achieve a growth rate of 6% per annum for the agricultural sector, increased oil seeds production with a view to containing imports of vegetable oil, accelerated production of eggs, milk and fish, in order to improve the nutritional level of the common man, upgrade agricultural production in the outlying areas through an integrated plan for exploitation of reserves with a view to minimizing infraregional farm income disparity to improve the productivity of small farmers who comprise a majority of the farming community. Lastly, and before we close, Mr. Chairman, may we compliment His Excellency, Dr. Tanco, the President of the World Food Council, on a most thoughtful discourse. We welcome his initiative to establish a closer and mutually rewarding relationship to the FAO. We are sure this will contribute greatly in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

CHAIRMAN: As we agreed in the morning, we will now have to stop and adjourn the meeting in order to honour our former Director-General, Dr. B.R. Sen, but because we have lost some time in the morning we are now running very much behind schedule.

Before we adjourn, I would like to tell you how many people still remain to speak. They are New Zealand, Bangladesh, China, India, Belgium, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, France, Cuba, and Senegal, with an Observer, and Iraq now, so that means we have to continue the debate tomorrow on this very important item, and I would like to suggest to you that in order to catch up at least part of the time we start tomorrow at 9 o'clock instead of 9.30, if this is agreeable to Members, so that we can meet our deadline of finishing as early as possible by the 6th of December.

I now adjourn the meeting until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours

La séance est levée à 17 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/3

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(28 November 1978)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.10 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 10 sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Tercera Sesión Plenaria a las 09.10 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Yesterday we stopped at discussions on the State of Food and Agriculture, and altogether five people spoke in one hour and fifteen minutes. That gave us an average of fifteen minutes per speaker. If we go on at this rate we cannot possibly finish this item during the whole of today, and I have on my list 11 or 12 people who want to take the floor. Before that I would like to remind you of our Method of Work and I will read out the relevant section of this so far as debates are concerned: "Lengthy and/or repetitious statements should be avoided. Speakers should not re-state views already expressed by others unless extended debate is required to develop a consensus. In these cases, speakers should confine themselves to indicating their agreement with a previous speaker, and not repeat what has already been said."

Therefore I would like to appeal to you not to repeat what others have said, and to be as brief as possible.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1978

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, 1978

4. El Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, 1978

4.1 Developments in Commodity and Trade Matters (continued)

4.1 Faits nouveaux concernant les produits et le commerce (suite)

4.1 Evolución observada en el sector de los productos básicos y el comercio (continuación)

M.L. CAMERON (New Zealand): I shall bear your comments in mind, Mr. Chairman. The document before us, together with the Director-General's statement yesterday morning, provide a very useful summary of the current world food and agriculture situation and the short-term prospects. It is disappointing to note that once again increases in food and agricultural production in the developing countries as a whole have failed to reach the basic target of 4 percent per annum. The large number of MSA countries which have continued to show a negative rate of growth is a major cause for concern. In over half, of the developing countries surveyed, production failed to keep up with the population growth and in the developing countries as a whole per capita food production has stagnated.

The document notes that there are significant differences between those developing countries with the highest and lowest rates of growth, particularly in the levels of government involvement and domestic investment in the agricultural sector. We would agree there is a serious lack of information on domestic investment in agriculture in the developing countries, and would support any moves by FAO to improve this situation. Such work should, of course, assist the longer-term objective of helping countries develop their own expertise, in the collection and interpretation of investment statistics.

It has always been our view that the developing countries themselves must take the lead in according food production an effective higher priority among their development objectives. Strategies, of course, will vary from country to country, but will, we believe, need to include a more balanced pattern of investment - that is, an explicit acceptance of the key role in agricultural production of the small farmer, and a political willingness to share the available investment and technical assistance resources. We would hope that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will focus on this aspect, and that worthwhile and practical solutions to benefit the small farmer and hence food production will be forthcoming.

The increase in cereal production forecast for 1978 is encouraging, and seems certain to meet demand. However, the increasing dependence of developing countries on imports of food, particularly grains, is a cause for concern. We welcome the increase in cereal crop and the opportunity this provides to establish an internationally coordinated system of stock holding.

Particularly useful is the section summarizing the international agricultural trade situation. It highlights many problems - inadequate terms of trade for many agricultural commodities, sharp price fluctuations, the persistence and indeed in some cases the worsening of protectionism and restrictions on agricultural trade, the continued existence of structural surpluses of many commodities caused by the price support systems operated by many developed countries, the problems caused by subsidized exports and so forth.

These are all problems which affect New Zealand as a country dependent on agricultural exports for its livelihood, so we can understand and share the difficulties and impatience of the oil-deficient developing countries which are similarly dependent on agricultural exports, and whose problems are so much more acute than our own. We are convinced that developing countries would prefer trade to aid as a means of improving the wellbeing of their people, since it is a more durable and self-fulfilling solution to the problems of underdevelopment.

It is with regret, therefore, that we note as stated in the document that progress towards overcoming the problems hamstringing agricultural trade had been very limited over the past year. We look for an effort of political will on the part of the major participants in the MTN in particular to produce real improvements in trade access, not just new sets of trade rules.

As I have noted, New Zealand has been hard hit by the depressed condition of the international economy, and by agricultural protectionism. We have experienced a sustained decline in our terms of trade, now at levels of 25 percent below the 1962-72 average, and we have experienced several years of negative growth in per capita income. Necessarily, this has affected New Zealand's aid performance; naturally our progress towards our development assistance target is largely determined by the health of our economy. Nonetheless, our current level of assistance, while not what we would wish, compares with the average for developed countries, and a small increase was possible this year following more stable conditions in our economy.

We are also well aware of the need for greater concentration of aid on agriculture, and in our case aid for agriculture and rural development accounts for approximately 30 percent of our aid disbursements. It is pleasing to read in the document, therefore, that official commitments of external assistance to agriculture have increased sharply, and that increased emphasis is being placed on assisting the small farmer.

May we compliment the Secretariat on a concise and factual situation report. Our regrets are that more real progress cannot be recorded in it.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of New Zealand. I hope everyone will be as brief as you are.

LI YUNG-KAI (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): Although since the beginning of 1970 many regions of the world have suffered very frequently from natural calamities, food and agriculture production as a whole has been rising. Mankind has made continuous progress in developing and exploiting agricultural resources. Especially worthy of mention is the fact that many developing countries have achieved considerable success in developing food production to bring about self-sufficiency in grain, and in improving the international trade terms for agricultural produce by persisting in unity and implementing the principle of self-reliance or collective self-reliance.

These facts prove that developing countries can certainly push their food production forward so long as they lay emphasis on it, relying on the strength of the people to adopt effective policy measures to increase food production in accordance with their respective abilities, and learn to use the technology and experience of the world proceeding from the technical experience of their own countries.

International trade in agricultural produce will develop more healthily if developing countries persist in moving towards the goal of establishing a new international economic order, and put into effect a policy of mutual benefit so that each will make up what the other lacks.

We should also note the development of food production in the different areas of the world is very uneven. This is something that has aroused our concern. The problem of first priority is still how to feed the people in underdeveloped countries, and that means we must exert ourselves to speed up the development of food production and raise grain output according to local conditions.

The Report submitted by the Third Session of the Security Committee notes that developing countries should be assisted to increase the production of rice, legumes and tuber stocks by assisting technology. We think this is quite appropriate. At the same time, we think it is necessary to increase grain reserves at national or local levels on the basis that increased food production should provide for short crops in lean years being assisted by grain stores in good years.

Many developing countries have produced various kinds of tropical and subtropical crops by making use of their available agricultural resources, thus supplying the world market with more produce and contributing to all mankind. For these countries the export of farm produce often is their main

source of foreign currency income. Therefore, efforts to increase trade terms for such produce should not be delayed in any way. In this connexion, we firmly support the demand of developing countries for the establishment of an integrated commodity programme and common fund, to supply a better solution for the problem.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to give a brief account of the present situation in China. In our country stability prevails and the whole nation is going all out to speed up socialistic construction. We have further implemented various economic policies in the rural areas to strengthen support for all areas of agriculture. Hundreds of peasants have been mobilized to work against natural calamities. On the basis of a fair harvest of grain and cotton in 1977, we reaped satisfactory crops of grain and oilseeds this year. The grain already in store marks an increase of 10 million metric tons over the comparable period of last year. However, in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse River they were struck by continuous drought adversely affecting the growth of cotton crops in these areas.

At present the peasants throughout the country are busy getting in autumn crops. Most of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are expecting grain increases. Even in some of the places seriously affected by drought, increases in production have been achieved. Cotton production this year is expected to be better than last year. The 700 million Chinese peasants are full of confidence, taking positive measures, and determined to push agriculture forward.

CHAIRMAN: The world, and, of course, FAO in particular, are most concerned with all that goes on in China because the great majority of human beings on earth live there. Therefore we hope you get better weather and good harvests in future, and of course we wish this to every country. I would now like to call on another country, a major population area, which is India.

D.R. BHUMBLA (India): Let me first compliment the Secretariat for the excellent document CL 74/2 and Professor Islam for his excellent enunciation of the issues involved. I would also like to compliment the Director-General on his very valuable statement yesterday regarding the world food and agricultural situation, the FAO action programme and the issues which confront us. The Indian delegation would like to assure him of the full support of the Government of India for the programme of FAO under his dynamic leadership.

It is encouraging to note that agricultural production prospects for 1978 indicate an increase of 2.5 to 3% over 1977.

In the developing countries the rate of growth both of food crops and agricultural production has been much lower than in developed countries and far below the target of 4% set out in the International Development Strategy for the 1970s. Per capita food availability has been declining in the last decade and it has slowed down to 3% in the first six years of the present decade. Among the MSA countries there has been a negative growth during the first six years of the present decade.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, may I also point out that in many developing countries again legumes or pulses occupy an important place. The very little information that is available indicates that whereas population has been increasing the production of these crops has remained static. In our opinion FAO should look into this problem.

It has been said that there are many causes for the variation in the productive pace in the developed and developing countries.

One of the key inputs in agricultural production is fertilizer. The delegates are aware that the developing countries import a very large proportion of their fertilizer. Prices of these fertilizers have been increasing or have increased during the last year, particularly of potassic fertilizer, 95% of which is produced in the developed countries.

The developing countries have been facing a number of obstacles in their trade in agricultural commodities. In spite of a slight recovery between 1975 and 1977, there has been a gradual decline in the share of developing countries in the rising world total from 46% in the 1950s to 37% in the 1960s. In 1975 the industrialized nations imported 26 billion dollars of manufactures from the developing nations and exported 123 billion dollars of manufactures to them in return. The trend towards protectionism seems to be gathering in many industrialized nations, and this is a matter of concern.

Yesterday the Director-General informed us that the negotiations on a new International Grains Agreement have broken down in Geneva. We note this with a sense of disappointment and hope that negotiations will be resumed soon.

Coming to the development assistance, the picture is no better. Though in 1977 there is an increase in real terms over the 1976 figure in external assistance to agriculture, it is less than half of 7% of GNP recommended by the General Assembly.

I am sure that we in India have been fully aware of the need to direct substantial resources to agriculture. I may inform the Council that in my country the performance on the agricultural front has shown definite signs of improvement. The record output of 125.6 million tons of foodgrains during 1977/78 is higher by 4 million tons over the earlier peak of 121.0 million tons during 1975/76. The notable feature of food economy in India in the recent past has been easy availability of foodgrains at reasonable prices, a significant increase in foodgrain stocks with the government and stoppage of imports of foodgrains. A high priority has been accorded to agriculture with maximum emphasis of expansion of irrigation facilities that will bring an additional 17 million hectares under irrigation, both major and minor, during the next five years, as we feel that provision of irrigation is a necessity to provide stability in agricultural production. The consumption of fertilizer has risen from 2.9 million tons in 1975/76 to 4.2 million tons in 1977/78 and is likely to be a little more than five million tons this year. We have some serious problems. Some of our States, particularly in East India, suffered from very serious floods and the production of rice, which has been mentioned in the document, is likely to be affected adversely. The document mentioned maize, groundnuts and cotton. Cotton production may not be affected as badly, but rice production will be affected slightly because of the very serious flood situation. We are grateful to FAO for their aid to some of the flood victims.

We also faced drought and the locusts for the first time during the last ten years and we are again very grateful to FAO for their help. It seems that this menace is now in a new cycle and every nation has to devote much of its time and energy to controlling this, particularly in Africa and Asia. We are not sure how bad the next season will be with respect to locusts.

We are also taking measures in the field of agrarian reforms and rural development so that the benefit of growth and progress percolates down to the poorest of the poor.

H. BAHEYNS (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, j'ai à faire quelques brèves remarques au sujet de ce point de l'ordre du jour: la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, ainsi qu'au sujet du document que nous avons sous les yeux: CL 74/2.

Malgré une tendance générale à l'amélioration, la grande diversité des situations alimentaires et agricoles dans le monde doit nous inciter, d'une part à une grande circonspection, d'autre part à la modération de nos jugements.

De la lecture du rapport CL 74/2, par ailleurs fort intéressant et très documenté, se dégage cependant la difficulté d'une évaluation nette et complète, en raison d'un manque de données suffisantes, ou suffisamment exactes, en ce qui concerne notamment les situations nutritionnelles réelles, les taux d'investissement en agriculture, le niveau effectif des besoins, etc.

A ce propos, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur le Tableau 19, page 44 du Rapport, où manifestement une certaine prudence doit se manifester, car si on regarde les chiffres on ne peut pas manquer d'être frappé par des anomalies qui vraiment ne s'expliquent pas.

Je prends dans ce tableau la formation brute de capital fixe dans le secteur agricole en proportion du PIB agricole, et la deuxième colonne qui traite des montants par hectare. Je constate qu'au Danemark cette formation brute de capital est de 112 - ce sont sans doute des millions de dollars. Pour les Pays-Bas, le chiffre est de 612. Or, ces deux pays ont une structure agricole à peu près comparable, un niveau de vie à peu près identique. Il y a certainement quelque chose qui ne va pas dans ce tableau. Le Royaume-Uni figure avec 26. Donc tous ces chiffres perdent leur signification quand on se rend compte de telles divergences qui sont difficiles à expliquer.

Cela dit, je voudrais continuer mes commentaires au sujet de la situation générale.

Le rapport fait apparaître une poussée de la demande réelle à l'importation, logique si l'on compare les taux de croissance de la production de la population, mais qui reste dangereuse pour la poursuite de l'objectif global de la sécurité alimentaire.

L'étude des différents facteurs de cette tendance persistante doit conduire nos réflexions et nos actions vers la recherche d'un meilleur équilibre, là où le rapport alimentaire est déficitaire soit en fonction des cultures commerciales insuffisamment rentables, soit en fonction de structures socio-économiques défavorables au développement rural. Il faut donc identifier et recenser ces points critiques pour trouver les solutions adéquates.

Les amendements et les transferts de technologie ne sont pas toute l'aide alimentaire, et les termes de l'échange non plus. Sur le plan des besoins, tant que certaines structures n'ont pas évolué, il sera difficile de faire autre chose d'une année à l'autre que de dresser un bilan de ce que la nature aura permis. C'est pourquoi nous sommes soucieux de l'évolution des travaux qui, en matière de réforme agraire par exemple, permettraient un redéploiement de l'économie rurale de certaines régions particulièrement sensibles.

Sur le plan des échanges, et pour se référer à des négociations qui peuvent avoir une incidence aussi bien au niveau de la sécurité alimentaire qu'au niveau des recettes, il faut bien dire que dans une économie de marché il est difficile de penser à des politiques de doubles prix, car les autorités n'ont pas les moyens de semblables pratiques.

Mais sur le plan de la stabilisation des marchés, le rapport n'est pas très explicite sur les efforts qu'ont tentés les pays de la Communauté économique européenne en vue d'arriver à des accords de stabilisation pour les denrées utiles aux pays en voie de développement, et spécialement aux pays le plus gravement touchés, sans parler de politiques destinées à corriger des accidents de la nature ou les imperfections du marché.

Par contre, la relation qui est faite, en ce qui concerne le sucre, nous paraît solliciter, eu égard à la situation réelle du marché et à la position relative des pays membres et non membres, l'accord actuel.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Belgium. I am sure that the Secretariat will give some explanation of the discrepancies in the figures that he mentioned and correct them if they are, in fact, mistakes.

M, SAITO (Japan): First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Saouma, the Director- General, for his comprehensive statement which contains the debut of the current world food situation, as well as overall FAO activities. I would also like to commend the Secretariat for supplying an excellent document for us on the State of Food and Agriculture.

I would like to make some comments on the present state of world food and agriculture, also to explain shortly my government's position on international cooperation. I was very pleased to see the recent improvement of the world food situation indicated in the documents, especially the increase of supply and the stabilization of prices in cereals, which could contribute to making favourable conditions for all countries to create or increase their stocks and to ensure food security in accordance with the international undertaking on world food security.

On the other hand, we had to pay attention to the fact that there still exist problems in some regions which the document indicates as follows.

Firstly, food production in developing countries still remains at a low level. Secondly, the increase of cereal stocks is concentrated in major exporting countries. Thirdly, as a result of this, the world cereal supply has come to rely increasingly on food production in developed countries. In view of this situation we should not be over-optimistic about world food security in the future.

I believe it is a most fundamental task for the world community to increase food production in the developing countries, in particular those with a continuing food deficit, in order to ensure the further stabilization of food production and supply. When developing countries tackle difficult agricultural development problems, it goes without saying that self-help efforts by each individual country are fundamentally essential and at the same time further cooperation of the relevant international organizations and potential donor countries is required.

In the area of international agricultural cooperation, my Government, based on such recognitions, has provided the developing countries with financial and technical assistance for development projects within a bilateral and multilateral framework.

Furthermore, with a view to assisting self-reliance efforts of developing countries toward increasing food production, the Japanese Government has decided to increase the budget for assistance on a grant basis to 16 billion yen or about 80 million dollars for the 1978 fiscal year, compared with 6 billion yen in 1977. Under this assistance, fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and other agricultural inputs are provided to the developing countries concerned.

In this connexion, it must be pointed out that integrated rural development is of great importance for improving the productivity of small farmers who represent a large proportion in many developing countries. From this point of view I think it is timely that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be held next summer under the auspices of FAO, and we hope that the Conference will bring great results and lead to an increase of food production.

Finally, I should like to express my appreciation of FAO's activities in research and information on agricultural improvement and the food situation in the world. In particular, my delegation supports the FAO activity providing a valuable tool for development through collecting and maintaining in a systematic manner relevant development assistance data with regard to ongoing activities supported from various external sources. In this context I think it is quite important that the Organization's activity be strengthened in order to further external assistance efficiently, as well as make appropriate arrangements for the operation of TCP.

In conclusion, I am confident that FAO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, will continue to play an important role in solving the food problem under the leadership of Dr. Saouma.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first thank the Secretariat for the thorough information under this item of the Agenda. The basic document and the additionally available information allow us to expect in the short term a favourable development of agricultural production and of basic food supply. Also, in many parts of the developing regions further improvements are to be noticed. We are glad to learn now from document CL 74/2 Sup. 1 that there was a large increase in production in Africa. Cereal stocks will increase again. Agricultural inputs will be available in the medium term to a sufficient extent. The developing countries were again in a position to increase their earnings from agricultural exports. The terms of trade which have improved in 1977 unfortunately seem to have worsened in the beginning of 1978, but we hope that this tendency will not continue.

The Federal Republic of Germany, as the largest importer of food commodities, has increased her imports from developing countries again substantially. Meanwhile, more than 50 percent of our total agricultural imports from countries outside the European Economic Community come from developing countries. My Government continues to pursue a liberal trade policy. It advocates this course in particular in the multi-lateral trade negotiations which are about to reach their final stage.

We are all aware of the fact that production and supply must be improved in some regions and further endeavours will be necessary in this respect. It is encouraging that external assistance for agriculture in developing countries increased sharply in 1977. The statement in the document, however, that the World Food Council has agreed on a specific target does not reflect its recommendations: the World Food Council did not set such a target.

The document points out quite rightly that developing countries must be assisted to a greater extent than so far in the identification and preparation of investment programmes and projects. For this decisive phase of agricultural development the competent international organizations have to offer a great deal of experience and comprehensive expert knowledge. This is true in particular for FÁO. The Director-General has recently pointed out in a document for the deliberation of the United Nations Committee according to Resolution 32/174 of the General Assembly, generally known as Committee-of-the-Whole, that FAO is prepared to participate to a greater extent in the identification and preparation of projects. Let me mention in particular FAO's efforts to obtain more information about the internal investment in agriculture of developing countries. A better knowledge of developing countries' own efforts is important for strengthening cooperation with bilateral and multi-lateral donors and for the continuation of the activities initiated by the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in developing countries, CGFPI, with regard to the development and implementation of country plans.

We therefore welcome the initiative taken by the World Food Council to overcome that impasse situation of lack of information about bottlenecks encountered by all concerned.

Finally, I wish to state that my Government is ready to give more support to the development of agriculture in developing countries if our partners from the developing countries wish us to do so. Our budget for this purpose was increased by 17 percent. We have already stated that at the 4th Session of the World Food Council in Mexico.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): The report of the Director-General on the state of food and agriculture 1978 is fair, frank, comprehensive and yet concise. It is my pleasure to express my delegation's appreciation of the excellent document. The major features of food production and other global issues have been brilliantly dealt with by Dr. Saouma in his address and by Professor Islam in his introduction. I would only like to refer to some minor issues contained in the document.

We are not quite happy with the general rise in consumer food prices, as stated in the document itself, and I should like to point out that within the overall set of difficulties which had been created by rising food prices an even more dangerous and worrying problem is concealed. The rise in food consumer prices is actually afflicting obviously the poor who, as a part of urbanization, inflate the already overgrown cities in many developing countries. Increasing marketing costs and margins, and the consequent decrease in the farmers' dollar are not only adding to the hardship of the poorest segments of the population in a good number of countries, but this fact is also strongly diminishing the motivation of farmers in the developing countries concerned.

Both in the report before us and in some other documents to be discussed by this Session of the Council, there are some remarks upon the share in the per capita external assistance which LDCs and MSA countries are receiving. Increasing aid is really encouraging. However, we are fully convinced that this aid contribution is due to the rather limited absorptive capacity of some of the countries. One may wonder whether assistance programmes aiming at institution building in MSA and LDC countries should receive some special attention in FAO and, if I may add, in its sister organizations as well.

Institution building projects in agriculture - both in the broader and narrower definition - even if not considered as direct aid, are no doubt a major means in preparing these countries to utilize foreign aid more easily and more efficiently.

Lastly, may I refer to an issue which is only briefly touched upon in the paper before us though mentioned by many of the delegates around me. I am referring to the investments in agriculture which we consider to be a key issue of the medium and long-term development in agriculture and food production. We fully concur with what has been said in the State of Food and Agriculture 1978 about the scarcity of available information on domestic investment in agriculture in most developing countries. At the same time we most welcome FAO's efforts to collect more data on this. We should like to state that we are looking forward to hearing of any further survey or any other information on national agricultural investment at a not very distant meeting of the Council. We are very interested indeed in learning how developing countries have been assisted in their domestic investments in agriculture.

I glanced at the list of the special chapters published so far in the various reports on the state of food and agriculture from 1957 up to now, but investments in agriculture in the developing world had not been so far elaborated on. An analytical survey on investments to be published in this series may not only summarize the data to be collected on this issue but try to offer a comprehensive insight on the ways and extent in which FAO's assistance to developing countries is triggering new investments and securing the international work done by FAO, the World Bank and other organizations to meet the investment requirements of the developing countries.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Je voudrais tout d'abord, en commençant cette intervention, remercier, comme certains de mes collègues ont été amenés à le faire, M. le Directeur général de la FAO pour les précisions qu'il nous a données dans son exposé général et aussi pour un point plus particulier car il a honoré notre pays en pratiquant la langue française pour prononcer cette intervention. Qu'il en soit donc véritablement remercié.

Le point qui est soumis à notre attention a fait l'objet d'un rapport et d'un complément très circonstancié et nous en remercions le Secrétariat. De nombreux points ont été évoqués dans ce document et je n'en reprendrai que quelques-uns pour éviter, comme vous le souhaitiez, les répétitions.

Un point que je note au passage est celui qui a trait à la lutte contre le péril acridien qui a touché d'assez nombreux pays, soit du Moyen-Orient, soit d'Afrique. J'ai été heureux de constater, comme vous l'avez souligné, que l'ensemble économique auquel nous appartenons, la Communauté, a participé à cette lutte et qu'il entreprend des efforts de coopération continus avec la FAO à ce sujet.

Sur l'aide publique au développement, nous sommes amenés à souhaiter que les efforts soient poursuivis et ainsi je rappellerai ce que nous disions à Mexico et qui est repris dans la Résolution: "Il faut que tous les pays fournissant ou susceptibles de fournir une aide étudient, au sein des instances dont ils font partie, comment on peut soutenir de façon plus efficace les efforts des pays en développement et identifier les problèmes des goulets d'étranglement qui freinent l'accroissement de l'aide officielle au développement dans ces groupes et chercher à les surmonter".

Je rappellerai aussi que, comme l'a fait notre collègue de la République fédérale, aucun objectif n'a été fixé pour cette APD par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Il faut en effet une certaine liberté, une certaine marge d'appréciation en fonction des situations; mais il convient de rapprocher de cette partie du document les efforts qui sont faits dans le cadre de l'Aide alimentaire et plus particulièrement de l'aide alimentaire en céréales dans le cadre de la FAO. C'est à juste titre que la FAO a insisté sur le fait que c'est en Afrique et dans les pays les plus gravement touchés que les problèmes demeurent le plus préoccupants en raison du fait même des progrès réalisés quant à l'augmentation de la production agricole.

A cet égard, le plan régional pour l'alimentation en Afrique destiné à intensifier les efforts pour permettre au continent africain de réaliser son autosuffisance alimentaire dès 1985 a été préparé par notre Organisation avec la collaboration de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique. Ce document nous avait été demandé lors de la Conférence régionale de Freetown en 1976. Nous demandons sa rapide mise en oeuvre et nous notons avec satisfaction la coopération qui s'est instituée avec le Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel, assumant ainsi un rôle de coordination des aides extérieures et des efforts nationaux.

J'en viens maintenant à d'autres points qui apparaissent dans le rapport qui nous a été soumis et également à de nombreuses interventions qui ont été faites par les uns ou par les autres en ce qui concerne le protectionnisme des pays développés à l'égard soit des exportations de produits agricoles, soit de certains produits industriels.

En ce qui concerne mon pays, ce domaine relève de la compétence communautaire et sans doute le représentant de la Commission de la Communauté européenne interviendra à ce sujet. Qu'il me soit permis simplement de rappeler quelques faits:

Les négociations commerciales multilatérales se poursuivent toujours à Genève dans le cadre du GATT. Elles portent sur les obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires. Il convient de laisser à chaque organisation sa compétence particulière.

On a parlé aussi du système des préférences généralisées, mais là aussi je rappellerai que ce système a été mis en vigueur par la Communauté, la première, alors qu'à la deuxième conférence de la CNUCED, à New Delhi, en 1968, on avait prévu que ce régime ne s'appliquerait qu'aux produits manufacturés et dans le cas des produits agricoles transformés, selon la règle du cas par cas, c'est-à-dire à l'appréciation des pays donateurs. Je rappelle que la Communauté a été plus loin puisque nombre de produits agricoles non transformés bénéficient maintenant d'importantes réductions tarifaires. Enfin, on a évoqué l'importance des subventions à l'exportation. Je rappelle que le système appliqué par mon pays dans le cadre de la réglementation communautaire, sous le nom de "restitution", ne correspond pas à une volonté de dumping. Nos prix s'alignent sur ceux du marché mondial quels que soient les produits.

Ceci m'amène à rappeler que nous avons toujours prôné la mise au point d'accords internationaux de produits dotés de mécanismes suffisamment adaptés pour assurer un juste équilibre des prix réduisant ainsi les perturbations constatées. A cette occasion, je ne puis que regretter la suspension provisoire des négociations sur les céréales où, malgré les efforts incessants de la Communauté, tout particulièrement pour tenir compte des intérêts des pays en voie de développement, des difficultés continuent à se faire jour.

Je demeure cependant persuadé qu'il sera possible de parvenir prochainement à un résultat pour ces produits comme pour les produits laitiers et la viande pour lesquels également nous avons soumis des propositions.

Enfin, j'ai noté dans le rapport qu'en ce qui concerne le sucre on dit que la chute des cours est due en grande partie aux exportations en sucre de la Communauté. C'est une façon de voir les choses. Il conviendrait de la modérer en rappelant également que la Communauté, si elle exporte beaucoup de sucre, premièrement, importe 1 300 000 à 1 400 000 tonnes de sucre en provenance des pays en développement membres de la Convention de Lomé. Ce sucre n'est pas indispensable à la Communauté et lorsqu'on parle de nos importations il faut bien tenir compte du sucre communautaire exporté à la place de celui que nous recevons sans en avoir un besoin absolu.

D'autre part, je rappellerai en passant que, malgré ces chiffres élevés, depuis trois ans la Communauté économique européenne en matière de sucre a réduit ses superficies de 4,5 pour cent. Si nous avons maintenant des chiffres de production plus importants, c'est uniquement parce que les rendements et les conditions atmosphériques ont permis de retrouver la normale. Je tiens donc à ce que cette rectification soit faite compte tenu des nombreuses critiques que nous entendons à ce sujet.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Speaking for the first time in this Session on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation we sincerely hope that we shall achieve concrete results in this session. We heard with great interest the statement by the Director-General in the morning yesterday. It was very comprehensive, it was frank, direct and with concrete proposals, the normal way he speaks. I like the way he speaks. I am sure Dr Sen was right yesterday when he said that one of his important discoveries long back was a young man with shining intelligence who would create a new FAO. We thought he was right. We also heard from the distinguished President of the World Food Council. His statement is reassuring. The item under consideration, namely, the State of Food and Agriculture 1978, is one of the important issues for deliberation in this session. I compliment the Director-General and his colleagues for an excellent review of the State of Food and Agriculture in document CL 74/2. We find the documentation informative and useful. I particularly compliment Professor Islam, the ADG, for his brilliant presentation yesterday. The presentation was learned; a presentation from a professor ought to be learned.

I will state without hesitation that in many respects the short-term global food situation looks comfortable. For the first time cereal stocks have reached 19 percent, and the revised estimate is 21 percent of the annual projection, outside of China and the U.S.S.R., which is slightly above the minimum safe level recommended by FAO, and for the first time, cereal production has passed 1 1/2 billion tons with satisfactory harvests in the major producing areas of the world. But you know where the stocks lie, the developing countries lack food security even today and they need assistance to build their own stocks. The FAO Food Security and Assistance Scheme can do a good job in this area. We heard Professor Islam saying yesterday that not only are stocks concentrated in a few countries but that they are concentrated in a few areas in those countries and in case of urgent need, movements will be most difficult.

This reminds me of a saying that we have in Bangladesh. There is a type of fruit in Bangladesh which is very tasty but it has a hard shell so birds cannot pierce through the shell to get into the tasty fruit. There were birds, those who were going hungry, but there were abundant fruits which had ripened. A person told the birds, "Why are you hungry? Why don't you eat the fruits?". I hope this will not be the situation of the developing countries.

The global survey concerns the difficulties and shortfall in production faced in many other parts of the world, particularly in food deficit developing countries. Further, the marginally improved production in some other developing countries has been mainly due to favourable climatic conditions and not as a result of structural changes in agriculture or resource increased flow from the international donor community. Due to favourable monsoons, agricultural production increased by 6 percent in the developing countries of Asia and the Far East minus China in 1977, following a year of no growth in 1976, while in Africa, production declined in 1977; and thirdly, drought in the critical Sahel zone continues to reduce harvests. The global situation is further weakened by the fact that import requirements of the developing countries of food grains are continuously on the increase. The import requirements of MSA countries are estimated at 17.4 million tons in 1977-78, which is 1.2 million tons more than in 1976-77. And here I am tempted to quote from the Director-General's statement to ECOSOC, a statement which I like most. He told the ECOSOC - and I quote - "In 1976 the non-oil exporting developing countries spent over \$10 billion on commercial food imports, equivalent to one-third of this account deficit. These massive food imports are estimated to offset the benefit by more than 80 percent of the official development assistance received in 1976. In other words, the money spent by the developing countries on food imports has offset the ODA by more than 80 percent in 1976. The Donor Community is yet to reach the target of 100 million tons of food, and in spite of the call by the World Food Conference in 1974 and repeated urging by the World Food Council and the UNGA.

We heard from Professor Islam yesterday that according to preliminary estimates it may have reached ten million, but we have to see what has been the shipment. Food aid, even to the least developed countries is not yet fully on grant basis, which is a major recommendation of the World Food Conference and the World Food Council. The developing countries, particularly food deficit ones strongly urged the Donor Community in Mexico City last June to convene the new Food Aid Convention to ensure food aid at ten million tons, irrespective of the results of the negotiations for the new international Grain Agreement or arrangement in Geneva; but we are aware that in Geneva no progress has yet been made towards that end. We heard from Professor Islam yesterday that it has been postponed without any fruitful results. We feel that a new Food Aid Convention has become absolutely necessary to achieve the minimum level of food aid to the developing countries, particularly the food deficit ones.

The fertilizer supply on a global basis continues to improve although international prices have risen in 1978. We heard from the President of the World Food Council that the supply situation has increased and that the price is beneath the peak reached. I must say this is very confusing. We know that in 1974-75 wheat prices rose over \$300 per ton. Today it is 130-140. Tomorrow it might rise to \$250 per ton. Are we to be happy that it is below the peak reached in 1974? I leave it to your judgement. As a result of these high prices, the LDC and the MSA countries continue to have deteriorating conditions

in their procurement abilities. From our experience we know that fertilizer use in Bangladesh picked up beyond expected proportions estimated and our capacity to procure fertilizer through AID and our own resources remains adequate to meet the demand. Fertilizer assistance in 1976-77 is estimated at only 400 thousand tons as against a target of one million tons set by the Seventh Special Session of the UNGA, which is less than half.

The IFS scheme of the FAO is inactive. We all know it is inactive due to drying up of resources. In 1976 we in Bangladesh received substantial assistance from this scheme. We urge upon donors to contribute to this scheme, as it was found to be particularly helpful to the LDC and the MSA countries.

External assistance to developing countries in agriculture, including ODA, declined in 1976, although it is estimated that in 1977 this has increased, but still it remains about half of the target level agreed Upon at the World Food Council of \$US 8.3 billion, with 6.5 billion (in 1975 prices) on concessional terms to enable the developing countries to reach a production growth of 4 percent annually. We very strongly feel that unless external resources both by multilateral and bilateral donors, particularly ODA, are substantially increased in the near future in order to meet the target of \$8.3 billion by 1980, agricultural production in developing countries will continue to stagger at the mercy of the vagaries of nature, and the number of hungry and malnourished in the world will go on multiplying. I believe that if we are serious - and we in Bangladesh believe that we are - to usher in the New International Economic Order, attainment of ODA at 0.7 percent of the GNP is an important cornerstone. But, unfortunately, the present trend is in the reverse direction in the case of some major donors, with the exception of a few. And here I look at my friend and colleague from the Netherlands and also my colleagues from Sweden and Norway; and I put them on dock for achieving an ODA level of 0.9 percent already. The World Bank says they will surpass 1 percent by 1985. I put them on dock for leaving others behind and for having reached 0.9 percent already.

Mr. Chairman, you are aware that the Fourth FAO World Food Survey revealed that the number of hungry and malnourished in the world increased from 400 million to 450 million in spite of the pious hope by the World Food Conference and the 7th Special Session of UNGA that hunger and malnutrition will be erased from the face of the globe within a decade. I am tempted to quote from the statements Robert McNamara made to the Board of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank in September of this year, first in respect of the ODA and then with respect to the malnourished and hungry, and I quote Robert McNamara: "Since 1970 when the U.N. National Assembly adopted a target of 0.7 percent of GNP for concessional aid, it has never exceeded half that level and there has been a steady deterioration against the objective. The fact is that in 1976 and 1977 the absolute amounts were less in real terms than in 1975 or 1972 or in 1971."

Robert McNamara said about the hungry and malnourished: "The population of the developing countries is projected to increase from 2.1 billion in 1975 to 3.5 billion in the year 2000. A failure to reduce the proportion living in poverty will result in the number increasing from 710 million in the year 1975 to 1 300 million in the year 2000".

We heard the distinguished President of the World Food Council yesterday. I was encouraged by his optimistic view that if we do not erase hunger and mainourishment from the globe in, as expected, the decade ending 1985, we will do it by a decade from today. I have the World Bank survey on the projection of the ODA by the members of the DAC countries. This is most discouraging. There will not be any substantial change in the flow of ODA from 1978 to 1985, except from the few whom I have put in the dock.

I come from a country where 83 percent of the people are below the poverty line, and you are aware that our per capita GNP has gone down below \$US 100; we continue to import about 10 percent of cereal requirements annually. Here the word must be told about the absorption capacity and the efforts made by the developing countries before this word "absorption capacity" becomes chronic. Something has to be said about it.

I appreciate what Mr. Saouma told the ECOSOC in June of this year. He told the ECOSOC - and I quote - "A far greater share of aid must go to MSA countries which are remaining more and more as the main focus of the world food problem. In many cases aid must be used in the first place to build up the absorption capacity for handling more aid, notably assistance in training national staff to identify, prepare and implement projects." This is a concrete suggestion.

As regards the efforts of developing countries, there are not yet any figures, we heard from Professor Islam yesterday. Dr. Saouma told ECOSOC; "The developing countries had for the most part responded to the world food crisis in 1974 by gradually stepping up resources devoted to this sector and they are anxious that all data be systematically compiled on their efforts, and FAO is ready to do this task." The developing countries are making efforts, it is recognized, and we will ask FAO to compile data to put this on paper to show the world what they are doing within their resources.

Now Bangladesh, through our experience during the last seven years of our existence as an independent, sovereign country, we learned that we cannot continue to depend so heavily on international assistance for our food and agriculture. We agree with the Director-General when he told ECOSOC: "no country can claim independence..."

CHAIRMAN: May I remind the delegate of Bangladesh he has been talking for over 20 minutes now. Can he please abridge his speech.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I will finish it in five minutes, but I am handicapped by the Statement. It was . an important thing when ECOSOC was told: "No country should claim independence when it cannot cope with its food problems." Bangladesh **has** been making great efforts to improve food production. You will be happy to hear that our food import requirements have gone down from 3 million tons in 1974-75 to 1.8 million tons in 1977-78 and 1.5 million tons in 1978-79, in spite of our population growth of 2.8 percent.

Agricultural production increased by about 7 percent in 1977. My government attaches highest priority to food production and population control, and this is reflected in our two-year plan as well as the five-year plan to be launched in 1980. We are determined to be self-sufficient in food in the shortest possible time, and to contain the population to a reasonable figure before the turn of the century.

Bangladesh agriculture is still mostly dependent on nature. Only 2 percent of our crop area is irrigated, which produce 10 percent of our harvest. In Bangladesh, we have potentials, and much depends on the flow of increased resources for agricultural development and food production in terms of physical imports. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, we will make best use of the assistance.

I cannot conclude without saying a word about the emergency requirements of the developing countries, as my country is one of the major recipients in the emergency assistance of the WFP. We are all aware of the large-scale emergencies that took place in 1978. We are happy that the World Food Programme allocation has been increased from \$45 million to \$55 million in the current year. We feel that \$55 million should be the minimum level over the coming years as well.

One recommendation of the World Food Council in Mexico City was that the international emergency food reserves (IEFR) should be established on a continuing basis with 500,000 tons of food grains annually. We note with concern the present level of balance in IEFR food grains, and the announcement of 125 000 tons by the United States Government for 1979 should be appreciated, but we recommend that in order to meet the increasing needs of developing countries, the target of 500-000 tons should be fully met and this should be for the exclusive use of the WFP.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope, with the President of the World Food Council, that together we will succeed, and let it not be a ritual in this Council to review the deteriorating state of food and agriculture for the hungry millions.

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, and apologise to you and to my colleagues for this lengthy intervention, and I thank you for your indulgence. I look forward to a successful conclusion.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this interesting intervention, but for future interventions I hope Members will abridge information into a very brief statement.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba) : Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente; haremos nuestro máximo esfuerzo por reducir nuestra intervención y hacerla lo más corta posible; de todas formas, permítame dos palabras para felicitarlo por la manera tan eficiente con que dirige nuestros trabajos, así como también quisiera hacer extensiva esta felicitación a los distinguidos Vicepresidentes y demás miembros de la Mesa; de manera muy especial quisiéramos referirnos a la excelente intervención del Director General.

Al analizar el documento GL 74/2, presentado por la Secretaría, podemos observar que a pesar de algunas mejoras en la producción alimentaria en el período, el aumento medio anual de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo ha sido muy inferior a los objetivos del 4% fijado en la estrategia internacional del desarrollo del Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas.

También es necesario tener en cuenta que un rasgo sobresaliente de la producción de alimentos en los últimos decenios ha sido el crecimiento de las exportaciones de los países desarrollados, lo que se ha traducido en una reducción de la participación de los países en desarrollo en el comercio internacional, acentuando su dependencia de abastecimiento desde los países industrializados.

Se ha comprobado, además, que los promedios nacionales de consumo de alimentos en los países en desarrolló sólo muestran de por sí una situación extremadamente trágica, sino que ofrecen una indicación global de agravante déficit nutricional que padecen la mayoría de las poblaciones de estos países.

Asimismo, una característica básica de la situación presente analizada por la cuarta encuesta alimentaria mundial de la FAO es la desigual distribución de los alimentos entre los diferentes grupos socioeconómicos. Los datos que se exponen en el mencionado estudio demuestran que los grupos más pobres de la población tienen acceso generalmente a cantidades menores de alimentos, que se traducen en un consumo insuficiente para una considerable parte de dicha población.

Tampoco debemos de olvidar la grave situación que atraviesan algunos países, como por ejemplo India, Viet Nam, Lao, provocada por catástrofes nacionales y naturales.

Toda esta situación analizada se agrava por la importante expansión de las exportaciones de los países desarrollados de economía de mercado, la cual obedece en la mayoría de los casos a las políticas proteccionistas y de subsidios, influyendo la concesión de elevadas subvenciones a sus producciones y a sus exportaciones, así como la creación de fuertes barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias a la concurrencia de la producción agrícola de los países en desarrollo.

Desafortunadamente tenemos que destacar que la situación general de los productos básicos, y en especial los de origen agrícola, se ha deteriorado considerablemente. A pesar de los esfuerzos realizados durante la IV UNCTAD y la aprobación de la resolución 93 (IV) sobre el programa integrado, la coyuntura económica general de los mercados de estos productos ha sido adversa a logros sustanciales y verdaderos, habiendo un estancamiento en el proceso de negociaciones económico-comerciales en general y de los productos agrícolas en particular.

Hav que reconocer que la falta de voluntad política y el bloqueo sistemático al avance de las reuniones preparatorias incluidas en el programa integrado así como a las labores de las sesiones de la Conferencia sobre un fondo común por parte de los países capitalistas desarrollados ha hecho fracasar la aplicación de los acuerdos recogidos en la Resolución 93 IV, haciéndose también manifiesta dentro del marco de los convenios de productos básicos.

Ante esta situación se hace necesario tomar medidas prácticas que conlleven, si no a cambios substanciales, sí a mejoras considerables de este estado de cosas. En tal sentido, nuestra delegación considera un deber, siquiera sucintamente pronunciarse en contra de la posición obstaculizadora de los países desarrollados con relación a las negociaciones económicas comerciales, en especial la referente, a los productos básicos de origen agrícola; apoyar las proposiciones tendientes a aclarar las negociaciones de los productos básicos cuyas reuniones preparatorias se hayan celebrado hasta el presente; reiterar la necesidad de que los beneficios de todos los esquemas del sistema generalizado de preferencia se apliquen a los productos agrícolas en su totalidad, y exhortar a la Comunidad Internacional, y en particular a los países desarrollados, a que adopten políticas comerciales que tiendan a la estabilización de los mercados internaciones, de tal forma que la liberalización del comercio ofrezca condiciones más favorables para los intercambios comerciales de productos agropecuarios.

Todos estos fenómenos fueron analizados de manera exhaustiva en la XV Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina, celebrada el pasado mes de agosto, donde se resalto la problemática que encuentran las exportaciones agrícolas latinoamericanas en el mercado internacional, destacándose particularmente la gravedad del recrudescimiento de las políticas proteccionistas de los países industrializados, señalándolas como uno de los principales obstáculos que se oponen a la expansión de las exportaciones de nuestra región; añadiéndose también la necesidad de desarrollar acciones concertadas para reforzar la capacidad negociadora de la región en los foros internacionales.

Siquiera brevemente, no quisiéramos desaprovechar esta intervención para señalar que en el Cuadro 2 del documento CL 74/2 referente al índice anual de variación de la producción agrícola en 1970/77 se presenta a nuestro país con un índice que no es el acertado. Nuestro Ministerio de Agricultura nos ha indicado que con posterioridad, nosotros podemos hacer una aclaración al respecto, independientemente de que nosotros también con posterioridad a esta reunión, podemos conversar más detenidamente con la Secretaría. La agricultura, creemos que es necesario referirnos brevemente a la situación de la agricultura cubana en los últimos años, la cual se ha orientado hacia la diversificación y especialización de la producción y a la aplicación de técnicas avanzadas con el objetivo primordial de satisfacer las necesidades de alimentación de nuestra población que en los últimos 20 años ha crecido en un 75 por ciento. Paralelamente, se está trabajando en el sentido de incrementar los fondos exportables con el fin de substituir en lo posible las importaciones de productos agropecuarios, lo cual ha requerido de grandes esfuerzos de tipo organizativo e inversionista.

La superficie cultivada en nuestro país se ha incrementado considerablemente en los últimos años mediante los trabajos de desmonte de áreas de tierras que permanecerían ociosas y la transformación de las praderas naturales. Estos ejemplos constituyen una pequeña muestra de lo que es posible realizar cuando se cambian las caducas estructuras económicas y sociales que constituyen una traba al desarrollo armónico y proporcional y promueven al beneficio solamente de una pequeña minoría.

Por toda la problemática expuesta en el documento CL 74/2 así como por las intervenciones de los delegados que me han precedido, podemos deducir que la solución del problema alimenticio en el ámbito mundial está en dependencia de las posibilidades de cada país de apoyarse en sus propias fuerzas políticas por las cuales se han definido la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo.

Sin embargo, esto no libera a la Comunidad Internacional de sus responsabilidades. Esta política puede tener éxito si los países subdesarrollados reciben ayuda financiera y técnica internacionales y si se comprende que sus esfuerzos son de interés para toda la humanidad.

Consideramos que la labor de la FAO en función de mejorar la situación agrícola y alimentaria de los países en desarrollo es muy importante y que las medidas tomadas a fin de priorizar acciones concretas en los países, tales como el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y la Cuenta para Pérdidas Posteriores a la Cosecha, entre otras, han demostrado que la Organización es capaz de realizar pasos concretos en función del desarrollo y que a la vez ayuden a resolver los problemas inherentes al logro del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan) : First of all I express my Government's warmest appreciation and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO for all the assistance given to us. Sir, we highly commend your excellent policies and programmes and foresight, particularly TCP and the special project for the Prevention of Food Losses. The Democratic Government of Afghanistan also expresses her sense of indebtedness to your Excellency for granting the membership and providing an opportunity to participate in this very significant international august gathering.

As this is my first opportunity, since the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to be present in this august gathering, I consider it my duty to briefly draw the attention of the distinguished delegates to the important historical liberating event that has occurred in the life of people of Afghanistan.

The liberating armed uprising of the people of Afghanistan on 27 April 1978 as the starting of the national and democratic revolution which was carried out under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in conformity with the prior instruction and command of our great leader, Noor M. Taraki, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and the participation of the Khalgin heroes in the armed forces, separated Afghanistan for ever from all kinds of oppression and exploitation systems and joined the country with peoples revolutionary regimes as an equal in brotherhood.

During half a century the people of Afghanistan, under the oppressive and tyrannical regime of Mohammad Nader Shah's dynasty, and its last despotic remnant, Mohammad Daoud, tolerated mediaeval anti-men miseries and tortures, a kind of colonial and tribal feudalistic regime connected with the dark reaction of imperialism.

The ruling Nader-Daoud, family was the most reactionary type of feudal aristocracy, which tried every possible deceiving and Machiavellian means to prevent the rapid and healthy economic, social, cultural and political development of Afghanistan. Thus, by keeping the people of Afghanistan in ignorance and poverty they safeguarded the greedy interests of their own family and those of the oppressive and exploiting ruling classes and internal and external forces of reaction.

To avoid talking at length, I respectfully call on the distinguished delegates and the world public ' opinion to consider the facts and figures of the various Organs and Agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations concerning Afghanistan, to witness that Afghanistan, despite its enormous natural and human resources, has remained, during the fifty years of the dark regime of the aristocratic family of Nader and Daoud, among the 29 least developed and most backward countries of the world, a situation which was not tolerable to the people of Afghanistan any longer. During the past half century all necessary objective and subjective conditions in the country, regional and international possibilities, were available for Afghanistan to rank among the developed and progressed countries and for it to actively fulfill its international peaceful obligations with other peace loving nations of the world.

These were the reasons for the national and democratic revolution of the people of Afghanistan to occur triumphantly, culminating in the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and transfer of power to the masses under the able guidance and dynamic leadership of Mr. Noor Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council, Secretary-General of the People's Democratic Party and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The basic lines of the revolutionary duties of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan consist of the elimination of economic backwardness, creation of an independent national economy, acceleration of the rate of economic growth, development and modernization of agriculture and animal husbandry, rapid industrialization and raising the standard of living of the people. ∴ Therefore, the Revolutionary Government has rightly placed adequate emphasis on the implementation of Democratic Land Reforms for the elimination of feudalistic and pre-feudalistic relations for the interest of the toiling farmers and with their participation, reclamation of arid lands, expansion and improvement of irrigation system and the solution of the grazing land issue.

I deem it appropriate and expedient to mention here that our country has an agricultural-based economy since about 85 percent of the population, including nomads are dependent upon traditional rural economy pursuits. It contributes over 50 percent to the gross domestic products, more than 50 percent export earnings and about 85 percent of the raw material for indigenous industries. The livestock production accounts for approximately 10 percent of gross domestic products and about 30 percent of the annual national exports. Our important cereals are wheat, corn, barley and rice. Fruits and vegetables also occupy a pivotal place in our economy. Total annual foodgrain production amounted to about 4.35 million tonnes during 1977-78.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is fully aware of the fact that land reforms play a very significant role in building up rural-based economy of any developing country. Therefore, the basic lines of revolution have accorded top priority for the implementation of democratic land reforms in the interest of the toiling farmers and has sought their active cooperation as well as participation. We are currently engaged in translating the international slogan "land belongs to the actual tillers" into action. I am glad to report that a sizeable area of agricultural land has already been acquired from big landlords who have been having feudal relations with the small farmers and landless labourers. The allotment of land will have an intensive follow-up programme.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has initiated a large number of projects and enacted a few very important laws/decrees for a balanced socio-economic development for people's prosperity and well being. Decree No.6 has been enacted and 11 million people have been freed of Afs 30 billion debt. Thus, these people are independent of the feudalistic oppression of the enemies of society. The Government proposes to settle all of them by giving cultivable land as well as adequate inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, credits and marketing facilities through cooperatives. Each village will have an Extension worker who will help them in availing themselves of these facilities. It is expected that the allotted agricultural land would be enough to sustain a family of husband and wife and children below 18 years of age. In addition, there will be cooperative as well as

collective (State) farms which will provide employment to a sizeable section of rural population. The total production would largely meet the domestic needs. However, the available quantum of aid needs to be reviewed for enhancement because the Government proposes to launch production-oriented programmes in a big way.

A significant section of our total population are nomads (about 2.5 million) and they face some big problems such as:

lack of marketing facilities of their products; lack of credit and transportation facilities; lack of pastures, and lack of drinking water, education and medical facilities.

The Democratic Government has addressed itself to these problems and a programme is being worked out to extend credit and marketing facilities and provide other amenities of health and education to this section of population also.

Finally, I would like to raise the question of the landlocked countries, where there is a big problem of commodity trading. I would ask FAO to increase its aid and consider the question of the trading problems, and whether it may be possible for these countries to have access to the ocean through other nations.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I will be as brief as I possibly can. I would like to commend the FAO for its comprehensive reporting of the world food and agricultural situation in the documentation that has been provided to us for this item, we especially welcome FAO efforts to include data on per capita food availabilities against dietary requirements and consumer food reserves and their recent trends. FAO data on the production of grain and stocks is generally in accordance with United States published data in the earliest years, even though our data is calculated on a somewhat different basis. We note in particular the current stock levels of major grains provide a measure of world food security that we have not had since the early 1970's. We now estimate that despite significant increases in consumption, world grain stocks will reach a level above that which FAO has previously indicated would be required for world food security.

We agree with the FAO report that despite these improvements in the world food outlook, the situation for the poorest and least developed countries remains unsatisfactory. For this reason the United States has increased its commitments for food aid and has earmarked a greater proportion of its bilateral assistance for those countries where the need is most urgent. Our strong emphasis is, on programmes directly benefiting the small farmer in the poorest area.

We feel that the quality of the project through which the assistance is channelled requires as much attention as the quantity.

We welcome FAO efforts to improve the collection of information on domestic investments in agriculture in developing countries as the trends in this area are especially relevant to the problems which continue to concern all of us.

There are other observations I would like to make on the documentation but I feel a certain compensation on the side of brevity is called for at this point. I will therefore include some of these comments in our discussion on food security as I believe they are more relevant in that context.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. We have listened very carefully to you because your country has the greatest capacity of providing food to mankind and I hope that when we come to food security we shall listen to your side in the way in which perhaps the poor and hungry can look up to the United States reserves, not in a very hard shell but in a softer way of getting this food to the countries.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): If I may I should like to express my thanks for the information provided in the documents before us and for the global and objective analysis provided by the Director-General of the Organization. I do not wish to repeat what has already been said by colleagues who have preceded me as to the agricultural situation for 1978, since they have been very exhaustive in their statements. Nevertheless, I wish to draw attention to the volume of investments made by developing countries in the area of agricultural and food development. I wish to speak of Iraq as a developing country.

Millions of dollars are earmarked every year for agriculture development so that Iraq may reach self-sufficiency on one hand, and on the other hand participate in providing aid and exporting food to relieve the hunger situation which exists in a number of countries in the world. As for the reforms, I must say that millions of hectares of land are presently under irrigation and being utilized for the production of food and agricultural commodities for the future. I wish to draw attention to the very high spending that is necessary for agricultural development: \$6,000 per hectare. 2 million hectares still have to be managed and this should be done as soon as possible. The Iraqi Government is using its best endeavours to develop the agricultural sector, to build dams, develop areas, set up agricultural stations, stations for animal husbandry in the great agricultural development areas, and set up agricultural cooperatives and agricultural extension work, launch campaigns; and this sum exceeds 20 percent of the State budget.

Iraq is importing grains and cereals in years when rainfall is not sufficient. 1978 was one of those years and we hope we shall soon be able to participate in providing aid to neighbouring countries suffering from malnutrition and hunger.

S. TATARITIS (Greece): May I first congratulate the Secretariat for the preparation of the very informative and comprehensive document we have before us on the State of Food and Agriculture for 1978. We have heard the opening statement of the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, which he so eloquently delivered yesterday. Mr. Saouma has somehow provided guidelines, if I may say so, for our discussions. In his statement he raised the points which are of the utmost importance to us all and in particular to the developing countries, and he expressed clearly his hopes and fears. Therefore, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I wish to refer to the document in general and to some points raised by the Director-General.

It is encouraging to note that the improvement in the world food and agriculture situation consolidated in 1976 has continued in the last year. Improvements in production took place in the developing countries individually as well as at world level. The developing countries, with an increase of about 3 percent in food production, although they did not obtain the excellent results of the previous year, have done better than the developed countries and in particular those of Western Europe. Nevertheless, we agree with the Secretariat's estimates that the world food situation remains fragile and there is little ground for complacency. Much of the improvement is due to more favourable weather conditions, although the climate remains always an uncontrollable element. Many unsatisfactory elements still exist, particularly in respect to longer-term problems. Despite the increase in cereal stocks since 1974, not sufficient progress has been made to overcome the many long-standing problems of world food security which are preoccupying us all. The need also of massive investment expansion in the agriculture of developed countries remains intense.

In addition, the recent changes in production estimates and prices show that the future world food outlook may be grim. The full picture of the world situation is thus not very satisfactory.

In brief, first, food production, particularly in the food priority countries, was much lower in the last years than in the 1960's. The average annual increase last year was 3 percent. The increase in production in the developing countries during the 1970's remains so far beyond the international development strategy and the World Food Conference target of 4 percent.

Secondly, acute food shortages continue to exist in a large number of developing countries in Africa and South Asia. Third, the negotiations for a new international agreement establishing an internationally alternate coordinated grain reserve to guarantee minimum world food security were suspended in May. They resumed this September but without significant results.

Fourth, the number of malnourished people increased to 455 million in the first quarter of 1970 and this increase occurred mainly in the developing countries.

Fifth, external assistance to increase food production, particularly in the poorest countries, has remained on the same level since 1975.

Sixth, food aid remains insufficient for the increased means and there is still no agreement to ensure the minimum level of 10 million tons of grain required for food aid.

Seventh, world food production is also seriously affected by the instability of prices.

Eighth, the world fish catch fell by about 2 percent in 1977 and the world fishing industry is facing new problems as a result of the extension of the 200 mile exclusive jurisdictions. Many countries will require special assistance if unfavourable effects on the present and future fish catch are to be avoided. FAO's estimation is that with further adjustment to the exclusive 200 mile fishery jurisdictions, little if any recovery in fish production is expected in 1978 while demand is steadily increasing.

The FAO Council, and the FAO Director-General more particularly, have always followed with concern the negotiations to establish a new international wheat and grain agreement, and in this respect a new food aid convention. We think that the successful conclusion of these negotiations is an urgent priority. It is therefore necessary that the governments participating in the negotiations to replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971 reaffirm their commitment towards food security to a level of assured food aid of at least 10 million tons.

The Greek delegation wishes to reiterate that the international emergency reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals established by the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly as an interim measure should continue on a permanent basis. It should constitute a continuing reserve available to the World Food Programme as it was recommended during the World Food Council ministerial meeting in Mexico. In this respect we appreciate the relevant initiative of the Director-General to appeal to potential donor countries for additional contributions, either bilateral or multilateral, in certain cases of emergencies such as the Sahelian drought, the difficulties in Viet Nam, and the serious locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa. It is a source of satisfaction to know that the appeals made by the Director-General in conjunction, with the appeals of the affected countries, have resulted in more than 100 million dollars worth of mobilized help from the international community.

We are all conscious that trade in food and in other agricultural products has been the subject of specific discussions in the multilateral trade negotiations and the UNCTAD negotiations within the integrated Programme for Commodities. Despite the difficulties that have arisen in these negotiations, greater and continuous attention must be given to the food and other trade problems of the developing countries in view of the benefits that a reduction of tariff barriers would have for these countries in their effort to resolve their food problem. On this subject we share the view of the Director-General of FAO who emphasized in many statements the fundamental importance of concluding both a grain agreement and a new Food Aid Convention.

There is no doubt that the food problem facing the developing countries cannot be solved without a major acceleration in the growth rate of production, mainly in the food priority countries with slow rates of growth in food production so far, a high degree of malnutrition, large and growing food deficits and serious constraints on importing food. We all recognize the responsibilities of the international community to increase its development assistance for food production in developing countries. Nevertheless, two constraints exist, first the inadequate financial resources and secondly, the shortage or lack of well prepared or viable investment projects.

We appreciate very much the efforts of the Director-General for the mobilization of adequate resources for investments in agriculture, as well as his efforts to provide Member Nations and financial institutions with an expanded, flexible and independent investment service. We think that the Council must support these initiatives in order to determine how food production improvement in a certain number of countries can be accelerated by receiving adequate investment and policy support.

J. ABEYGUNASEKERA (Sri Lanka): On behalf of Sri Lanka I congratulate all the Vice-Chairmen and commend the Director-General for his inspiring speech which he made yesterday morning.

We found document CL 74/2 a useful summary of the world food and agriculture situation. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned paddy production grows to a record level in 1977. In 1978 too our crop situation has been excellent. However, disaster struck Sri Lanka in the shape of a cyclone last week. We are still assessing the damage. Certainly our crop prospects for 1979 will be affected. This illustrates very well the fragile situation of developing countries which, even while they enjoy bumper harvests, overnight they face national disasters which completely change their position. In the recent past we have depended less on imports. We have, however, had to contend with high prices for our imports. For example, international prices for fertilizers rose in 1978 and despite heavy subsidies by the Government our farmers are finding it difficult to buy fertilizer due to the high cost involved. Our fertilizer stocks as a result are moving very slowly. We must also not forget the fact that to reach a 4 percent growth rate of food production in the developing countries much more fertilizer than is shown in the FAO projection is required. Fertilizer consumption is closely tied to the use of high-yielding varieties and is therefore crucial in increasing food production. We are happy to note that developing countries are increasingly resorting to high-yielding varieties. This meets adequately the criticism that the developing countries are not allocating enough resources for agriculture. We note with some concern that although the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference called for 20 million dollars for the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme the resources provided have amounted only to about \$ 3 million during the last two years. The importance of this programme in promoting the use of high-yield varieties therefore cannot be overstated.

As regards agricultural export earnings, although the share of developing market economies has risen slightly between 1975 and 1976 this percentage is much lower than those in the mid-1950's. Many developing countries who were exporters are today importers. This is indeed a matter for concern and highlights the dependence of these countries on the developed.

We also note in 1978 petroleum prices remained stationary but export unit values for many manufactured goods increased twice as fast as agricultural products. This dramatizes the balance of payment difficulties of developing countries who largely import their manufactured goods from the developed countries. Finally, we are concerned that as regards official commitments of external assistance to agriculture the poorer countries have generally continued to receive less per caput than the relatively better off ones.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I have a lot of points of detail which I will not worry the Council with but I will pass direct to the Secretariat but despite your injunction that we should not repeat what has been said before I would like to congratulate Professor Islam on this remarkably good paper. I note the welcome recovery, what Mr. de Br ito has referred to as a measured optimism with regard to some of the difficulties that began way back in 1972 while, however, appreciating the considerable problems which remain, especially in Africa, and it is on that point that I want to make my main remark. One or two people have referred to the response by donor countries and I should, just like to say on behalf of the United Kingdom that our aid policy, as is well known, is directed towards the poorest people in the poorest countries. We recognize that the great majority of the poorest people live in the countryside and therefore we are concentrating more and more on agriculture and on rural development. I hope that is perfectly plain in view of the comments that have been made. We fully recognize the aim of all states to raise the level of local food production, both within our bilateral aid programme and in our support to multilateral institutions such as FAO, in order that they may, if at all possible, attain self sufficiency. That is our plain policy.

Now, I would also like to make a reference to the terms on which we grant aid. They are extremely concessional. In 1977 the grant element of .the whole of the United Kingdom aid programme was 95 percent. In addition to that we announced in last July that the burden of past loans was to be removed from 17 of the poorest countries and that means we are waiving a redemption of £900 million, which I hope with regard to our colleague from Bangladesh, will help such countries. I think it is a very significant contribution to what they can do to help themselves.

Now, I would only really like to make two further points of detail. They are technical. One, with regard to the seed programme, we strongly support the development of improved seed varieties and are actively engaged in assisting the training of staff from the developing countries in this key field of seed technology.

Secondly, with regard to pesticides, although the report deals with pesticide production capacity no mention is made in CL 74/2 of the efficiency with which people use pesticides. This we think is important because the faulty application of pesticides presents environmental problems and can result not only in reduced agricultural production by itself but also in a low return to producers. Those are the points of detail that I wanted to make, the others I will pass on.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt): I would first like to begin by thanking the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and the document under discussion which gave us new hopes and in the meantime focused the light on a number of obstacles. While we have seen that the world agricultural production had increased, the production of the developing countries did not increase at the desired rate.

Constraints on agricultural commodities trade still deprive small farmers from the benefits of their work.

I would like to mention some aspects of the agricultural development in Egypt. I am pleased to announce that the 1978 season was a very successful one. Production of wheat, maize, millet, rice and vegetables increased considerably. The cotton yield was a record this year which resulted in an increase of production despite the decrease in its area. I wish to clarify one point here; we do not look at cotton as an industrial or exportable crop only, but also as a food crop. Cottonseed is the main source of vegetable oil in consumption and cottonseed cake is an important component of the animal feed.

This increase in production came about as a result of the government's interest in food security which has the first priority in the Economic Policy, which aims at self-sufficiency in all food crops except wheat, which we shall depend for sometime on the imports and aids to complement consumption requirements.

That is why we are deeply concerned about the delay in concluding the International Grain Agreement. Egypt is trying to develop further its production of pesticides and fertilizers as a part of its food security policy. This will go for both nitrogenous as well as phosphorous fertilizers for the benefit of the national economy as a whole.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Mi delegación desea asociarse a los comentarios positivos y felicitaciones a usted, Sr. Presidente, por su excelente guía, y al Director General y a la Secretaría de la FAO por la calidad e importancia del informe acerca de la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en 1978.

Aun cuando se observan algunos aspectos positivos en lo que se refiere al aumento de la producción, el panorama que muestra el citado informe es más bien negativo; los datos son impresionantes e indican claramente que los objetivos del Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo no se alcanzarán.

En un mundo que debería caracterizarse por relaciones equitativas de interdependencia, observamos con preocupación la continua y creciente dependencia de los países en desarrollo respecto de los desarrollados. Un ejemplo que habla por sí solo son las expectativas de las necesidades de importación de cereales de los países en desarrollo, estimadas en 90 millones de toneladas para 1985.

Lamentamos el estancamiento de las negociaciones multilaterales que permitan purificar el ambiente para el comercio internacional. Se requiere una acción renovada de acuerdo con los compromisos internacionales contraídos por parte de quienes tienen la responsabilidad de contribuir a la solución de los problemas agrícolas y alimenticios mundiales, a saber, las instituciones financieras internacionales y los países donantes individuales.

En efecto, vemos con preocupación que los recursos externos destinados a la solución de dichos problemas están muy por debajo de las necesidades reales de los países en desarrollo; sin embargo, como lo dijera recientemente el Presidente de México, el financiamiento no es un fin en sí mismo, sino que tiene que ser combinado con políticas comerciales justas.

Frente a este panorama, es digna de encomio la actividad práctica y con decisión que lleva a cabo la FAO bajo su actual dirección, y reconocemos que el logotipo, la FAO en acción, no es un mero recurso retórico, sino que refleja la presente característica de la Organización.

Apreciamos su sentido de responsabilidad y la competencia que ha mostrado para acudir en auxilio de los países, no sólo a nivel individual, sino respecto de necesidades regionales, incluso interregionales, como es el caso del reciente brote de fiebre porcina africana en América Latina y la existencia de la langosta del desierto que está afectando a África, el Cercano Oriente y Asia.

Reconocemos asimismo la respuesta positiva de los países donantes al Director General para lograr el éxito de estos esfuerzos.

En cuanto se refiere a la política nacional, cabe resaltar la prioridad a la producción de alimentos que atribuye la actual Administración del Presidente López Portillo. Se ha aprobado el Plan Quinquenal Agrícola 1978/82 con el objetivo de lograr la autosuficiencia de los principales alimentos básicos de la población. Como resultado inmediato de estos esfuerzos la producción agrícola se ha recuperado del desplome que sufrió en la primera parte del actual decenio, logrando un incremento del 4 por ciento en el ciclo agrícola 1977/78, lo cual refleja la respuesta positiva de los mexicanos al llamado de la Alianza para la Producción.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): First of all, allow me to convey to the Director-General the gratitude of the Government and the people of Indonesia for the sincere interest he has shown during his recent visit to Indonesia and the help FAO has extended so far to overcome problems of food and agriculture in Indonesia. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General for his valuable and most inspiring statement.

Secondly, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the excellent papers.

Allow me to confine myself to making some general observations on the world food and agricultural situation and on some problems which have arisen from the most recent developments.

It is encouraging to note that food production prospects for 1978 in the world as a whole are generally favourable, thus showing a considerable degree of recovery from the difficulties that began in 1972. In spite of this, many problems remain unsolved in the poorer developing countries where progress has been slow, owing to many unfortunate circumstances and to unpredictable natural disasters. And these countries happen to have larger populations and many among them have never known adequate diets in their whole lives.

The slow rate of increase in food production in the developing countries in recent years has created a situation in which these countries are at an accelerated pace dependent on the import of food from abroad, mainly from developed countries. Moreover, this difficult situation is aggravated by the fact that many of these importing developing countries do not have at their disposal adequate earnings to pay for the imported food, the reason being that their foreign exchange earnings are indispensable for financing further developing. The picture is not new but it should receive the attention it deserves, since the problem calls for a speedy and effective solution.

At the same time, it is significant to note that in other parts of the world food stocks have developed, thanks to favourable climatic conditions and the successful application of modern technology. I associate myself with the view expressed by the Secretariat that the present high level of global stocks would be an ideal opportunity to establish the internationally coordinated system of national reserve stocks envisaged in FAO's International Undertaking on World Food Security. If the opportunity is allowed to pass, a renewed period of instability and uncertainty is very likely to ensue,

Unfortunately, no progress has been made in this respect, owing to the failure on the part of major wheat-producing countries to reach an agreement on trade and other issues in the negotiations for a new International Grains Agreement. This failure appears to have far-reaching consequences. The realization of the International Undertaking on World Food Security and the establishment of the International Emergency Food Reserve have undergone a considerable delay. This certainly is not in line with the decisions taken by the highest bodies in the UN system, including the General Assembly and the World Food Council, on the matter of World Food Security and the International Emergency Food Reserve,

With regard to food aid, my delegation notes with concern that due to lack of adequate resources, the activities of the World Food Programme continue to be limited. At the same time, there are high level stocks of dairy products and of cereals in certain parts of the world. This striking contrast can be eliminated only if the competent authorities of the countries concerned could decide on taking effective measures to ease the situation. Should they decide to channel substantial parts of the surpluses through the World Food Programme, their generous gesture would be greatly appreciated.

Taking into account the present conditions and circumstances, it is not surprising to note that the role of food aid, either for development projects or for emergency relief, has declined substantially because the quantity of food aid has fallen, while the demand for food in the recipient countries has greatly increased.

I associate myself with the view that the only effective and lasting solution of the world food security problems must be found in the adequate growth of food production for the world as a whole and in developing countries in particular. But as is known, the developing countries still need help to accelerate such development. It is hoped that contributions channeled through the existing multilateral bodies would arrive at the realization of the International Undertaking on World Food security, and where necessary, needy countries could also count on speedy relief from the International Emergency Food Reserve.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaire): Monsieur le Président, en même temps que nous félicitons le Directeur général pour son brillant exposé fait hier matin, et le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document que nous examinons, ma délégation aimerait faire un bref commentaire d'ordre général sur ces documents.

En parcourant ces documents, on serait porté de prime abord à espérer des lendemains meilleurs en ce qui concerne la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiales, alors qu'en fait la réalité prouve le contraire.

De l'avis de ma délégation, c'est ce qu'il faut retenir de cette vision des choses à long terme. Il est dit dans le document qu'à long terme le problème de la croissance de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement demeurera préoccupant et que la malnutrition demeurera généralisée.

La réalité, c'est aussi cette constatation de fait, à la longue, à savoir le manque d'attention agissante que manifeste l'humanité devant ce fléau qu'est la faim et la malnutrition.

Par exemple, le fait que l'objectif minimal de quelque 10 millions de tonnes de céréales fixé depuis 1974 par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en ce qui concerne l'aide alimentaire, le fait que cet objectif ne soit pas toujours atteint à ce jour constitue une preuve de ce manque d'attention.

Cela dit, ma délégation voudrait appuyer l'idée maintes fois avancée au sein de cette organisation tendant à constituer et à renforcer le plus tôt possible, avec l'aide des organismes financiers internationaux, des stocks de produits alimentaires, non seulement au niveau de chaque pays, mais aussi en des points stratégiques au niveau des régions.

Pour terminer, ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour remercier de vive voix tous les pays donateurs et les organismes internationaux dont la FAO, par le biais du PAM, d'avoir bien voulu accepter d'aider mon pays à la suite de la sécheresse qui a frappé deux de ses régions depuis le mois de septembre 1977.

S. MADEMBA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de me permettre de prendre la parole en tant qu'observateur, en attendant que nous occupions notre siège au Conseil à partir du mois de janvier 1979.

L'heure est tardive. Je vais m'efforcer d'être bref mais, Monsieur le Président, vous voudrez bien me permettre, avant d'aborder l'exposé, de présenter très brièvement les félicitations de ma délégation au nouveau Secrétaire général de la Conférence, M. Almamy Sylla.

Nous connaissons bien M. Sylla. Pendant de longues années, il a servi dans les organisations internationales, et personnellement je suis très heureux, en tant qu'ancien camarade d'enfance et d'école, de le voir aujourd'hui mettre sa vaste expérience et son sens de la diplomatie au service de la FAO. Nous lui exprimons nos vœux très sincères de plein succès dans ses nouvelles et hautes fonctions.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, le document CL 74/2 a retenu toute notre attention. Il contient une analyse fouillée, minutieuse, avec des faits et des chiffres permettant d'avoir une vue exhaustive de la situation alimentaire et agricole mondiale.

Cependant, nous pensons qu'il faut se garder de se laisser gagner par un sentiment sécurisant devant l'augmentation de la production alimentaire et agricole mondiale.

Certes, il faut se féliciter que cette production ait augmenté et qu'en 1978 on s'attende à des quantités de récolte atteignant des niveaux records.

Si en moyenne générale cette augmentation a été estimée à 2 pour cent, par contre en Afrique la production a baissé, pour tomber à 1,3 pour cent en moyenne, et franchement à 0 pour cent dans les pays gravement touchés menacés par une désertification qui avance à raison de 80 km par an, comme l'a déclaré le ministre mauritanien de l'agriculture à la dernière conférence africaine d'Arusha.

Les importations de denrées alimentaires ne font qu'augmenter, tant en valeur qu'en tonnage.

En 1970, les pays en voie de développement ont dépensé sept milliards de dollars; en 1976, 22 milliards. Ils ont importé en 1972-74 52 millions de tonnes; en 1977/78, 66 millions, et on prévoit qu'en 1985 ce sera plus de 90 millions de tonnes, si la tendance actuelle n'est pas renversée.

Ces données et ces chiffres illustrent de façon éloquente une situation qui ne laisse pas l'être préoccupante, j'ajouterais même alarmante, si on la rapproche maintenant des engagements de l'aide extérieure des pays en voie de développement.

En considérant le facteur agricole stricto sensu, c'est-à-dire le secteur relatif à la production alimentaire, qui est actuellement le problème prioritaire en Afrique, on constate que ces engagements sont inférieurs de moitié à ce qui est nécessaire pour assurer le minimum.

En 1977, les engagements ont été de 4 861 millions de dollars alors qu'il faudrait 8 300 millions pour atteindre l'objectif fixé par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et également dans la stratégie internationale du développement. En fait, il s'agit pour les pays développés d'accepter de consacrer 0,70 pour cent de leur PNB à l'aide au développement.

A cet égard, nous tenons à exprimer notre reconnaissance et nos félicitations à Monsieur le distingué délégué de la France. Son pays va consacrer 0,63 pour cent de son PNB à l'aide au développement, atteignant ainsi le seuil fixé par la Communauté internationale.

L'exemple est unique pour le moment. Nous espérons vivement qu'il sera suivi-et, à cet effet, nous joignons notre voix à celle de Monsieur le distingué délégué de Colombie qui, hier après-midi, a demandé au Conseil de lancer un appel solennel aux pays développés pour qu'ils accroissent leur aide.

Nous devons également féliciter et remercier les institutions multilatérales de financement qui s'intéressent de plus en plus au secteur agricole et prennent une part si importante dans les engagements d'aide à l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement: Banque mondiale, CEE, Banques régionales de développement, Banques et fonds arabes.

Monsieur le Président, je vais maintenant conclure en rappelant qu'il existe encore plus de 450 millions d'affamés dans le monde. Dans un contexte si alarmant, on ne peut que louer les efforts entrepris par la FAO, sous la vigoureuse impulsion de son Directeur général, pour aider les pays en voie de développement en général et les pays le plus gravement touchés en particulier, à surmonter leur misère et leur pauvreté.

La "FAO en action", selon la belle formule de son Directeur général, a déjà fait quelque chose d'appréciable, mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Son action mérite d'être soutenue, poursuivie, renforcée et accrue, et tous les moyens nécessaires à cet effet devraient lui être accordés.

K. ARROWSMITH (Observer for the European Economic Community) : With reference to what was said by the representative of France, I should like to make a few brief comments about access into the EEC of exports from developing countries, particularly agricultural food exports.

Between 1960 and 1977, the share of developing countries in the total of exports to the Community rose from 21.4 percent to 28.1 percent - the rise in value being from some 27 billion dollars to 280 billion dollars. A great proportion of this increase in value was due to the rise in oil prices.

As far as agricultural food products are concerned, these represented 11.8 percent of all importations from developing countries into the EEC in 1977. On some agricultural products, the European Economic Community imposes no tariffs; for some others such as coffee, cocoa, tea, customs duties levied by the Community have been progressively reduced. Certain other products from ACP member countries of the Lomé Convention are allowed into the Community free. Furthermore, under the Stabex Scheme in the case of more than 50 countries concerned the Community has undertaken to guarantee their export receipts in respect of a number of agricultural products.

The situation has been further improved by the "Système de Préférences Généralisées". Since its introduction in 1971 this system has led to the elimination of community tariff barriers in respect of a large number of processed agricultural products.

As a result of the foregoing in terms of value of the agricultural food products imported by the Community in 1977 from developing countries, about two-thirds entered unhindered by tariffs or other restrictive barriers.

In conclusion, I would say the Community has done and is doing much to meet the wishes of developing countries for free access of their agricultural products to its markets.

CHAIRMAN: I would now like to call upon Professor Islam to respond to some of the points made by Members in this interesting debate.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have only a very few comments to make in conclusion. We are very grateful for the appreciation expressed by the delegates about the analyses contained in the two documents presented to the Council. We are happy to note the Council is in broad agreement with our assessment of facts and policies in the food and agricultural sector, and we are very grateful for the various comments and suggestions which we hope will be taken into account in the fuller version of the statement on food and agriculture.

A few delegates referred to the size of cereal stocks, and a further clarification has been sought on the composition of these stocks. As we have pointed out in our updating document, the increase in stocks in the last three years has been mostly in coarse grains. In fact, the increase in these, for example, 1978-79, as in 1978 is as shown in our updating document and the final figure is a little above the original figure shown.

We are thankful to the Council for the recommendation of FAO's continuing work in the flow of resources to agriculture - domestic, external, public and private.

Reference has been made to per hectare capital investment in Denmark as compared to that in the Netherlands, as given in Table 19 of our document. These data are primarily taken from the material contained in the United Nations Yearbook of National Accounts. The estimate of gross fixed capital formation in agriculture as given in column 2 of this table is taken from the United Nations Yearbook. The figure for the Netherlands is indeed higher than that for Denmark by about 70 percent, and it is this difference which is reflected in the estimate per hectare and per agricultural worker for these two countries. As you will have noted, the capital per worker is about the same in these two countries, whereas it is very different when you consider the capital per hectare. It may be worth mentioning in this connexion that Denmark has more than three times in hectares in arable land and crops than the Netherlands. We are aware that the data contained in the United Nations Yearbook of National Accounts are far from perfect, and in fact this is the reason why, as I said in the introduction, we had issued a questionnaire to the Member Governments requesting them to supply us with information in detail on capital formation in agriculture.

It is difficult to improve our present data analyses until we get information back from the Member Countries on these items, and this is our preliminary effort and we hope to revise it as we get responses from the various countries on the questions we have sought from them.

Reference has also been made to the role of sugar exports from the EEC as a factor contributing to the low international price of sugar in 1978. As you have kindly noticed, the number of factors has been mentioned as contributing to the lower price of sugar in recent months. They are, first, the large carry-over of stocks; second, the prospect of further accumulation of stocks and the speculative element involved in this; thirdly, the difficult position in developing a sugar policy in the United States; and fourthly, higher exports in 1978 from the EEC compared to earlier years. So this particular factor which has been referred to by a delegate as not quite relevant to the explanation of low priced sugar is one of the four factors which have been analysed in the paper as being relevant to the low price of sugar. I may mention here that since 1975 exports of sugar from the EEC have expanded so that net exports of sugar more than doubled in 1978 compared with 1977. Insofar as imports from the EEC, from ACP countries, are concerned, the Community reserve the right to re-export that quantity.

Reference has been made to the need for further work on analysis of pulses. May I remind the Council that FAO has done some work in this area and in the last Committee on World Food Security in April 1978 did consider the paper on non-cereals which included an analysis of the situation and outlook policies. We also organized an expert consultation on grains legumes processing in India in 1977. We are now engaged in updating the situation and outlook paper prepared a year ago, gradually extending the work to cover more countries.

CHAIRMAN: We have devoted a lot of time to this particular subject because of its great importance. In fact in our method of work it is specifically mentioned that the Council should pay special attention to the state of food and agriculture in the world and I am glad that the Secretariat has produced papers analysing the situation more or less correctly without very much dispute from Member Countries. As Members have debated, the global situation looks not too bad but Members have expressed great concern over the deficiencies, especially in Asia and Africa, where natural calamities such as drought, floods and locusts have added to the problems of low production which already existed, low investments, and so on, and I am sure that the international community has taken note of these. We have also heard of the efforts made by the Secretariat and the Director-General and his team to assist countries in overcoming difficulties in food and agriculture.

All this will be reflected in our reports. There is no need to give a long summary of this because this is a matter which concerns all of us and on which we are all agreed on the way in which the matter has been handled by the Secretariat. Therefore, if there are no further comments I would like to close this very important subject. This item is concluded.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL (interprétation de l'arabe): J'ai demandé la parole pour communiquer de bonnes nouvelles au Conseil. Hier, j'avais consacré une grande partie de mon exposé au thème de "la FAO en action" et j'avais fourni des informations et des chiffres relatifs à l'assistance que j'avais réussi à mobiliser en faveur des pays victimes de calamités. J'avais également révélé les noms des pays qui avaient répondu à mes appels, ainsi que les montants des assistances qu'ils avaient fournies.

Aujourd'hui, je suis heureux de communiquer au Conseil les informations au sujet de donations supplémentaires dont je viens d'être informé:

Premièrement, S.E. l'Ambassadeur de Belgique m'a fait savoir que son Gouvernement avait décidé de . contribuer pour un montant de 3 millions de francs belges, soit l'équivalent de 100 000 dollars des Etats-Unis, au compte d'urgence pour la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin.

Deuxièmement, S.E. l'Ambassadeur de la Jamarahiya libyenne m'a informé ce matin que son Gouvernement avait décidé de faire un don d'un montant de 700 000 dollars, destiné à quatre pays qui avaient été récemment victimes de calamités naturelles. Ce montant est réparti comme suit:

- Inde	250 000 dollars
- Viet Nam	150 000 dollars
- Pakistan	150 000 dollars
- Bangladesh	150 000 dollars

S.E. l'Ambassadeur de la Jamarahiya libyenne m'a dit également que son Gouvernement avait décidé, en sus de sa donation en espèces, d'envoyer à l'Inde trois grands avions de transport chargés de médicaments et de couvertures.

En remerciant sincèrement la Belgique et la Jamarahiya libyenne pour leurs généreuses donations, je réitère mes remerciements à tous les pays qui ont répondu à mes appels et qui ont ainsi donné une preuve éclatante de l'estime et de l'appui qu'ils apportent à l'action opérationnelle de notre Organisation, destinés à alléger les souffrances et à panser les blessures.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General, for the very useful information, which I am sure we are very glad to hear.

SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Avant d'aborder le point suivant, j'aurais voulu faire demander par le Président • aux pays observateurs que je vais indiquer de remettre au Secrétariat, pour publication, leur, déclaration concernant ce point. Il s'agit de la Roumanie et de la Mauritanie.

D. CONSTANTIN (Roumanie): L'actuelle session est une réunion particulièrement importante dans la direction des préoccupations de tous les peuples qui aspirent à l'indépendance, au développement économique et social, pour la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation des Nations Unies à l'actuelle décennie.

L'analyse de la situation de l'économie mondiale et des relations économiques entre les Etats met en évidence l'existence au monde de certains problèmes graves et complexes qui attendent une solution.. efficace dans l'intérêt de tous les Etats, de la paix et de la sécurité.

De la déclaration faite le 23 octobre 1978 auprès du Comité des politiques et des programmes par le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur E. Saouma, de même que des autres sources d'informations, il résulte que la situation de la production de céréales et d'autres produits alimentaires s'est améliorée les deux dernières années et que cette année on prévoit une bonne récolte, de 4 pour cent plus grande aux céréales par rapport à 1977 (et que la contribution au fonds d'aide alimentaire en céréales pour 1978/79, est évaluée à 9,8 millions de tonnes, l'objectif étant de 10 millions de tonnes).

Il est quand même inquiétant que malgré toute amélioration de la production les dernières années, le déficit alimentaire des pays en voie de développement se maintiendra aussi les prochaines années à un niveau très élevé.

Pour la liquidation graduelle de cet état de choses, nous nous rallions à ce que Monsieur le Directeur général de même que d'autres délégations ont déclaré, c'est-à-dire qu'il faut qu'on trouve des formes de coopération entre les pays, à travers lesquelles on adopte des mesures concrètes qui fassent part des programmes FAO pour le soutien des pays en voie de développement dans leurs efforts visant à la mise plus judicieuse en valeur des terrains, à l'extension des surfaces irriguées, à l'amélioration et à la création de nouvelles variétés de semences et de races d'animaux, qui puissent s'adapter aux conditions des respectives zones et d'autres.

Tous ces problèmes pourront être réalisés à condition qu'ils soient conçus comme faisant partie intégrante visant à l'instauration du nouvel ordre économique international, qui permette d'assurer à tous les pays des conditions pour un développement réel, conformément à la volonté et aux propres intérêts.

En ce sens, nous sommes de l'avis que les actions prévues dans le cadre du nouveau programme de coopération technique, de même que les ressources prévues à y être affectées pour le développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement, soient augmentées, si cela est nécessaire, dans une mesure plus grande, même au fur et à mesure du déroulement de l'activité de l'Organisation.

Comme nous l'avons fait noter aussi à l'occasion d'autres sessions, dans le but d'assurer l'exaucement de la demande de consommation dans une série de pays en voie de développement, l'agriculture et l'industrie alimentaire doivent participer et s'intégrer intensément aux actions internationales entreprises dans le cadre du nouvel ordre économique international, dont la tâche est de mettre les pays en voie de développement dans la situation de mettre mieux en valeur les propres ressources et de leur créer des possibilités pour qu'ils participent à l'échange mondial de produits et de valeurs matérielles.

Nous retenons qu'il est nécessaire de concentrer les efforts pour créer dans ces pays de grandes entreprises économiques ayant un caractère complexe, de production et de recherche, bien dotées et munies d'équipements, lesquelles puissent leur permettre un autofinancement, et d'attirer en même temps des moyens financiers internes et externes pour le développement de la production agro-alimentaire.

Nous retenons que la FAO, la plus importante institution spécialisée du réseau de l'ONU, peut et doit apporter dans ce sens une contribution notable et qu'elle augmente sa contribution à la solution des problèmes de l'alimentation, du développement de la coopération internationale entre tous les pays du monde.

La délégation roumaine exprime sa satisfaction pour le fait que ces problèmes ont été examinés à la XI^{ème} Conférence régionale FAO pour l'Europe, à l'occasion de laquelle ont été adoptées d'importantes recommandations parmi lesquelles aussi celle proposée par la Roumanie, relativement à l'établissement des priorités dans les prochaines activités de la FAO, pour qu'elle prête une particulière attention aux pays en voie de développement existant soit en Europe, soit sur d'autres continents.

Etant tout à fait d'accord avec ce qui a été déclaré par Monsieur le Directeur général, notamment que dans la période 1979-1980 et en perspective les formes de coopération technique entre les pays doivent être diversifiées et intensifiées, nous rappelons que la Roumanie est prête à accorder l'hospitalité pour une réunion des pays en voie de développement en vue d'établir des programmes concrets de développement de l'agriculture dans ces pays.

Quant à la particulière importance du commerce international avec des produits agricoles, la délégation roumaine retient qu'il est nécessaire de prendre par la suite des mesures pour sa large libéralisation, pour la diminution substantielle des obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires qui empêchent le déroulement normal du commerce entre les pays du monde et qui causent de manière particulière des préjudices aux exportations des pays en voie de développement.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous sommes décidés à agir en collaboration avec d'autres pays, pour renforcer le rôle de la FAO dans la solution des problèmes d'intérêt majeur 1/,

OUMAR BA (Mauritanie): Ma délégation, au nom de son Gouvernement, comme en mon nom personnel, vous adresse toutes ses félicitations à l'occasion de votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Conférence. Soyez assuré, Monsieur le Président, de notre volonté de contribuer, sous votre haute autorité, à la réussite de nos travaux que tout le monde reconnaît être très importants dans la recherche solidaire d'une grande production agricole et d'une meilleure sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Comme beaucoup d'autres délégations, ma délégation voudrait également adresser au Secrétariat toutes ses félicitations pour la bonne organisation matérielle de cette rencontre, qui permettra, j'en suis sûr, d'obtenir des résultats concluants auxquels nous aspirons.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Le mérite en revient tout naturellement au Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, défenseur infatigable de la cause humanitaire dans le monde et artisan convaincu d'un ordre économique mondial plus équitable.

L'exposé pertinent qu'il a fait de la situation nous en apporte la preuve.

A cet égard, ma délégation voudrait une fois de plus lui renouveler son soutien résolu et ferme.

L'ordre du jour qui nous est soumis lors de la présente session comporte, comme on le voit, des problèmes à la fois importants et complexes.

Je dis bien, importants, parce qu'ils soulèvent des questions relatives à la survie des pays sous-développés en général et, aux pays du Sahel en particulier; et complexes parce que la maîtrise de leur solution dépend de l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale dont la solidarité s'est manifestée déjà, du reste, en maintes occasions.

Cependant, Monsieur le Président, le Gouvernement de la République islamique de Mauritanie, conscient de ses responsabilités vis-à-vis de son peuple et de l'ensemble des Nations, s'est toujours montré et reste préoccupé de la précarité de la situation qui règne encore dans le monde au double plan de son alimentation et de son agriculture.

Les actions entreprises pour améliorer les conditions de vie de nos populations rurales, aussi appréciables soient-elles, demeurent nettement insuffisantes, parce que le plus souvent, mal soutenues et mal réparties.

La dégradation constante et progressive des conditions dans lesquelles vivent nos populations, principalement dans les pays climatiquement et technologiquement défavorisés, constitue une réalité que l'on se plaît à dénoncer sans pour autant dégager les vrais moyens qui seraient à même sinon de l'enrayer, du moins de la freiner.

A cet égard, les résultats de toutes les rencontres et conférences internationales en témoignent éloquemment.

Il n'est pas dans mon intention, à ce stade de mon intervention, d'aborder en détail cette situation si préoccupante pour nous, ni d'émettre de jugement de fond.

Ce qui nous préoccupe, c'est cette précarité de vie que mènent nos populations à majorité rurales qui se trouvent justement être la conséquence des calamités d'une exceptionnelle rigueur (sécheresse, épizooties, ennemis des cultures), aggravées depuis lors par la dégradation permanente des termes d'échanges et l'inflation galopante qui ne laissent à nos pays que de maigres possibilités de dégager des ressources en vue d'actions de développement.

La Mauritanie, pays sahélien par excellence, est fortement préoccupée par le problème important et inquiétant d'assurer à ses populations une vie meilleure, dans leurs propres milieux, selon leur propre, option et conformément à leurs capacités de contribution à la vie de leur nation.

En effet, Monsieur le Président, la longue sécheresse qui frappe mon pays a eu comme conséquences:

- La réduction considérable des surfaces exploitables, détruisant les structures socio-économiques,

du monde rural. Ce monde est si ébranlé qu'il perd même tout espoir de voir revenir un jour un minimum de conditions favorables.

Au cours de ces dernières années, le déficit pluviométrique a atteint dans les principales régions de production près de 80 pour cent.

Ceci n'a cessé de favoriser l'avance du désert, avance qui se réalise actuellement à une vitesse annuelle de 80 km.

Près de 265 000 personnes actives ont quitté la campagne pour les villes, et sans des efforts importants qui ne sont pas à portée de notre seul effort national, nous risquons, avec la plupart des pays sahéliens, de nous retrouver sur un sol sans culture, sans flore ni faune, en définitive sans vie.

- La recrudescence des maladies du bétail, à la faveur de la sous-alimentation et de grandes concentrations sur les espaces encore couverts, continue de causer d'importants dégâts parmi le cheptel et ce, malgré les efforts engagés en vue de sa reconstitution.

Ce sombre tableau serait incomplet si l'agressivité des ennemis des cultures n'était pas mise en exergue.

En effet, depuis le début de la sécheresse, année par année, nos maigres réalisations culturelles sont soumises aux attaques de divers parasites invertébrés, sauteriots, criquets, oiseaux, rats, et j'en passe, qui, dans le cadre d'une lutte serrée pour la survie, se portent en concurrents des hommes et des animaux sur les mêmes espaces réduits et surexploités.

Monsieur le Président, comme décrit plus haut, le problème de la sécurité alimentaire et du développement agricole se pose avec acuité en Mauritanie.

Le Comité militaire de redressement national et son Gouvernement, fort conscients de l'importance des obstacles, mais également des potentialités agro-pastorales que recèle son monde rural, sont plus que déterminés à garantir à leur peuple, en majorité rural, une vie normale.

Pour ce faire, la politique "Priorité au développement rural" vient d'être adoptée se fixant comme objectif l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Le C.M.R.N. ainsi que son Gouvernement s'attachent depuis lors à mobiliser tous les moyens disponibles afin que cette politique devienne une réalité. Mais l'insuffisance des moyens techniques, financiers et humains et les conditions écologiques spécifiques limitent les actions entreprises.

Le Programme de développement du secteur rural, récemment défini par les autorités mauritaniennes, a connu un début de réalisation grâce à l'effort national, à la solidarité régionale et sous-régionale, mais surtout internationale car les obstacles à surmonter sont nombreux. Ils le sont d'autant que cette année encore, malgré le volume des précipitations enregistrées, le déficit céréalier de la Mauritanie est important, de l'ordre du tiers des besoins de consommation exprimés à 180 000 tonnes de céréales.

Il résultera donc de ce déficit une assez longue et difficile période de soudure tant pour les hommes que pour les animaux à laquelle il importe de faire face immédiatement par des mesures consistant en des secours d'urgence, la protection des pâturages existants, la réalisation de puits pastoraux permettant aux éleveurs d'exploiter les pâturages des zones arides.

Par ailleurs, le Gouvernement de la République islamique de Mauritanie saisit l'occasion pour réaffirmer devant votre illustre Assemblée que l'avance du désert se fait à grands pas et qu'elle constitue la plus grave menace de la décennie que nous vivons.

Il regrette le peu d'intérêt exprimé par la Communauté internationale vis-à-vis de ce fléau qui menace la région sahélienne en général et la Mauritanie en particulier.

Monsieur le Président, la sécheresse et ses effets néfastes constituent une donnée qu'il importe de prendre sérieusement en considération dans les actions de développement dans le Sahel. La sécurisation des revenus des paysans et l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans nos pays exigent une lutte déterminée contre la sécheresse, la désertification.

Mon Gouvernement a conscience que l'Organisation pour le déclenchement d'une telle lutte a pour base de départ chacun des pays concernés, mais il reste convaincu que cela ne dégage pas la responsabilité des autres pays, car, en définitive, il s'agit de lutter contre la faim, la malnutrition, les calamités naturelles dans le monde pour garantir et assurer la survie de l'être humain.

S'agissant de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement, notre Gouvernement est conscient que, sans cette réforme qui libère les producteurs des systèmes archaïques parce que basés sur des modes de tenure des terres toujours à la faveur d'une minorité, aucun développement agricole véritable et, partant, aucune autosuffisance alimentaire ne sont possibles.

C'est pourquoi, face à ce problème épineux, le Gouvernement de Mauritanie envisage, dans une première étape, la mise sur pied, d'une réforme foncière, prélude à une véritable réforme agraire.

Dans un pays sahélien comme le nôtre, le problème de la prévention des pertes alimentaires (près de 30 pour cent des récoltes pour ce qui nous concerne) ne peut passer inaperçu.

C'est pourquoi nous souscrivons au programme d'action approuvé à la Conférence de la FAO tenue du 12 novembre au 1er décembre 1977 à Rome.

Enfin, ma délégation ne saurait garder silence sur le problème combien important de la pêche quand on sait que les côtes mauritaniennes font partie des plus riches du monde.

A cet égard, notre nouvelle politique s'oriente vers une exploitation rationnelle de nos richesses ichtyologiques par une réglementation stricte des conditions d'octroi de licences,

- la création de sociétés en vue de la transformation sur le sol national des produits de la mer.

Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais terminer sans souhaiter une nouvelle fois plein succès à nos travaux et dire combien ma délégation et moi-même avons été touchés par l'hospitalité du Gouvernement et du Peuple italien 1/.

5. Report of the Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security - Rome, 24-28 April 1978

5. Rapport de la troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Rome, 24-28 avril 1978

5. Informe del tercer período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial - Roma, 24-28 abril 1978

CHAIRMAN: This subject is very much related to a previous subject. Therefore we should not take too long on this, because I am sure that a lot of the points of detail have been covered. But we would like to hear from Professor Islam again.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I will say a few words as an introduction to the Report of the Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Mr. Chairman, as you very rightly mentioned in the course of discussion on the world food and agriculture situation this morning, reference has already been made to the large number of issues which were taken up by the Committee on World Food Security. These issues specifically concern the size of the world's stocks of cereals and the risks involved by delay in the establishment of an international coordinated system of food reserves.

In this connexion the Council may also note the Committee's recommendation that in formulating production policies for 1979 the major grain producing countries should pay special attention to the need to maintain adequate world supplies and stocks of basic foodstuffs.

Since then the government of the United States of America has announced its decision to continue in 1979 the current policy of taking land from wheat and maize production and diverting it to soil conserving uses. In announcing this decision the United States government expresses the view that the United States' grain reserves programme offers adequate insurance against possible production setbacks due to adverse weather.

Another major item before the Committee is the first of its biennial, reviews of the FAO food security assistance scheme. This scheme, as the Council is aware, aims to strengthen food security in the developing countries by helping them to build up national food reserves. The Committee agreed that the activities of the scheme were varied and useful and called for larger commitments from donors, preferably on a multi-lateral and longer term basis. The governments also had a useful exchange of views at an informal meeting of donors during the session.

As a follow-up to the Committee's recommendations in August this year the Director-General addressed all interested donors in seeking their cooperation for promoting a more concerted approach among multi-lateral and bi-lateral aid programmes in this field. In his communication he set out the services which FAO provided under the scheme and proposed a cooperative arrangement which in his view would increase the effectiveness of food security assistance. As mentioned by the Director-General in his statement to the Council, further contributions to this scheme have since been made in response to his appeal. Technical experts from donor governments have participated in project preparation missions to countries in Africa and Far East Asia. Generally there seems to be an increasing acceptance of the scheme as a framework for coordinating international aid including bilateral aid, for food security. However, some major donor countries have not yet responded and we hope they will respond soon.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

This important question of special assistance to developing countries links up with the protected negotiations towards a new International Grains Agreement. The Committee stressed the urgency of an early conclusion of an International Grains Agreement. It made recommendations on a number of specific aspects concerning reserve stocks, prices and international assistance to developing countries. As requested, the Director-General transmitted these recommendations to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD who submitted them to the negotiating parties.

The Council may therefore wish to discuss the implications for world food security of the outcome of these crucial negotiations which were suspended for a second time this week. This Conference has authorized its chairman to undertake consultations with governments with a view to reconvening the interim committee of the major parties involved. The Conference has requested this interim committee, after considering all the relevant factors, to recommend to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD the resumption of the Conference. During the three weeks of negotiations the

Conference had made important progress on a number of outstanding issues, specially on coarse grains and on the food aid convention. It recorded some progress in negotiations on special assistance to developing countries. The food aid convention is of great importance also from the point of view of food security. It is therefore disappointing that its final adoption had to be postponed because of delay in reaching agreement on the wheat trade convention level of prices and the size of reserve Stocks. These two elements of the wheat trade convention are very vital for meeting food security objectives.

The Council may therefore wish to reaffirm the need for the interim committee and the negotiating conference to intensify efforts to resolve this question as a matter of urgency, in the light of the unanimous recommendations made by the Committee on World Food Security at its third session.

The Council may also wish to stress the need for the full participation of developing countries at all stages of negotiations for determining prices at stock levels so that their special interest and vital concerns can be adequately taken into account.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Professor Islam. I hope you have the document ready and that Members have gone through the recommendations made. We will start the discussion on this item in the afternoon but, before we close, I should like to make an announcement concerning something we have to do later on. It has to do with elections of the five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. According to the timetable adopted yesterday, the election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme will take place on Monday 4 December at the end of the morning. The document which referred to this election is document CL 74/25. It has already been distributed since last July. In this document, copies of which are available at the desk, there is a nomination form for candidates to membership of this Committee.

I should like to propose to the Council that the deadline for the submission of these nominations be set at Thursday 30 November 1978, 18.00 hrs. The nominations should be delivered to office A-140. If the Council agrees to this deadline, then the Secretariat will take steps to have all the candidates listed for Friday so that it is possible for you to know before the election what to do on the Monday.

I now wish to hear any comments on the deadline for the submission of a candidate for election of members of the Food Aid Policies Committee.

S. MADEMBA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Je m'excuse, M. Le Président, je prends la parole au nom du groupe africain: en ce qui concerne la présentation du délai des candidatures, est-ce qu'il ne serait pas possible de le repousser d'au moins 24 heures pour permettre les consultations nécessaires en pareil cas?

CHAIRMAN: The effect of that will be that the list will be out on Monday and if Members agree to this, then, we will shift the deadline 24 hours to Friday. Is that agreed? Then the deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, not Thursday.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/4

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74º período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA
(28 November 1978)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

5. Report of the Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security - Rome, 24-28 April 1978 (continued)

5. Rapport de la troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Rome, 24-28 avril 1978 (suite)

5. Informe del tercer período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial - Roma, 24-28 abril 1978 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: As you can see on our agenda, we are still on the morning items, and my hope is that we will now quickly move faster and go through at least what we should have done in the morning, in which case, then, the afternoon items can spill over into tomorrow morning.

I would like to read out to you those who have asked for the floor so far: India, Columbia, Brazil, Pakistan, Argentina, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malta and Uganda. We shall add on Thailand and we will add on as we go.

D.R. BHUMBLA (India): The Government of India has been taking an active part in the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security Programme. The representative of India was elected chairman of the Committee in 1978 and presided over the Third Session.

We are in agreement with the recommendations of the Committee as given in paragraph 17 of the document 74/10. We have already expressed our views on some of these items. Increase in food production, decrease in food losses during storage and appropriate post-harvest technology are important components of all World Food Security programmes.

We note with satisfaction the stress on rice production and commend the decision of FAO in setting up an inter-departmental task force on rice to identify ways in which FAO could effectively use its existing resources to help accelerate rice production. India, as one of the major rice-producing countries, recognizes the importance of water management for rice production, both under irrigation and rainfed conditions. This would require major investments in land shaping and drainage.

We agree with the recommendations of the Committee that major grain exporting and importing countries should define and adopt national stock policies and report on the measures.

In so far as India is concerned, it is neither a major importer nor a major exporter, but I would still give the information. We have already adopted sound stocking policies in line with the objectives of the undertaking. The Government of India has fixed its buffer stock target at 12 million tons of cereals. This will be in addition to the operational stock needed for the public distribution system, which is approximately 1 million tons every month. The total physical stocks with the Government at the present time are estimated at around 18 million tons. Further, we have undertaken crash programmes for the construction of additional storage capacity of 3.6 million tons during the next four years or so.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En general la delegación de Colombia apoya las recomendaciones y peticiones que se hacen en el resumen que aparece al principio del documento CL 74/10. En particular, queremos destacar la recomendación contenida en el Apartado I sobre la necesidad urgente de ayudar a los países en desarrollo que padecen déficits alimentarios.

En el Apartado II del Capítulo A se trata de un asunto que aparece reflejado en el párrafo 12 del Informe. Hace relación a la posible reducción de la producción de cereales en un importante país productor. Esta mañana, cuando el señor Islam hizo la presentación del tema se refirió solamente a la segunda parte del párrafo 12, a la explicación que había dado en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria

Mundial el Representante de ese país; pero el señor Islam no hizo referencia a la preocupación que en ese Comité expresaron varios delegados sobre ese hecho tal como aparece en la primera frase del párrafo 12. Nosotros quisiéramos creer en las seguridades que dio el representante de esa distinguida nación, allá en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y que seguramente reiterará en este Consejo. Sin embargo, el párrafo 10 del documento nos previene en el sentido de que no podemos hacernos ilusiones.

La experiencia de 1972/73, cuando las reservas alimentarias mundiales descendieron al más bajo nivel en los últimos 20 años debe preocuparnos. Por ello, la delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe ser más enfático que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Debemos pedir, encarecer, urgir a ese país para que no ponga en práctica ese propósito, para que se abstenga de reducir la producción cuyos efectos han sido tan negativos en el pasado. Pensamos que no es humanamente aceptable que en un país tan poderoso se subsidie a los agricultores, se les pague a los agricultores para que no produzcan mientras que en el mundo en desarrollo aumentan las personas desnutridas. El ejemplo de Bangladesh, de la fruta con la corteza dura rodeada de los pájaros es aplicable a esta situación.

Sin duda, las causas principales de la crisis alimentaria entre 1972 y 1976 fueron la congelación de áreas de cultivos en países desarrollados, y las grandes transacciones comerciales entre las más conocidas potencias del mundo.

Ahora, abrigamos la esperanza de que las políticas internas de esos países desarrollados no se reflejen nuevamente en disminución de las reservas que pongan en peligro la población de diversas regiones del mundo en desarrollo.

En el Apartado A del Epígrafe III del párrafo 1 del Capítulo A, se afirma que los países en desarrollo deben prestar especial atención al incremento de la producción y los ingresos de los pequeños agricultores. Pensamos que estos aspectos deben subrayarse en nuestro informe. En Colombia, el nuevo gobierno está ofreciendo particular atención al aumento de la producción dirigido a beneficiar a los pequeños y medianos agricultores.

El párrafo 35 del documento CL 74/10 sintetiza bien los principales obstáculos que se vienen oponiendo a la buena voluntad y a los esfuerzos que venimos haciendo en los países en desarrollo: escasez de fondos, producción nacional insuficiente, ayuda alimentaria reducida, carencia de almacenamiento adecuado e infraestructura en general, falta de personal preparado, ineficaces sistemas de programación, etc. En estos puntos concretos, el Consejo deberá demandar la asistencia de los organismos internacionales y de los países desarrollados para que avuden a los países en desarrollo a ir fortaleciendo sus reservas.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like at this stage to make a few brief observations in connection with the report of the Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We continue to believe that food security can only be seen in the context of food production. In our view, to promote food security in the developing countries must necessarily mean to support production efforts and all those measures directly or indirectly related to production. We continue to feel that reserve schemes must be planned and operated in full conformity with production policies if the incentives to producers are to be avoided. Production policies and stock policies are closely interlinked, and in fact we would suggest that the real challenge lies in making both sets of policies compatible and mutually supportive. This is probably an area of policy which our organization should look into in the future so as to elicit interactions between price support policies and other incentives, levels of carry-over and commercial stocks and security reserves. A better understanding of the production marketing cycle might be a fundamental contribution, in our opinion, to an effective and dynamic concept of food security.

In the light of all that I must say that it is with a certain apprehension that we see schemes in which stock policies and programmes seem to be construed in isolation from production policies.

May I also add a point which my delegation has already made a few times, that in our opinion, the basic policies to ensure adequate food supply are essentially national in character. It is hardly a matter that can lend itself to a complete international approach. For all those reasons, my delegation continues to have doubts and misgivings about the manner in which the issue of food security has been dealt with by the international community since the World Food Conference of 1974. That does not mean, of course, that we do not favour the basic objectives of food security in terms of guaranteed food supplies; not at all. In that spirit, we certainly concur wholeheartedly with all recommendations conceived with the aim of supporting production efforts in the developing countries

so that each of them can become self-reliant in food and nutrition. In that same spirit, we must warmly welcome the calls for substantially increased aid for all those in need. We feel in particular that the new International Grains Agreement must be concluded as soon as possible, taking fully into account the interests and requirements of the developing countries. We feel that a new Food Aid Convention must be urgently agreed upon; that international emergency food reserves must reach the target level of 500 000 tons, and be kept at that level through replenishments; and finally, that the resources of the IEFR must be made fully available to the WFP as an added dimension to the WFP's own emergency allocations.

From a purely national perspective, Brazil is developing as an absolute priority its agriculture and food production so as to improve the nutritional and food standards of its people - we already have about 150 million in population - and to improve the position on a permanent basis. We feel there could hardly be a better way to contribute to the call for food security - not with words but with food.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): The subject of World Food Security is a matter of close and continuing interest to the developing countries of the world. In my own country we are presently having a somewhat difficult food situation. Last year's wheat crop was affected by rust and adverse weather, resulting in a significant shortfall in production.

Our case highlights, in a sense, the dilemma of many developing countries. Just as we were on the verge of self-sufficiency, certain unforeseen factors like natural calamities, attack of disease, etc. negated all we had done. We have now to make an even greater effort than before. However, we are not despondent. We will continue to strive until we achieve self-sufficiency in food and to achieve an important export surplus on a stable and permanent basis. Coming to CL 74/10, I will restrict myself to the Summary of Recommendations. While generally agreeing to the various Recommendations, we would specifically support the recommendation in (i) of paragraph 1. As regards the recommendation in (ii) of this paragraph, we recognize this is an internal policy matter of the major grain producing countries. We would, however, take this opportunity of stressing that methods adopted should not result in prices going beyond the reach of developing countries. We are confident that this situation will not arise. Nevertheless we must guard against such an eventuality.

Linked closely with this is the question of concentration of stocks in one particular region. As has been explained by the Secretariat, this is another matter which deserves close attention. We agree that long-term food security lies in increasing food production by a combined effort of developed and developing countries, as outlined in (iii) of paragraph 1. On our part we are fully committed to strengthening policies to ensure adequate incentives to producers and to provide them with necessary resources and institutional support.

Just to mention a few steps we have taken in this direction, we recently raised the procurement price of wheat from 37 rupees to 42 rupees. Farmers have been exempted from the payment of water charges for the additional areas which they bring under cultivation. The subsidies on fertilizers have been increased. A bag of urea weighing 50 kilogrammes now costs 63 rupees instead of 68. The subsidy on the recently installed tubers has been doubled.

We hope there will be a similar response from aid-giving countries and international institutions to give an added impetus to our efforts.

As regards (iv) of paragraph 1 we support the recommendation, and in addition would press for particularly attaining the pledging target of \$950 million for the World Food Programme and the channelling of an increasing amount of food aid through multinational channels. We would also like to agree on the setting up of guidelines for food aid.

We support the recommendations in paragraphs (v) and (vi). Pakistan has already adopted the undertaking and decided to maintain a minimum level of wheat reserves at 500 000 tons which we propose to revise upwards in the near future. We are also taking steps to improve our storage capacity, and a master plan is being drawn up with Canadian assistance, for which we are grateful to the Government of Canada.

I do not know if it is worthwhile speaking on paragraph (x), as the negotiations have been adjourned indefinitely. To say the least, we are disappointed, and hope that talks will be reconvened in the near future, and in case they are, we would support paragraphs (a), (b), particularly (c), and (d), (e) and (f) .

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): From the very beginning, my Government has taken an active part in the work of the Committee on World Food Security and supported its activities. This Committee merits special attention because its mandate comprises all aspects of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. This Undertaking provides, as is well known, a sound basis for the necessary measures for World Food Security.

In conformity with the principles of the Undertaking, the Committee stresses in its recommendations the urgent need for measures to ensure an adequate supply at the national level. First, emphasis is given to the responsibility of the individual governments to effect the necessary measures and investments for increasing production and building up stocks. Then an appeal is made to the international community to assist developing countries in these measures, and to promote above all the food security and stock-holding programmes of the poorer countries.

My Government fully supports these statements. External assistance must primarily reach those countries which suffer continuously from food shortages in order to remove short-term bottlenecks and take long-term measures for an ensured supply. This applies, for instance, to the Sahel countries whose critical situation the Committee emphasized at the beginning of its recommendations. Immediately we heard about the crisis situation which occurred in that region, my Government granted emergency aid and has channelled by now 47 000 tons of cereals under the Food Aid Convention. At the same time, it has initiated several long-term measures of aid. For more than two years we have been working with the governments of these and other countries on the implementation of food security programmes. Planning and orientation of these measures are coordinated in close consultation with the Food Security Assistance Scheme of FAO and other donors. Our programmes aim at building up stocks from domestic production. They comprise purchases of basic foodstuffs from local production, the establishment and maintenance of cereal stocks, the employment of advisers and the provision of means of transport. For such measures, my Government provides each year an amount of DM25 million. It is intended to increase these funds next year by 20 percent. In addition my Government contributes technical and financial aid to large-scale projects for long-term food security, for example the opening up of the Senegal Basin. By this, 300 000 hectares of agricultural land will be reclaimed.

The Committee reviewed the Food Security Assistance Scheme of FAO and commended it unanimously. Apart from its own programme and project activities, the FAO Scheme has further developed its function as a catalyser, coordinator, and information centre. My Government will also in future closely cooperate with the Scheme and coordinate its activities with it.

The international emergency reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals which was set up as a temporary measure is now being transformed into a permanent reserve as recommended by the World Food Council. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has already adjusted the procedures for this reserve. Thus the World Food Programme will in future be in a position to grant emergency aid in an even more efficient way. Since 1976 my Government has made an annual contribution to this reserve of between 30 000 and 40 000 tons of cereals.

We note with satisfaction the statement of the Committee, on World Food Security that 82 countries meanwhile pursue stockholding policies and practices in conformity with the Undertaking. The common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community includes arrangements for adequate stockholding to ensure internal supplies, for meeting all international commitments, including food aid, and for requests for aid in emergency situations and disasters, without formulating a special stockholding policy in an isolated way. This policy in fact fully meets the objectives of the Undertaking, and takes the guidelines into account, as mentioned in Part II of the Undertaking as far as they are addressed to the developed countries.

Finally, let me say this: my Government supports the view expressed by the Committee that the Committee and also the Committee on Agriculture should give in future greater attention, apart from cereals, also to other basic foodstuffs.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): The Committee on World Food Security in its session in April this year already discussed at length the various issues relating to the International Undertaking on World Food Security. In the opinion of my delegation the report, document CL 74/10, clearly reflects the findings of the Committee and accordingly I will confine myself to a few comments only.

Allow me to refer to paragraph 31 of the report dealing with the establishment within FAO of an Interdepartmental Task Force on Rice with the objective of identifying ways in which FAO could effectively use its existing resources to help accelerate rice production.

We have taken note of paragraph 26 of the report, in which there is a statement that according to FAO projections to 1985, rice production would continue to lag behind the growth in demand in the Far East even to maintain the present inadequate per caput level of consumption.

My delegation would clearly appreciate it if FAO could make available further information on the Inter-departmental Task Force on Rice. In the opinion of my delegation greater attention than heretofore should be devoted to rice, which is the staple food of hundreds of millions of people in the Far East. Its growing significance should be recognized.

Md. FAISAL (Bangladesh): On behalf of my Government and the delegation I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent work done by the committee which has drawn up the paper. We are in full agreement with the recommendations contained in the working paper. However, I would like to make a few points which are of far-reaching consequences unless immediate action is taken to redress the problems. The problems in brief are as follows. First, FAO's efforts in terms of solving food security problems are highly commendable. However, I find that FAO is trying to redress these problems in a most isolated manner. The solution of food security problems essentially requires a system approach ranging from production to distribution, including food aid and distribution of income. Unless these problems are tackled in totality with a comprehensive approach the solution of food security problems and programmes would remain in practice an elusive goal which will never be achieved.

Secondly, the achievement of most of the food security programmes (say procurement of foodgrains) is faced with serious budgetary constraints both from the local source of the public sector and external sources. These constraints will remain more acute, particularly in less developed countries, in years to come, unless a substantial portion of these responsibilities, contained in the objectives, are channelled through the private sector which of course requires certain provisions, like adequate credit and sufficient marketing margins to the farmer cooperatives or to the traders. FAO should make an all-out effort to inject sufficient incentives to dynamise the private sector.

Thirdly, the realization of the objectives of the Food Security Programme depends essentially on the drawing up of a viable investment programme, and a viable investment programme depends not only on the provision of software, but more so on the availability of hardware, which most developing countries are lacking. We have found that most of the United Nations Organizations provide nearly 75 to 80 percent of their assistance in software, where most of the LDC countries at present attain considerable expertise. I do not intend to go into details of the issues involved in the questions here, since there is an appropriate forum for this. Consequently I request FAO, and particularly the Director-General, to take appropriate action in this regard.

Fourthly, I found that the food security problems and associated issues have created, either willingly or unwillingly, a widespread sense of distrust between the developed and the developing countries from which nobody in this world would benefit. From now on I would like to request the developed and developing countries to approach these problems on the vital issues with mutual trust and respect and to make more concessions in order to enable us to achieve a better, healthy and peaceful world.

Finally, I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that my country is making an all-out effort in respect of food security programmes on the lines suggested by FAO both in respect of building up stocks and providing incentives to the farmers.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): Mr. Chairman, undoubtedly the Committee on World Food Security became in a very short time one of the most important standing committees of the Organization. This is shown by the increasing number of its members, by the particularly significant problems with which it is dealing, and the excellent work of the global information and early warning system which is connected with it.

This delegation wishes to pay particular tribute to the very efficient and highly valuable work of this relatively new unit of the Commodities Division of FAO. The work of the Committee is of great importance to our member countries, in particular the developing countries, especially to those which, like Malta, have to import a considerable part of their food requirements. It is therefore obvious that FAO's work on food security is among the most important in this new FAO activity which is also shared by the World Food Programme. Malta was among the first of the member countries of the Committee to adopt at an early time the International Undertaking on World Food Security. We were, of course, represented at the third session of the Committee and were present when its report was adopted, to which we fully subscribe. Nonetheless, in view of considerable discussion which has been taking place, except by the intervention of the delegate of Zaire who intervened on the same subject and under a

separate item of our Agenda, a particular point has not yet been mentioned, and we wish to draw this to the attention of the Committee and to your attention, Mr. Chairman. From the inception of the debate on food reserves there were two aspects in the forefront as regards physical arrangements to be made. On the one hand, national stocks or similar arrangements were advocated, and on the other, the so-called regional food reserves were preferred. According to this latter arrangement emergency reserves were to be placed in strategic food deficient areas or near to countries which have food shortages and nutrition difficulties. As you will see from the report, it has been underlined by the Committee that in some cases neighbouring countries are making arrangements to help one or other with reserves which they have and which are lacking in neighbouring countries. This is particularly significant as a form of regional reserves which we also advocate. Regional stocks are also important because they give the possibility that food can quickly be supplied to disaster areas without bureaucratic complications. In addition it enables more countries to participate in food security schemes, the creation of national reserves, the building of the necessary warehouses, the necessary handling charges and the replenishing of the reserves, which is in general rather costly and burdensome to small countries.

This delegation would therefore be grateful if in the report of the Council both principles, the national reserves and at the same time the setting up of regional reserves, could be stressed.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): The Uganda delegation endorses the recommendations set out in paragraph 17 of document CL 74/10. On the question of non-cereal foods in the food security position of developing countries, the delegation wishes to ask that research should be carried out in the processing, preservation and storage of starchy roots and tubers, as they constitute the most important sources of energy next to cereals in these countries.

The delegation notes with disappointment that a negotiating conference on a new international grains agreement has broken down. We hope that there will be an early resumption of talks and a conclusion of an agreement including both trade convention and food aid convention.

On the food security scheme our delegation notes with satisfaction that 16.9 million dollars out of a total cumulative cash contribution of 28 million dollars were committed to projects in the most seriously affected countries. We further welcome the scheme's future emphasis on

(1) development of storage and related infrastructure and stocking operations and

(2) strengthening of programming finances. As a firm condition of establishing long-term security lies in increasing food production our delegation realizes the responsibilities of developing countries to adopt and strengthen policies geared towards increased food production. I might add here that Uganda is in the process of formulating and defining such policies. Needless to say, our resources are meagre and any help that we receive is greatly welcomed. I would also take this opportunity of thanking the donor nations and the international organizations, particularly FAO, which have acted as our benefactors in this respect.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): The Thai delegation would like to join with previous speakers in congratulating Professor Islam for his clear and concise introductory presentation of the report of the Committee on World Food Security. It is apparent that now there is good opportunity to build food reserves so as to ensure against a repetition of the food crisis experienced in the very recent past. However, many developing countries, including Thailand, have not been able to take maximum advantage of good crops in building national food reserves, due to difficulties - technical as well as financial - relative to the problems of storage and transport facilities. Evidently, effective and timely assistance from external sources is required. Statements of representatives from some donor countries indicating their intentions to provide increased financial and technical assistance in this regard are very heartening and gratefully welcomed.

My delegation subscribes to the views expressed in the document including the recommendations contained therein. However, I wish to stress one point, that in the formulation of production policies for the 1979 crops, Thailand, as one of the major food producing countries, needs to consider now and in the future the effects on world food security of the production adjustments already made in 1977/78, and the need to maintain adequate supplies and stocks of basic foodstuffs, as envisaged in the international undertaking. In addition, Thailand did adopt in principle both national and regional stock policies and objectives in conformity with the undertaking.

In conclusion, my delegation shares the sentiments expressed by several speakers regretting that the negotiating conference on the International Grains Agreement recently held in Geneva was suspended for the second time, and we wish to express our full agreement to the proposal that the participating countries in the negotiation see to it that the session be reviewed as soon as possible.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): On behalf of the United States delegation I can say that we endorse the recommendations of the report before us and that we appreciate the useful introduction to it provided us by Mr. Islam. I should like to comment on particular paragraphs of the report, as briefly as I can.

With regard to paragraph 17(i) concerning food aid for countries facing severe food shortages, we would like to note that during fiscal year 1978 the United States provided about 150 000 metric tons of commodities to Sahelian zone countries. In addition, the United States provided 125 000 metric tons for emergencies in other parts of the world. We stand ready to assist in food emergency situations and encourage other donor countries to give assistance to the degree they can and as generously as they can, to this purpose.

In regard to paragraph 17 (ii) concerning production policies and their effects on world food security, our delegation feels that we have taken into full account the need to maintain world supplies and stocks of basic foodstuffs when the United States had adjusted its production policies. We believe it should be noted that the United States has established a reserve stocks programme for food and feed grains. These reserves are to be owned largely by producers. For food grains, 10 or 11 million metric tons of wheat, 360 000 metric tons of rice are targeted. The wheat target for producer-owned reserves has been achieved. Feed grain reserve targets have been set at 17 to 19 million tons. We believe that this target is now just about reached. It is current United States policy to adjust production to meet reserve stock and total carry over objectives.

In this regard I should like to offer a clarification in the light of certain references to United States food reserves in the FAO's supplemental report on the world food situation. First, the United States food reserves, now and for many years before, have contributed to world food security and market stability for the world's producers and consumers. United States food reserves help all nations' market economies - socialist countries, and developing countries - many of whom, including some of those who have commented here on the United States set-aside programme, also manage their production in the light of the market situation.

Secondly, the United States Government will have reserves to meet its concessional food aid commitments: our bilateral food aid under Public Law 480, and our multilateral contributions to the World Food Programme. And the United States reserves will also help meet any shortfalls in production in countries that are or may be commercial purchasers.

Thirdly, we all know that if there are widespread shortfalls in production and more countries come into the market to buy more grain than they customarily do, prices will tend to rise. This is what happened in 1972 and 1973. All United States grain reserves - both those held by farmers and those held by the United States Government - will become available to moderate such prices should the need occur again. At this time our reserves hold grain off the market, so producers in the United States and in other countries as well will be encouraged to continue high levels of production. It is through sustained high levels of production in both developed and developing countries that we attain real food security for all.

With regard to paragraph 17 (iii) concerning increasing food production in developing countries, the United States fully supports these recommendations. With regard to the subsequent sub-paragraph of paragraph 17 concerning food aid levels, the United States continues to support the minimum target of 10 million metric tons of food aid in grains. In this regard the United States has pledged almost 4.5 million metric tons of grain under a new Food Aid Convention and has agreed to provide 125 000 metric tons to the World Food Programme's 500 000 tons International Emergency Food Reserve. The United States encourages other donor and potential donor countries to contribute to this reserve in order to reach these food aid goals.

With regard to paragraphs 43-51 concerning negotiations for an international wheat agreement, I can state that the United States was also disappointed that full agreement could not be reached during the current negotiating session. We nevertheless believe that important progress was made at the meeting; most of the text of a wheat trade convention, of a consultative arrangement on coarse grains and of a new food aid convention were completed. The current meeting showed a continuing < commitment by all delegations to finalize a new agreement to provide greater stability in world trade

in wheat and to create a better basis for future world food security. It is now anticipated that an interim committee of six countries will meet during the week of December 11th to reconcile the remaining differences. We are hopeful that there will be an early and successful conclusion to these negotiations.

Concerning the financing of reserve stock obligations for the developing countries under a new international wheat agreement, it is the United States' position that in cases of legitimate need for financial assistance, the United States, working together with other donor countries, will make every effort within its own bilateral programmes and within multilateral institutions to provide such assistance.

With respect to paragraphs 51 to 59 of the report concerning the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme; the United States supports the objectives of this scheme. We view it as a catalyst primarily in promoting internal developing country food security policies, as a coordinator of food security assistance and as a source of technical expertise for the formulation of food security programmes. The United States is not now in a position to make direct contributions to the scheme; however, we are ready to cooperate with the Food Security Assistance Scheme by coordinating bilateral activities with the FSAS projects as appropriate.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. As I said before, we eagerly awaited your statement on this matter and, as it turned out, it has been very encouraging. I hope that the United States Government will assist in the way that you have outlined.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIU (Greece): First of all, I should like to say that we fully agree with the recommendations and request contained in the report of the third session of the Committee on World Food Security. On examining this report we note that the present situation of world food security is quite fragile, as we pointed out today in our earlier intervention. In fact, although the stocks have been increased, little progress has been made in achieving the target set by the World Food Conference to eliminate hunger and malnutrition by 1985. We fully recognize the efforts made by the developing countries in increasing food production and we realize the obstacles they are facing. Nevertheless we think that efforts must be intensified in order to achieve greater mobilization of small farmers and to assure increased funds for agricultural development by the states concerned as well as by international organizations. We recognize the effectiveness of FAO's programmes and other activities towards these contributions. In addition the special initiatives of FAO, such as the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses and the Food Security Assistance Scheme and the Technical Cooperation Programme will in our view contribute positively in increasing food security in developing countries.

We further consider that the implementation of the appropriate food security policies by all member countries is of great importance. Developing countries must be assisted to supplement those policies by providing them with greater financial and technical assistance.

We also agree with the proposition of the German delegation that the Committee should pay attention also to other foodstuffs. This Food Security Scheme aims at helping developing countries to develop food resources capable of meeting all emergencies.

Further, we agree with the creation of resources at strategic locations to permit the geographical availability of foods. As the delegate of Malta indicated a few moments ago, we think that this will encourage the efforts which have been made towards establishing an effective international food security scheme and will consolidate the results.

As regards the International Wheat Agreement we are convinced that the recommendations of paragraph 46 of the Report of the Committee on World Food Security will contribute positively to its conclusion and we endorse therefore this recommendation.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Deseamos expresar en el seno de este período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO el apoyo de nuestra delegación en líneas generales a la recomendación que se formula en el informe del tercer período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, documento CL 74/10 y en especial llamar la atención de los miembros del Consejo sobre los siguientes aspectos:

La necesidad de que los gobiernos pongan en práctica las decisiones políticas necesarias para mejorar su situación y sus políticas de seguridad alimentaria apoyándose en un aumento sustancial y sostenido de la producción de alimentos; apoyo a dicha política y programas de los países en desarrollo por parte de los desarrollados y organismos internacionales a fin de aumentar la asistencia financiera, técnica y material para incrementar la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, principalmente en los más gravemente afectados, a fin de mejorar su nivel nutricional y reducir su dependencia en la importación de alimentos; continuar la exploración de posibilidades de planes regionales e incluso de asistencia mutua promoviendo la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, partiendo de decisiones adoptadas por la pasada Conferencia celebrada en Argentina, si bien es cierto que el aumento de la producción de alimentos es la base de una verdadera seguridad alimentaria; es necesario reconocer el papel que está jugando la ayuda alimentaria para cubrir los déficits hasta que sean suficientes los niveles de producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, por lo que los países desarrollados deben tomar medidas para alcanzar en 1978 el objetivo mínimo de 10 millones de toneladas de ayuda alimentaria en cereales y 500 000 para la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia; establecer a través del programa de acción una ayuda sistemática a los países más vulnerables amenazados de perder sus cosechas de manera sistemática, como el caso de la zona del Sahel; que los principales países productores de cereales tomen en cuenta los efectos que han tenido los reajustes en la producción ya efectuados, tomando en consideración el valor del excedente de producción para el incremento de la ayuda alimentaria, teniendo presente los miles de personas que resultarían beneficiadas.

Por último, instamos a los países participantes a que concluyan lo antes posible la negociación para un nuevo convenio internacional del trigo, en el cual entran en consideración intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Recomendamos que los países miembros del Consejo no adopten decisiones a este respecto que puedan interferir estas negociaciones y lo más loable es solicitar a estos países que reanuden las conversaciones en Ginebra sobre el nuevo Convenio Internacional del Trigo.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Monsieur le Président, vous ne serez pas surpris que la délégation française approuve le rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et les recommandations qui sont formulées dans ce document. Nous sommes en effet l'un des pays qui ont contribué à la mise au point de ce texte après de longues discussions.

Nous sommes donc d'accord sur les recommandations et tout particulièrement celles que nous voyons au début du rapport, sur le point A.

A cette occasion, j'aimerais indiquer que sous le point i qui traite du Sahel en particulier, mon gouvernement a déjà mis en oeuvre les actions souhaitées dans ce texte.

C'est ainsi que pour 1978, au titre de l'aide alimentaire, et rien que pour les actions d'urgence, la France fournit, sur sa part nationale de l'aide alimentaire, 40 000 tonnes de céréales aux pays du Sahel dont la valeur peut être estimée à 30 millions de francs, auxquels il faut ajouter 20 millions pour le transport des produits, et 5 millions d'aides d'urgence diverses, ce qui donne un total de 55 millions.

Par ailleurs, comme vous le savez, la Communauté a également fait des actions sur ces mêmes territoires, et la France y contribue financièrement à concurrence de 25 pour cent du total des dépenses, ce qui doit donc encore, pour apprécier l'effort fait par notre gouvernement, être pris en considération.

D'autre part, au titre du b) du point iii) on insiste sur le fait que les pays donateurs doivent augmenter leur aide financière, technique et matérielle pour accroître la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement. Egalement dans le cadre du Sahel, nous avons été amenés à faire des investissements importants, tout particulièrement en matière d'irrigation et d'aménagement des bassins fluviaux de la région. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que sur le fleuve Sénégal l'aide française a joué un rôle déterminant pour la mise au point du projet du barrage de Diama. Sur le Niger, le barrage de Silingui sera opérationnel en 1980. A tous ces projets, qui supposaient des moyens financiers très élevés, notre gouvernement a participé.

Pour répondre aux besoins de ces Etats du Sahel, il a été prévu, dans le cadre du budget actuellement en discussion devant le Parlement et qui devrait être effectif pour l'année 1979, un crédit individualisé de 100 millions de francs pour les pays les plus défavorisés, et tout particulièrement ceux du Sahel.

Enfin, une dotation exceptionnelle de 100 millions de francs destinés à lutter contre la sécheresse -et ceci en fait se relie à l'amélioration de la production agricole - a été prévue pour les seuls Etats du Sahel.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Since our delegation participated actively in the Committee on Food Security third session we do not feel that we need to make any comments on the report itself, since we had a hand in writing the report and though it is true we did not agree with everything one hundred percent we were able to accept the report, but we would like to make some general comments.

As a major food exporter and cereal stock holder Canada has always worked hard to improve the world food security situation. My Government has participated actively in the past and continues to participate now in the various proposals put forward within the United Nations system to improve food production. We support the efforts to assist the food priority countries in meeting their food production, nutrition and the development of national food plans. I know that some of these activities are highly encouraged and supported by the World Food Council and I might take the opportunity now to say that we are very pleased that the World Food Council will be meeting in Canada in 1979. I do not carry with me any tourist brochures but I am sure these can be made available to all our friends who will be visiting Canada in September.

Through our International Development Assistance Programmes we help countries to improve their food production and marketing. We try to focus our development assistance of more than \$1 billion on the most needy of the developing countries. Canada is at present involved in about 200 agricultural projects among the developing countries.

On the question of world food security Canada subscribed to the principles of the International Undertaking. My country had the privilege of participating in the meeting in which the principles of this International Undertaking were formulated and agreed to.

We contributed to the 500 000 ton international general emergency food reserve. We support the proposal for this emergency food reserve to be made a permanent type of programme

Canada continues to be the second largest contributor to the World Food Programme and will continue actively to support the activities of the World Food Programme. In addition we also operate on a large scale in respect of bilateral food aid and make contributions to a large number of countries.

We are in agreement with the objectives of the Food Security Assistance Scheme. However, at present we are not in a position to make a direct contribution. We have, however, from time to time assisted through our bilateral programme; one country as an example of this type of assistance, is Tanzania.

With respect to the International Wheat Agreement, Canada also regrets the delay in the completion of the new International Grains Agreement. We believe, however, that there are possibilities that this grain agreement can ultimately be agreed to and we believe there should be the widest possible participation in this type of agreement. My Government will continue to work actively towards reaching this agreement. I should point out that at an earlier session of the Grains Agreement Conference Canada was one of only two countries who announced a commitment to the new Food Aid Convention and it was a 50 percent increase over our previous Food Aid Convention. The total amounts to 750 000 tons once the new agreement goes into effect.

K. ARROWSMITH (Observer for European Economic Community) : I wish to say that the European Economic Community, which participated in the third session of the Committee on World Food Security, supports the recommendations contained in the Report of that session.

With regard to references made to the negotiating conference for a new International Wheat Agreement I should like to say, as representative of the European Economic Community, that the Community shares the regret that has been expressed by other speakers at the suspension of the negotiating conference last Friday. Nevertheless, in view of the substantial progress that has been achieved, we are hopeful that following the reconvening of the interim committee and thereafter of the negotiating conference itself, a successful conclusion will be reached in the not distant future.

CHAIRMAN: Before we conclude this item and before I call on Professor Islam, we have received written comments from the delegation of Jamaica, the Observers, which we have and which we note.

I would now like to call on Professor Islam to respond quickly to some of these points which are all straightforward and not very difficult.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would just like to respond to one or two questions raised by a number of delegates: first, the question of an Interdepartmental Task Force set up by FAO on rice production which has been referred to in the Report of the Committee on World Food Security, and also we have been asked to report recent progress.

The Task Force is completing its report, which is a comprehensive examination of all aspects, economic and technical, of increased rice production in Southeast Asia. It has examined the role which FAO could play in coordination with other agencies and institutions to promote increased rice production in Asia. It presents a number of proposals which are now under examination by the Director-General in the context especially of the new Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81.

Second, reference has been made to not only national food reserves but also regional food reserves and located in strategic places. We in the Secretariat are fully conscious of the potential advantages to be gained by some such reserve to be located and used regionally, although past experience with the attempts to set up such reserves in certain regions involving a number of countries have shown that there are indeed practical problems in promoting such reserves. However, we are persevering with this project, and as recently requested, the Director-General has agreed to carry out a feasibility study of regional reserves in the Sahel region, which could be coordinated with national stock policies. The study will be initiated early next year.

The Secretariat welcomes the positive statement made by the United States on the Food Security Assistance Scheme and its willingness to coordinate with the Food Security Scheme of FAO projects for the future. The Secretariat would like to follow this up through a better exchange of information and other ways as proposed by the Director-General in his letter.

CHAIRMAN: The Committee has done a very good job, and this has made our work very much easier. We do not hear any adverse criticism of the report and the recommendations have been accepted, but one thing that has come out constantly is the national nature of food security. The basis of food security that has come out of these talks must be national, but to do this for each country to be secure in its food needs, it is necessary for the developed countries to assist in investing in agriculture, and therefore, the objective of full security can only be attained through combined effort between the developing and the developed countries. This has come out quite clearly and I am sure that the developed as well as the developing countries will go ahead and implement those recommendations which are so useful.

Questions have been raised on things which are outside our competence, like the agreements on wheat and so on, which I am sure the Secretariat will follow up with the appropriate bodies to make sure that the views of this Council are made now and heard.

With these brief remarks I would like to close this item, unless members have last thoughts about it. If not, then this item is closed.

J. WEBSTER (Jamaica): My delegation would like to make a few brief comments on this subject. Those of us who have been following discussions in other fora like the GATT and UNCTAD on matters pertaining to food and agriculture, are quite concerned over the breakdown of the recent wheat talks in Geneva. As a small developing country which has to import wheat because we cannot grow this ourselves, we had hoped that an agreement would have been possible. We would not like to think that "protectionism" is spreading to other areas and that the use of the large world stocks for the establishment of the system of reserves, envisaged in the International Undertaking on World Food Security, is still a far way off.

Jamaica, however, takes hope in FAO's Food Security Assistance Scheme and is heartened by the pledges which have been announced. This Scheme has shown that it has great potential for further expansion and my delegation would like to ask the major grain producing countries to pledge a greater share of their resources whether bilaterally or multilaterally, for the implementation of food security projects. ^{1/}

6. Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries - Rome, 12-16 June 1978

6. Rapport de la douzième session du Comité des pêches - Rome, 12-16 juin 1978

6. Informe del 12º periodo de sesione, del Comité de Pesca - Roma, 12-16 junio 1978

CHAIRMAN: We will now go on with our agenda. The next item is Item 6, Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, document CL 74/7.

However, before we go on, I would like to call on the Deputy Director-General, Dr. Phillips, for an announcement.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council, it was the Director-General's intention to say a word of introduction to the next speaker, but since he is not here I will say a brief word on his behalf.

Mr. Kenneth Lucas was recently appointed as Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries Department. He is, I think, exactly in his fourth working day, so he is new to the job, and this is also his first appearance before the Council.

For the past five and a half years he has been Senior Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the Fisheries and Marine Programme in the Department of Fisheries and Environment in Canada. I will not go back over his history beyond that point, but he has vast experience in the fisheries field and we are indeed pleased to have him aboard, Mr. Chairman, and he will introduce the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lucas, can you stand up so everybody can see you?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lucas has been thrown in at the deep end so I will now call on him to introduce this subject.

K. LUCAS (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): Thank you, Dr. Phillips, for the introduction and the warning to the delegates that my experience is not very great right now in the work of the Council. It is my pleasurable duty, though, to introduce the item on the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which was held here in Rome June 12-16, 1978. My remarks will be very brief.

In accordance with past practice, the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, CL 74/7, which I hope you all have on your desks before you, is preceded by a summary indicating which matters warrant special attention by the Council. Three of these matters are listed as requiring a decision by the Council, and I should like to report briefly on recent developments directly related to these matters which will be beyond the information provided in the report. There are also another five items noted for the information of Council and I would wish to just draw your attention to one of those items at the end of my remarks.

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

The first of the items for decision is a proposal to create a Fishery Commission for the Near East, which is covered in paragraph 57 of the Report. So far, ten of the countries serviced by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East have replied to the questionnaire sent by the Director-General some time ago at the request of the Committee on Fisheries to solicit their views on the method of financing the proposed Commission and the ways in which its work should be coordinated with the activities of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and also the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. These ten countries who responded are in favour of the proposed Commission or at least would not object to its establishment. But their views vary somewhat regarding its functions and its funding. We are still awaiting a reply from the remaining fourteen countries serviced by the Regional Office for the Near East and we have recently sent them another reminder so that the Council can have a full picture when all countries respond.

Concerning the same subject, I should also report on two meetings which have discussed the proposed Commission since the last meeting on Fisheries. Firstly, at its Fourteenth Session held last month the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean felt that the establishment of a Commission for the Near East could assist in solving the fishery problems of some of the countries serviced by the Regional Office for the Near East. The Council, which consists of the states of the Near East and of North Africa bordering on the Mediterranean, expressed concern, however, over the risk of duplicating effort which certain functions of the proposed Commission would entail. It recommended, therefore -strongly recommended, as I recall- that the mandate of the Commission should include no reference as far as the Mediterranean is concerned to its conservation, management and development function under the 1949 agreement which created that Mediterranean Council. In other words, it was really requesting that consideration be given to exempting the mention of the Mediterranean concerning fisheries in such a Near East Commission.

A second meeting at the end of September last of the coastal countries of the gulfs lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula considered the intergovernmental participation required to ensure continued cooperation in fishery management and development upon completion of the joint UNDP-FAO project in the area next year. They reached the conclusion that, in view of the delay in setting up a Fishery Commission for the Near East and the need to take action in good time before the termination of the development project, the most practical solution was to use for the time being an existing Committee within the Indian Ocean Commission for Coordination.

They also agreed that if and when a Fishery Commission for the Near East is established they would review the situation and consider whether the Committee should remain a subsidiary body of the Indian Ocean Commission or become a subsidiary body of the proposed new Commission. That is the end of my supplementary comment on that first item for decision.

The second point is a bit shorter. I turn to the second question, the statement concerning the Eastern Central Atlantic southern boundary in paragraph 58 of the Committee's Report. As requested by the last session of the Committee on Fisheries, the Director-General has addressed a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola and to the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia regarding a possible extension southwards of the boundary for the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. That Committee covers the area between the Straits of Gibraltair and most of the Congo and Zaire River.

Neither of these have indicated their views yet.

Regarding the status of the Economic Community within FAO Regional Fisheries bodies - this is the third matter submitted to you for decision referred to in paragraph 29 of the Committee's Report -I would like to say the following: This is a matter which is not limited to the Fisheries sector. Furthermore, the participation of the Community as a Member of the Regional Fisheries bodies would require changes to the Basic Texts of the Organization. Articles 6 and 14 of the Constitution under which our fisheries bodies are established only provide for membership by States. I should like to note, however, that in practice observers and representatives of regional and international organizations are allowed to participate fully in the deliberations of our fisheries commissions. I trust the representative of the Community will agree with me.

As indicated in the Summary preceding the Report of the Committee on Fisheries, a number of other matters are submitted to the special attention of the Council, even though they do not require a decision at this stage. Nevertheless, some of these matters are of considerable significance. For me, as the new ADG of Fisheries within FAO, none is more important than the comprehensive programme being formulated by the Director-General to assist the developing coastal states in formulating and taking the greatest possible advantage of fisheries development in their new extended economic zones. The Committee's recommendations regarding this programme which the Conference of FAO itself regards as a challenge to the community in the creation of a new economic order are to be found in

paragraphs 6 to 18 and paragraphs 39 to 47 in the Report in front of you. The Committee recognized the need for special financial effort from the UNDP and other agencies in addition to support from the FAO regular budget. In this connexion, I am pleased to report, at the recent FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in Lisbon, several delegations indicated they would give their support to the programme.

We are particularly grateful to the Government of Norway who have stated their willingness to provide financial assistance at an early date. We also appreciate the desire expressed by the European Economic Community to be associated with the implementation of the Director-General's programme, and we are looking forward to cooperating with them.

I would be most interested to hear the views of delegations on this most important programme.

CHAIRMAN: I would now like to open discussion on the Report which is before us, which is the Report of the Committee on Fisheries.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would like to start my very brief remarks on this particular agenda item by indicating the satisfaction of my Government in seeing Mr. Lucas at the helm of the Fisheries Department. We feel his expertise and experience, as well as his youth, is a good indication of the dynamic contribution of FAO in support of developing countries to enable them to develop their fisheries resources.

My Government feels the Committee on Fisheries did very good work at its last session. We are particularly pleased to see that assistance to developing coastal states in managing and developing fisheries in their economic zones is receiving the highest priority in the Organization's programmes. We believe the Council should fully endorse this.

As far as the specific issues for the Council's decision are concerned, we would like to make the following comments: first, with respect to the Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) we fully support the extension southwards of the southern boundary of CECAF to include the waters of Angola and Namibia, on the assumption, naturally, that this is the wish of the countries concerned. It is our hope that membership by those countries in CECAF will help those countries of Angola and Namibia to develop their fishery resources as an important contribution to nutrition and overall development.

The second point refers to the status of the European Economic Community within certain regional fishery boundaries. We are of the opinion, which we understand to be in line with the observations made by Mr. Lucas, that the participation of the EEC as an observer is more in line with the constitutional provisions of regional fishery bodies.

May I add also that in our view the composition of the regional fishery bodies should be determined by the countries of the regions concerned. Such a project seems to us particularly crucial when developing coastal states for the benefit of the economic zone of 200 miles.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 29 se plantea el caso de la Comunidad Económica Europea sobre cual debe ser la condición jurídica de esa Comunidad en determinados órganos regionales de pesca. En la presentación de este tema el Sr. Lucas, nuevo Subdirector General para Pesca, a quien felicitamos y damos la bienvenida, explico muy bien las dificultades de orden jurídico que se oponen al planteamiento hecho por el vocero de la Comunidad Económica en el Comité de Pesca. Por esas razones y por motivos de otros órdenes, la delegación de Colombia no está en favor del planteamiento hecho por el señor vocero de la CEE y somos partidarios de que la participación de los Países Miembros de la Comunidad Económica Europea se haga país por país a través de sus propios representantes.

La delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 14 del Informe de que hay que estimular la cooperación entre países en desarrollo en materia de pesquería con intercambio de experiencia y tecnología.

La delegación de Colombia destaca el párrafo 30 en el cual se dice que el representante del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA) informó de la constitución del Comité de Acción de Productos del Mar y de Agua Dulce integrado por 13 países latinoamericanos. Reconocemos y agradecemos la participación de la FAO en estas actividades. Está bien que la FAO siga colaborando con el SELA. El SELA es un

importante sistema economico para nuestros países de América Latina y desearíamos que en el Informe del Consejo conste nuestro proposito y deseo de que la FAO continúe y estreche su colaboración con este Organismo.

Finalmente la delegación de Colombia apoya al Comité en el sentido de que debe seguir siendo un Comité permanente del Consejo en virtud del Artículo V de la Constitución, con su mandato actual revisado oportunamente.

R. TANABE (Japan): I congratulate Mr. Lucas on having been nominated as the ADG for the Fisheries Department. I hope his expertise and experience and his leadership will result in better activities in the Department.

Turning to the substance of the report, I would like to make a few comments on the recent developments in the Committee on Fisheries. My delegation participated in the last session of this Committee and joined in the discussion with great interest.

Not only agricultural products are food. Fisheries products are also an important part of human nutrition. My delegation is most concerned about the apparent levelling off of fish production as

a whole

Promoting the development of under-exploited and so-called unconventional resources such as krill and others, as well as aquaculture and inland water fisheries are the promising possibilities for solving this problem.

FAO, as shown by its name, is the body most concerned with ensuring adequate food supplies for making. I would like to express the wish that FAO, and in particular the Department of Fisheries, continue to carry out their policies from this point of view.

Another factor which could affect fisheries production is the establishment of 200 mile exclusive economic zones. The new ocean regime has given the coastal states the opportunity of developing their fisheries. At the same time, it has also given them the responsibility of ensuring the optimum utilization of resources. FAO's assistance as well as cooperation of other countries is desirable for this purpose and my delegation wishes FAO to help developing countries in a scientific and objective way. In this connexion the role of regional fishery bodies has become increasingly important.

My delegation is not against the decentralization of the FAO regional fishery bodies, however, and as the Programme Committee pointed out in its latest report there are several constitutional, administrative and financial issues which need resolutions before final steps can be taken. On this point my delegation fully shares the views of the Committee. Finally, as to participation of other countries outside of regions in regional fishery bodies, my delegation again concurs with the view expressed by the Programme Committee in its latest report.

S. TAIARITIS (Greece): May I first congratulate Mr. Lucas on his appointment to the position of ADG in the Fisheries Department. I am sure that his valuable experience will be of great help to all of us, especially now in our attempt to tackle the problems that we are facing at this moment.

Greece having had a developed fishing industry naturally follows with great interest the activities of the Committee on Fisheries and participates actively in its work. Like several other countries, Greece is also facing the problem created by the new regime of the oceans as a result of the extension of zones of national jurisdiction by many coastal states. The Greek fish catch has been considerably affected. Its catch from the Atlantic Zone has been reduced to 50% of that of 1968, while the demand on fish supply is continually increasing. This decline in catch has not yet been covered by exploiting other living resources for obvious reasons.

In our opinion one answer to this problem is the conclusion of bilateral agreements with other coastal countries. Furthermore, these arrangements with countries having developing fisheries will be of benefit to them to further develop their fisheries. Greece has adopted this concept and has concluded bilateral agreements and joint ventures with other coastal countries. We believe that FAO's role in encouraging and developing this concept is very important and we fully support it.

Coming to the question of the future of the Committee on Fisheries, we are of the opinion that the Committee should remain as a standing committee of the Council under Article V of the FAO Constitution and recognize the need to improve its structure and method of work so that it will become more efficient and responsive to our expectations.

We agree with the steps taken for the decentralization of servicing of FAO's regional fishery bodies. However, coordination of their activities with other similar bodies concerning marine affairs in their regions should be improved in order (a) to avoid duplication and (b) to increase efficiency.

A. SRIBHIBHAD (Thailand): First the Thailand delegation would like to join with other delegations in extending our heartfelt congratulations and wishes to Mr. Lucas on his appointment as ADG - Fisheries. We also want to extend the assurance of our full and continuing cooperation and support in his difficult task ahead.

I wish to comment on only one specific matter in the report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. That is the matter regarding the programme to assist developing coastal states in managing and developing the fishery resources in extended zones of national jurisdiction. Thailand is a country in which fish ranks second only to rice as the principal food for its population. It foresees far-reaching consequences for fisheries in the extension of zones of national jurisdiction. In fact we are perhaps the first country to ask FAO for a mission from the Inter-regional Fisheries Project, namely the Indian Ocean Fisheries Development Programme, to advise our Government on the implication of the extended economic zone on our fisheries, and a national economic development plan.

My delegation would like to express here again our deep appreciation to the Fisheries Department of the Organization for the prompt response and the very effective and meaningful work of the Mission and its follow-up activities. With the experience I have just mentioned, Thailand therefore fully endorses the decision of the Committee on Fisheries with regard to the mandate to be given to its subcommittees on a programme to assist developing coastal states in managing and developing fisheries in their economic zones as contained in document CL 74/7, paragraphs 39 to 42. We have already emphasized at the sessions of the Committee last June that the activities with which such a programme is concerned will not be new but the urgency and the scope will require a prompt and special effort not only technically but also financially.

In addition we stress the importance of cooperation among developing coastal states through mutual technical assistance, such as in introducing or adapting appropriate technologies as well as in joint ventures and inter-industry cooperation. Thailand for its part has initiated and extended the cooperative efforts with all its neighbours in South and Southeast Asia, and expectedly and hopefully, other friends in other parts of the world as well.

Finally I would like to reiterate our full agreement with the proposal to bring the need for special financial effort to the attention of the funding agency for a separate UNDP as a first immediate step in addition to the support from the FAO Regular Budget, especially in regard to the possible establishment of a fisheries development fund.

S. MALIK (Pakistan): We would like to welcome Mr. Lucas who a few days ago assumed the post of Assistant Director-General. We wish him success in his important assignment.

We have read the report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries with interest. Generally speaking we agree that high priority should be accorded to the efforts to assist developing coastal countries to make full use of opportunities for fishery development and to fulfil their new responsibilities with respect to the management of fisheries and conservation of resources in their economic zones. Clearly, to this end a programme should be designed to increase the national capabilities. This is all the more important as these countries have limited resources and technical know-how. Amongst the matters requiring decision is the proposal to create a fisheries committee for the Near East. As a member of the Near East region we support this proposal.

J. IÑURRIETA RIGORES (Cuba): Ante todo, nuestra delegación desea saludar al Sr. Lucas, por su designación como Subdirector del Departamento de Pesca; estamos seguros de que su experiencia será muy valiosa para el trabajo que despliega la FAO.

Nuestro país participo activamente cuando en el 12° período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca se aprobó el informe que ahora se nos presenta. Continuando la línea de acción mantenida en aquel momento y en la reunión de COPACÓ, de mayo pasado en Panamá, nuestra delegación quiere llamar la atención sobre los siguientes aspectos:

Que el COFI continúe estrechamente con la Secretaría de Pesca de la FAO, propiciando la cooperación entre los Estados Miembros y la propia Secretaría de la FAO en función de lograr una mejor utilización de los órganos técnicos con que cuenta la Organización, incluido el propio COFI; el mantenimiento de las coordinaciones necesarias entre los órganos de pesca de FAO con otros órganos que se ocupen de asuntos oceánicos en las respectivas regiones, prestando especial atención a los cambios que se están produciendo en las discusiones sobre régimen de pesca y en las relaciones internacionales que afectan el área oceánica y de la pesca.

En esta coordinación se deberá evitar duplicidades en las actividades de los órganos interesados a nivel de cada región, incrementando su eficacia.

Tomando en cuenta la inmensa riqueza que brindan los mares y los escasos recursos con que cuentan los países ribereños en desarrollo, es necesario que la Organización priorice la ayuda a estos países a fin de que puedan aprovechar plenamente las oportunidades de desarrollo pesquero y cumplir con sus responsabilidades en lo que a ordenación de las pesquerías y conservación de recursos se refiere.

Queremos reiterar aquí la posición mantenida por nuestro país, y compartida por otros, en la reunión de COPACO en Panamá relativa a que la Comunidad Económica Europea no tiene status jurídico para participar como tal en los órganos regionales como el que más arriba mencionamos. Los países que forman la Comunidad Económica Europea pueden participar en la reunión de los órganos regionales portando sus intereses y aportes a título individual de cada país.

Para finalizar, queremos reiterar la opinión expresada ya por nuestro país de que el COFI debe continuar siendo un Comité permanente del Consejo de la FAO.

R. HART (Canada) : My congratulations to the new ADG must be somewhat different from those of other delegates: I am congratulating the man who for many years has been my boss. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work for Mr. Lucas for many years. These have been extremely happy years and very productive and I have learned to admire his administrative skills in the field of fisheries. Canada is honoured by his appointment and my delegation joins in congratulating him on this appointment.

I would like to touch on three points on the Committee on Fisheries. The first one refers to the economic zone. The Canadian delegation appreciates the opportunity to speak in support of the efforts of the Committee on Fisheries to establish a programme designed to assist developing coastal states in the management and development of fisheries in their economic zones. My delegation considers that the work of this Committee will be of crucial importance, in particular to the smaller states which often lack the ability to cope with the problems or to take advantage of the opportunities presented by their declaration of a fishing zone. My delegation is looking forward to receiving a useful and informative document which is being prepared by the Secretariat and it may be presented, I understand, at the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries. My delegation hopes that the report will not only consider matters relating to increased production of fisheries but also to the social and economic benefits to be gained by the people in these developing countries. Imaginative and creative thinking is needed to make sure that the legitimate interest of the smallest and poorest of the states is protected.

With regard to the future of regional bodies, Canada's position in this regard remains unchanged from that expressed at the Committee on Fisheries meeting in 1978. My delegation is glad to know that FAO wishes to strengthen these regional bodies and to help them move towards a greater degree of autonomy in the conduct of their affairs. Canada wants once again to assure FAO that its policy continues to be in strong support of regional bodies and regionally based activities. We continue to support the approach which calls for regional organizations to be staffed and manned by personnel from the coastal countries in the region.

Finally, Canada fully supports the extension of the southern zone of the CECAF region to include Angola and Namibia, since this is a logical move because all these countries in the region share and exploit the same common stocks.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to say that it will endeavour to make a useful and constructive contribution to the deliberations of the Committee on Fisheries in all future discussions in this subject.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros también deseamos asociarnos a las expresiones de bienvenida al Sr. K. Lucas al ocupar el nuevo puesto de Subdirector General Encargado del Departamento de Pesca y le auguramos una actividad exitosa. En relación con los asuntos que se nos someten a nuestra consideración acerca del 12 período de sesiones del Consejo de Pesca, deseamos referirnos brevemente a algunos de ellos.

Consideramos que la propuesta de crear una Comisión de Pesca para el Cercano Oriente debe ser basada sobre todo de acuerdo con los deseos de los eventuales Estados Miembros: así que apovamos cualquier medida que sea tomada en ese sentido.

Acerca de los límites meridionales, el Comité de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-oriental, por supuesto que alentamos la incorporación de Angola y Namibia a este Comité y deseáramos que se asegurara, en cuanto a Namibia, la participación en todas sus actividades del Consejo de las Naciones Unidas para Namibia, que ha sido instituido como única autoridad legítima del territorio.

Por lo que se refiere a la cuestión planteada por el representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea respecto de su eventual participación en la Comisión de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-occidental, deseamos asociarnos a lo que ya ha sido expresado por los colegas latinoamericanos miembros de este Consejo, que a la vez son miembros de dicha Comisión, incluido nuestro país y a ese respecto apoyamos la afirmación, la aseveración del Subdirector General de Pesca que eso requeriría cambios en la Constitución de la FAO que, evidentemente, en el caso concreto de que hablamos no estamos dispuestos a considerar. Pensamos que la composición de la Comisión debe ser competencia única de los propios Estados que la conforman.

En relación con el desarrollo de la pesca en las zonas económicas, deseamos expresar también, como lo han hecho otros oradores nuestro apoyo a las actividades que lleva a cabo la Organización o que están en curso de confeccionar en beneficio de los países en desarrollo que han ampliado su jurisdicción sobre los recursos marinos de sus zonas económicas exclusivas.

A este respecto, cabe indicar que México está actualmente multiplicando rápidamente su capacidad pesquera, y que de acuerdo con los objetivos del plan pesquero actualmente en ejecución, mi país espera obtener para antes de 1982 capturas por 2 millones de toneladas de recursos pesqueros.

Finalmente, en relación con el futuro del Comité de Pesca, consideramos que mientras que no haya ningún nuevo desarrollo en lo que se refiere a las conclusiones de la Conferencia del Mar, tendientes a la confección de un nuevo régimen del mar, el Comité de Pesca debe mantenerse como está, con sus actuales funciones por lo que apoyamos la propuesta que se nos somete en el párrafo 1 del apartado (v) , a consideración del Consejo.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): First of all I wish to join in congratulating Mr. Lucas, the new Assistant Director-General for Fisheries. I wish to convey the following. Recognizing the merits of the work done so far by the Committee, my delegation endorse the view that the Committee on Fisheries should remain a standing committee of the Council under Article V of the Constitution. It can be expected that fisheries will in the not too distant future play a more important role in the economies of developing coastal states. The reason is that the extensions of national jurisdiction give a new dimension to the countries' work in fisheries development.

My delegation supports the view that high priority should be given to the formulation of a comprehensive programme to assist in an efficient way developing coastal states in managing and developing fisheries in their extended economic zone.

CD. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Sean mis primeras palabras de bienvenida y felicitación al Sr. Kenneth Lucas; viene rodeado por sus grandes condiciones no solamente personales sino por la intensa actividad que en su país, Canadá, ha efectuado en el sector de la pesca. Le deseamos muchos éxitos en sus funciones.

La delegación argentina apoya plenamente el programa para el desarrollo de las pesquerías en las zonas económicas, como ha sido señalado en los párrafos 6 a 18 y 39 a 42. Pensamos que la FAO debe intervenir activamente en este proceso y debe tratar de procurar que los beneficios de esta actividad emprendida por los estados costeros a raíz de las consecuencias de la Conferencia del Mar deben radicar en beneficio de los pobladores de esos mismos países.

Con respecto a la solicitud presentada por la Comunidad Económica Europea, me inclino a coincidir con la interpretación jurídica del señor Lucas, apoyada por la mayoría de las delegaciones. Quiero señalar, así mismo, y a título informativo que en marzo de 1979 se realizará en la ciudad de Mar del Plata organizada por la FAO y el Gobierno argentino, la primera Reunión Regional de COPESCAL, a la que participarán numerosos países de América Latina.

Apoyamos también, los párrafos del 43 al 52 que implican el reconocimiento de la acción de las partes consultivas del Tratado Antártico en la conservación de los recursos vivos de los mares australes y la colaboración de ambos organismos. Creemos que si algún crédito hay que dar a la Reunión del Comité de Pesca a la que tuvimos el honor de participar, es haber coincidido en los objetivos fundamentales de la FAO y de las partes consultivas del Tratado Antártico y la necesidad de una acción mancomunada y concertada en la investigación y conservación de los recursos vivos de los mares australes.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Before I make my comments on the report of the COFI and the issues for decisions contained therein and which have been introduced by the new Assistant Director-General, I should like to join others in extending to him a very warm welcome to his important function. There have been among his distinguished predecessors also distinguished Americans, but this is only one of the reasons why my country has always followed the activity of the Fisheries Department with great attention and great interest. We will continue to do so as it progresses under your leadership.

With regard to some of the matters for decision that have been introduced, I should like to state that on the issue of a Fisheries Commission for the Near East, while the United States is not anxious to see new fishery commissions, we regard this as primarily a matter for action and decision by prospective Member States of such a commission; we believe that this is their decision, both to create and -in our view - to finance such a commission.

With regard to the extension of the southern boundary of the CECAF as we have previously indicated, we would agree with that extension. Again, the decisive factor, in our view, will be the wishes of the two countries concerned.

As for the status of the EEC within certain regional fisheries bodies, we take note of the statement by the Organization that this would require changes to the Basic Texts of the Organization. However, in view of the complexity of this issue we would prefer to withhold any further comments until the EEC has made a position statement and this statement has been given full study.

As for the matter before us for information in the report, we support the view about the importance of assisting developing coastal states in the management and development of fisheries in their economic zone. We support the high priority given to the development of a comprehensive programme to assist these nations. We would emphasize, however, that such a programme needs to be formulated in a precise and comprehensive form with very clearly defined objectives and priorities and must have sufficient flexibility to respond to specific situations. We support the change in the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on the Development of Fisheries in economic zones elaborated in paragraphs 39 to 41 of the report.

With respect to the future of the FAO regional fisheries bodies, the United States delegation supports the FAO in assisting these bodies to enlarge their competence and to assume broader responsibilities when deemed appropriate by COFI. We would emphasize, however, that the FAO should retain significant technical and coordinating roles, as suggested in paragraphs 20 of its report.

We note that in the report of the 12th session the Committee stated that it was necessary to examine all aspects of the question. We believe this examination should include a continuing assessment on the financial implications of decentralization both for the FAO and for the several commissions.

Furthermore, we think that the change should be evolutionary rather than revolutionary and take place at a proper pace for the particular circumstances of each particular region. We therefore welcome the Director-General's intention expressed yesterday to proceed carefully towards a decentralization which does not prejudice the efficiency or maintenance of basic technical coordinating competence at FAO Headquarters.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): My delegation too joins in welcoming Mr. Lucas and congratulating him on his responsible task. We offer him a close collaboration which we enjoyed with his predecessors.

My Government welcomes the intensive efforts of the Committee on Fisheries to promote fisheries of developing countries in their economic zones and to strengthen regional cooperation. The Committee on Fisheries rightly expressed itself in favour of a thorough preparation of an assistance programme to this end. This is a pre-requisite for the necessary support of the suggested activities by bilateral and multilateral donors. We support the view of the Committee on Fisheries that the planned decentralization of servicing of the FAO Regional Fishery bodies should be prepared in a very careful way and implemented only gradually. We see ourselves here in agreement with the Director-General who favoured a very careful consideration and that one should not act hastily. On the one hand, it has to be ensured that through this measure cooperation will be strengthened between the member states in the region concerned and simultaneously the links between the regional bodies and FAO headquarters will be maintained. On the other hand, funding must be ensured. It is hardly to be expected that substantial additional funds will be made available from the budget of the Regular Programme of FAO. Other Sources' of funding have to be opened up. In this connection it has to be kept in mind that cooperation in regional fishery bodies is primarily a matter for the member states concerned and new ways of strengthening cooperation are in the interest of these states. They should therefore consider making budgetary contributions in accordance with the policy they follow in that area. The extension of zones of national jurisdiction and the resultant better utilization of fish stock will increasingly allow these states to assume such commitments.

With regard to the envisaged extension of the mandate of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) to the south I would like to point out that this area also falls within the competence of the International Commission for the South East Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF). The functions of both organizations are identical in important points. The Council should, therefore, support the request of the Committee on Fisheries at its Eleventh Session "that there should be sufficient consultation between members of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and of the International Commission for the South East Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) if there was a need to work out the means for avoiding duplication in formulating management measures in areas off the coast of states that belong to both bodies." The Council at its Seventy-First Session was also aware of the problems involved and expressed the view "that if this was done it should be brought about in full consultation with all the parties concerned and every effort should be made to harmonize their activities."

With regard to what has been stated by Mr. Lucas, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Argentina, about the future participation of the European Economic Community in the work of some FAO regional fishery bodies, I should like to say on behalf of the nine member states of the European Economic Community the following, as stated in paragraph 29 of the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, the representative of the Commission of the European Economic Community has expressed during that meeting the interest of the European Economic Community in taking a more active part in the work of some FAO regional fishery bodies. Since the member states of the European Economic Community have delegated their competence in certain fishery matters to the Community, the Governments of these member states are of the opinion that the European Economic Community itself represented by the Commission, should participate in those regional fishery organizations and in this respect act on behalf of its members. This could, for instance, be achieved through the exercise of rights and duties by the European Economic Community in respect of those member states which are for the time being members of those regional organizations. The Community should also be given the possibility to act in a more active way on behalf of member states within the limits of other regional institutions. The Community and its member states would like to forward these basic considerations to this Session of the Council. They offer their cooperation to explore, together with the Secretariat of FAO, the ways and means to achieve a qualified participation of the Community. We would appreciate if the Secretariat would endeavour to study that matter. The Community will shortly submit concrete proposals to this effect. We hope that the Secretariat will be in a position to suggest to the Council at its next session how this could be put into practice. Having said this we assume that the Member States of FAO are interested that the nine members of the European Economic Community can fully participate also in those areas in the work of FAO where they have delegated their competence to the Community.

H. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) : Trataré de ser muy concreto tal como es su deseo a estas horas de la tarde de hoy. Antes que nada quiero referirme, por supuesto, al Informe del Comité de Pesca - 12º período - y por ello me siento inclinado a felicitar en nombre de mi delegación a la Secretaría por el documento que se nos presento a consideración. En general, lo consideramos un buen documento y estamos de acuerdo en su casi extensión. En los puntos en que se requiere decisión y en los cuales nuestra delegación tiene alguna opinión particular, la emitiremos a continuación.

No quiero seguir, por supuesto, sin cumplir con un elemental principio de cortesía que es el que más me ha inclinado a intervenir ya casi en el momento de cerrar el debate. Es, por supuesto, el de felicitar en nombre de la delegación de Venezuela al nuevo Subdirector General para el Departamento de Pesca, señor Kenneth Lucas. Para él elevo la felicitación de la delegación y Gobierno de Venezuela. Le auguro el mayor de los éxitos y le planteo la colaboración completa de la delegación de Venezuela ante la FAO. El señor Lucas será testimonio del interés mayor en los últimos tiempos que el Gobierno de Venezuela ha puesto en el sector de la pesca; interés que ha cristalizado en los mayores niveles de colaboración que ha pedido y ha obtenido de esta Casa. Para el señor Lucas, repito, la felicitación sincera de la delegación de Venezuela.

En cuanto a los puntos que el Informe pide la decisión de este Consejo, quisiera tocar concretamente y muy someramente el problema de la creación de la Comisión de Pesca para el Cercano Oriente. Nos sentimos inclinados a coincidir con la opinión del Informe de que éste es un asunto que compete a los propios países de la región y que son ellos los que tienen que decidir.

Otro punto es el de la aprobación que demos a la extensión de las zonas del Atlántico Centro-oriental, lo cual permitiría abarcar a zonas que corresponden a Angola y Namibia. Este principio lo sustentamos en nuestros contextos de respeto internacional por los derechos que conciernen a cada uno de los países del mundo.

En cuanto al problema de interpretación jurídica que ha sido tocado por diversos países de Latinoamérica específicamente, y por el Sr. Lukas en especial, de la intervención de la Comunidad Económica Europea, nuestra delegación se siente inclinada, por supuesto, a aceptar y compartir la interpretación del Sr. Lukas, extendida su interpretación a muchos de los países latinoamericanos. Creemos que la Comisión debe estar formada por países, no por organizaciones y en ese sentido no tenemos ningún reparo a la inclusión en ella de países que por convenio deben por supuesto estar incluidos en sus compromisos. No así aceptamos la inclusión de ningún tipo de organizaciones. Creemos, por otra parte, que es a los propios países de la Comisión a los que les compete el contexto general de las decisiones sobre asuntos de la Comisión.

En cuanto al futuro del Comité de Pesca, nuestra delegación tiene una idea definida de que el mismo debe seguir siendo un órgano permanente del Consejo.

MRS. E.D. SAMSON (Philippines): I would like to make some very brief comments as regard the first item under Matters for Information, specifically paragraph 7, page 1 of document CL 74/7. The Philippine delegation supports the recommendation to prepare a comprehensive programme to assist developing coastal states in managing and developing fishery resources in their economic zones but we would recommend the full participation of the countries concerned as recommended in the Third Report. In the Philippines, for instance, we are now in the process of formulating a programme aimed at strengthening our fishery capabilities. We feel that such a programme is a proper take-off point for the programme envisaged by the Committee. Funding countries should therefore consider granting full support to assessment programmes alongside the identification of projects for investment and for technological transfer.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Ma délégation voudrait se joindre à toutes celles qui se sont succédé pour adresser un mot de félicitation à M. Lucas à l'occasion de sa nomination à la Direction du département des Pêches.

Vous savez que depuis déjà deux ans les pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne ont confié à la Communauté en tant que telle certaines responsabilités en matière de pêche. Mon intervention ne portera donc pas sur ces responsabilités mais seulement sur deux points que j'ai relevés plus particulièrement. Il s'agit d'une part de la question de la décentralisation et d'autre part de celle du développement des pêches dans les zones économiques exclusives.

Pour ce qui est de la première question, celle de la décentralisation, M. le Directeur général a mentionné dans son exposé introductif la difficulté des problèmes devant lesquels la FAO se trouve dans ce domaine. Le Comité du Programme avait fait d'ailleurs la même observation. Les problèmes, tant techniques que financiers, doivent encore être étudiés plus à fond et ma délégation pense que toute décision est encore prématurée.

Le Directeur général a mentionné aussi les efforts faits par la FAO dans le but d'aider les pays à exploiter leurs zones économiques exclusives et la haute priorité qu'il accorde à ce programme.

Ma délégation a noté avec satisfaction la création d'un Fonds fiduciaire de 3 millions de dollars par la Norvège en vue de ce programme. Elle estime que c'est, en effet, au moyen de contributions, comme celle mentionnée, que ce programme pourra avoir l'impact souhaité, d'autant plus que chacun se plaît à reconnaître la compétence indiscutable de la Norvège en cette matière.

B. MAMADOU (Observateur de la Mauritanie) : Permettez-moi tout d'abord, au nom de ma délégation, de féliciter M. Lucas en tant que nouveau Secrétaire général adjoint chargé du Département des Pêches. Nous sommes convaincus que son expérience permettra de résoudre les nombreux problèmes que connaissent actuellement nos pêcheries.

Mon pays, qui a participé aux travaux de la douzième session du COFI, fait siennes les décisions du présent document en discussion. En sa qualité de Président du Comité des Pêches pour l'Atlantique Centre-Est, le COPACE, mon pays lance un appel à la FAO afin de redynamiser cet organisme. Ce Comité, étant donné qu'il couvre un certain nombre de pays dont les côtes sont particulièrement riches est à même, pour des pays pauvres en céréales parce que frappés par la sécheresse - je cite le cas de mon pays, la Mauritanie - ce Comité est à même d'aider ces pays à profiter réellement de leurs richesses ichtyologiques.

Tout d'abord, le COPACE pourrait nous aider à évaluer nos ressources pour une meilleure exploitation des stocks, pour tout départ d'exploitation rationnelle et aussi pour améliorer les moyens de capture et de traitement des produits de la pêche.

Lors de la sixième session du COPACE, nous avons demandé à la FAO d'africaniser la direction et le secrétariat de cet organisme et, en même temps, le transfert du secrétariat dans l'un des pays membres du COPACE, c'est-à-dire l'un des pays membres africains, ce qui n'a pas encore été fait malheureusement. Ce qui se passe actuellement au COPACE, c'est qu'il n'y a pas de directeur. Il y a seulement trois personnes qui, semble-t-il, ne disposent d'aucun moyen et ne peuvent rien faire. C'est actuellement un organisme qui hiberne et nous lançons un appel à la FAO au nom de tous les pays membres pour trouver une solution afin de redynamiser ledit organisme.

E. BACIGALUPO (Observador por Chile) : Gracias, Sr. Presidente, por concederme la palabra en mi calidad de Observador.

Siendo mi primera intervención, me permito felicitar a usted, Sr. Presidente, por la habilidad con que ha dirigido el debate, así como a la Secretaría por la clara y precisa exposición que se nos ha hecho respecto al desarrollo y resultado del 12° Comité de Pesca.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para agradecer la excelente exposición que nos hiciera ayer el Sr. Director General, que constituye, sin duda, un importante aporte para las deliberaciones de los Señores Miembros del Consejo y una muy útil información para nuestro Gobierno.

Asimismo felicito al nuevo Director del Departamento de Pesca, Sr. Lucas, y le deseo muy buenos éxitos en su importante gestión, al mismo tiempo que le aseguro la máxima colaboración de parte de nuestra representación.

Deseo referirme al Programa para ayudar a los países en desarrollo a administrar y desarrollar la pesca en sus zonas económicas, así como a la ampliación del Subcomité para el desarrollo de la pesca en zonas económicas y el informe que éste debe presentar para hacer la recomendación para este Programa en la reunión que se llevará a cabo en la primavera de 1979.

Este tema, que nos ha presentado la Secretaría ha constituido siempre una materia de especial interés para mi país y es por ello que me he permitido pedir la palabra para hacer una breve intervención. Solamente deseo destacar, una vez más, los aspectos a nuestro juicio más importantes que vemos en el Programa de referencia. En primer lugar, la gran importancia que este Programa tiene para los países en desarrollo que han acrecentado sus recursos pesqueros y que no disponen ni de la experiencia, ni de la tecnología ni de los medios financieros necesarios para desarrollar esta riqueza que han consolidado jurídicamente.

Indudablemente la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo obtendrán mejores condiciones para aumentar el bienestar de sus pueblos y el desarrollo nacional; el rol interesantísimo en el Programa que le corresponde a la FAO respetando la soberana y voluntaria participación de los Estados interesados implementa así una de las más trascendentes resoluciones de la III Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar.

La FAO cuenta con la experiencia suficiente y los técnicos necesarios para llevarla a cabo. Este Programa debiera constituir una de las funciones primordiales de la FAO en el futuro inmediato.

Otro aspecto importante para todas las Naciones del mundo es el hecho de que cuanto más pronto obtenga resultados eficientes este Programa, mayor y más inmediata será su contribución a mejorar la alimentación de la humanidad, y en esta forma disipar las incertidumbres sobre el crecimiento de la producción pesquera mundial. Es por ello que me permito exhortar a los señores Miembros del Consejo a que reflejen en su Informe final la importancia que le asignan a este Programa, reiterando lo acordado por el Comité de Pesca en junio del presente año, en orden a procurar la contribución de las fuentes multi y bilaterales y en especial la ayuda indispensable del Consejo de Administración del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there are no more delegates who want to take the floor I will call on Mr. Lucas to respond to some of the points made by Members.

K. LUCAS (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): There is actually little controversy among the interventions made by the many delegations who spoke to this agenda item. I would just like to summarize, if I may, the highlights.

If I may first be allowed a personal note, I would like to express my personal thanks for the many expressions of support from all or almost all delegations for me and my new post. I would like to say I have inherited an excellent staff both here at FAO Headquarters and at the FAO Regions in the world, and also I have inherited a high quality programme on fisheries management and development, so it is a pretty easy post to move into in the sense of the momentum that is already there, and a very exciting post, I must say.

The subject which I think received the most attention from the delegations who spoke was the question of the planning of a comprehensive programme of particular assistance for the management and development of the extended economic zones throughout the world. I noted a strong measure of support from every speaker on that subject. I also noted, though, some special emphasis on the great need for cooperation, consultation, the importance of fully involving interested Member States in the planning process. This was particularly flagged by the Philippines, for instance.

Many delegates brought up the issue of the difference between fisheries management and management of the terrestrial resources. They brought up the migratory nature of the reserve in question, of the vagaries of ocean currents and so forth.

I would like to note especially the suggestion made by Thailand concerning the question of assistance for the implementation of a programme for development of fisheries. He raised the hope of seeing national fisheries established perhaps through core interventions by people like UNDP and other Member developed states.

The second issue that attracted a lot of the interventions concerned the decentralization of regional fisheries bodies and the strengthening of these bodies. There seems to be strong support for strengthening of the convenants and the budgets of these bodies, but many delegations drew attention to the remarks made by the Director-General in his opening statement yesterday morning of the need for caution and care in the examination of the organization of the activities at the regional level and of the rate at which this decentralization takes place.

I am grateful for that view, as I would like to look very carefully at that subject in giving my views to the Director-General and the Committee on Fisheries. The subjects which were actually put before the Council for decision were dealt with easily. There was a fair consensus that as far as the establishment of the Near East Commission was concerned the states of that Region are the ones who would really need to take that decision on their own.

On the question of support for the extension of the southern boundary of the CECAF body, there appeared to be support for the initiative and we are waiting for the response of the two countries involved. The only places where there was disagreement was on the status of the European Economic Community, but I am pleased to see the delegate of the EEC in fact commented that the EEC would be forwarding a concrete proposal to the Secretariat and we await that proposal with interest. We note the views of the other delegations and the various interventions.

I would like to take note of the intervention of the delegate of Mauritania regarding CEECAF, and I would like to point out that the Secretary of CEECAF is presently in Rome and the decentralization of that group would be in the context of the Director's policy.

Senegal is the coordinating zone for the CEECAF project which is managed in coordination with the CEECAF members.

That covers all the substantial points that were raised during the discussion today.

CHAIRMAN: As you said, Mr. Lucas, this is not a very controversial subject and has been well debated, but on the matters put directly to the Council the consensus is that on the proposal to create a fishery commission for the Near East, the Council does not favour taking the decision first before the countries of the regions themselves have given their comments and consent or proposals. So it is not that the Commission and the Council does not want to take action but we would like to hear the views of the countries concerned; so this matter will have to come back.

Similarly, with regard to the extension of the boundary of CEECAF, Namibia and Angola which are the two countries concerned will have to give their consent to it. If they do, the matter will have to come back and be ratified by Council.

The status of the Community, the consensus is quite clear that there are constitutional implications. There is not a very clear cut position on which to take a decision now, and therefore it has to be looked at more closely and brought back. Is this a fair summing up of the things for decision? In the absence of comment this is the line of action we will take for our report for the future.

This, then, brings to an end the discussion on this particular item. When we look at the agenda we are still half way through the morning's work at the end of the day but I think this afternoon we established a business-like rhythm for the debate which if maintained will carry us through much faster than it seemed in the beginning.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Drafting Committee (continued)

2. Election des Vice-Présidents et constitution du Comité de rédaction (suite)

2. Elección de Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En accord avec le Président du Comité de rédaction, la première réunion de ce Comité est convoquée pour demain matin à 9 heures. Le Comité de rédaction se réunira donc demain à 9 heures dans la salle de la Malaisie, bâtiment B, N° 227.

A cet égard, je voudrais vous rappeler la composition de ce Comité de rédaction et vous donner ensuite le nom des personnes qui ont été désignées par le pays. Il s'agit de la Grèce qui préside, ensuite Cuba, la France, le Ghana, l'Inde, la Libye, la Nouvelle-Zélande, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et le Zaïre. Chacun de ces pays a donné les noms suivants:

Cuba, M. Bustabad; France, M. Elmanovsky et un deuxième suppléant, M. Halimi; Ghana, M. Mends; Inde, M. Ramadhar; Libye, M. Zehni; Nouvelle-Zélande, M. Lewr; Etats-Unis, M. Breuain; Zaïre, M. Nga-Ma.

C'est la composition du Comité de rédaction qui commencera sa première réunion demain. C'est une réunion de prise de contact et d'organisation, à la suite de quoi les réunions de travail vont commencer.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/5

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA
(29 November 1978)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de
Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Quinta Sesión Plenaria a las 09.50 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

7. Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry - Rome, 15-19 May 1978

7. Rapport de la quatrième session du Comité des forêts - Rome, 15-19 mai 1978

7. Informe del cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes - Roma, 15-19 mayo 1978

CHAIRMAN: Before the document is introduced I would like to give the floor to the Deputy Director-General, Dr. Phillips.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is a quite unusual circumstance to have the opportunity of introducing to this Council two new Assistant Directors-General in connexion with two consecutive agenda items. On behalf of the Director-General I should now like to introduce to the members of the Council the new Assistant Director-General of our Forestry Department, Dr. M.A. Flores Rodas from Honduras. He came aboard on 18 September this year, so compared with Mr. Lucas he is already an old hand. In addition to his sound technical background, Dr. Flores Rodas has had broad and very practical experience of forestry problems, which he gained by performing important duties in the Ministry of Natural Resources of his own government and in the development-oriented Honduran Forestry Department, where he was the Director of Forestry. The Director-General feels sure that Dr. Flores Rodas will receive the full support and cooperation of our member countries, for which he would like to thank you in advance. Dr. Flores Rodas will be introducing the Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry. For this he has rather an unusual qualification since, as you will see from page 1 of that Report, he was the Committee's Chairman before taking up his present post.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to welcome Mr. Flores Rodas to our midst and to the Council and straight away give him the floor to introduce the item.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Montes): El pasado mes de mayo tuve el honor de presidir aquí en Roma el cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes; no sabía entonces que cuatro meses más tarde me iba a encontrar del otro lado, es decir, del lado no que da, sino que recibe recomendaciones del Comité. Por tanto, voy a presentar brevemente este punto del Programa en mi calidad actual de miembro de esta Organización.

Antes de comentar para ustedes los principales elementos del Informe deseo hacer dos observaciones: la primera es que la participación al cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes fue más numerosa que nunca; hubo delegaciones de 70 miembros del Comité y Observadores, de otros 11 Estados Miembros de la FAO y de las Naciones Unidas, así como de varios organismos. Esto refleja, en cierto modo, el creciente interés de los Estados Miembros en el sector forestal y concretamente en la labor de la FAO en dicho sector.

La segunda observación es, como puede verse en el Informe, que esta vez no hay asuntos que requieran la decisión del Consejo.

En cuanto al contenido del documento CL 74/8 que está ante ustedes se puede notar que el Comité organizó sus debates en cuatro principales partes: la primera, comprendió tres cuestiones de política forestal, a saber: desarrollo e inversiones en el sector forestal. Este tema se incluyó en el Programa a petición de la Conferencia. Importancia de los bosques y los árboles en el desarrollo rural integrado; y pequeñas industrias forestales para el desarrollo.

Tuvo especial interés la explicación de la política de inversión forestal del Banco Mundial que ofreció al Dr. Yudelman de dicho Banco en su disertación inaugural.

El Comité recomendó que la FAO emprendiera un nuevo y profundo examen de las tendencias y perspectivas mundiales en el sector forestal con vistas a cómo ver las inversiones, mientras que las institu-

ciones internacionales de financiamiento deberían, a la vez, ampliar sus criterios para aceptar proyectos forestales y aumentar el total de fondos destinados a actividades forestales.

El Comité subrayó también el papel que los bosques y los árboles, así como las pequeñas industrias basadas en ellos, pueden jugar en el desarrollo rural.

La segunda parte de los debates del Comité se dedicó al Programa de trabajo de la FAO en el sector forestal. En esta ocasión el Comité expresó su satisfacción por lo realizado durante el bienio 1976/77 y apoyó y elogió unánimemente el Programa de trabajo para 1978/79.

El Comité apoyó los objetivos a plazo medio presentados por el Director General, así como el paquete mínimo de medidas propuesto para su consecución.

El Comité expresó su satisfacción por la clara estrategia en que se basaban dichas medidas y sobre todo por el hecho de que estaban orientadas a la acción a nivel de los países.

El Comité consideró que las actividades forestales para el desarrollo de las comunidades rurales constituían un programa merecedor de la máxima prioridad e hizo numerosas observaciones útiles para cada uno de los nueve Programas de acción, como puede verse en los párrafos 68 al 78 del Informe.

En relación con los Programas de campo de la FAO en materia forestal, las deliberaciones del Comité se centraron en las nuevas dimensiones de la asistencia internacional, las principales recomendaciones y decisiones de la última Conferencia de la FAO sobre los programas de campo en general y las tendencias y el apoyo internacional al desarrollo forestal.

Los puntos de vista del Comité sobre estos temas figuran en el Informe.

El Comité dedicó la tercera parte de sus deliberaciones a los asuntos señalados a su atención por las Comisiones forestales regionales. Creo que el elemento más significativo de esta tercera parte de los debates, no fue tanto la sustancia de sus asuntos ni las decisiones a las que se llegó en el Comité, sino el hecho de que los puntos de vista regionales fueran examinados e integrados por el Comité en una perspectiva global.

Además, la presencia en el período de sesiones de varios presidentes de comisiones forestales regionales y el hecho de que fueron elegidos para formar parte de la Mesa del Comité significaron una evolución muy deseable que reforzó las relaciones entre el Comité y las comisiones forestales regionales.

La cuarta parte de las deliberaciones del Comité se dedicó a temas varios, que figuran en el Informe bajo el título de "Otros asuntos".

Señor Presidente, estos son los principales puntos que yo deseaba señalar con mis comentarios preliminares.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. As explained by Mr. Flores Rodas, there are no issues for decision. As you can see, the Committee has done a very thorough job. I will now open discussion on this item and call on Bangladesh first.

E. HUQ (Bangladesh): I would like first to welcome Mr. Flores Rodas to his new position and congratulate Mr. Flores Rodas, the new ADG Forestry Department, on his excellent introduction of the subject.

We find the reporting in the document CL 74/8 of high quality. We appreciate the deliberations of the Committee on Forestry, which displayed keen awareness of the needs of the present day, which are characterized by a complex set of considerations and fraught with the danger that the developing countries will be the victim of global forestry imbalance.

Our delegation believes that the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry coincide with a time when many developing countries like our own need to take a new look at their forestry resources for better economic development for the masses, through better management expansion and reorientation of national policy. While supporting the recommendations of COFO our delegation wishes to touch on a few recommendations specifically.

The recommendations made on development and investment in the forestry sector is important and we consider that the strategy of development planning in developing countries should be in line with the suggested guidelines. We strongly support the recommendation of the Committee for continued support of FAO in respect of adequately trained manpower in the field of preparation and evaluation of forestry projects which is essential for successful project implementation.

The concept of importance of trees and forests in agricultural communities is now accepted all over the world. We support the recommendation of establishing a system within the Forestry Department to deal with the question of planning, implementation and consolidation of programmes in forestry for the integrated development of rural communities. FAO's consideration and active support in this respect will be extremely helpful, especially in the context of Bangladesh where development of community forests and agro-forestry has a high priority in government policy.

The recommendation on small scale forest industries is very useful and conforms to the need of many developing countries including Bangladesh. FAO's achievement in this area is appreciated and its continued assistance will be helpful. We welcome the decision of the Forestry Commission to extend membership of its working party on the management of mountain watershed to include developing countries. Training in the field of projects identification, formulation and implementation is a basic requirement for lasting forestry development programmes. In this respect the recommendation of the Committee for FAO's pursuance along with UNDP interested bilateral donors of establishing a regional professional forestry school will greatly satisfy the training need of developing countries.

Finally, I should like to state briefly the problems we face in our countries. Bangladesh is small in size, pressure on land being tremendous. Depletion of forests is a progressive phenomenon. While we do believe our agricultural intensification programme will to a certain extent let up pressures on the forests, we need rapidly to develop trained manpower resources for better management of our forestry, afforestation and reforestation programmes. We also need trained personnel for extension and management work in our community forest programmes. We welcome FAO's assistance in these areas.

I should like to conclude by stating our appreciation for FAO assistance in our forest research sector.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brasil): The first point I would like to make at this stage is to congratulate Mr. Flores, a distinguished Latin American, on his appointment as Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. We are very sure that the leadership of Mr. Flores will give the necessary impetus to forestry development efforts within the Organization.

My delegation is very pleased to see the general orientation of programmes of forestry within our Organization. The report of the 4th session of COFO provides us with an excellent over-view of the general direction which forestry programmes should follow. We feel in particular that FAO should be commended for its concern to associate forestry with food production, agricultural and rural development. In our view, forestry should not compete with food production efforts, nor should it be seen as conflicting with community development. The dynamic interaction between forestry, agriculture and community development is probably one of the most exciting and innovative aspects of development planning. We feel that FAO should to a large extent be given the credit for this new approach to forestry.

While it is certainly difficult to suggest priorities when specific conditions vary significantly from country to country, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to the collection and dissemination of forestry information and to training in forestry. In the context of training we would certainly endorse the observation of the report of the 4th Session of the Committee on Forestry that the primary function of external aid is to contribute to strengthening of self reliance of the aid-recipient countries. Both for raising data and for grassroots training in forestry, we believe that FAO has a major function to perform. Efforts in stimulating progress formulation in forestry may be required. More specifically, in a number of cases TCP might have a catalytic function to perform in the domain of forestry. Through TCP and other means Member States should, in our view, be encouraged to improve productivity and management of tropical forests, to strengthen the institutional and information basis for forestry and forestry industry development, and to improve methods of forestry management. Forests must be seen not as an obstacle to development but perhaps what might be called man's ecological friend. As renewable resources of the utmost significance, forests provide a new alternative to development where the comparative advantages of the developing countries can be clearly felt. My delegation very much hopes that programmes of forestry within our Organization will be sufficiently bold and innovative to grasp the imagination of development planners and policy makers.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Sean mis primeras palabras de saludo cordial al Dr. Flores Rodas que con sus antecedentes personales y profesionales seguramente prestigiará una vez más el área de América Latina en el ejercicio de su alta función. Le deseamos mucho éxito en su tarea y puede contar incondicionalmente con nuestro apoyo para todo lo que sea necesario.

En relación al documento CL 74/8, al que limitaré mis comentarios, Informe del cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes, en cuya redacción participo oportunamente mi delegación en su calidad de Miembros del Comité, me es grato poner en conocimiento del Consejo nuestro pleno apoyo al mismo y a las políticas enunciadas.

En general se trata de un documento que señala con acierto lo que debe realizar el Comité de Montes y lo que debe efectuarse en este terreno.

Quiero señalar especialmente nuestra simpatía por el capítulo que trata de desarrollo e inversiones en el sector forestal, los párrafos 10 a 18.

En lo que hace a la preocupación manifestada por el Comité por la aparente insuficiencia de fondos para la forestación y repoblación forestal, quiero comunicar que el Gobierno argentino en diciembre de 1977 e influenciado por esta política de la FAO ha implantado por ley nacional un sistema de crédito fiscal para forestación. Este estímulo para forestación tiene por objeto el incremento rápido de la superficie forestal para satisfacer requerimientos futuros en forma económica. Esta nueva legislación ha obtenido amplia aceptación, registrándose más de tres mil planes por un total de 130 000 hectáreas en los pocos meses de vigencia de esta Ley.

En relación a la recomendación del Comité para que FAO y los Gobiernos intensifiquen esfuerzos para ampliar y mejorar los datos sobre recursos forestales, me es grato poner en su conocimiento que el Gobierno argentino está tratando de actualizar las estadísticas existentes de los inventarios extensivos. No obstante ello, a fin de precisar el establecimiento de reservas constituidas por bosques espontáneos se prevé la ejecución de un proyecto de evaluación según la metodología avanzada con la colaboración de la FAO.

Finalmente, quiero efectuar un pequeño comentario en relación al párrafo 45 de nuestro Informe.

Como se recordará, recientemente se ha efectuado una Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica en los países en desarrollo. El párrafo 45 que fue redactado por el Comité de Montes antes de la realización de la Conferencia revela claramente la inquietud de la FAO por tratar de estimular en todo lo posible la colaboración y cooperación entre los países en desarrollo aun antes de tener la declaración de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): Before making a few comments on the report of the 4th Session of the Committee on Forestry, let me first, on behalf of my Government, also congratulate Mr. Flores Rodas on his appointment as new Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department of FAO. We wish every success in his new task. The representatives of the forestry administrative services of my country will support him in this respect. At the same time I wish to express my Government's thanks to the former holder of this office, Mr. King, for the valuable work which he has done in the interest of all Member States for strengthening cooperation in the forestry sector.

In the view of my Government, the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry reflect the worldwide priority problems of forestry and forest products industry. We support above all the request for long-term development and investment measures in the forestry sector. It is necessary to carry out worldwide analyses of trends and objectives providing a basis for national forest policies. Of special importance are afforestation and re-afforestation programmes with a view to meeting the alarming decline in forest stands, above all in tropical and sub-tropical areas. These measures are suited to help ensure future timber supplies, create a raw-material basis for wood working and processing and meet the diverse non-economic land improvement requirements. These measures also include programmes for training and advanced training of forestry personnel. To implement the necessary investments, increased efforts of the countries themselves are required as well as increased promotion by the international financing agencies.

In the past few years repeated disasters have shown the great importance of integrated agricultural and forestry measures. In this respect it is still necessary to elaborate and disseminate a great deal of basic knowledge. FAO should help by providing information, organizing seminars and assisting in the identification of projects. Such measures can make an important contribution towards improving the socio-economic conditions and the employment situation.

The establishment of small-scale industries based on wood and wood residues goes in the same direction. The technical potential of FAO can also be used to a greater extent here, with a view to promoting economically sound and adequate development.

We support the orientation of FAO's activities towards promoting forestry programmes and projects as recommended by the Committee. The programme of work of FAO in the forestry sector for 1978/79 contains, in my Government's view, the necessary priorities and appears on the whole quite balanced.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIU (Greece): Let me -first congratulate the new Assistant Director-General, Mr. Flores Rodas, and convey to him best wishes for the success of his very important task.

I would like to give to the Council some views and some very few remarks on the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee. As you are no doubt aware we are a mountainous country suitable for forestry, therefore we deeply appreciate FAO's efforts for forestry development, not only because forestry is a national resource and foremost because forestry also means quality of life. However, the fact that forestry needs long maturation periods and of course, high initial investment capital and that this factor may be an unfavourable factor for developing countries to invest in forestry. For this reason we are afraid that the recommendations of the forestry commission on forestry to the governments to reinvest in forestry an appreciable proportion of revenues obtained from the forestry sector could not be followed with the required attention. Therefore it is necessary that international financial institutions increase the total amount of funds dedicated to supporting forestry activities.

We see with great interest the suggestion for a flow of funds from wood consuming to wood producing countries to be invested in forestry. However, we would like to add that such a flow should also be directed towards countries that have suitable land for forestry development to cover future demands. We propose that FAO appoint a group of experts to examine how this suggestion could be materialized.

Regarding forest industries, we have seen with great satisfaction at FAO the efforts for developing small-scale forest industries suitable for the developing countries. I would like to state, however, that these small-scale forest industries must be designed to meet the future requirements of the economy of each country because technology and marketing conditions change rapidly. Otherwise in a short period of time we shall have a great number of non-economical small-scale industries.

Regarding FAO's programme of publications on technical matters, I would like to say that FAO must maintain and strengthen its programme because these publications consist in many countries of a major source of technical information.

I have left the problem of forest fires to the last because this is a most important forestry problem in my country. In our view forest fire protection must be taken seriously under consideration by FAO considering that forests not only produce wood but also constitute the environment on which life depends. Our proposal is that FAO must consider the whole problem. The steps to be examined should include the causes of forest fires, then the measures to be taken to protect forests, then the use of means to fight fires and the training of the appropriate personnel to fight forest fires.

LUKITO DARYADI (Indonesia): As Members of the Council, my delegation would like to join the wishes of other delegates to express our congratulations to Mr. Flores Rodas in his new post as Assistant Director-General on Forestry. Although his post has only been since September this year he has made a vital contribution to the success of our World Forestry Congress held in Indonesia last month.

Mr. Flores Rodas, as Chairman of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry has given a comprehensive report on the meeting. The report reflects clearly the recent trend in forestry development. Besides the economic-ecologic aspect of the forests, forestry development is aiming more and more towards the social sector, the people, especially in the rural areas. Forestry for community development, forestry development is an integral part of the rural development. Small-scale forest industries, AGRO forestry are examples of the Committee's recommendations.

My delegation would like to ask this Council to endorse fully the report and put forward the recommendations as guidance for the actions which should be taken by the Organization and Member Countries.

With regard to the future meetings of the Committee, although at present we feel that cross-sectoral agendas have been drawn up, more dialogue with the outside forestry world should be initiated. Recent developments in forestry need frequent contact with other disciplines. Cross fertilization instead of inbreeding of ideas should be promoted.

Finally, forestry development depends greatly on foresters and we don't like to see that "foresters", as Dr. Phillips, the Deputy-Director-General, mentioned in his remarks at the COFO meeting, "are traditionally a tightly knit clan."

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hemos escuchado con atención la presentación adecuada y pertinente que de este tema hizo el Sr. Flores Rodas, nuevo Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Montes. En particular nos complace mucho que el Sr. Flores Rodas sea natural de Honduras, un país de nuestra región de América Latina. La delegación de Colombia ha estado siempre en favor de que se vincule a los puestos de nuestra Organización, sobre todo a aquellos que tienen alcance y significación política, a personas capaces y competentes que provengan de todas las regiones de países en desarrollo.

En relación con la preocupación expresada por el Comité sobre insuficiencia de fondos para inversión en forestación y repoblación forestal, oímos complacidos la declaración del colega y amigo de Argentina sobre las medidas que su país está adoptando en esta materia. La delegación de Colombia informa al Consejo que también nuestro Gobierno acaba de presentar un proyecto de ley al Parlamento por medio del cual se impondrán gravámenes fiscales obligatorios en favor de la reforestación, y a la vez se exonerarán de impuestos aquellas actividades que conduzcan al fortalecimiento de ese sector. Si alguno de los miembros del Consejo está interesado en conocer este proyecto de ley, la delegación de Colombia se lo suministrará con el mayor gusto.

Estamos de acuerdo con el Comité sobre la necesidad de que los gobiernos dediquen mayores recursos a este importante aspecto, pues el futuro del desarrollo forestal dependerá principalmente de los esfuerzos nacionales. Por lo demás, encontramos aceptable este documento y creemos que el Consejo tomará nota de los asuntos informativos, ya que no hay ningún punto para decisión.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Permit me first of all to welcome Mr. Rodas, the new Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department. We wish him success in his new assignment.

A word of introduction about the work of forestry in Pakistan, Pakistan possesses a land surface of 87.8 million hectares of a diverse nature, of which 4 million hectares are covered by forests. Since forests occupy only about 4.5 percent of the land area it is a disproportionately low figure relative to the whole area. There is an urgent need to develop our forest resources, not only to have a more acceptable economical balance but also for soil reservation and to meet the country's mounting need for wood, timber and fuel.

We have read the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry with interest and while generally supporting the recommendations, welcome the new trend and shift in emphasis in the forestry sector. We hope that the relatively new concept of forestry for local community development will not remain a mere slogan and will be given practical shape by FAO as soon as possible. In fact we would urge that it be given a priority since we feel that this concept must be considered within the framework of the integrated development of rural communities. The aim must be to encourage the participation of rural communities in the conservation, management and rational utilization of forest resources. We would also like to stress upon the need to give greater attention to upland watershed management and protection of river basins. Soil and water conservation through forestry is necessary to prevent floods, landslides and sealing of reservoirs. We may add that since these upland areas are generally the least favorably endowed and have the most acute socio/economic problems, they pose a good testing ground for the new concept of forestry for local community development.

We feel that FAO should pay greater attention to afforestation, particularly in areas with low rainfalls and arid zones, to the introduction of trees at suitable situations. FAO-UNDP collaboration with Pakistan in the field of forestry has shown an encouraging trend in the recent past, and we hope that FAO will consider the possibility of continuing to fund forestry in Pakistan at an appreciably higher level than in the past.

H. MAURIA (Finland): First, I would like to welcome Mr. Flores in his new post as Assistant Director-General and Chief of the FAO Forestry Department. We trust that FAO forestry programmes will be successfully and effectively implemented under his leadership, and I can say that we are ready, as before, to support the activities in forestry.

Having attended the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry which was held in Rome in May of this year, I can confirm the the COFO meeting was a very good one. We support in general the report from the COFO meeting. On this occasion we would like only to make a few brief remarks and some recommendations.

Firstly, COFO established that the Forestry Department of FAO should contribute in the preparation for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which is going to be held in Rome in July of next year. We think that the contribution of forestry is very important in this regard because of the rich potentialities forestry would be able to provide in the integrated development of rural communities.

Our second point would be that we support and welcome the results already achieved by FAO and further planned under the small-scale forest industry programme, particularly regarding small industries in developing countries based on wood and wood products.

Further, we support the minimum package of actions adopted by the COFO for medium-term objectives. In our view, the package covers most of the essential programmes in this field of forestry and forest industries on a medium-term basis.

Finally, we want to stress the need for increased efforts to be devoted by FAO and by international finance institutions as well as governments to expanding investments in forestry and the forest industry sector. COFO in fact expressed its concern as to the level of funds available for investment in forest production in developing countries. If no improvement in this regard occurs, there is an obvious danger that the production and the potentialities of forestry may be lagging behind development of other fields. Therefore, we see the urgent need for expanding investments in forestry.

P. HALIMI (France): Je voudrais, avant toute chose, féliciter M. Flores, qui succède à M. King à la tête du Département des forêts, de sa nomination à la direction de ce département. Nous sommes persuadés que sous sa direction le Département des forêts jouera le rôle qui doit être le sien dans l'Organisation.

Le rapport établi par le Secrétariat, qui nous a été brillamment résumé par M. Flores, rend fidèlement compte des débats de la quatrième session du Département des forêts.

La délégation française saisit cette occasion pour rappeler l'importance qui s'attache à la mise en oeuvre des moyens propres à atteindre dès que possible les objectifs suivants.

Le premier objectif est le développement du secteur forestier et l'intensification des investissements.

Les besoins en équivalent de bois rond vont s'accroître de 75 pour cent dans les vingt années prochaines: doublement de la consommation de papier et de panneaux, accroissement de 50 pour cent pour les stockages. Face à une demande à ce point accrue, l'Europe occidentale demeurera très déficitaire.

C'est pourquoi le document présenté par le Secrétariat recommande, à juste titre, d'accroître la capacité de production de bois des forêts et d'intensifier les investissements de mise en valeur de la forêt.

Il convient de remarquer qu'une telle recommandation rejoint totalement au plan français les conclusions du groupe de travail qui a été présidé par un haut fonctionnaire, M. Bertrand de Jouvenel, qui suggère un effort accru en faveur de notre forêt, productrice d'une matière première renouvelable dont notre économie aura de plus en plus besoin.

Pour ce qui concerne les pays tropicaux, nous pensons qu'il faudrait inciter ces Etats à faire réaliser l'inventaire de leurs ressources forestières et en publier les résultats. Dans beaucoup d'Etats, notamment d'Amérique tropicale et d'Asie, cette opération ne semble jamais avoir été conduite. C'est pourquoi j'ai entendu ce qui vient d'être dit par le représentant de l'Argentine avec beaucoup de satisfaction. La FAO envisage de réaliser une surveillance permanente des forêts denses par l'intermédiaire des satellites; ceci serait une première étape intéressante vers la création de services d'inventaire forestier national qui seuls peuvent quantifier valablement les ressources.

Notre deuxième préoccupation est de maintenir la place de la forêt et de l'arbre dans l'aménagement rural.

Il faudrait, à notre sens, faire procéder à l'aménagement des forêts des pays tropicaux afin d'assurer la pérennité de la ressource et d'ajuster exploitation et régénération. Ceci n'est pratiquement fait nulle part, du fait des décisions contraignantes d'ordre politique et économique que cela entraîne. Nous pensons qu'une action de démonstration et de persuasion de la FAO serait dans ce domaine la bienvenue.

Il faudrait, également, à notre sens, intégrer l'aménagement de leur forêt dans un aménagement beaucoup plus vaste de type agro-sylvo-pastoral qui aiderait à lutter contre la progression anarchique des cultures itinérantes et fixerait le domaine forestier. J'ai entendu avec satisfaction ce qui vient d'être dit à ce sujet par le délégué de l'Indonésie.

Le troisième objectif est la régénération de la forêt.

C'est certainement à nos yeux la priorité des priorités. En effet, des millions d'hectares de forêts tropicales disparaissent sous les coups des agriculteurs, des éleveurs et, dans une moindre mesure, des exploitants. Au simple titre de cette dernière activité, 125 millions de mètres cubes de grume sont abattus chaque année dans les forêts denses tropicales, et on peut assurer que moins de 5 pour cent de ces abattages sont compensés par des plantations destinées à fournir du bois d'oeuvre. Cette situation qui dure depuis trente ou quarante ans conduira inexorablement à l'épuisement à terme des forêts tropicales.

Les Etats responsables en sont très conscients, mais reculent en général devant le coût très élevé des travaux de plantation à prévoir, chiffrés à 8 ou 10 000 francs par hectare, dont la rentabilité économique est reportée à plusieurs décennies. Les représentants de l'Argentine et de la Grèce ont parlé de ce problème et j'ai entendu avec satisfaction le délégué de la Colombie nous parler des mesures qui ont été prises dans son pays et de cette taxe fiscale qui va être instaurée pour le reboisement. Nous serions très heureux d'avoir des renseignements complémentaires à ce sujet.

Le quatrième objectif est l'amélioration génétique des arbres forestiers. Ce domaine est particulièrement prometteur. Des actions importantes ont été réalisées avec des espèces forestières à croissance rapide, telles que l'eucalyptus et le pin au niveau de certains organismes de recherche. Le Centre technique forestier tropical y prend notamment une part active.

La FAO a cherché à développer cet axe de recherche en s'appuyant sur certains organismes ou certaines personnalités qualifiés notamment en ce qui concerne les pins. Mais il faudrait veiller à ce que cette action s'en tienne à la coordination et à l'information, en conservant aux organismes nationaux et internationaux déjà impliqués toute leur liberté d'action et de décision. La création et la défense d'un patrimoine génétique à hautes performances est un acte national et c'est pourquoi l'initiative de la FAO doit être encouragée mais en donnant à chaque Etat toutes ses chances et toute latitude d'action.

Le cinquième point important est la contribution de la forêt au développement de l'emploi.

Les pays en voie de développement prennent conscience du fait que la mécanisation trop poussée de l'exploitation forestière et les grands projets d'usines de seconde transformation ne peuvent fournir d'emplois qu'à une main-d'oeuvre très réduite et très spécialisée alors qu'ils doivent faire face à de très graves problèmes d'emplois.

Il en résulte notamment une tendance vers le développement de l'utilisation des outils à main en exploitation forestière ainsi que la création de scieries et d'industries de seconde transformation de petites ou même très petites dimensions allant jusqu'à la promotion de l'artisanat local.

Le document de travail du Secrétariat traite essentiellement des zones tropicales oubliant, à notre sens, les pays tempérés où la surface occupée par les forêts est relativement stable.

Il importe cependant de faire observer que le problème primordial de la place de la forêt et de l'arbre dans l'aménagement du territoire rural concerne aussi les pays tempérés, ceux d'Europe notamment où l'on constate dans chacun une régression trop importante de la forêt dans certaines régions nécessitant le contrôle des défrichements, et dans d'autres pays l'extension des zones forestières conduisant à la réglementation des reboisements.

Le programme de la Division des forêts de la FAO est essentiellement orienté vers les problèmes tropicaux et les pays en développement. De ce fait, il faut le reconnaître, et je le regrette, les forestiers

européens se sentent moins concernés qu'ils ne devraient l'être par les problèmes évoqués alors qu'ils sont disposés à participer activement à la formation des forestiers des pays en voie de développement.

Quant aux recommandations des commissions régionales des forêts évoquées aux paragraphes 40 et 41 du document, ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour demander à nouveau la réanimation du Comité "Sylva Mediterranea" sur les questions forestières méditerranéennes. Sur ce sujet difficile (protection, reconstitution) il y a une occasion de très utile coopération entre les pays des rivages méditerranéens dépendant des commissions de l'Europe, du Proche-Orient et de l'Afrique. Les commissions du Proche-Orient et de l'Europe avaient d'ailleurs souhaité la réanimation de ce Comité.

Nous souhaitons également la réanimation du groupe de travail de la Commission européenne des forêts sur l'aménagement des bassins versants de montagnes en élargissant sa composition de façon à y inclure des pays en voie de développement.

Ma délégation espère qu'en application de la Résolution 6/77 de la Conférence, ces activités pourront être incluses dans le programme de travail du prochain biennium.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Our Government would like to add its congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Flores on his important new assignment with the FAO. The United States Forest Service has from time to time loaned a number of its technical forestry personnel to work with FAO's Forestry Department and we have come to recognize and appreciate the quality and the importance of FAO'S programme in this sector.

The United States concurs with the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry as embodied in the report before us. The recommendations particularly related to investment in the forestry sector, in integrated rural development and in small-scale forestry industries for development are, we believe, well directed toward achieving forestry's full contribution towards strengthening national economies and integrated rural development programmes. Programmes in forestry and forest products - forest development generally - often serve important commercial interests, and as FAO reviews resource allocation for its programme in forestry we would encourage it to consider possible contributions from such extra-budgetary sources for furthering its development assistance efforts in this sector.

I would conclude by simply indicating that as always in the past we would continue to be very supportive of FAO's programme in forestry under its new leadership.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan): I want to say congratulations to Mr. Flores on his important job and also I want to discuss my country's forestry situation.

Forests in our country occupy 1.978 million hectares and play an important part in the national economy. They provide cover to the mountains, haul down larger precipitation, prevent soil losses arid check the onward march of deserts. Forest protection and regeneration, restoration and scientific exploitation are urgently required to sustain and save them from further deprecation.

We need reforestation to tide us over the serious problem of denudation, land degradation, and to prevent desertification. Here I would like to draw attention to the kind recommendations made by the Nairobi Conference on Desertification. The Conference urged the United Nations, and the Specialized Agencies, to provide adequate technical and financial aid in addition to combat desertification through scientific forest and pasture management. Pastures in our country occupy 62 percent of the total land area, and constitute an extremely important source of animal nutrition. Therefore, I will request FAO *to* consider the setting up of an expert committee to evaluate the present position of forests, range lands and pastures in our country. The recommendations of the Committee would provide guidelines to prepare a sound investment programme.

I hope that training of our forestry personnel along with the establishment of a Forest Research Institute will receive the sympathetic attention of the FAO.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): En primer lugar, deseamos felicitar al Sr. Flores por su elección acerca del Departamento de Montes. Nos alegramos doblemente, en primer término porque procede de un país en desarrollo, y en segundo término por ser un país de la región latinoamericana.

En primer lugar, consideramos oportunas las recomendaciones formuladas en el cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes que se recogen en el documento CL 74/8.

Sin embargo, debemos llamar la atención de los países miembros del Consejo sobre el hecho real de que los esfuerzos nacionales son elemento primordial para el desarrollo forestal. En este contexto es necesario que se explore y cuantifique la función de los bosques en relación con la producción de alimentos, así como sus posibilidades para generar empleo y proporcionar bienes y servicios, medios elementales para las poblaciones rurales; que la FAO siga apoyando los esfuerzos por crear en los países en desarrollo un sólido equipo de profesionales con capacitación adecuada en materia de preparación y evaluación de proyectos forestales; reconocer la importancia de los árboles y los bosques en las comunidades agrícolas, aspectos que deberán ser tomados en cuenta cuando se analicen los tratados de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria. Otro aspecto a tener en cuenta es la importancia de la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo especialmente mediante la recopilación y divulgación de informes sobre instituciones regionales, subregionales, nacionales que existen en los países en desarrollo que tengan la posibilidad de cooperar en este campo.

Por último, consideramos oportuno que la FAO estudie la posibilidad de establecer un sistema dentro del Departamento de Montes que se ocupe de la planificación, realización y coordinación de los programas forestales para el desarrollo.

R. PERALTA (Panamá): Antes de nada quiero felicitar al Sr. Flores Rodas por su nuevo cargo por varias razones. La principal de ellas por venir de un país en desarrollo y por pertenecer al área Centroamericana de donde provenimos nosotros también y, además, porque conocemos sus esfuerzos y su conocimiento en el campo y estamos seguros de que realizará una gran gestión en su cargo.

Estamos completamente de acuerdo con el documento CL 74/8 y no queremos redundar en las afirmaciones aquí vertidas por lo otros delegados que me han precedido; pero es de todos conocido que la gran mayoría de los bosques mundiales se encuentran en el área tropical, área subdesarrollada y, en muchos casos, en desarrollo, y que nuestra agricultura irracional y tradicional ha hecho que la gran mayoría de nuestros bosques hayan sido devastados irracionalmente, por lo que nosotros creemos que es deber de la FAO tratar de procurar a nuestros países en desarrollo una asistencia técnica más en consonancia con nuestras realidades nacionales, ya sea en el uso de las plantas autóctonas, o de los bosques netamente comerciales e industriales, además de procurar conseguir para nuestros países en desarrollo la asistencia económica necesaria a unos plazos suficientemente largos y con unos intereses suficientemente blandos que puedan permitir la implantación de estos bosques de una forma verdaderamente racional.

El caso nuestro, el caso de Panamá, es un caso típico de cualquiera de los países en desarrollo donde su agricultura irracional ha acabado no solamente con los bosques, con el subsuelo boscoso, sino que Panamá ha servido al mundo a través del presente siglo con la presencia de su Canal que ha facilitado y agilizado el transporte marítimo y a través de este desbosque irracional podríamos decir que hemos casi acabado con la cuenca hidrográfica canalera que pone en peligro el uso y la existencia de dicho Canal en los años venideros.

Nos encontramos empeñados en una reforestación para salvar la cuenca canalera y por eso nos empeñamos también en solicitar, tanto la asistencia técnica, como la económica en la forma que hemos mencionado para lograr en un futuro cercano restablecer los bosques de las cuencas de este área panameña que sirve al mundo.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Mi delegación también desea expresar su satisfacción por el nombramiento de que ha sido objeto el Dr. Flores Rodas para ocupar el puesto de Subdirector General del Departamento de Montes de la FAO. Le damos la bienvenida y le ofrecemos nuestra colaboración más completa.

En relación con el Informe del Comité de Montes, deseamos únicamente reiterar el apoyo de mi Gobierno a las actividades que lleva a cabo este propio Comité y a toda la acción que desarrolla la FAO relacionada con ese sector tan vital para la humanidad. Mi delegación deseaba, asimismo, llamar la atención del Consejo sobre el párrafo 89 del Informe en el que se expresa el ofrecimiento del delegado de México que asistió al cuarto período de sesiones de dicho Comité, para hospedar en mi país al noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial. Ese mismo ofrecimiento ha sido reiterado con ocasión de la celebración del Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial y oportunamente el Consejo habrá de tomar una decisión al respecto.

D. FONACIER (Philippines): First of all, we express our congratulations to Dr. Flores on his appointment as ADG of the Forestry Department of FAO.

Secondly, our delegation views the Djakarta Declaration substantially as a reiterative support of the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry. Our delegation supports and therefore endorses the recommendations of the Committee contained in both the Djakarta and C0F0 reports.

However, we would like to encourage an early and serious consideration of the immediate possibility of implementing the recommendations of the Committee in paragraphs 14 and 16 concerning the provision of financial support to reforestation or forest renewal.

We feel timely and substantial funding of forest renewal activity is the key to maintaining forest resources, particularly in the tropical region.

Our delegation therefore strongly proposes that to give early realization to our intention in forest renewal, particularly in the tropical region, the Council considers (a) expressing its support to the position of the tropical timber producing countries in UNCTAD regarding proposed stabilization measures, particularly efforts to improve prices for wood export commodities in order that producing countries may be able to generate the necessary funds to support costly afforestation and reforestation programmes. In brief, the cost of forest renewal needs to be considered by the consuming countries in determining prices of wood export commodities; (b) that financial institutions, such as the IBRD, be encouraged to increase their funds for lending in order to support forest renewal programmes of developing countries, and that developed countries, which have long benefited from the tropical timber trade, likewise be encouraged to invest in forest renewal programmes in developing countries.

These are but some measures by which we can all realize the bringing back of our forestry resources for the benefit of coming generations.

D. F. SMITH (United Kingdom) : I would like on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation to congratulate Mr. Flores Rodas on taking up his new post of Assistant Director-General. My government strongly supports the increased attention being paid to rural development to which reference is made in the Report of the Committee on Forestry. We think also that the emphasis now being placed by FAO on the integration of forestry with agriculture is fully justified. We believe therefore that it is sensible that FAO should give consideration to establishing a small section within the Forestry Department to deal with the implementation, coordination and programming of forestry activities in the integrated development of rural communities. No doubt whatever section is set up within FAO will coordinate its activities with the new International Council for Research in Agroforestry.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the list of members who have asked for the floor, but we have information from the Hungarian delegation that they will submit their comments in writing to the Secretariat.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): The paper CL 74/8 very well summarizes all which had been said at the fourth session of the Committee on Forestry.

It is recommended that FAO consider undertaking a new, in-depth world study on trends and outlook in the sector of forestry and primary wood-processing industry. We deem this objective as of great importance. The papers issued so far by FAO could also be well utilized in preparing forestry development plans. We shall be at your disposal with pleasure in elaborating evaluations and studies also in the future.

We fully agree with the statement that revenues obtained from the forestry sector should be reinvested in the development of basic material production. We have to emphasize however, that the forests should also perform servicing functions to an increasing extent and forestry can meet these increasing costs only at the expense of its main function, that is wood production. For this reason we think it necessary to emphasize that the costs of servicing, functioning of forestry should be shifted on to a much wider circle of the society.

FAO is recommended to continue to support efforts to create, at country level, a strong corps of professionals, adequately trained in the area of preparation and evaluation of forestry projects. This is correct but at the same time it is important that the consumers of wood should also be given up-to-date information and education on the better utilization and appreciation of the wood products and forest services. This is necessary so much the more because the role attributed to the forest and to its services is not yet fully recognized by the public opinion.

It should be emphasized that FAO has always taken care in the choice of tree species considerably influencing the production of basic material, A FAO training centre on choice of tree species and in connection with this on methods of area utilization, practical work and development was organized also in Hungary. Beyond the choice of tree species and the biological relations of the intensive basic material-producing plantations it is however of fundamental importance that the plantations as basic material-producing units should be planned, implemented and operated in an integrated manner with both the existing and expectable investments available. 1/

T. ABDOURHAMANE (Observateur pour la Mauritanie): La delegation mauritanienne vous remercie, M. le Président, de lui accorder pour la deuxième fois la parole et voudrait s'associer aux autres délégations pour présenter ses félicitations au Dr Flores Rodas, le nouveau Directeur général adjoint chargé des forêts.

La Mauritanie a tout lieu de se féliciter depuis environ deux ans de l'attention croissante que la FAO accorde aux problèmes forestiers, principalement dans la zone du SAHEL. Cette attention accrue se manifeste par une prise de conscience beaucoup plus grande pour les problèmes spécifiques à cette région. En ce qui concerne les besoins en bois des populations régionales, la formation, etc., la délégation mauritanienne voudrait attirer votre attention sur un point particulier du rapport du Comité des forêts en ce qui concerne le dramatique problème du ravitaillement des populations, dans cette région du Sahel en général et en Mauritanie en particulier, en bois de chauffe. La Mauritanie, d'une superficie de 1200 000 km² environ, ne comporte qu'un sixième de son territoire où des conditions agro-sylvo-pasto-rales sont possibles. Cette réduction des superficies vivables dans ce pays est encore aggravée par la sécheresse qui y sévit depuis 1968.

La densité des peuplements forestiers, si on peut les appeler ainsi, en Mauritanie, est tellement grande qu'en réalité la production forestière y est très faible. La réduction des besoins de la population, facilitée par l'étalement de l'exploitation des peuplements sur de grandes superficies due à la normalisation, a depuis longtemps permis un certain équilibre dans l'exploitation de ces peuplements.

Il se trouve que depuis la sécheresse, particulièrement depuis 1972, la situation a changé. La concentration de la population de plus en plus dans les grands centres, eux-mêmes situés dans des zones complètement déboisées a considérablement aggravé le problème du ravitaillement des populations en bois de chauffe, et c'est ainsi que, par exemple pour la seule ville de Nouakchott, la population a doublé en trois ans passant d'environ 70 000 à 150 000 habitants.

Un autre facteur aggravant de cette situation a été la situation géographique de grands centres urbains en dehors des zones de production. C'est ainsi que la ville de Nouakchott est située à environ 250 km des zones boisées qui sont essentiellement localisées au sud du pays, sans parler des localités de Akjoujt, Atar, etc., qui sont beaucoup plus au nord.

Face à cette situation, les moyens mis en oeuvre par la Mauritanie sont pratiquement négligeables, cela compte tenu de ses moyens nationaux et c'est pour cela que plusieurs solutions ont été tentées pour remédier à cette situation.

La première solution qui s'est offerte et qui a été appliquée dans certains pays voisins a été la substitution à la production de bois pour les besoins de combustible, par un matériel utilisant le gaz ou le pétrole. Mais nous nous sommes aperçus, quant à l'expérience mauritanienne, que le coût élevé de ces produits n'était pas à la portée de nos populations et cela est considérablement aggravé par l'irrégularité des approvisionnements dans notre pays.

D'autres facteurs sont intervenus également pour montrer que cette solution n'était pas tellement applicable pour nous.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Il nous reste le reboisement, le remplacement des superficies exploitées et éventuellement leur extension. Nos moyens propres ne le permettent pas. A cela s'ajoutent des conditions climatiques extrêmement difficiles, aggravées par la sécheresse. La Mauritanie n'a pas beaucoup d'ambition en matière forestière. Ses principaux objectifs visent essentiellement la lutte contre la désertification pour maintenir la productivité de nos zones et pour satisfaire les besoins des populations en bois de chauffe et de construction. C'est pour cela qu'il nous semble intéressant que la FAO nous apporte son concours pour aider à trouver une solution à ce problème, car il s'agit de populations en danger. Pour celui qui connaît Nouakchott, il existe des périodes, principalement en hiver, où les zones d'exploitation sont inaccessibles et où des familles entières passent deux ou trois jours sans pouvoir allumer le feu en supposant qu'elles aient de quoi l'alimenter. La participation de la FAO pourrait porter sur les domaines des inventaires forestiers, de l'amélioration des technologies d'exploitation et de la législation. Pour cela, il nous semble possible de proposer ici que soit envisagée la possibilité d'importer du charbon à partir de certains pays assez pourvus en ressources générales et dans lesquels les méthodes d'exploitation permettent sinon un gaspillage, en tout cas la non-utilisation d'une importante quantité de produits secondaires. Cette importation pourrait se faire par exemple périodiquement; en ce qui concerne la Mauritanie, le point culminant de la crise se situe en hiver.

D'autres aspects forestiers de la Mauritanie méritent une attention particulière, et le rapport présenté par le Comité des forêts n'a pas mentionné ces aspects-là. Il s'agit par exemple de la lutte contre les feux de brousse dans la zone du Sahel et particulièrement en Mauritanie, qui causent d'importants ravages dans les zones aussi bien forestières que pastorales. La Mauritanie aimerait en tout cas que la FAO continue l'effort qu'elle a entrepris depuis deux ans environ pour une attention plus particulière et pour la sauvegarde des ressources végétales dans cette région sahélienne, notamment en Mauritanie.

S. MADEMBA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Ma délégation voudrait appuyer ce que le délégué de la Grèce et le délégué de Mauritanie ont dit au sujet de la protection des forêts contre le feu de forêt. Nous leur savons gré d'avoir appelé l'attention du Conseil sur ce sujet, car c'est un problème très actuel dans les pays de la zone sahélienne menacés de désertification également par les feux de brousse, et nous ne pouvons donc que souscrire à toute proposition invitant la FAO à examiner ce problème et ses causes en formulant les mesures à prendre pour y remédier, et dégager les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour lutter contre ce fléau, y compris la formation d'un personnel spécialisé dans la lutte contre les feux de forêt.

M. le Président, je ne voudrais pas terminer sans adresser également mes félicitations au Directeur: général chargé du département des forêts.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Montes): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, primero una nota particular personal que es agradecer a los miembros de este Consejo las felicitaciones y los buenos augurios sobre mi desempeño como Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Montes de esta casa. Sólo espero ser capaz de generar la integración de la capacidad y experiencia de mis colegas en la sede y en el campo con la decisión de los países miembros para que podamos, en conjunto, implantar las políticas de desarrollo definidas por el Director General y por los programas de acción de esta Organización.

Como resumen general de las inquietudes y comentarios sobre el report de COFO, me alienta y satisface notar el apoyo general a las actividades de la FAO en materia forestal sobre el informe presentado a COFO.

Noto en particular un apoyo del Consejo sobre la acción de los países a nivel de los mismos, sin la cual los esfuerzos nuestros serían nulos.

La formación y capacitación a todos los niveles, especialmente para identificar, formular y evaluar proyectos forestales.

Sobre las actividades forestales para el desarrollo comunitario a través de una integración dinámica con la producción de alimentos; es decir, la reactivación del componente social del sistema bosque a través de los programas de acción a nivel de países.

Noto mucho interés y apoyo sobre las inversiones nacionales e internacionales para crear, manejar y aprovechar los recursos forestales.

Ha habido una sugerencia para que un grupo de expertos estudie este asunto.

Noto interés sobre el establecimiento de industrias pequeñas o de industrias de tamaño adecuado a la capacidad de los países miembros.

Sobre las publicaciones forestales y sobre el intercambio de información, especialmente en lo que se refiere a la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, que es uno de los programas de mayor interés de esta casa.

Sobre la prevención y combate de incendios en todas las regiones, específicamente en la región del Sahel, en las zonas áridas, secas.

Sobre la conservación forestal aplicada a las cuencas, principalmente las cuencas de montaña, preocupación de los países miembros y cuya preocupación está siendo estudiada muy detenidamente por nuestro Director General.

Dentro del tema de la conservación, sobre la lucha contra la desertificación.

Se mencionó acá la reactivación del *Silva mediterránea*, que es una recomendación de COFO, cuya recomendación también está siendo estudiada muy detenidamente por el Sr. Director General.

Creo que con estas pocas palabras, muy brevemente resumo la inquietud de los países miembros de este Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Flores Rodas. I also wish to thank the Committee which worked under your chairmanship for the very detailed and expert report that we have. With this the discussion on this item is concluded.

8. Action arising out of the Eighth World Forestry Congress - Djakarta, 16-28 October 1978

8. Suite à donner au huitième Congrès forestier mondial - Djakarta, 16-28 octobre 1978

8. Medidas dimanantes del Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial - Yakarta, 16-28 octubre 1978

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Montes): Se ha presentado para la información del Consejo el documento CL 74/INF/9, que se refiere a la acción relacionada con el Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial, celebrado del 16 al 28 de octubre en Yakarta, Indonesia.

El informe sobre el Congreso Forestal Mundial incluye la Declaración de Yakarta, que es suficientemente explícita y está a la total disposición de los señores miembros del Consejo para su información.

CHAIRMAN: As has been pointed out, this report is for information but I should like to call on the delegate of Indonesia to take the floor.

LUKITO DARYADI (Indonesia): First of all, on behalf of my Government, I should like to express our gratitude to the governments of all those many countries which decided to be represented at the 8th WFC despite the remoteness of its venue.

This has enabled a new record of representation at world forestry congresses to be established; more than 100 countries attended the conference - the highest attendance of the 50 years' history of world forestry congresses.

We wish to address particular thanks to the governments of Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany for their generous contributions which have enabled several participants from developing countries to be present. The Governments of Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany and Indonesia have given fellowships to lecturers and students to attend the Congress.

The role of FAO should be mentioned here in assisting the entire organizing of the Congress since the preparation stage up to the outgoing proceeding. My Government's appreciation and gratitude go to FAO in this respect.

May I be permitted, Mr. Chairman, to read to you a few paragraphs of the Jakarta Declaration which should be, in my opinion, of particular interest to the participants in this session of the Council.

Being acutely aware that the human population is still increasing by 70 million people every year, the Congress paid particular attention to the role which forest can play in improving the conditions for agricultural and livestock production, for instance through shelterbelts, regulation of waterflow, erosion control, as well as a source of supplementary animal fodder in dry periods. The Congress urged an ever greater effort to use forests for these indirect means of ensuring and increasing food production. Moreover, foresters should look beyond their forest reserves to areas where the planting of trees can be of major benefit to people and to agriculture other than for the direct harvesting of timber.

By reason of the gravity of world food shortages, indirect means are not enough. In many countries, an enlarged concept of multiple-use forestry is required, one which encompasses the more direct production of food from forests and forest trees, as well as from wild fauna. The Congress also called attention to the fact that in recent decades, floods, droughts, and the spread of deserts have increased. This trend will continue unless proper land management, including reforestation, is undertaken by governments with urgency. The droughts and accelerated desertification in Asia, Africa, and Latin America - and the extremely destructive floods in Asia - have caused loss of lives and misery to millions. In recent years, however, there have been many examples of successful techniques in agro-forestry which governments can use to halt these destructive trends. The Congress urged an increase in applied research in this field in order to enable governments to deal with such problems effectively.

As forests and forest trees are an essential element for maintaining the environmental stability necessary for the continuous production of food by rural communities, and to meet some of their most basic needs, the Congress affirmed that it should be the concept of all in the forestry profession that forestry make its full contribution to the development of rural communities, particularly of the rural poor of the developing world. A commitment to rural development on the part of foresters will be of no avail unless there is a firm commitment on the part of governments. Such commitment must include action to reduce inequalities in the countryside, notably in the distribution of land and in access to social and support services. It means encouraging self-reliance, mutual aid and cooperation. It means recognizing people as the motive force of development, not simply as the passive object of development.

Foresters must have the responsibility of managing forest lands and the natural resources existing thereon. Forestry administrations must have the rank, political backing, and effectiveness to discharge adequately such responsibilities to the best advantage of the people.

One of the most important changes since the previous Congress has been the energy crisis and its many implications for forestry and forest industries. The Congress was particularly concerned with the "poor man's energy crisis," the growing firewood shortage brought about by population pressure, dwindling forests, and the increased cost of alternative means of cooking and heating. This situation has reduced even further the already intolerably low living conditions of some 1 500 million of the rural poor. Furthermore, the burning of plant residues and animal dung has seriously affected soil fertility and hence food production. The Congress urged all governments in countries with a major requirement for fuelwood, and not well endowed with forest resources, to give the highest priority to its production in appropriate locations, with full participation of local people and suitably integrated with agriculture.

The energy crisis has a further and potentially far-reaching implication for forestry - the possibility for forests to become an important source of high grade as well as low grade energy. Because of the interdependence of liquid and gaseous fuels and chemicals, forests offer an equally exciting opportunity for providing the synthetic organic materials so indispensable to modern society and which are now produced from fossil fuels. The Congress brought to the attention of governments and international technical and financing organizations this important new role which forests may be asked to play, urging the early intensification of the necessary programmes of research and development.

The Congress stressed the need for comprehensive forest land management, industries to be reorganized and new technologies to be adopted in order to use more effectively smaller logs and a wider range of species. It also urged developing countries to undertake further processing and to produce a wide range of products for both domestic consumption and export. The utilization of the forest resource must be aimed at enhancing the welfare particular of the communities living or working in the forest and, more generally, generally, of all the people of the country possessing such a resource.

The Congress urged governments to take appropriate corrective action, including changes to the social and economic structures wherever needed, with respect to unsatisfactory health, safety, status and remuneration conditions of forest workers. There was an urgent need for a more highly trained work-force, and the Congress stressed that governments should devote more resources to the initial and continuing training of workers, technicians and professionals in both forestry and forest industries.

The Congress noted with concern that, if present trends continue and potential demands materialize, there is the prospect of a serious gap between the world's needs for industrial and other wood products and the capacity of the world's forests to supply these and other essential goods and services. This gap can only be avoided if the shrinkage of the forest area is halted, if natural forests are properly managed, if harvesting is more complete and more efficient, if there is subsequent full and prudent use of all products harvested, if large areas of successful plantations are created and intensively managed, and, finally, if the return from forest utilization reaches the communities owning, living, or working in the forests.

Mr. Chairman, the Jakarta Declaration has been applied to the programme of my Government in particular for the next Third Development Plan. The Declaration has been supported also by the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Forestry Experts in Kuala Lumpur, 20 - 22 November 1978 - last week. I would like that this Council may wish to consider transmitting the Jakarta Declaration to the forthcoming session of the FAO Conference in 1979 for its consideration.

As Secretary General of the Congress I may be perhaps allowed to express the wish, for the sake of my successor, that the decision on the location of the next Congress be taken somewhat earlier than in the case of the 8th WFC. It would certainly help the organizing committee if such a decision were taken before the end of 1981.

CHAIRMAN: Your country hosted this very important Congress and we wish to congratulate your country for doing that.

H. MAURIA (Finland) : On this occasion it is to the point to thank the government of Indonesia for the remarkable effort which it had made in favour of the arrangement for the Eighth World Forestry Congress in Jakarta last October which made it a total success and we also want to express our sincere thanks for the hospitality of the Indonesian government and the Indonesian people. May I also on this occasion direct a vote of thanks to the General Secretary of the World Forestry Congress, Mr. Daryadi, who is at this Council meeting. We believe that the Jakarta Declaration has spoken out very clearly on the role of forestry for people and for the society. It has pointed out the need for a number of important forestry policy measures to be implemented by governments and it has drawn attention to technical and financial needs for the forestry and forest industry.

In all, we wish that the Declaration should be carefully studied in Member Countries, not only by forestry administration people but that its conclusions should be presented and highlighted, also for decision makers and planning authorities and people who are involved in development in agricultural and rural development.

Finally, I would support what the delegate of Indonesia suggested, to present the Jakarta Declaration to the next FAO Conference.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba) : Queremos cooperar con usted en sus labores por lo que seremos extremadamente breves. En primer lugar, tomamos nota de la información contenida en este documento que consideramos muy útil, pero quisiéramos referirnos a un aspecto en el cual se toma en consideración la situación de la sede del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, y si leemos el texto se nos señala lo siguiente: "Como es posible que otros países se expresen en el mismo sentido, el Consejo podría considerar la fijación de fechas para la selección del país hospedante del próximo Congreso".

A tal respecto, nuestra delegación considera conveniente que esta fecha sea el período de sesiones previo del Consejo a la Conferencia General que se celebrará en 1981. Consideramos que con tres años, ya que este Congreso Forestal Mundial se celebrará en 1984, se podrá adoptar una decisión conveniente. Además, existe también la posibilidad de que las delegaciones que acaban de llegar a sus países de origen, efectúen las conversaciones correspondientes, y existan intereses por parte de otros países, y hay que brindarles la posibilidad de ofrecerse como sedes del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar queremos manifestar nuestra simpatía por lo que expresó la delegación de Finlandia sobre la conveniencia de que en el informe de este período de sesiones del Consejo se consigne nuestro agradecimiento al Gobierno de Indonesia por las facilidades que ofreció y que aseguraron una realización satisfactoria y exitosa del Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Apoyamos la propuesta de nuestro colega y vecino de Cuba sobre la fijación de fechas para decidir el país hospedante del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

El párrafo 4 de la Nota Informativa nos indica que hasta ahora dos países se han ofrecido como sedes para ese Noveno Congreso. Son la Unión Soviética y México. Consideramos que ambas naciones tienen características y condiciones que harían afortunada la celebración de ese Congreso en cualquiera de estos dos países. Sin embargo, la delegación de Colombia, anticipadamente, comunica que acoge con viva simpatía la posibilidad de que el Noveno Congreso se celebre en México, país de nuestra región de América Latina. Decimos esto porque consideramos oportuno que después de haberse celebrado el Octavo Congreso en Indonesia, en el Asia Lejana, el próximo se desplace hacia América Latina, otra importante región de países en desarrollo.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Montes): Como el documento referente a la acción a tomar después del Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial era únicamente para información de los honorables miembros del Consejo, la verdad es que muy poco puedo resumir. Agradecemos nuevamente al honorable Gobierno de Indonesia su amabilidad por haber hospedado el dicho Congreso, y tomamos nota de la sugerencia de Cuba y Colombia sobre el tiempo de 1981 para designar el próximo país huésped del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Creo que con eso, señor Presidente, resumo la reacción del honorable Consejo sobre el documento anterior,

CHAIRMAN : What we will have to do then, perhaps Council will agree to submit the Jakarta Declaration to the next Conference but the date and the place of the next meeting,, the country to be chosen, should be delayed until more countries have responded. With that we conclude this item.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

16. Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme

16. Evaluation du Programme de coopération technique

16. Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : Since the subject of this Agenda item is an evaluation of the TCP, the Director-General has asked me to introduce this item because, as you see from my caption which has just been put here I am responsible not only for Programme and Budget but also for evaluation.

You will recall that the Director-General took the initiative at your Seventy-First Session in June 1977 in announcing that he would carry out his evaluation of the first stage of the programme. "It noted with approval the intention of the Director-General to arrange for an evaluation which would assess performance adherence to approved criteria procedures and results. The Director-General was

requested to submit his report of such an evaluation..... " to this session of the Council. So it is

clear that the evaluation is not in any way to revise the decision taken by the Sixty-ninth Session of the Council to establish the TCP nor to revise the decision of the Conference to increase the provision for it in the current Programme of Work and Budget, but to assess performance, adherence to approved criteria, procedures and rules.

As indicated in the document before you, the evaluation has been an intensive exercise using a variety of competent sources of information and judgement, including an independent report made to the Director-General by a Consultant. The latter was, however, only one of the elements in the overall exercise which involved governments, the Director-General, FAO representatives, UNDP Resident representatives, project personnel, regional and headquarters staff and other external observers. The results are set out in the document CL 74/14. It will be noted that there is an Annex which gives an analysis of quantitative performance followed by qualitative assessment.

As regards the quantitative performance, the Annex deals only with the first twenty months of the operations up to the 1 July 1978. The Programme has, of course, continued to gain momentum since then and the latest overall statistics are as follows; up to the end of October a total of 356 projects involving \$26.26 million have been approved. Of these, more than 31% have been in Africa, more than 28% in Asia and the Far East, more than 18% in the Near East and more than 19% in Latin America; emergencies account for just more than 21% of the total.

The qualitative assessment in Annex I of the document deals with the involvement of governments, how projects fitted into each criteria. Other aspects of the Programme, such as its focus on increasing food production, on least developed countries, on utilization of national institutions, on local or regional procurement of supplies, and so forth, and finally, with applications of rules and procedures. The findings are summed up in the main part of the document.

I would like here to refer particularly to paragraphs 10 to 12 of the document setting out the general conclusions from all sources of information and assessment. I should like to stress in particular the points that this Programme, which is the first really tangible manifestation of a constitutional provision existing in our basic texts since 1945, is indeed "operating in conformity to the objectives, criteria and procedures proposed by the Director-General and approved by the governing bodies. In particular it is meeting urgent and short-term needs, without duplication or substitution of other sources of assistance and in a practical flexible and effective manner, in priority fields of food, agricultural production, particularly in the least developed countries."

In this connexion I should like to try to dispel some confusion which might still exist in a very few quarters about the unique characteristics of the TCP, as seen in the evaluation report. It is unique because it is not programmed in advance. There is however a difference between unprogrammed and unforeseen activities. Emergencies are, of course, unforeseen. But the need for example, for various types of assistance in the field of investment may be clearly foreseen even though it cannot always be programmed in advance.

Secondly, the TCP was unique in being set up explicitly to deal with urgent short-term requirements in a rapid and flexible manner. It was never said or intended, however, that it should not and could not enter into fields which might be theoretically covered at some time or other by other sources of assistance. On the contrary, as its role in emergencies and as a catalyst shows, there are many sources of assistance but their statutes and/or rules, procedures or habits do not provide rapid small-scale, flexible response in an unprogrammed context or on a short-term basis.

This is a factor which I think emerges from the evaluation. It would take too long to spell out supporting details as given in the document. My colleagues who are responsible for the running of the TCP are here to support me, if required, including information on two matters which are apparently of peculiar interest to a few delegates, that is, projects which constitute complementarity, follow-up and preparatory assistance to UNDP-financed projects and TCP projects which are related to other technical assistance programmes and/or investment organizations. These projects clearly show that the TCP is indeed adhering to the basic aims and criteria and covers not only small-scale unprogrammed activities, catalysing without duplicating other sources. That is why the TCP is popular not only with governments but, as reported in the report before you, with Resident Representatives and other financing institutions

The document makes some recommendations to governments which on the basis of experience would increase the impact of the programmes. These are contained in paragraph 13(i) to (vi). In paragraphs 14 to 16 of the document the Director-General gives some information on the steps he has already taken for closer internal integration of the Technical Cooperation Programme with other FAO action programmes, for improvement in project handling and backstopping, including the delegation of authority to FAO Representatives to approve urgent small-scale project requests up to certain limited amounts.

Finally, in paragraphs 17(i) to (iv) there are some recommendations for Council consideration on additions to the guidelines in order to improve the impact of the programme. These relate to action in support of TCDC, a more liberal interpretation of the investment category, flexibility in time limits and a little more flexibility in categories of action.

As you will have noted, the Regional Conferences have expressed their views in resolutions and recommendations, which are summarized in the document before you, and the Programme Committee has given a very positive response to the evaluation and to the Director-General's proposals. I will, of course, leave it to the Chairman of the Programme Committee to expatiate on the Committee's views.

I should like to conclude by referring back to what the Director-General said in his opening address, copies of which you now have in document CL 74/INF/5. Towards the end of his address he referred to the Evaluation Report and the use of the Programme Committee, stressing that the TCP projects have

been short-term, small-scale, concrete, rapid in action, economical and efficient, non-duplicative and catalytic. He emphasized the essential characteristics of the Programme as immediacy and flexibility. As regards the recommendations before you, he pointed out that they were not fundamental but that the TCP was fundamental to realization of FAO's constitutional mandates. The TCP was not just a symbol, he said, but, together with our policy of decentralization primarily at the country level, was a cornerstone of the new FAO.

CHAIRMAN: As mentioned by Mr. West and as you have seen in the documents, the Programme Committee deliberated extensively on this matter. We have the Chairman of the Programme Committee here and I would like to ask him to take the floor.

M.TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee) : I do not think that my task here is very difficult, since after all, as is seen, I hope, very clearly from the Report itself, the Programme Committee reached a full consensus on all substantial aspects of TCP, so I would like only to highlight some main issues.

May I say first that the Programme Committee, having considered, of course, the TCP Evaluation Report as very important, postponed its debate on this issue for almost one week to give enough time to all Members to study the Director-General's document and all other documentation given to the Committee and of course to give a fair opportunity to the Members to seek instructions from their capitals.

In connexion with this, I would like to stress one point, that in line with universally adopted practice in all international organizations, the Programme Committee was given full access to the report of the independent consultant.

I would also like to mention that the Programme Committee had before it four resolutions of the Regional Conferences, all expressing full support for TCP and indeed urging its continuation and strengthening in the future.

I would now say that the Programme Committee found the Director-General's document objective and comprehensive. The Programme Committee also found that the TCP in slightly more than 24 months of operation had already proved the validity of its original concept and found further that the Programme was operating in full conformity with the objectives, criteria and procedures proposed by the Director-General, as Mr. West just now stressed, and adopted by the governing bodies.

The Programme Committee wanted especially to stress one, in the view of the Committee, basic feature of the Programme — its unprogrammed nature — which is certainly essential for its promptness and short-term character. The Committee was of the view that the TCP in no case duplicated; even more, the TCP was operating in full conformity and complementarity with other programmes within the house, especially projects like the Food Security Scheme, Food Losses Programme, Seed Improvement and Investment.

The Programme Committee further noted with appreciation something which had been very clearly stressed in the report of the consultant, that is the high degree of very intimate involvement of the governments, which certainly makes possible the fostering of continuing dialogue and stressing the continuation of partnership.

Coming to the recommendations to the governments, the Committee expressed its full agreement with the proposals of the Director-General and in doing so, it especially wanted to stress proposals contained in (ii), (v), and (vi) referring to complementarity, national institutions, local expertise and local resources.

Now I wish to say a few words on national institutions and local institutions. The Committee was fully aware that the prime responsibility for identifying qualified national institutions or regional institutions rests with the governments concerned. Nonetheless, the Committee wanted to urge a kind of continuous campaign making full use, as the Report of the Committee says, of FAO representatives to ensure that the opportunities to use national institutions are fully exploited.

As regards paragraphs 17, the Committee wanted to make a few observations. It emphasized caution in formulating inter-country projects under the TCP umbrella, and the Committee felt that this cautious approach should be pursued in order not to jeopardise the short-term nature of the basic feature of the Programme. The Committee fully endorsed the proposals of the Director-General referring to a more liberal interpretation of investment projects. It also stressed the proposal of the Director-General as contained in (iv) and expressed its full satisfaction and its hope that duplication will be avoided in the future, and, of course, that complementarity would be maintained.

The last consensus of the Committee was that it agreed completely with the proposal of the Director-General that full evaluation of the TCP should be undertaken after a full five years of operation; that means in 1982.

I would now really say only a few words about some concerns, warnings or suggestions made by one member of the Committee, which was, in my understanding, at least, first of all related to the problem of physical inputs and some other points, but I had better stop now because the country whose representative expressed these concerns, warnings or suggestions is represented in the Council and would certainly be much more able to present their points than I am able to do.

CHAIRMAN : It seems to me this is a subject which is of great interest to Council -as it should be -because it is a subject which touches both developed and developing countries. This interest is shown by the large number of delegates who have raised their flags to speak. I think you will agree with me that this debate is very important and we have to have some system in which we can keep to our line of discussion. The Director-General has made concrete proposals for Council's approval which are on page 5 of CL 74/14, and I would like members to speak on those points; of course, they can develop their arguments, but in the end these are the things to be decided on.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman, Group of 77) (Interprétation from Arabic) : I will be very brief and comply with your request for brevity. On behalf of the Group of 77, we should like to congratulate the Programme Committee and its Chairman for the very useful analysis of the TCP including also the Director-General's proposal in document CL 74/14, and its conclusions which we fully support. Like the Programme Committee, we in the Group of 77 find the document very useful in giving us in a concise and concrete form a comprehensive and objective view of the TCP since it started two years ago.

We are glad to note that the Director-General has based his conclusions not only on the consultants' report but also on his own observations and the experience of the member countries which have benefited from the Programme. Our governments have received help from the TCP for emergency training and investment, and urgent small scale requirements, so we were able to judge the promptness and effectiveness of the TCP in relation to our own needs.

Judging by the resolutions and recommendations reported in the separate Council document on the results of regional conferences, we see this is also true of all developing countries, and we notice it is also confirmed by the overall findings in the document. When the Evaluation report and the Programme Committee says FAO is following the guidelines and criteria set up for the TCP, this is not just an impression, it is founded on facts.

A few fundamental issues should be brought to the attention of the Council. First of all, as foreseen in the Constitution of FAO, we should always have such a Programme. Secondly, it is a unique Programme in the sense it is so rapid and flexible, and capable of responding to unforeseen and urgent needs of developing countries. For this we should like to pay tribute to the Director-General and to the small group of people who deal with the TCP on an overall basis, and all the staff concerned in the projects. The Programme does not duplicate national activities, nor does it interfere with the projects financed from bi-lateral aid or other multilateral financing agencies, but it helps to catalyse development efforts.

We are convinced that the TCP is an absolutely indispensable and integral part of the Regular Programme, and therefore should be strengthened financially.

Finally, we are in full agreement with the conclusions of the Director-General's report, and hope the Council will warmly endorse it.

In conclusion, I take the liberty of reserving the right on behalf of the Group of 77 to speak again before the discussion on this item closes.

Ms. F.A. CHENOWETH (Liberia) : We have a document in front of us which in our opinion is very well prepared. We have listened to the comments on the document which we feel also have been very well done.

Looking at the global picture of hunger and malnutrition, the picture of a poor land with little technology, our Director-General saw a real need and he proposed a solution in the form of an action programme called the TCP. One notable aspect of the Programme observed by many of us then, and proven to many of us today, is that it is outstanding in its corrective measures as well as preventive measures.

The programme was approved and got off to a very early start, and has made a true impact in many countries today. Liberia, as a beneficiary of this Programme, can truly attest to this. We agree with the feeling of the Director-General as to the summing up of the independent consultant in his letter to the Director-General as stated under item 12. Further to this the Liberian delegation fully supports the Director-General's position and recommendations to governments as outlined under item 19 in the document. The action he has taken, and those to be taken as outlined in a document under item 14, also have our strong support. We support - and we hope all those here will join us in this support - the Director-General's proposals for Council approval as outlined in item 17. That this should become in the slightest form a matter of controversy would be, to say the least, very disappointing.

We have listened with great interest to other countries from the developed world as they have indicated their governments' decision to contribute food and other emergency aid as well as their cash donations. At the same time, we have listened with much dismay to the bleak picture of local conditions, many caused by disasters, of the least developed and most seriously affected countries, but we congratulate and thank those who are so willing to help.

For those deprived countries who continue to be adversely affected by unscrupulous practices by stronger and more developed countries, and by the mean hand of nature itself, we continue to be concerned. We have all heard the views expressed by the developed and least developed countries as to who is responsible for the plight of the poor in the least developed countries. If one wanted to be very objective, one would accept the fact that both sides have to take a share of the responsibility to effect changes. It is our strong view, and the view of all members of my delegation and my government, that a programme like the TCP is one that will help the least developed countries and the most seriously affected members. We therefore urge support for the Programme, and hope donor countries will find it expedient to increase their level of support.

Let us remember in our consideration the wise old saying that if you give a man a fish you have to feed him for ever, but if you teach him how to fish he will be able to feed himself. This issue, then, should be a matter which we should want to dispose of and one we should want to support, as in our view it is one that I am sure most of us will agree to.

We must therefore join, in more meaningful ways, in these cooperative methods to meet the needs of the world, in the realization that true progress can only be made on the basis of a consensus between donors and recipient countries.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would like to preface my comments with a word of thanks for both Mr. West and Mr. Trkulja for their introductory remarks.

My delegation is particularly pleased with the opportunity given to the Council to undertake an objective evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme after the first two years of its operations. I feel I do not need to underline the basic premise of our exercise.

What the Council is asked to do at this stage is simply to assess on the basis of available evidence the actual performance of TCP. Even so, as a preliminary observation we would like to state here once again our basic understanding that the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO constitutes an essential and integral part of the activities performed by the Organization by virtue of its Constitution. Technical assistance within the Regular Programme of the Organization is not in our view an anomaly for which excuses should be found. It is in fact, as has already been indicated, a constitutional requirement. Extra-budgetary resources were never envisaged as a substitute for technical assistance within the Regular Programme of FAO, nor of any other organization of the United Nations system. I make these preliminary observations since the actual evaluation of the results of TCP is to some extent linked to the very nature of that programme.

Turning back to the exercise of evaluating TCP, my delegation feels that we should be grateful for being able to rely on the dispassionate and informative report in document CL 74/14. The report, which the Programme Committee has examined thoroughly, and I must say conscientiously, draws a number of important conclusions which the Programme Committee in its collective wisdom found it appropriate to endorse.

Without wishing to be repetitive, I feel nonetheless compelled to underline a couple of the conclusions of the Report which in our view should be kept in mind by the Council. Logically the first of these conclusions is that the TCP projects are being implemented strictly in accordance with the aims, criteria and focuses originally envisaged for the programme. From that it follows that the operations within TCP have not departed from their approved objectives. More specifically, the findings of the evaluation, as reflected in the Director-General's report, leave no doubt that TCP's activities in the past two years

have focussed primarily on increasing food production, that the poorer segments of the population have been, practically in all cases, the real beneficiaries, and finally that the programme has shown a high degree of flexibility, efficiency and speed in dealing with the most pressing needs in the recipient countries. All this is brought out very clearly in the Director-General's report.

On the basis of our own experience we would like to say that we agree unreservedly with this assessment, as we also share the belief that notwithstanding its limited resources the operations of TCP have succeeded in ensuring a high and most welcome degree of government involvement. This last point is in our view particularly crucial, since technical cooperation is only relevant and desirable when the beneficiaries are in fact matched with the purported benefits.

There is now a dialogue, a fruitful and welcome dialogue, between FAO and the Member States. For once we have a programme in which participating countries are unmistakably interested and which provides a sense of partnership that is directly linked to the unprogrammed nature of TCP. Programmes within TCP are planned by the recipient countries themselves. They are not superimposed from outside but emerge from the grass roots. From those we are making development a reality. They are not based on hypothetical requirements conceived in a faraway office but on a directly felt need, clearly identified within a specific context.

This particular virtue of TCP is highly significant in the field of agricultural development, for agriculture is an economic activity in which plans cannot possibly take into account all the developments nor possibly contemplate the infinitely varied conditions of production which might result from climate, soil, available technology, etc. In the light of this my delegation is not at all surprised to read in document CL 74/14 that it was felt that TCP is a crucially important innovation which has made a remarkable start.

On the basis of these observations, fully supported by our own experience with the Technical Cooperation Programme, my delegation would like to concur with the recommendations to governments reproduced in paragraph 13 of the document under review and with the proposals for Council approval advanced in paragraph 17 of the same document. Our endorsement of these recommendations and proposals is extended in the belief that they are geared to the further improvement of TCP as a flexible programme capable of providing short-term urgent assistance with a clear multiplier effect in the development process of the recipient countries. I very much hope that the Council will endorse these recommendations and proposals and, based on its own positive evaluation of TCP, will favour a strengthening of that programme in the next biennium.

What is in question in this evaluation exercise is our determination to bring about a new and innovative phase in international cooperation for development, more effective, more authentic and more attuned to the requirements of those really in need of the support of the international community. As the second largest contributor to the Regular Programme of the Organization among the developing countries, after China, we take comfort in identifying a case in which beyond any possible doubt scarce resources are being used in a most effective and rational manner.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Sr. Presidente, al iniciar esta disertación de hoy, quisiera agradecer al Sr. West, asistente al Director General, y al Sr. Trkulja, de Yugoslavia, Presidente del Comité del Programa, por sus intervenciones.

El Sr. Trkulja ha realizado un efectivísimo análisis, eficaz y muy verdadero de lo sucedido en el Comité del Programa. Por ello le expreso nuestro agradecimiento.

Quisiera iniciar esta intervención de la Delegación Venezolana sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y la evaluación del mismo, tal como lo ofrece a nuestra consideración el documento CL 74/14, solicitando de antemano, Sr. Presidente, su indulgencia y la de este Consejo por los minutos que me lleve exponer las ideas y opiniones que le transmite nuestra delegación. Trataremos, señor, de no traspasar los límites de sus deseos iniciales, pero la gran importancia que concedemos a esta materia nos induce a no ser estrictamente telegráficos.

Por supuesto que aprobamos en todos sus aspectos la intervención hecha hace pocos minutos por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77; hacemos nuestro todo su alcance y le agradecemos el haberlo expuesto tan claramente.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica que viene adelantando esta Organización, producto de la pragmática iniciativa del actual Director General, ha venido contando desde sus inicios con el apoyo y aliento del Gobierno de Venezuela y por supuesto, de nuestra delegación.

Hemos sido afortunados por haber sido testigos de su nacimiento en el ya histórico 69° Consejo de esta casa durante la primavera de 1976. Ya desde esa ocasión lo vislumbramos como un buen instrumento no solo de ayuda, sino de desarrollo para los países del mundo en desarrollo que tanta necesidad tienen de la misma, incluido naturalmente el nuestro.

Por ello nuestra gratitud es amplia y sincera y nuestro reconocimiento lleno de simpatía hacia el Director General, Edouard Saouma, por esta feliz iniciativa que hoy más que nunca deseamos apoyar.

En el 35 Comité del Programa, del cual formamos parte por mandato de este Consejo, discutimos ampliamente el tema de la evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, tal como nos fue presentado por la Secretaría del Comité y a la luz de los resultados obtenidos en la evaluación encargada por el Director General al Asesor Linner y la cual reviste un carácter privado entre ambos.

Estimamos en su real valor esa iniciativa del Director General con la cual sólo pone de manifiesto su sinceridad y preocupación por el funcionamiento de este programa básico dentro del cuerpo general de políticas con que encuadra su gestión administrativa.

El Informe del 35 Comité del Programa ofrecido a consideración de este cuerpo, recoge claramente nuestra opinión sobre la marcha del PCT y sobre las medidas que serían necesarias adoptar a objeto de reforzarlo y a fin de hacerlo más dinámico y efectivo, características éstas indispensables e inherentes a su propia condición.

Apoyamos pues, en toda su magnitud las medidas recogidas en el Comité del Programa y en la evaluación realizada por el Asesor particular al Director General. Nuestro Gobierno ha adelantado un análisis paralelo sobre el PCT y su funcionamiento, para lo cual ha sido necesario realizar una investigación concreta de carácter bilateral. Nos agrada hoy reconocer que los resultados son satisfactorios, llenos de amplitud y objetividad si se tiene presente el arco de acción cubiertos por el PCT durante sus dos años de vida.

Sería injusto no reconocer la acción del PCT en nuestra propia región latinoamericana, muchos de cuyos países solicitaron ayuda y obtuvieron respuesta efectiva y rápida en cada uno de los casos, para lo cual no se dejó prevalecer ningún tipo de criterio restrictivo.

Por todo ello nos sentimos agradecidos y hacemos sincera mención de nuestro reconocimiento.

No obstante todo lo que me he permitido mencionar en esta intervención, opinamos que, al igual que cualquier iniciativa es proclive de aceptar mejoras sin perder de vista su objetivo final, el programa de Cooperación Técnica es capaz igualmente de aceptarlas, para lo cual dispone de los elementos y elasticidad necesarios.

En este sentido apoyamos en su completa amplitud las medidas adoptadas por el Director General y enunciadas en los párrafos 14, 15 y 16 del documento CL 74/14, tendientes a lograr una mayor interacción del PCT dentro de las estructuras internas de las actividades técnicas y administrativas de la FAO.

Igualmente, nos parecen aceptables y justas las recomendaciones que el Director General eleva a los gobiernos sobre la base de la experiencia adquirida.

Al analizar las propuestas sometidas a consideración del Consejo, tenemos que reconocer que no llegamos a entender a cabalidad el por qué limitar a un máximo de tres países el eventual frente común de ataque en el caso de un problema común para el cual puedan destinarse recursos especiales del PCT, tal como se describe en la primera de estas recomendaciones. Entendemos que así la acción del PCT se vería reforzada y la misma revistiría un carácter más eficaz, permitiendo que el mismo produzca efectos multiplicadores originados en su propia acción específica.

Las relaciones económicas regionales y subregionales en la actualidad y en el futuro previsible, se están acometiendo en gran medida bajo el espíritu de estructuras económicas integradas, a cuya disposición se han colocado instituciones especializadas con carácter de cooperación y colaboración interregional.

Me permito recordar aquí la existencia en América Latina del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA) con sus Comités de Acción para diferentes áreas. Pues bien, pensamos que debería darse la oportunidad a que el PCT ejerciera su acción en determinados casos como los que contempla la Recomendación primera al Consejo, produciendo efectos multiplicadores por demás positivos y coadyuvantes a ejercer efectos colaterales de tipo integracionista. Esta pudiera ser, una acción del PCT que, reforzada como la entendemos, produciría grandes y eficaces efectos.

Para concluir, desearíamos definir la posición de la Delegación de Venezuela, en el sentido de declarar nuestra total inconformidad ante la idea de restringir a niveles inaceptables los límites permisibles de uso de recursos ordinarios del PCT, destinados a la adquisición de insumos físicos y equipos en los propios países solicitantes de la colaboración. Creemos sinceramente, que la mencionada opinión no tiene ningún sentido desde el punto de vista de la ayuda a los países en desarrollo y que por lo tanto no debería avanzar, pues la misma estaría llamada a desvirtuar y desmentir la tantas veces expresada buena voluntad de los países desarrollados para contribuir y colaborar al desarrollo del cada vez mayor número de países en vías de desarrollo que necesitan urgentes acciones de ayuda comercial y financiera.

Concluyo, entonces, apoyando en nombre de nuestra delegación el funcionamiento actual del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en su total amplitud, tal cual ha sido presentado en esta Casa por el Director General, señor Saouma, y adelantado por su misma administración; igualmente apoyamos la evaluación del Asesor Linner y al PCT en toda su extensión. Agradezco altamente a usted, y a este Consejo, por la paciencia que me han dispensado, pero realmente consideramos un deber intervenir en este tema, tal como lo hemos hecho.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos felicitar muy cordialmente al señor Trkulja por la forma clara y concreta como ha hecho su primera presentación ante el Consejo en calidad de Presidente del Comité del Programa. La lectura del documento CL 74/14 arroja dos conclusiones fundamentales para la consideración de este tema. La primera, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, constituye buen éxito y se ejecuta de acuerdo con los objetivos, los criterios y las prioridades establecidas como se afirma enfáticamente en el párrafo 10.

La segunda, en la ejecución del programa ha existido plena cooperación por parte de los representantes residentes del PNUD y se ha asegurado la necesaria coordinación, es decir, que no se ha producido la fragmentación de que hablaron algunas pocas delegaciones cuando por primera vez nuestro Consejo se ocupó de este asunto; por el contrario, el párrafo 10 del documento, confirma que no se ha duplicado ni reemplazado la asistencia procedente de otras fuentes, sino que se las ha complementado.

A juicio de la delegación de Colombia, bastarían estos dos hechos fundamentales para afirmar que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se ha ganado su propia luz verde, y tiene derecho a seguir figurando como parte integrante del Programa Ordinario de la FAO, con las reorientaciones propuestas por el Director General, y ojalá con creciente asignación de recursos, porque esto nos parece tan claro y tan obvio que no entendemos, aunque respetamos, la reserva que ha hecho un miembro del Comité del Programa y que aparece en los párrafos 1.6-3 y 1.6-4 del documento CL 74/5. Queremos destacar la labor que ha realizado el señor Linner, Consultor independiente. Sabemos que hizo numerosos viajes y sobre el terreno él pudo constatar directamente los beneficios tangibles del Programa, que, como lo afirma en su carta, representa una afortunada innovación la rapidez con que se atendieron las solicitudes y se ofreció la asistencia. ;Es sin duda, parece esencial, para la eficacia del programa, que deberá seguirse con esa rapidez y eficacia que constituyen el carácter diferente y positivo del Programa.

El apoyo que los gobiernos han ofrecido al PCT, según el párrafo 13, confirman la validez y la aceptación general del Programa, y a nuestro juicio, debiera también ofrecer razones de meditación al PNUD y a las agencias de ejecución para que traten de mejorar el manejo de la Asistencia Técnica y ofrecer más atención a los gobiernos en cuanto hace referencia a los retardos habituales en la ejecución de los proyectos que todo conocemos.

En el Anexo 1, la realización cuantitativa indica que de 433 solicitudes se aprobaron 303, o sea, cerca del 65 por ciento. La distribución geográfica que aparece en el párrafo 1 del Anexo 2, parece equilibrada, ojalá que sigan conservando estas proporciones en el futuro en América Latina.

Entendemos que el PCT se ha concentrado esencialmente en los países de Centroamérica y del Caribe. Esto nos parece adecuado porque son estados que tienen un grado de desarrollo diferente al de la mayoría de las naciones de Sudamérica. Sin embargo, en Colombia también nos estamos beneficiando del PCT porque ha ofrecido atención inmediata a las solicitudes de nuestros Gobiernos.

Sobre las propuestas sometidas a la aprobación del Consejo que aparecen en el párrafo 17, apóyanos el Apartado I a fin de que el PCT amplíe su radio de acción y vaya más allá de un solo país y pueda ofrecer asistencia a varios países cuando sea necesario, tal como se refleja en el párrafo 19 del Anexo.

La delegación de Colombia está igualmente de acuerdo con los Apartados II, III y IV, por considerar que es necesario conservar la flexibilidad en los plazos, estimular las inversiones y adoptar nuevas medidas de acuerdo con la evolución que vaya presentándose. En cambio, nos preocupa un poco la afirmación del párrafo 28 del Anexo, según la cual la utilización de instituciones nacionales y expertos locales ha sido más bien limitada. Habrá que insistir para lograr que se incremente el mayor uso de las instituciones y de los expertos nacionales, punto sobre el cual apoyamos la recomendación del Comité del Programa. Comprendemos que esto no es fácil en todos los países en desarrollo, pero vale la pena seguir explorando las posibilidades a este respecto.

Los párrafos 13 y 16 del documento, nos parecen muy acertados en cuanto se refieren a las misiones que vayan a los países de menor desarrollo para ayudarlos a identificar y preparar proyectos que les permitan utilizar los recursos del PCT. Consideramos en este campo que la función de los representantes de la FAO en los países sigue siendo muy importante. A este respecto queremos aquí dejar constancia del reconocimiento y del aprecio positivo del Gobierno de Colombia por la labor que viene cumpliendo en nuestro país el señor Emilio Trigueros, Representante de la FAO, que con su inteligencia y consagración viene ofreciendo valiosa asistencia al Gobierno colombiano y particularmente a nuestro Ministerio de Agricultura.

En síntesis, la delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo con esta estimación provisional, así la ha llamado en forma acertada el Comité del Programa, y espera que nuestro PCT siga siendo cada día más positivo y valioso.

C. BATAULT (France): A la 69ème session du Conseil, le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, avait proposé la création d'un programme de coopération technique permettant de faire face à des situations inattendues, et de répondre à des besoins imprévus surgissant dans le cadre du programme de développement établi par les gouvernements et des autres programmes d'aide technique financière.

L'objectif du PCT était de donner aux Etats Membres une aide rapide et souple au moyen d'interventions urgentes et de faible ampleur.

Comme l'avait fort bien souligné à l'époque le Directeur général, il s'agissait de donner à l'Organisation une dimension nouvelle en la rendant essentiellement opérationnelle, le programme pouvant servir en plus de catalyseur stimulant l'afflux de ressources tant extérieures qu'intérieures vers le secteur agricole.

Comment devons-nous aujourd'hui, à la 74ème session du Conseil, évaluer ce programme qui fait partie intégrante de la FAO et a pu être mis en oeuvre grâce à des économies réalisées sur d'autres parties du budget de l'Organisation?

Tout d'abord, nous devons féliciter le Directeur général des résultats déjà acquis par le PCT. L'évaluation qu'il en a faite, présentée par le Secrétariat dans l'excellent document CL/74/14 et avec talent par M. West, correspond à la notre, et la délégation française est particulièrement satisfaite de voir que les projets approuvés en faveur des pays les moins avancés et le plus gravement touchés représentent plus de la moitié des crédits affectés. C'est tout à l'honneur du Directeur général et de ses collaborateurs qui se sont attelés à cette tâche avec autant d'efficacité que d'ardeur.

Ainsi, pouvons-nous souscrire aux recommandations aux gouvernements présentées au paragraphe 13 du document qui nous est soumis.

Je voudrais toutefois faire quelques remarques.

Tout d'abord, nous nous félicitons et nous réjouissons de la bonne coopération qui s'est établie entre le PCT et les représentants résidents du PNUD. Nous nous demandons toutefois ce que signifie exactement l'observation contenue au paragraphe 27 de la page A5, selon laquelle la coordination avec d'autres organismes intéressés au niveau des pays n'est pas satisfaisante.

De quoi et de qui s'agit-il exactement; si ce n'est pas indiscret de sa part, la délégation française serait heureuse d'avoir des précisions à cet égard.

Je souhaiterais également que l'on précise dans quelles circonstances la mise en oeuvre d'actions d'urgence nécessitent un délai de six mois. Je crois d'ailleurs le comprendre mais j'aimerais tout de même avoir une précision à cet égard.

Enfin, nous approuvons dans l'ensemble les propositions du Directeur general. Le paragraphe 16 tendant à affecter 200 000 dollars par an pour permettre à certains pays d'identifier leurs besoins ne saurait recueillir notre accord. En effet, nous savons que chacun des projets du PCT est étudié et identifié avec beaucoup de soin avant d'être mis en oeuvre, et à notre avis cette identification supplémentaire risque simplement d'entraîner le PCT à s'éloigner de son but et à entrer en concurrence avec d'autres organisations compétentes.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, la proposition tendant à étendre de 12 à 24 mois certains projets du PCT, bien qu'elle puisse parfois répondre, nous le comprenons fort bien, à des situations réelles, doit, nous semble-t-il, être rejetée en principe car elle s'éloigne du but essentiel du programme qui est de faire face à des situations d'urgence, nécessitant des projets à court terme en évitant tout double emploi, comme vient de le souligner le Président du Comité du programme.

Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais mieux faire à cet égard que de rappeler les quatre principes excellemment définis par le Directeur général lors de la création du PCT: Préparation et survie des investissements, formation, principalement d'ordre pratique, besoins d'urgence faisant notamment suite à des fléaux naturels, besoins imprévus.

Telles sont les bases du PCT et tels sont les principes qui ont procédé à sa fondation.

C'est l'application de ces principes, Monsieur le Président, qui en fait, selon l'expression employée judicieusement par le porte-parole du Groupe des 77, "un véritable catalyseur des efforts de développement".

Il nous apparaît donc essentiel de voir le PCT, puisque nous voulons assurer son avenir, rester dans le cadre qui lui a été fixé à l'origine, qui en a fait le remarquable succès de cet organisme opérationnel de la FAO, de cet instrument original et efficace dont notre Organisation, pensons-nous, peut légitimement être fière.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/6

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA
(29 November 1978)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Sexta Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo"

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

16. Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (continued)

16. Evaluation du Programme de coopération technique (suite)

16. Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (continuación)

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): At the initiative of the Director-General, the Technical Cooperation Programme of the FAO to the United Nations was established in 1976 to provide quick and direct aid for small-scale short-term agricultural and rural development projects in developing countries. The Programme has thus been in existence for nearly two years. Normally two years would be considered too short a period for a definitive opinion on the success or otherwise of the Programme. However, the proof of the pudding lies in the eating.

We in Pakistan have found the Programme to be of immense benefit in meeting short-term agricultural requirements. Last year we were facing problems with declining yields of two important crops, rice and cotton. A request was made to the Director-General for assistance in September - a mission comprising some eminent experts was in Pakistan in October, and the final report was in the hands of my Government towards the end of November. My object in bringing this to the notice of the Council is simply to highlight how this prompt and timely assistance has helped to bridge the gap. Normally it would have taken six months to a year even to conclude negotiations for a mission of this size.

Another example of the TCP in action was more recently, when we in Pakistan had one of the worst attacks in recorded history of rust in the wheat crop. A request for a resistant variety of seeds was made to the Director-General by telegram on the 23 August 1978. He immediately sanctioned a sum of US\$ 250,000 by telex on 30 August 1978 - thus the time which elapsed between the making of the request and the sanctioning by the Director-General was approximately one week. The net effect of this prompt response was that we were able to put in wheat seed and utilize it this season, when our sowing started on the 15 October. I am sure you could not find a more outstanding example of a more crucial import being obtained at a more crucial moment. This is also an outstanding example of the use of Programme Resources in helping the developing countries.

Even more recently the Director-General also responded to an urgent request by sanctioning US\$ 200,000 to help the situation caused by desert locust. This help was timely, and is proving highly effective in meeting a potentially disastrous situation. We take this opportunity of expressing our profound thanks for the most well-timed and valuable help extended to us by the Director-General under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Judging from the experience of my own country, which I am sure is shared by many other developing countries, the TCP has made a remarkable start. It has kept to its objective, which is to provide assistance to member countries in a rapid and flexible way with urgent and relatively small interventions. The Director-General, in one of his reviews, spoke about the TCP giving a new dimension to FAO, and I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the TCP has done this and perhaps more. We fully support the concept behind the TCP, and hope that the Director-General will go on making efforts to make it stronger and even more meaningful. In this, too, he will have our full support.

We hope that the Council will seriously examine the possibility of enhancing the existing allocation available to the TCP. We understand that requests for assistance under the TCP have been received from 109 FAO members. This is a very significant fact, because it reflects the interest that member countries of FAO are taking in this Programme.

We are particularly gratified by the high degree of government involvement in recipient countries, which again is an indication of the interest in the Programme. We note with satisfaction that the Director-General is already taking steps to improve further the working of the TCP.

In this connection, we have two suggestions. First, we would suggest that guidelines to governments for preparation of TCP project requests should be kept as simple, clear and concise as possible; and secondly, we feel there should be a high use of national institutions particularly for training projects and of legal expertise in the implementation of TCP. In this connection we feel that countries themselves should play a more active role by identifying national institutions which could help.

In conclusion, we fully support the proposals outlined in paragraphs 13-17 of document CL 74/14.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): Allow me to begin by joining my voice to those who have already expressed their thanks to the Secretariat for this document which has been presented to us. It is very clear and complete. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his additional information.

For several years now, I have had the honour of taking part in the meetings between the Prime Minister of our country and the Director-General of FAO - the Director-General of that time. There were long discussions on the international activities, and more specifically on the activities of FAO and the participation of the Arab Jamarahiya in this work. I recall quite well the Minister of my Government at that time recalling the Jamarahiya is very concerned with the objectives and goals of the Organization and its activities. He also affirmed he would like to see FAO more active and closer to the problems and concerns of the developing countries. There should be more imagination in the work of FAO.

This morning, listening to the statement made by the Director-General, we thought FAO had become much closer to this idea we had of what the Organization should be. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but FAO to date - and today particularly - is on the right road. This change in the Organization, which we have noted most particularly today, was not an easy task to achieve. It was not a question of simple statements or goodwill, it took effective action on the bringing into question of existing principles, the continual updating of the rules and regulations of the Organization itself so that they would be more appropriate. This was also possible thanks to the introduction of flexible programmes which were in keeping with the problems of the developing countries.

I also think the TCP, which we are presently discussing, is the best example of what has given to the FAO its greater impetus for activity. I will not go into lengthy details here about the TCP or go into all the positive aspects of this Programme. It is sufficient to say that those countries who have resources to the TCP or present objectives which the TCP have been ever-increasing in number, and this is proof of the fact that all the countries of our Organization, without any geographic discrimination, give their full support to the Programme.

I would here like to go along with the delegate of Pakistan and what he has said when he referred to this being a living Programme. The TCP is a Programme which receives support for the developing countries which need such a programme.

I would reaffirm once again our support to the Technical Cooperation Programme and the need to strengthen it and to take another step forward. We would go along with the Director-General in his suggestion in this field.

We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Group of 77 who expressed very clearly indeed the stand of the Group of 77, and we would support wholeheartedly what has been said by its Chairman.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to reaffirm to you personally and to the Director-General and the members of the Council the support of the Jamarahiya to our Organization and to its leadership, and say we will do all we can so that the support of the Organization can be carried out in a practical way so that the Organization can be even more effective. If our membership in the Council is about to end, I would just like to say we will continue to support the Organization and to support you.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my thanks also to Mr West for his very useful and succinct introduction of this item, and for the accurate presentation given to us by the Chairman of our Programme Committee. I am glad that I have an opportunity to express my views, and the views of my Government, in the elaboration of what is contained in the Programme Committee Report.

The item under our consideration, the Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme, is one to which my delegation attaches particular importance. It is a programme which, as the Director-General has emphasized, is envisaged as an aspect of this Organization's increasing emphasis on practical work in the field. My Government has supported, and will continue to support, that emphasis. The United States Government continues to put increasing amounts of its bilateral assistance into agriculture and nutrition. It is also at the same time increasing its contribution to multilateral technical assistance through voluntary programmes such as UNDP. In addition, as the Director-General noted in his statement at the opening of our Session, we are providing increased voluntary extra-budgetary support directly through the FAO in important emergencies and Technical Assistance Programmes for the Sahelian regions.

We also plan shortly to provide a three million dollar contribution to the FAO's post-harvest losses account. Therefore the issue for us is not whether FAO should maintain its practical orientation towards field programmes or whether technical assistance should be provided through FAO to developing countries. The issue for us in the United States, and it is an issue that we regard with particular seriousness at this time, is whether we should contemplate using the Regular Budget of FAO or other UN agencies financed by assessments, which are obligatory for their members, for technical assistance programmes except in exceptional circumstances. For us these would be programmes involving problems affecting all or most of the membership or the most urgent kinds of problems which cannot be met by established bilateral and multilateral channels which are voluntarily funded.

We welcome the evaluation which has been provided us by the Director-General with the assistance of an outside consultant. There appears to be no serious question that the managers of the programmes have been attentive to the terms of reference and that the programme has been useful to the developing countries.

What we do question is whether the present terms of reference and some of the suggestions for extending them open too many possibilities for launching less urgent, longer-term projects which could be handled through voluntary funding channels. We feel that the emergency category of the TCP and the projects carried out under it are free of this doubt and that the programme has made its most valuable contribution in this field. In our view it deserves much praise, especially for its fast responses on desert locusts, African swine fever, coffee rust and threats of this kind which seriously affect the interests of substantial numbers of member states.

The improved financial posture of the UNDP and its increased capabilities to fund technical assistance through the FAO argue in our view for specially careful efforts to use this channel to meet needs in the training and fellowship area. For example, UNDP funding commitments to FAO-implemented projects reached \$ 116 million this year compared with \$ 88 million in 1977 and \$ 105 million in 1976, and we estimate it will total as much as \$ 135 million in 1979, which would be the highest on record. These figures include UNDP cost-sharing contributions. FAO's share in 1979 will once again be about one-third of the total UNDP contributions to all specialized agencies. Use of the UNDP Resident Representative's authority to approve projects of up to \$400,000 should be examined in every case by the FAO Representative before recommending the use of TCP funds for any projects.

With regard to the investment category, the increasing project identification requirements on the FAO Investment Centre by amply funded investment agencies raise the question as to how much additional project identification work it can effectively handle and if it can do so what its priorities should be. These are questions which we hope to gain a fuller understanding of at the next meeting of the Programme Committee. We think they are relevant, even though the amount of TCP work that is being done in the project identification category is modest.

There are further relevant suggestions relating to the percentage of physical inputs which we made in the Programme Committee that we also believe deserve consideration.

None of these observations are intended as criticism of the Programme's management. We believe that for the most part it has done a careful job within the guidelines established, although we would prefer to see tighter guidelines emphasizing emergencies and a total balance of impact well above the 59 percent registered so far for the most needful countries.

I appreciate the opportunity to make these observations. I hope that they will receive careful consideration as this programme moves ahead. While my government strongly favours the use of voluntary funding channels for technical assistance, we recognize that the Technical Cooperation Programme is an attempt to meet a need for small-size, short-term, quick response action and advice which other technical assistance procedures cannot meet. To the extent that we become convinced that its projects respond to urgent and otherwise unfundable needs with a strong emphasis on emergency assistance and on the provision of technical competence and advice which is FAO's strong suit, we think we will be better able to win over those influential quarters in our country and other countries who have doubts.

We hope that the programme will continue to refine and improve its procedures, as the Director-General's Report for this item indicates that it is doing. We would have some questions, however, regarding the latitude being proposed for country representatives in providing TCP assistance unless this were limited to emergencies. We expect, as the final paragraph of the Programme Committee Report suggests, to continue to review aspects of the work of this programme at appropriate occasions with a view to another evaluation, within which we trust not only the performance with respect to the terms of reference but also the terms of reference themselves will be carefully examined. In the meantime we hope that developing countries will continue looking to the voluntary programmes as the primary funding source for increased levels of technical advice and assistance of the kinds that they need and to regard the Technical Cooperation Programme as a rather special and exceptional resource to be utilized in specially pressing circumstances.

The foregoing represents a more or less general comment on the nature of the Technical Cooperation Programme. I would like to reserve the right to return to the discussion if necessary to provide greater detail or to address other dimensions of the issue should the debate move in such directions.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIU (Greece): I think there is no doubt that the Technical Cooperation Programme initiated in 1976, the creation of which was welcomed with great satisfaction by the majority of the members of the Council in July 1976, has proved and has confirmed its validity and its value for the developing countries, in particular for the least developed and the most seriously affected countries, which today face the most serious problems. In a short period of time this programme achieved extremely satisfactory results and responded speedily and effectively to unforeseen and urgent needs. The fact that the applicants for this kind of assistance are almost jostling each other before the gate I think speaks for itself. Nevertheless we must express our appreciation to the Director-General for submitting to us today a very comprehensive and objective evaluation report of the activities of the TCP. This evaluation shows clearly the role which the TCP plays in increasing food production and improving the incomes of small farmers. Furthermore, the programme stimulated the interests of the governments in FAO and involved their participation in its projects. We do not think that there is in the report any new element which would lead us to revise our position regarding TCP. The evaluation report of TCP has been carefully examined by the members of the Programme Committee, which confirmed by an overwhelming majority the validity of the concept of the problem and its great value to the developing countries.

As far as the future of the programme is concerned we are of the opinion that it must maintain its activities in order to meet even more effectively urgent or emergency requirements and to ameliorate the state of the poorer segments of the population and to fulfil the aim for which it was established.

We fully endorse the recommendations to governments contained in paragraph 13 of the report and agree with the proposals for Council approval in paragraph 17 of the same document.

CHAIRMAN: Before I proceed with my regular lists I would like to call on the Chairman of the Group of 77 for an intervention on behalf of the Group that he wants to make: he has asked for the floor.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman of the Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I said at the beginning of our discussion of this item of the agenda that I might ask you for the floor again. This is not to reiterate certain arguments which have already been made this morning but rather to discuss a proposal of a draft resolution I would like to put to the Group. I would not want to prejugue the results of our discussion on this item of the agenda but I would like to explain to you why such a draft resolution should be adopted by consensus now rather than by vote. Our discussions have been very friendly in nature and I noted that the statement which I made at the beginning of our discussion was very widely supported by most of those who took the floor after me. Most of the delegations also expressed their points of view in a very positive and constructive manner. The majority of the delegations felt that the evaluation of the TCP was satisfactory. There were of course a few reservations made which are really quite minimal. We respect these resolutions, even though we do not agree with them. But I think other points were raised on certain specific problems which have more or less been solved. These are on the question of principle or on the concept of the TCP itself. So I think we have all the essential elements necessary to establish a consensus. The Group of 77 would like a resolution to be taken by the Council and for this to be done by consensus.

I would first of all like to say that we are not discussing here the creation or continuation of the TCP: rather we are discussing an evaluation of the TCP and of its activities.

Secondly, the consensus which we would have liked to have achieved does not mean that such and such a delegation was unable to express its point of view, even if this point of view is divergent from the majority. Thirdly, I think this is the proper moment for a resolution because the evaluation which has been presented to us is indeed very important. It is the first evaluation of what is considered a corner-stone in this Organization. The Director-General himself alluded to the fact that the TCP is considered a vital area for the Organization. Therefore, we should prove that we want to avoid any type of challenge and that we wish to express our opinions clearly and without any ambiguity. If there are any questions which require a decision, we feel that the evaluation of the TCP should be one of these questions.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to summarize the draft resolution which we would like to propose. It recalls the decision which was taken for the creation of the TCP in July 1976. The TCP was created after long and comprehensive study of all the activities which would take place within the scope of the TCP. Our draft resolution would also allude to the support given to the TCP within the format of the various regional conferences, and to the report of the Programme Committee where it refers to the TCP directly.

Our resolution would also highlight the fact that we consider the TCP as an integral part of the general programme of FAO. This is not a new point, but it is a very important one now and we need to reiterate and reaffirm this so that there will be no ambiguity possible on this issue. The draft resolution will also include the expression of our satisfaction on the document CL 74/14 on the evaluation of the TCP and we would also like to support what is stated in paragraph 17 of this document.

Finally, I do not think there is any problem in supporting and accepting what I have just stated, and even if there are certain difficulties for certain delegations for certain specific items, we feel that the majority of the Member States could accept this draft resolution. We would like the Director-General to clarify this situation on these few points for these delegations.

In regard to the 1981 period, we have a special paragraph dealing with this and the allocation for this period. We have drafted this resolution taking into consideration all these different points of view and particularly the point of view of those who feel it is necessary to increase the allocations for the TCP. We also tried to include the idea of those who feel that these allocations should be in keeping with the allocations in the general programme and we also include the point of view of the Director-General who can decide on any programme or budget which he presents to the Conference. We have decided on no objective nor on any sum or any ceiling for the budget of the general programme. We are simply asking the Director-General to do what he can within the framework of the programme of the TCP which is considered as a successful programme, and we hope that he will be able to consolidate and strengthen this TCP by a budget which he would feel is adequate, taking into consideration, of course, the need to meet the needs of the developing countries within the framework of the TCP. We have tried to be clear, and *we* have not tried to provoke anyone in any way. We have tried very sincerely not to cause any problems for anyone and we sincerely feel that this draft resolution will not create any problems, either here or elsewhere. Rather, we feel that this draft resolution would be of assistance to all those who would like to prove to others that all the Member Countries - or almost all - agree that the TCP should continue to be an integral part of the programme of the Organization.

This is why we would like to make an appeal to the minority who do not share our opinion not to go any further than is necessary or create any new problems or situations which could be troublesome. We would therefore like to recall that we are not asking for more than we have received to date, and what we are requesting we wish to request clearly. I should like to reaffirm that this draft resolution is very important to us. It is a draft resolution which is well-balanced, as I have already said, and which will make it possible to leave the Director-General free to decide on the budget of the TCP. Of course, all delegations are free to express their opinion on this question, but I think we could and should reach an agreement on the basis of a consensus. I think this draft resolution I am proposing on behalf of the Group of 77 can be included in our report without very lengthy discussion and without any opposition.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I take it that, as you have said, you submit this on behalf of the Group of 77, and therefore, when we come to further discussions, we can keep the discussion as short as possible because we have already got the crux of the matter. Therefore, perhaps this action would shorten our proceeding so that we shall be able to finish today, if possible.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom delegate wants the floor on a point of order.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am very sorry to intervene, but I did want to make the point, to express my surprise that we have had, I think, seven speakers from the Group of 77, and we have all listened with very great care. But I believe that while I was absent on our side of the table - if I can call it that - France made a statement before lunch which I regret I was not here to listen to. The United States delegate has also spoken. I gave notice to the Secretary-General very early that I should like to speak. This is a matter where the United Kingdom exceptionally - we usually keep quiet -but on this one we do have something to say, and therefore I am really rather surprised to find a resolution coming forward at this very early stage of the discussions which Mr. Kahlil said would be taking account of all points of view; but, with great respect, as one of the countries which has firmly supported TCP, my views have not been heard.

Secondly, I dislike hearing appeals to minorities when in fact we have not been heard. I have some favourable things to say about TCP and I wish them to be heard. I would hope that we can return to the question of any resolution when an expression of opinion has been given.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With all due respect for the distinguished delegate, of the United Kingdom, it was not a point of order.

CHAIRMAN: May I now ask the delegate of Tanzania to resume his discussion. I am sure that in the debate all points of view will be listened to. The reason why I allowed the Chairman of the Group of 77 to come in now is because I still have 37 speakers, and mostly Group of 77 speakers; so all points of view will be taken into account. Thank you very much United Kingdom.

J.S. MALECELA (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. I definitely would not wish to reply to the point of order, as it has already been done; but the purpose of taking the floor was simply to support the resolution which has been introduced by the Chairman of the Group of 77. However, I should like to stress the point that the resolution does reflect the views of the Group of 77, and that, in the course of time, we may or may not accept the views of other delegations, but I hope it will be possible to take into account the views of other delegations or contrary views which will be expressed against the resolution.

As I am taking the floor for the first time, I should like at the outset to express our appreciation for the able manner in which you, Mr. Chairman, have conducted the affairs of our Council since we elected you to that post of the Chairman of the Council. I need not stress the brotherly and cordial relations that exist between Tanzania and Nigeria. Indeed, we in Tanzania are very happy to see you in the Chair, and we promise you all our cooperation.

I should like also in the same way to congratulate warmly the three Vice-chairmen on their unanimous election to assist you in the deliberations of our current session of our Council. To all of you, once again, we should like to express the assurances of the Tanzanian delegation's cooperation.

Before I proceed to speak on the item to support the resolution which has been moved on the TCP programme, permit me to express our appreciation to the Director-General of FAO on the brilliant and useful speech which he made during the opening of this Session. The Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, attended the 10th FAO Regional Conference of Africa held in Arusha which my Government had the honour to host. The people of Arusha and, indeed, the people of Tanzania, still remember with cordial feeling the most remarkable contribution that the Director-General made in that conference. I wish to assure the Director-General that the people of Tanzania, and indeed the people of Arusha are looking forward to another great, longer visit by the Director-General to Tanzania.

We have been speaking on the question of the TCP Programme. Let me just give one brief example of the usefulness of this Programme. We in Eastern Africa did experience a phenomenon, an outbreak of locusts in our region. During the time of the locust outbreak I happen to have been the Chairman of the Eastern African Desert Locust Control Organization. After making urgent visits to Ethiopia and Djibouti to assess the seriousness of the situation I endeavoured to contact the Director-General of FAO with a view to soliciting his assistance on the problem. I was very impressed by the prompt and immediate manner in which the Director-General reacted favourably to our request.

I presume if it had not been for the TCP the Director-General would have been impotent to help us in this problem. Within three days experts from the FAO were in my office to assess the situation and see in what ways the FAO could assist us. To me personally, this was a record time in which an international organization had reacted to a regional need. Since that time the FAO has given all kinds of assistance to our region, to the extent that if the locust outbreak in the whole of Africa is not so much of a threat today, it is largely due to the immediate response of the Director-General of our Organization and this was possible because of the TCP.

I would therefore like to express our highest appreciation to him and his staff for the efficient manner in which they responded to our call. I also wish to express our sincere thanks to all of the governments which came to our assistance in various forms during this time, particularly those of the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Canada and the United States. While we express our appreciation to all those who helped us we would like to assure you that the problem of locust in Eastern Africa is far from being over. In

fact the most recent report indicates that these breeding areas have had favourable climatic conditions, including rains, which have made it possible for the locusts to continue breeding on a larger scale. We would therefore like to warn this Council that the danger of locusts in Eastern Africa still persists and there are still real possibilities of spreading, not only to other parts of Africa but most likely to the continent of Asia. We wish to appeal to the world community through this Council, to see the locust problem in Eastern Africa as an international problem.

Let me now turn to the subject of the TCP. I would like to refrain on the legal interpretation and the other interpretations which I feel some other delegations have already done. The government of Tanzania has been very much impressed by the number of tangible programmes that the TCP has been able to finance in the short time of its existence. We must, however, remember that the TCP programme was definitely a revolutionary and a timely programme introduced by the present Director-General, Dr. Saouma, as an instrument which would enable the FAO to respond to the urgent needs of the Least Developed Countries and the Most Affected Countries. I know for sure that apart from the developing countries there were some misgivings about this programme in certain quarters. These misgivings were given at the time and are still being voiced today, although without very much foundation. When the TCP Programme was introduced we heard, among other things, that it was going to give too much power to the Director-General to make decisions that would not be accounted for in the normal norms of FAO. We were told that the TCP Programme would in some way interfere with the bilateral assistance by Member States. Furthermore, we were told unless especially implemented TCP programmes were going to duplicate the efforts of recipient countries in certain areas of development. I have mentioned these few points simply because I want this Council to take a very serious view of the TCP programme. Tanzania has been, and indeed was intended to be one of the recipient countries. It will certainly make no difference if you call it an LDC or an MSA country. This is true of a number of other developing countries within the FAO. But those of my brothers who are meant to be the recipients of this programme we ask very sincere questions. Is it not we, the beneficiaries of this programme who should be the best judges? Is it not we who should come to tell this Council the shortcomings in this programme? After all, as the oldest saying goes, it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches.

We, and the many other developing countries, have come to a consensus that this programme is working for our benefit. We are even saying that for the first time the FAO, through the Director-General's initiative, has created an instrument that is capable of reacting to our urgent needs, irrespective of bureaucracy that burdens all international organizations, including the FAO.

Surely, with all this in view, we would have hoped that it would not have been necessary for us to defend the continuation of this programme but rather argue on the magnitude to which this programme should be increased. We were also of the view that for the first time the donors to this programme would be happy to hear from the recipient countries that their donations had been warmly received and effectively utilized in helping to solve at least a few of the urgent problems which face the developing countries. Nevertheless, because we highly respect the strong views of some of the donor countries, we are only confining ourselves to requesting the Director-General to strengthen the programme without even clearly saying by how much he should raise that programme. To us this language is really a language of compromise because it is meant to be an indirect appeal to the donor countries to see and appreciate our needs. The alternative, of course, would be a futile exercise of a very strong resolution which may not bear the desired results. As I said at the beginning, the Chairman of the Group of 77 spoke very briefly and indeed, he expressed the views of all of us regarding this matter. We therefore hope that it will be possible for all of us to support the resolution that has been introduced. We wanted the Director-General to know that we have appreciated very much his introduction of the TCP Programme. We want him to know that the Programme has been of great assistance to the urgent needs of many of us.

Finally, it is our hope that the Director-General, with all the odds against him, will continue with the singleness of purpose and the determination to strengthen and expand this useful Programme. It is our final hope that this resolution which has just been tabled and seconded by our delegation will be adopted by acclamation.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): First of all I would like to express our unconditioned support to the draft resolution presented by the Chairman of the Group of 77. I am firmly convinced that the TCP deserves this attention on the part of developing countries and also on the part of developed countries. I would likewise add that if we did not have such a truly effective programme, which was initiated on the initiative of the Director-General of FAO, we would have asked the FAO to come to something as effective as soon as possible, because this efficient body helps the LDCs and represents 1/3rd of developing countries. I would like to ask whether it is possible that all the arguments stated can reduce the importance and the efficacy of such a programme. The hope of many countries lies on this particular programme. So many countries expect so much of this important programme to aid their development because this development will open new profitable roads to these

countries. A great many speakers have taken the floor to support the TCP. The UNDP Representative has supported this programme and Iraq, which is certainly not a recipient country of this programme, urges on all the world to support the TCP to strengthen this programme and urges countries to support this programme which brings aid to so many countries.

On behalf of all the countries of the Near East I pay tribute to the efforts made by the Director-General in his struggle against poverty and hunger. I wish to pay tribute to his efforts, to all he has done to set up the TCP and on behalf of the Near East Countries I wish to support the draft resolution presented by the Chairman of the Group of 77.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): The item presently under discussion is one of the most important items of our Session. This is due to the fact that it is so closely linked to the interests of developing countries and also those of a number of developed countries. This can be clearly seen in the many requests and applications for projects presented to the Director-General by countries which represent over 70 percent of the members of FAO. I wish to thank the Director-General for the document which has been presented to us and which objectively covers the Programme. There are a number of serious and constructive proposals and projects. We have figures and data and these show all the support that the TCP gets from developing countries and how the TCP is a response to their urgent needs. The TCP is flexible and can readily come up with an answer to the needs of developing countries which cannot meet their needs through other channels within the FAO.

Egypt has contributed to the TCP, has carried out a number of projects which have led to rapid solutions to problems. We thank the Director-General who has in such a flexible way responded to our requests. This is why Egypt feels that the TCP is essential to meet the urgent needs of developing countries, and this is basically in the area of projects. Egypt feels that the amount so far allocated is insufficient to meet the growing requirements of developing countries. This is why Egypt urges FAO to consider this request in preparing the budget for the 1980-81 biennium.

In supporting the Resolution of the Group of 77, Egypt also supports the trend taken by the Director-General to implement decentralization as far as projects go. We propose that the Programme concentrate on urgent projects and on small experimental projects which cannot otherwise be taken care of under the regular FAO activities. These are matters which directly derive from the responsibilities of FAO.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I do not know whether it is too late in the day to compliment the presentation made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, but in his absence I dare to say that the Chairman of the Programme Committee himself is more presentable than his presentation, while on the other hand, Mr. West who introduced the subject, his presentation is perhaps more presentable than himself.

At this hour of the debate I feel that the merit of the Programme and the outstanding way it has performed so far has been established beyond the shadow of a doubt. It has done this not only from the results gained by those who have been benefited by it, those who have seen the Programme in action in their respective countries at the time of dire need, but also on the evaluation report by an independent source, as much independent as a former representative of the UNDP, and also by the views of the Director-General who has been in constant touch with the developing countries during his visit to the countries, not only talking to governments but talking to his representatives, talking to the UNDP representatives and all others concerned, a person whose views we must take with a lot of weight, a person who innovated the Programme to give a new dimension to the new FAO.

I have heard with interest not only the interventions by my colleagues but also the intervention made by my colleague from France, all of whom have supported the recommendations except for one or two observations which I will comment on later, and also my colleague from the United States of America whose intervention has been very careful.

I have gone through the Resolution tabled by the Chairman of the Group of 77. I feel at this stage it is necessary to respond to certain anxieties that our friends from the donor countries might have. In the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Council when the Director-General's proposal was approved, I listened more for two reasons: one, I was an Observer, and two, I was new, so I was shy. At that session the main points made by our donor countries were two. One was the fear of duplication, and the other was the problem of coordination with the UNDP. Now, on these two points we have the answer from the Evaluation Report of an independent source, and we have the answer from the report of the Programme Committee that there has not been any duplication or substitution. If there has been anything, it has been complementary and catalytic, so that fear is now completely answered.

It has also been answered by the statements made by the developing countries who have been the recipients that there has not been any duplication whatsoever. If we accept that, we come to certain points made by the United States as to whether or not to channel TCP through FAO, and if so, how much and for what purpose. The answer can be given by the person who raised the issue. The developing countries have given the answer. It has been good for us, we believe, and it has done good for us. It has responded at the time of our dire needs, and we think it should continue undisturbed in the way it has been going. The United States mentioned influential quotas. I believe the generous donors, the governments and legislators, are primarily concerned with one thing: to help the developing countries, the well-being of the developing countries. The developing countries themselves have made a frank confession and statement here that it has been good for them. So the influential quotas in USA and other countries could be considered.

A point has been made to make the Programme restrictive. The findings of the doctor is that when it is a case of malaria the medicine of typhoid would be applied. The finding of all quarters is that the Programme has been most helpful and it has made its impact in a period of two years. Would you restrict it at that stage or would you make it flexible and strengthen the Programme? I leave the answer to you.

We compliment, through the Representative of the United States, the Government of the United States for its increased contribution to the UNDP in this year and coming years. We also compliment them for the contribution they have made to the Food Losses Fund, and I also take this opportunity to mention that the United Kingdom has given beyond their share of the reserve a substantial contribution to the Food Losses Fund.

At this stage one or two points that were made by the Programme Committee have got to be answered. In the Programme Committee a point was made that the criteria should be restricted both with respect to physical inputs in general and to local purchase in particular. I thought it was a printing mistake, because if there have been more local purchases from the beneficiary countries, I would think that the donor countries should be happy. That is what we have been talking about in all these forums. Wherever there is an opportunity to make purchases from the developing countries whenever it is available. I do not think there would be any reservation as to this point. If you have physical input and if that physical input is available locally, the purchases should be made there. It benefits the developing countries in two ways.

The other point is about restricting it to only emergency nature. When this Programme was approved, the Council approved four categories of programmes to be taken up and emergency is one of them, but since FAO has a limited amount of \$250 000 per project, these are short-term programmes so they can respond to immediate needs.

The other point made in the Programme Committee; you restrict the inputs to ten per cent and beyond that you give it on a loan basis to the developing countries. I am afraid developing countries will not come to FAO for loans. There are other financial institutions to give loans. The role of FAO is not to give loans to developing countries. This is not an acceptable concept.

Coming on to the Resolution of the Group of 77, you will find, Mr. Chairman, there are two or three essential elements in this. One is the Programme has to be strengthened. Its criteria should remain undisturbed. It should be made a more flexible unit so that it can respond more immediately. Second, the Programme is to be expanded financially. These are the two most important criteria where the Group of 77 feel the Programme should be expanded. But the Group of 77 has not suggested any percentage of increase of the TCP, or any percentage of the programme for the TCP, although we are aware that in WHO, TCP is 60 percent of the programme.

It is necessary that we talk about the UNDP. We all know UNDP in 1976 overspent and they were going bankrupt, and in the following year they underspent and did not know where they were. We are happy to hear from the delegate of the United States that in the next year there will be US\$ 139 million for the agricultural sector with UNDP.

But this TCP programme is complementary and is catalytic. There are two arguments. If UNDP is expanding its Programme, TCP, which is complementary and catalytic, should also expand. Not long ago we had the TCDC Conference in Buenos Aires. One good thing which came out of it was the institution of no new organization. All the United Nations agencies wherever possible assist TCDC; we should take the programmes of the TCDC constantly under review by this Council and the Conference of the FAO.

Another point about the absorptive capacity of the developing countries: the Director-General in ECOSOC said if it is low in developing countries, absorption capacity must be increased.

The Regional Conference met and recommended expansion of the Programme, but I feel it is necessary to be directed by this Council. As you know, although the Regional Conferences are attended by Ministers and their views are at the level of Ministers, they have an advisory capacity. We at this stage should give guidelines to the Director-General when formulating his Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 to expand the Programme financially, and for that it is necessary to have a resolution passed in this Council.

In spite of all the success of this Programme and the outstanding way it has proceeded, I do not see any complacency on the part of the FAO or on the part of the innovator of the Programme. The Director-General in his opening statement said there was no room for complacency and I will quote: "This does not mean that we are complacent or see no room for improvement". On the contrary, the document itself proposes some changes which will make some necessary improvement of the Programme.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): In some ways I am very glad that I am quite new to FAO. I only came here just over a year ago and sometimes one can come with a fresher view of things. I had a feeling, listening to the debate, which I think is about half way through now, that we are going through and fighting old battles. I was wondering before lunch why there was a sort of defensive attitude towards the Programme and I did not understand this at all.

I jotted a note down this morning: I noted what seemed to me the antagonistic tones accompanying the debate. I would say, speaking personally - and I will go on if I may to express my Government's views - I am surprised at this and regret it. There is so much more on which we could agree, and should try to agree, than any process of confrontation. It was not my intention in my intervention after lunch in any sense to take issue. My point simply was, that surely the Members of this Council should have the opportunity of being heard before their views are taken into account. It is a simple point and I will not go into it again.

My opinion is that the issue is not whether there is a TCP - that is long past. We have all accepted it, and we are all satisfied there should be a Programme. The issue before us is a very simple one. The question is the evaluation of this Programme, and as I go on in a moment I will express my Government's views on it. We could waste an awful lot of time defending something that does not need to be defended. Before lunch, there was only one speaker from the developed countries. I will reserve my position on the Resolution as I want to read it. I believe Mr. Hart was trying to answer the reservations of donor countries, but he has yet to hear mine.

Let us see what my reservations are. First of all, I would like to say on behalf of the British Government that we welcome this evaluation which provides member countries with an interim assessment of the TCP. We feel first reports are encouraging, but we think it is a bit too early to evaluate the Programme on a final basis. We will continue to support the TCP as originally conceived; it fills an important gap in existing technical cooperation arrangements, and we are satisfied there has so far at least been no duplication of assistance from other agencies. We feel it is particularly encouraging that the Programme has enjoyed a high degree of government involvement in its projects. We welcome the action proposed by the Director-General to increase further the efficiency of the Programme at FAO Headquarters.

We would be interested to have further details of the proposed fund of \$200,000 to be set up to assist project identification. While we appreciate the administration and planning problems of LDCs, we hope this will not result in a longer period of project identification or any move away from the urgent and small-scale assistance of the Programme, which is its strength.

We wholeheartedly endorse the Director-General's suggestion in paragraph 13 of CL 74/14 and believe the effectiveness of the Programme will depend on a strict application of the criteria.

We are a little concerned about the proposed additions to the guidelines in paragraph 13. We think it is too early in the history of the TCP to make any changes in the criteria and a more appropriate moment would perhaps be during the full-scale review later. In this connection, we share the concern of the Programme Committee. As its Chairman mentioned earlier, the inclusion of inter-country projects in TCP might jeopardize the short-term nature of the Programme. TCP in our view is meant to provide modest provision within the regular budget for flexible and urgent assistance to Member Countries on a relatively small scale.

To judge by the breakdown in Annex 1 of the paper before us and the reports of the Independent Consultant and the various conferences, TCP has so far managed to fulfil its mandate. Until a full-scale review has taken place, however, we are not convinced the guidelines need to be changed.

A widening of the range of the categories of activities might indeed risk blurring the edges of a Programme, which has already within a very short space of time proved to be highly effective.

CHAIRMAN: We are very glad to listen to you, the delegate of the United Kingdom, and think you have made some very constructive remarks.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Cuando el Director General de La FAO propuso en oportunidad del 69° período de sesiones un Programa de Cooperación Técnica que le permitiera atender con mayor eficacia las necesidades imprevistas de los gobiernos, se dio sin duda una nueva dimensión a la actividad de la FAO.

El Programa permitió en forma inmediata una respuesta flexible y rápida por parte de la FAO a los gobiernos, por lo que los países que la hemos recibido estamos particularmente agradecidos.

Dentro de este Programa se incluía la capacidad de encarar globalmente un proyecto mediante la adquisición de material y equipo suministrado en el medio local, primer antecedente de colaboración técnica entre países en desarrollo. Numerosos países vieron convertidas en realidad la superación de dificultades de gran envergadura que les impedía enfrentar con éxito sus problemas.

Los 25 millones de dólares que se utilizan en este Programa son una pequeña gota de agua en el inmenso océano de los gastos improductivos que caracterizan el momento político internacional, pero significa una panacea importante para los países beneficiarios.

Los párrafos 8 a 13 del documento CL 74/14 nos informan sobre el resultado de las evaluaciones y no nos cabe ninguna duda que ellos son favorables, y éste es el punto importante que tenemos a consideración del Consejo.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica constituye, sin duda, una innovación de importancia crucial pues da a los gobiernos la oportunidad de obtener rápidamente la ayuda necesaria y urgente que, de otra manera, no hubieran podido alcanzar.

Apoyamos sin reservas las propuestas sometidas a la aprobación del Consejo en el párrafo 17. Creemos que en el sub-párrafo 1 son aplicables ampliamente las recientes disposiciones aprobadas en la Conferencia de Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, y exhortamos a la FAO a efectuar los mayores esfuerzos en este sentido siempre teniendo en cuenta el objetivo principal del Programa, esto es, aumentar la producción de alimentos e incrementar los ingresos de los productores.

Consideramos el Programa de Cooperación Técnica como uno de los grandes logros en la FAO y agradecemos al Director General por la inteligente y permanente dedicación a los proyectos encarados bajo su carátula.

Algunos países como el mío han visto ampliarse, gracias a este Programa, un amplio campo de cooperación en el Organismo y exhortan no sólo a la continuidad de sus actividades hasta otoño de 1982 en que podrá efectuarse una evaluación completa, sino a potenciarlas financieramente para darle mayor efectividad. Veríamos con gran reconocimiento que todos los países, sobre todo los grandes donantes cuya generosidad es bien conocida, procuraran hacer un esfuerzo en comprender esta posición que - parece coincidir en la mayoría, si no la totalidad de los países en desarrollo este deseo de conservar y potenciar este valioso Programa - implica unas auténticas aspiraciones de los países realmente necesitados y proporcionan una posibilidad importante a la FAO de contribuir a resolver por lo menos una mínima parte de sus problemas.

H. MENDS (Ghana): We have for the greater part of Monday and Tuesday listened to very eloquent presentations on the global food and agricultural situation. Those followed the terse analyses and powerful presentation of the Director-General on the theme "FAO in Action - 1978". In short, the food production effort in the developing countries, especially in Africa, is far below expectation and this has been chiefly attributed to the woeful dearth in resources and adequately relevant investment in agriculture in these regions.

My delegation doubts whether any others here question the efficient and purposeful manner in which the TCP has been run in the two years of its existence, as has been amply pointed out by the evaluation, nor are there doubts about the numerous benefits the objectivity, timelessness and flexibility of the programme have brought to its recipients, mostly in the least developed and the most seriously affected countries.

To say the least, my government was highly impressed with the speed with which our first request for assistance for seed production was handled by the Director-General. It took only 12 days to approve and implement the project after the document had taken nine weeks in its channel of submittal from the home government.

My delegation shares fully the views expressed in the document before us, document CL 74/14, and the conclusion of the Programme Committee, as contained in document CL 74/5. Indeed, TCP is a shining example of the solutions that the international community seeks in its constant quest for increased food production in the developing countries, as we continue to look for ways and means of expanding and strengthening the TCP programme. My delegation is of the opinion and really wishes that the existing trust fund arrangements under FAO could be more appropriately channelled through the TCP once requests are tied to priority programmes of the priority countries chosen by the donor countries.

To paraphrase Mr. Shefrin, the delegate of Canada, it is the hope of my delegation that this Council will not be the forum that sees problems to every solution to the harrowing hunger and malnutrition that mankind faces today.

It behoves us therefore, as the governing council of the only organization dedicated to ensuring food for all mankind to approve the proposals described in the document and endorsed by the Programme Committee to make the TCP more flexible and even more readily responsive to the multifarious needs of the food production efforts of the developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: I still have 27 people on my list and, as the United Kingdom delegate said, we really are going round and round in a debate which seems to me to be quite unnecessary because no new points have so far been made and since the resolution has been put by the Group of 77 that group must have considered their position and what they agreed upon before they put the resolution. Therefore I do not think we are using our time profitably by going over something which is already agreed. I propose, if members agree, to adopt the resolution by consensus. If any members object to it or to any clauses therein those members have the right to register an objection to it. But the resolution is now put and I suggest that we adopt it by acclamation if there is no dissent.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr. Chairman, I am awfully sorry that I cannot agree with that proposal. We still have a long list of speakers and I personally could not assume that no new points are going to be made. It is the feeling of my delegation that the views of all around the table are of equal importance. We would like very much to know the views which are still to be expressed by other speakers who have already registered.

CHAIRMAN: I am not stopping those who want to speak from speaking but I am appealing to members not to repeat what is in the resolution. If the delegate of Germany, who is number 41 on my list, or anybody else wants to take the floor to give us fresh ideas, that is most welcome. So I give the floor to Germany now, if Germany wishes to add anything fresh.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. Chairman. I do not know whether those who registered before me are in agreement with that procedure.

Many of the points that my delegation was going to make have already been covered by previous speakers, particularly by France, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Therefore at this juncture of our debate I will limit myself to those points which are in the view of my government of particular importance.

Firstly, we are in agreement with the Director-General that a complete evaluation of this new programme so shortly after its inception could not be expected. My government, too, considers the evaluation carried out as an interim assessment, sharing in this respect the view expressed by the Programme Committee.

My government assumes that this programme, like others of the organization, will be kept continuously under assessment and evaluation. The next opportunity for doing so will be the consideration of the proposal of the Director-General for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium (1980-81). In our view the TCP should be reviewed in detail at the next Conference in 1979 after a three-year period of experience. We expect that by that time more projects will have been approved and carried out.

We are looking forward with great interest to further information given about this activity by the Secretariat and would like to suggest that it should include a list containing all individual projects, thus complementing and updating the list given in document CL 71/INF/7-Corr.1. Such information might help to get a clear and comprehensive picture.

Secondly, my government is of the opinion that during the current phase the criteria, procedures and guidelines adopted originally for this programme should be maintained and any extension of this programme be kept in proportion to a possible overall increase of the Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81. My delegation shares in this respect the views expressed by other speakers, also the delegate of France, who stated that the present framework should be maintained.

Thirdly, with regard to technical assistance in general, my government continues to be of the opinion that the financing of technical assistance within the UN system is, as a matter of principle, the task of UNDP. The TCP must therefore retain its supplementary and catalysing function. It should not lose its special character of limited and clearly-defined functions.

Fourthly - and this is the last but one point I have to make at this juncture of our debate - I should like to refer to the unique role of the TCP as stated by the Secretariat, because action cannot be programmed in advance. The delegate of Brazil stressed in this context, if I understood him correctly, the very nature of agriculture where it is not possible to foresee all that happens during the year.

At the last session of the World Food Council it was stated that one of the reasons why agricultural production in many developing countries lagged behind the target set for the First and Second Development Decade was that agriculture was not given the necessary priority. When overall country development plans were drawn up other sectors than agriculture and nutrition received in many cases the highest attention. Measures in support of agriculture and nutrition were kept at a rather low level and were often not embodied into overall development actions. A full integration of agriculture and nutrition into overall development plans and activities is a prerequisite for achieving positive rural development. Isolated, not sufficiently coordinated measures have generally not the impact they could have.

My delegation feels therefore that it is absolutely necessary that the supplementary and catalysing functions of the TCP and its limited scope must be clearly made known to those government authorities who are responsible in recipient countries for overall planning. The existence of TCP should by no means lead to the fact that requests for development purposes made by the agricultural sector in a given country are not duly taken into consideration because it is felt that there are other sources than those for overall development, like UNDP, for its support. In other words, the TCP should never become counterproductive to agriculture.

Now I come to my last point. My delegation feels that there would actually be no need to have a resolution in support of this programme. Positive views were voiced and the points made at the regional conferences are well-known» We feel that the Director-General, taking into account all the views expressed around the table, would be in a position to put forward, together with his proposal for the next overall Programme of Work and Budget, also his proposal for the activities of the TCP. If my memory does not betray me, recently we did not have resolutions in support of any given programme, and actually it is hard to see why one should separate this programme from an overall review of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We would rather prefer it if the views expressed were included in the report. As for the text tabled, my delegation would at this time have to reserve its position.

CHAIRMAN: As I have said, I am not stopping anyone from speaking, and out of the 27 I have on my list, those who wish to speak will speak. I now have four who wish to speak and I am not saying that all the others are not going to speak, if you wish to; but we have a resolution in front of us, it is the resolution of the Group of 77 and we will come to a decision on that at the end of our deliberations.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je dois d'abord vous dire, M. le Président, que je ne comprends pas votre façon de mener le débat parce que sur ma liste l'Italie précède la Belgique et je ne vois pas pourquoi on abandonnerait la liste des orateurs. Je ne voudrais prendre la parole de personne. Pourrais-je demander au Secrétariat d'appeler les pays dans l'ordre dans lequel ils se sont fait inscrire.

CHAIRMAN: Can I call out my list, and those who want to speak, I will stop for them. India? No. Cuba? No. Philippines? No. Jamaica? No. Indonesia? No. Afghanistan? No. Sri Lanka? No. Zaire? No. Thailand? No. Malta? No. Guinea Bissau? No. Mauritius? No. Italy?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As a matter of clarification, I assume that the delegates who said no meant that they supported the resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, for the clarification. Of course, they support their own resolution, that is taken for granted. I am not making any confusion on that: they say they support the resolution.

Before I call on the delegate of Belgium, the Group of 77 have raised their flag. I do not know whether it is a point of order; if it is not, then we will go on to Belgium.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman, Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): I apologize for asking for the floor for the third time, but the draft resolution which I presented is clear. A text has been distributed to all the Members, and I would like to point out at this time that all the Members of the Group of 77 have approved without exception this draft resolution. I therefore feel that if there are any reservations, the Member States should express their reservations and the Drafting Committee should note them in a specific paragraph at the end of the report in which they are given the right of expressing opinions. However, on behalf of the Group of 77, I should like to say that all the Member Countries have supported this resolution and I would therefore ask you, Mr. Chairman, to present it and take a decision; and if there are any other points, then they can be taken up later.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. I will give a chance to all those who want to speak to do so.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Notre Directeur général tout à l'heure a pris la parole pour faire remarquer au délégué du Royaume-Uni que son point d'ordre n'était pas un point d'ordre, et peut-être que le Directeur général avait raison. A mon tour je vais commencer par faire une observation qui concerne la procédure, savoir la manière dont vous, M. le Président, dirigez les débats. Vous avez choisi de donner la parole à un délégué pour une deuxième intervention alors que la liste des délégations ayant encore à parler n'était pas encore épuisée. Cette décision n'était pas judicieuse et je doute qu'elle soit en conformité avec nos règles. Je ne veux pas être désagréable parce que j'ai beaucoup de sympathie pour vous, mais je dois avouer que cette manière de faire m'a vraiment dérouter.

Ceci dit, je vais tout de même faire part au Conseil de quelques notes que j'avais préparées en vue de mon intervention sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Lors du lancement du programme de coopération technique, en 1976, la Belgique n'était pas membre du Conseil et n'a pas exprimé d'avis. Je pourrais dire que l'idée ne nous déplaisait pas, mais nous avions un certain sentiment de réticence. En effet, le PCT était une innovation. Il allait à l'encontre de deux principes que nous honorons dans le système des Nations Unies, celui qu'on appelle le consensus du PNUD et d'autre part, le caractère volontaire du financement de l'Assistance technique. Aujourd'hui, ma délégation reconnaît franchement que le PCT, tel qu'il a été conçu et tel qu'il a été mis en oeuvre jusqu'ici, a prouvé sa valeur. Rendons à César ce qui est à César et au Directeur général ce qui lui revient.

Toutefois deux ans sont un délai trop court pour émettre un jugement définitif. D'ailleurs, le Comité du Programme a recommandé une évaluation en profondeur après cinq ans. Le jugement que nous exprimons aujourd'hui est donc, en quelque sorte, très provisoire mais, tout provisoire qu'il soit, il est favorable.

A part cet avis sur la qualité du PCT, ma délégation veut exprimer un double souhait. C'est d'abord que les actions menées dans le cadre du PCT le soient avec la collaboration d'experts nationaux. D'ailleurs de nombreux pays bénéficiaires ont parlé dans le même sens.

En second lieu nous souhaitons que la FAO veille à ce que les interventions du PCT produisent un effet durable, c'est-à-dire ce qu'on appelle le follow-up soit dûment assuré. Je vois pour ma part, dans ce contexte, un rôle des représentants de la FAO dans les pays.

Ceci dit, le dépôt d'un projet de résolution m'oblige, je pense, à me référer à ce document et je serai fort bref à ce propos. Telle que cette résolution nous est présentée ici, ma délégation n'est pas en mesure de l'appuyer et je partage à ce sujet les vues exprimées par la délégation allemande.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Belgium. Well, at the start you said that I had probably made a mistake. I may have, I am human, we are all allowed to make mistakes, but this mistake was made in the interests of the Council because if we went on and went through the list of 42 or 43, and then have the resolution, it means we are going to be here until next week. So there is nothing wrong in allowing the Chairman of the Group of 77 to introduce this resolution which they will introduce anyhow, and in this way we are probably going to finish today. So we must take it as done in the interests of the work of the Council, nor do I think there is anything wrong in that.

G. de MICHELIS (Italie): Je tâcherai d'être aussi bref que possible étant donné l'heure et surtout les interventions qui se sont succédé.

Les problèmes de la coopération technique au sein de la FAO, et en particulier du Conseil, représentent quand même une question fort intéressante pour le Gouvernement italien qui dépense chaque année, dans les programmes dans le monde, presque 36 milliards de liras italiennes, soit environ 40 millions de dollars.

Sans prétendre ajouter trop d'arguments en ce qui concerne l'action de mon pays à cet égard, je me limiterai à souligner notre vif intérêt, soit pour l'action personnelle entreprise par le Directeur général au point de vue de la coopération, soit surtout pour toute cette nouvelle action que la FAO poursuit et dont les programmes de coopération sont depuis quelque temps le plus récent témoignage.

J'en profite pour dire tout de suite que nous partageons les recommandations faites par le Directeur général dans le document CL 74/8.

Permettez-moi maintenant d'ajouter quelques considérations qui pourraient mieux encadrer notre point de vue et même souligner pour quelle raison nous sommes en faveur du Programme.

Le Gouvernement italien poursuit en effet deux formes de coopération: sur le plan multilatéral et sur le plan bilatéral.

Dans le premier cas, nous avons essayé de concentrer depuis des années tous nos efforts au sein du PNUD en vue d'atteindre des résultats plus satisfaisants. Dans d'autres cas, nous nous sommes concentrés sur des efforts plus directs. Il s'agit de cas d'urgence ou des cas de pays en voie de développement avec lesquels nous entretenons depuis longtemps des relations tout à fait particulières.

Ceci dit, étant donné que la philosophie qui nous pousse dans cette direction est la même et que surtout nous considérons qu'il existe, comme on l'a souligné ce matin, des responsabilités à deux, nous nous sommes déclarés en faveur de toutes les interventions qui pourraient être en mesure d'améliorer l'état de vie de certains pays, de résoudre leurs problèmes, etc. Nous avons pu poser des conditions: en effet, le développement et le bien-être social sont des données qu'on ne peut pas quantifier.

Alors, à la différence d'autres programmes d'assistance qui comportent de longues périodes de gestion, de formulation et de préparation de projets, le Programme FAO, axé sur les quatre points (notamment investissements, formation, besoins d'urgence et autres besoins imprévus) est à même, à notre avis, de réagir dans des délais réduits au minimum, à des besoins imprévus et pressants, en particulier dans des situations critiques.

L'action en cours du Directeur général constitue donc pour le gouvernement que j'ai l'honneur de représenter en ce moment plus qu'une garantie, une réalité.

D'autre part, comme nous comprenons les difficultés, souvent de principe mais aussi réelles de certains parmi nous, nous sommes sûrs que le Conseil se rend compte des problèmes que d'autres pays, comme l'Italie, traversent à cause de l'inflation ou de l'instabilité des changes. Ce sont des considérations sur l'état de la situation actuelle que je permets d'exprimer en soulignant en même temps que le moment historique qui caractérise l'heure actuelle pourra aussi témoigner comment les pays de l'Europe ont pu réagir à leurs difficultés monétaires et financières, grâce surtout aujourd'hui, à l'initiative de la France et à l'action de son président Giscard d'Estaing.

C'est pourquoi j'adresse au Directeur général mes félicitations pour les décisions dont il nous a fait part dans son exposé introductif. C'est un document très précis qui indique les lignes politiques et de conduite que nous, en tant que représentants du pays hôte, nous partageons. Nous avons également toujours manifesté beaucoup de confiance dans la capacité des responsables et la compétence des services financiers de l'Organisation pour savoir qu'ils seront en mesure de réaliser des économies dans d'autres secteurs et d'équilibrer maintenant les dépenses.

Enfin, et pour terminer, permettez-moi d'adresser de simples recommandations en ce qui concerne certains aspects du programme en cours. Je me réfère au risque des doubles-emplois, c'est un problème d'harmonisation entre le Programme FAO, ceux des autres agences des Nations Unies qui font de la coopération technique et les gouvernements qui font de la coopération, eux-aussi, sur le plan bilatéral.

Deuxièmement, la durée des programmes ne devrait jamais en principe dépasser une période à court terme.

Troisièmement, éviter le plus possible le risque que les plans d'intervention étudiés loin des zones, mais à Rome, ne se traduisent ensuite avec trop de difficultés sur le plan pratique. Si vous le permettez, M, le Président, je voudrais seulement vous faire part maintenant de ma surprise en ce qui concerne le projet de résolution qui a été circulé. En effet, je crois qu'il eût été préférable d'attendre au moins que la plupart d'entre nous aient exprimé leur avis comme l'a justement fait noter le représentant britannique, étant donné surtout que nos interventions vous ont prouvé que nous sommes et que nous étions tous en faveur de l'action du Directeur général.

CHAIRMAN: Following the list I now call on Hungary. No. China. No. Finland.

H. MAURIA (Finland): As I see that taking the floor now would be interpreted as being against the TCP I will not take the floor.

V. FISER (Czechoslovakia): My delegation supports the draft resolution presented by the Group of 77.

H. MOKHTARI (Algérie): Ma délégation appuie la résolution présentée par le Groupe 77.

K. ITANO (Japan): First of all our delegation would like to commend the Director-General for his report on the completion of the first stage of the TCP which we find appreciable for a primary evaluation of the TCP activities after a little more than 24 months of its operation. Before going on to the document I would like to make brief general remarks. Our delegation is of the view that the TCP is primarily to be of the nature of supplementary or complementary to other relevant activities and also it is to fill a gap, especially in the case of emergencies where quick response is needed. It is from this point of view that our delegate stressed in his statement yesterday the need to strengthen FAO's activities in collecting and maintaining relevant information with regard to on-going development assistance activities so that the TCP should be put in the right place where the TCP can play effectively its part as a supplementary to other assistance activities.

Incidentally, I would like to make a few comments on the document. One aspect on which an evaluation would have to be made in our opinion, is what actual impact TCP programmes have had on increasing food production and/or improving small farmers incomes in each country or in each case, when possible.

Now, one of our concerns is procedure or process through which each programme has been requested and approved. It is our delegation's view that it would be desirable to have these processes submitted for each case in a concise form.

With regard to the proposed recommendation by the Director-General to governments, under paragraph 13 of the document, our delegation supports the recommendation.

With regard to the Director-General's proposal as seen in paragraph 17 of the document, our delegation is of the opinion that while recognizing the necessity of these modifications they should be applied carefully because until a full evaluation of TCP is made, TCP is to be considered to some extent as experimental.

Finally, with regard to the proposed draft resolution, we are of the opinion that the expansion of TCP is a matter closely related to the level of the total budget for the 1979/81 biennium and it would be better to discuss that together with the whole budget issue. Therefore we think that since our discussion about it has been deferred to the next session of the Council, this issue should also be discussed as an integral part of the budget at the next session. For this reason, our delegation shares the view expressed by the German delegate and followed by the Belgium delegate.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): No sabemos como conjugar la amable invitación que nos ha hecho usted, Sr. Presidente, para no insistir en nuestras intervenciones; sin embargo, cuando existen instrucciones concretas es un poco difícil acatar esto. No se si una solución pudiera ser que aquéllos que tengan declaraciones que hacer pudieran ser éstas incluidas en las actas.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mexico, this is part of our procedure, that any delegate can let us have his statement and that will be recorded. This has been done already in the last two days.

F.E.K. CHANDLER (Canada): I would first like to say that my taking the floor does not necessarily mean that we are against the TCP.

My delegation has not as yet had the time to study properly the resolution proposed by the Group of 77 as we have been listening with great interest to the previous speakers and we have noted the appreciation of the developing countries with regard to the TCP. One cannot but acknowledge the help the Programme has been able to give to emergency situations like those enumerated by the delegates of Pakistan and Tanzania. We would at the same time like to associate ourselves with the remarks of the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany as regards the appropriateness at this time of the resolution proposed by the Group of 77 and of funding for development in general.

The Canadian delegation has carefully reviewed the Director-General's report, the evaluation study, and the report of the Programme and Finance Committees on the TCP. We would like to make a few general comments on the subject and on the proposals and recommendations of the Director-General with which we generally agree.

Canada has consistently supported efforts aimed at improving the operations and effectiveness of the United Nations and its family of Agencies. In this regard we have been supportive of new techniques and procedures. The TCP is a new technique and accordingly requires the careful approach taken by the Director-General and the need for scrutiny by the FAO Council. We have noted the direct involvement of governments in TCP preparations and the Director-General's search for new types of projects and greater involvement in field activities. We consider that the TCP should concentrate its activities in the four sectors outlined by the Director-General's proposals which established the programme. The consultant in his evaluation has obviously done what he could with the existing data, bearing in mind that the Programme had been in existence for less than two years. Nevertheless, it would have been useful to have had some quantitative measures. My delegation has found it difficult to comment on the evaluation because we have not been given any of the project papers. We therefore do not have a basis for comparing the objectives and the result and are not able to apply any quantitative measures.

In the view of our delegation, it would be helpful to have another evaluation, say, for the November 1980 Session of the Council, by which time we would have more data and quantitative measures of project results. We would hope that the Council could at this time be also provided with project papers to enable it to make an objective judgment.

My final comment concerns the Director-General's proposal contained in Part 3, paragraph 17 of his report. The uniqueness of the TCP lies in its quick action on short-term projects which are clearly designated. We would urge that the TCP stay within its one-year time limit and that its emphasis remains on making urgent limited response to unforeseen needs.

C. BATAULT (France): M. le Président, je ne partage pas les craintes du représentant de la Finlande, puisque j'avais déjà eu - et je m'en réjouis - l'occasion de rendre un hommage chaleureux au succès du programme de coopération technique aussi bien qu'à la part prise dans ce succès par le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs. Je me réjouissais d'ailleurs par la suite de voir l'atmosphère favorable dans laquelle se déroulaient nos débats. En effet, jusqu'au moment où l'on est venu nous interrompre pour nous parler d'un projet de résolution dont nous n'avions pas eu connaissance préalable, j'avais pu constater que tous les orateurs sans exception - je dis bien sans exception - s'étaient prononcés en faveur du programme de coopération technique et lui avaient décerné des louanges. Ceci me paraissait un élément extrêmement favorable et je pensais qu'on s'acheminerait vers un rapport favorable au programme de coopération technique qui refléterait les différentes opinions exprimées dont beaucoup étaient constructives, lorsque tout à coup, je dois dire à ma très grande surprise car je ne crois pas en avoir vu de précédent au cours de ma très longue expérience des Nations Unies, on est venu interrompre le débat pour nous présenter un projet de résolution sur lequel je n'ai pas d'opinion puisque je n'ai pas eu le temps de l'étudier, mais que, au point de vue du débat lui-même, est venu, j'ai le regret de le dire et ceci est mon opinion très ferme, rompre une atmosphère extrêmement favorable au programme de coopération technique et créer des tensions qui n'existaient pas auparavant.

Par conséquent, M. le Président, je voudrais proposer la solution suivante: étant donné que, dans les circonstances présentes et à ce Conseil encore éloigné de la Conférence, ce projet de résolution ne me paraît d'aucune utilité pratique si ce n'est qu'il affirme des positions que nous connaissons déjà, je voudrais demander au Groupe des 77 de retirer pour ce Conseil ce projet de résolution. Ceci me paraît une solution qui irait très loin dans la voie de la conciliation et qui serait certainement profitable à l'avenir du Programme de coopération technique. Maintenant, si le Groupe des 77 ne croit pas pouvoir prendre cette décision, je crois qu'il serait à notre avantage à tous d'ajourner ce débat, de façon à nous donner aux uns et aux autres un temps de réflexion. On pourrait l'ajourner par exemple jusqu'à vendredi si vous le voulez bien. En effet, en ce qui me concerne, malgré toute ma bonne volonté, dans les circonstances actuelles, ma délégation - et je vous la donne comme exemple parmi les autres - malgré son esprit de conciliation il ne serait pas possible à ma délégation de voter ni pour, ni contre, ni de s'associer à un consensus; nous pourrions comme nous n'avons pas eu le temps d'étudier cette résolution, prendre part ni à un consensus, ni à un vote, et je crois que ceci doit être le cas d'un certain nombre de délégations. Je vous propose donc de donner au Groupe des 77 le temps d'étudier ma proposition qui est simplement qu'on retire cette résolution et que nous nous contentions d'un rapport très favorable au Programme de coopération technique, ou alors qu'on nous laisse un délai suffisant pour réfléchir à cette résolution et éventuellement demander des instructions à nos gouvernements.

CHAIRMAN: As France said, there is not really anything controversial, and the Resolution itself reflects just what is in the paper, but I will put his point of view, his query, the point that he made to the Chairman of the Group of 77.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman of the Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): In the summary you made, our point of view has been expressed, but the project we presented does not contain any type of obligation for one side or the other, as we have already said. However, there has been agreement on a continuation of this Programme with certain reservations. Therefore, here in this Council we feel that the Resolution should be approved by consensus. According to the spirit of the work of this Council, and having listened to various opinions, I feel that this Draft Resolution has been practically adopted. However, if there are reservations, then the Drafting Committee can include these reservations in one way or another in the Report. But in my opinion, this project has been practically approved and practically by a majority and I do not think it is necessary to carry out a vote. This is what I wanted to repeat to the representatives of the other delegations.

I regret that I cannot give any other answer because we have studied this draft in a very comprehensive way, and this project only covers a page and a half, so I do not think we really need a great deal of time to study it.

M. Chairman, it is up to you to decide, and we can decide as you judge best.

H. CUEVA EGUIGUREN (Ecuador): Sí, Sr. Presidente, le agradezco el haberme concedido el uso de la palabra porque revisando la lista de aquellos países miembros del Consejo que renunciaron al uso de la misma he visto que no consta el nombre de mi país, y mi delegación quiere dejar expresa constancia de su decidido apoyo al proyecto de resolución presentado por el Grupo de los 77.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wish to simply ask your indulgence for some clarification. As you all know, I made my comments after this Resolution was produced. I made rather an extensive statement for the United Kingdom, and I would like to ask the Chairman of the Group of 77 whether on this occasion or any other occasion the views of my Government are worthy of consideration. I mean we have come along. I think it is very plain that there is a consensus among the Group of 77, but my point simply is whether or not any account will be taken of the views of my Government. These are views, I may say, which were sent to me from London. They do not reflect in any sense consultation with any other Member of this Organization and I wish to be quite clear in reporting back to my authorities whether or not those views would be taken into consideration, because I think they do need the same careful consideration, if I may say so, as in fact the views expressed in the Resolution need a careful consideration on my part.

CHAIRMAN: I assure you that the views of all Governments will be taken into account and certainly the views of your Government, which is a very great supporter of FAO and a contributor to aid in the developing world. There is no question of your Government's or that of anybody's views not being considered, and this is a matter for the Director-General and the Secretariat to produce the report which reflects everybody's views. The Group of 77 have their views, so I would like to assure you there is no question of suppressing anybody's views.

G.S. MAGOMBE (Tanzania): Our delegation thought it might be helpful if we explain, on top of what the Chairman of the Group of 77 has said, our point of view. This, as the paper says, is the Draft Resolution. We are not imposing it on anybody. It is subject to negotiations. There is a Drafting Committee. There are five operative paragraphs which are very easy. They are not committed to any government, but what we just wanted to say is that we, the beneficiaries, regard the TCP as one of the most important instruments the FAO has had so far.

FAO has been known as a research centre, like a university. This is the first time that it is operational. Now, what we are saying is that we want it and that we want to expand it. At the same time we must be realistic, because the donor countries-I think there are five countries - do not disagree on the same subject but they have some reservations, and really, for the project to be operational we must give them time to have their views considered, so I strongly suggest that since we have a Drafting Committee, our Draft Resolution with the governments' consent with reservations should go to the Drafting Committee and come out with a Resolution which would be acceptable to all of us. Otherwise, you know, we would just be discussing to no end.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman of the Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): I heard the representative from Tanzania but frankly I cannot agree with him because this draft resolution has been submitted and the Chairman can take his decision, and if there are any reservations or remarks these can go into the report of the Drafting Committee. This is what we should do.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I was taking some notes, and very often when I am in a debate I do take some notes, but I can assure you I have been quite attentive and one thing is clear - in this very important item we are discussing, there is in fact one basic consensus of views. There is a convergence of opinions, quite clearly, in the Council in favour of the basic findings of the evaluation. This is the real essential thing. In fact I have not heard any real disagreement on the fundamental consensus of the evaluation. We should not be mismerized by the title of resolution - this "document" has five paragraphs and five basic points, and nothing has been really said which contradicts that document and I must say I feel sympathy, Sir, for your attempts to lead the Council to a consensus on this principle of the Group of 77. If I may say so, I feel you act correctly.

We have five points in that paper in the really important part of it. From what we have heard, probably there is only one question that might at this stage raise some questions. I am not speaking about the detail of the words, but the strengthening of the Programme in the next biennium. "Strengthening" is a very important word. We are not, in the 77, making any specific recommendations, we are just making a general recommendation, and the important point is to ensure a consensus on the five points. Naturally, the report of the Council will reflect the very rigid comments which we have heard.

There were a number of observations made which I am sure will improve the performance of the TCP. It is quite proper and correct and even necessary that the report should reflect these.

I support your basic proposal that we should reach a consensus on the five points. An appropriate wording will be found, of course, to reflect the very interesting remarks which we have heard and which, as I said before, might help a further improvement of TCP. That is all I have to say at this stage.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Much of what I had intended to say has already been said by the delegate of Brazil. However, I want to clarify one point which has been suggested by some of my colleagues -that there should be donors and recipients in the Programme. There are no donors or recipients, everyone contributes according to his share, and out of that share the Programme is financed. The donors may be large or small, but everyone is a donor, and this should be kept in mind.

CHAIRMAN: I have two observers on my list. If they do not insist on speaking, we can go on and hear Mr. West and the Director-General to sum up.

If Saudi Arabia wishes to speak I give him the floor.

F.A.M. AL MEHAIMED (Observer for Saudi Arabia) (Interpretation from Arabic): Thank you for giving me the floor so that I can express the views of Saudi Arabia on the document on the Technical Cooperation Evaluation. Although we have only observer status, we have been following the discussion with great interest. We have felt some concern about some opinions which were voiced here in this room on the establishment of this Programme. This Programme is vital and it should be effective, and it clearly renders a service to the countries which need it. I am referring to those countries which have urgent matters to deal with.

Saudi Arabia, as far as technical cooperation goes, shares with numerous countries the feeling this is a truly effective programme which helps those countries that need it, it helps those countries that need urgent aid to carry out projects which increase the agricultural production of those countries and improves the standards of living of the poor populations of rural areas.

We are fully convinced that this Programme is in capable hands, and is well managed, and we consider it is useful and thank the Director-General for his remarks. We should in no way create obstacles for this Programme which is in the interests of the poor people who truly need it. Saudi Arabia gives its full support to this Programme and to the recommendations and measures which will be taken by the Director General to make it attain its objectives.

Saudi Arabia will use its best endeavours to give full support to this Programme.

F. GUARDIA ALVARADO (Observador por Costa Rica) : Voy a ser muy breve y lo que quiero expresar es que, como coordinador del Grupo Latinoamericano, quiero en nombre de todos los países de la región, ratificar nuestro más cálido apoyo al Director General, al PCT y al Proyecto de Resolución presentado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): The reason I wish to intervene at this point is simply to reserve my opportunity to comment before this item is finished. The manner in which this debate has proceeded has been quite unusual in my view, from a number of procedural aspects which I hope I will not have to detail, and I am not at all certain how you intend in your summing up to deal with several proposals that have been made from the floor with respect to the procedural situation. Depending on what your decisions are on those matters, I may have a desire to speak and express my views- as I reserved my right to do at the beginning of this debate.

CHAIRMAN: When the time comes, we will give you the floor again if you want it. I will now give the Director-General the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: You said, Mr. Chairman, that you were going to draw the conclusions of the debate and make your summing up; perhaps we should wait until then before answering questions.

CHAIRMAN: We have had a very long discussion on this item. It has been a good discussion because everybody did say what they thought and my impression is there is nobody against the proposals on the table. There is nobody against TCP, there is nobody against the evaluation and there is nobody against the way TCP has been handled up till now. On that there is an absolute consensus.

The Group of 77 decided to introduce a resolution. They are supported by some others in the consensus, but when we took the consensus there were members who did not agree or did not feel there is any need for a resolution since the feeling of Council is good, the reception is good, and therefore there should be no need for a resolution. Either there is a need for a resolution or there is no need for a resolution- that is a matter of opinion. The substance is the same, and that is the matter we have discussed all morning and afternoon. Every delegate has the right to be associated with an opinion or a resolution or any proposal that is put forward by a member or a group of members, and our report will reflect all views on what we have discussed. Those who had some reservations, or those who had some suggestions to make for improvement and so on- all those will be reflected, but the majority opinion is that we should have this resolution and those who associated themselves with it will be clearly indicated- though there were some members who did not associate themselves with it. This is my summing up.

The delegate for the United States did not agree, and I give him the floor.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Before I make any comments on the resolution, I will have to ask you whether you are passing over the suggestion made by a delegate here to pause on this matter. I would have to ask you whether FAO observes the 24-hour rule if a delegate should invoke it, and I would have to ask you whether as a result of the action you propose you are suggesting the report indicate that the Council has made a decision with respect to this resolution?

CHAIRMAN: With regard to the point made by the French delegate, I put the matter to the Chairman of the Group of 77 and he did not want to delay the resolution. This is the point made by the Chairman of the Group of 77.

With regard to FAO or Council observing the 24-hour notice and so on, I am not aware of the details and I will ask the Secretariat to explain it. If it became mandatory on us to observe some regulation, it is so; otherwise we will go on as we are.

I give the floor to the Legal Adviser to answer the point raised by the delegate of the United States.

LEGAL COUNSEL: In response to the question raised by the distinguished representative of the United States of America and repeated by yourself, Mr. Chairman, I will say very simply that the Rules of Procedure of the Council do not contain any provision concerning the notice period required for the submission of proposals to the Council. It is therefore in the hands of the Council to decide whether it wishes to deal with the proposal that has been submitted immediately or at a later stage. At this point, Mr. Chairman, that is all I should like to say.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I raised three points. I wonder if I could ask for your comment on the third one.

CHAIRMAN: The third point is, as I said, that our report will reflect a decision from which certain members have dissociated themselves or have not gone along with it.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): In that case I would request the opportunity to make a statement of dissociation if we are going to proceed in that manner.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom) : I am sorry to intervene again but I do have my own problem, which is quite simple. The United Kingdom would not normally reserve its position over technical cooperation. I should have thought that we were about the last country to do so. But as this is presented and as I am at present instructed I am bound to reserve my position, but I would hope that wiser counsels might prevail overnight. I recall a previous occasion in which I was in exactly this position over a project in Tanzania and after a little delay an accommodation was arrived at and I was able to vote for it.

CHAIRMAN: Our rules say that we give observers the floor if we have time. We do not really have time. Therefore I hope the observers will be patient with us for not giving them the floor. Do any members want to speak?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I asked to speak because you have given me to understand clearly that you wish to rule that the Council is adopting a resolution that has been introduced this afternoon in the manner of which you are well aware. In making my statement of dissociation I would like to comment briefly on the resolution before us. I would like to comment first on the preambular part of this resolution, in particular on the second preamble which recalls that the Director-General was invited by the 19th FAO Conference to make every effort to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme in accordance with the established criteria, with a view to making the technical competence of the organization more readily and speedily available for the solution of the most pressing development needs of Member Nations. I have no objection to that paragraph. I simply wish to point out some of the suggestions I have made with respect to the programme have been in support of making the technical competence of the organization readily available in urgent situations. The fact that I draw a distinction between provision of physical inputs and provision of technical competence when the programme reaches a level of which 46 percent of its funding is for physical inputs should not be regarded as out of line with the spirit of this Conference resolution, as it seems to have been by some members present

Turning to the operative paragraphs, I would like to note with respect to operative paragraph 1 that it contains a statement which I cannot agree with. That is that, in accordance with the Organization's constitutional mandate, it is "essential" to maintain the Technical Cooperation Programme. With all due respect to the merits of the programme, and I have indicated that I think it has some very strong merits, it would be hard to say that it was essential to FAO's constitutional mandate without raising a question as to what FAO was doing with its constitutional mandate between 1945 and 1976. I think there are probably a number of ways in which the constitutional references to the Organization's role in technical assistance can be carried out. They are being carried out in many ways already in the Organization, both within the Regular Programme and with respect to extra-budgetary funds. Therefore it seems to me that there are quite a number of options for achieving the objectives of the TCP in ways which are not necessarily labelled 'Technical Cooperation Programme'.

In connexion with operative paragraph 2 I would simply note that this skates a little more quickly over the question as to whether we have really examined the programme's criteria than I feel comfortable with.

With respect to operative paragraph 4, my difficulty with that is that it approves all the proposals in the evaluation report. As I stated in my intervention, it is our view that some of these proposals lead in directions other than of meeting short-term, urgent, quick response needs, with an emphasis on emergencies. I could provide details in respect of this but I will spare you that.

With respect to operative paragraph 5, we note that it appears to call for strengthening the programme quantitatively in the next biennium. This matter is not addressed in the evaluation. It is not addressed in quantitative terms in the Programme Committee's recommendations. It is not on our agenda. The Director-General has withdrawn the question of the 1980/81 budget from the agenda. Therefore, following the Chairman's request to stick to the report, I did not address this subject in my intervention. However, since I am required to comment on it with respect to this resolution I have to say that the United States does not favour increasing the level of the programme beyond its present level.

Finally, I would comment that the resolution has some omissions, one of which is that it does not address the problem of a future evaluation, which the Programme Committee did.

For these reasons, I would like the record to show in as much clarity as possible that the United States is obliged to dissociate itself from this resolution.

F.E.K. CHANDLER (Canada): I regret to inform the Council that despite our support for FAO's developmental activities we also are unable to associate ourselves with the approval of the resolution at this time on the grounds that insufficient time was given between the tabling of the resolution and the call for approval. I would submit that a resolution is not necessary on this subject and that the consensus views be properly reflected in the Council report.

CHAIRMAN: Although I said I would not give the floor to observers I see the Netherlands is very persistent. If you agree I will give the observer for The Netherlands the floor. Netherlands, you are the last.

G. de BAKKER (Observer for The Netherlands): In the first place I thank you for your good heart that you give me the floor at this late hour. My only intention is, since I did not take part in the debate and was not in the heart of the debate, to give you my reflection on it. It is that we are going to show in the report an unnecessary split in the two groups that have been formed here, but they do not exist; there is one group here, one Council, that agrees on the necessity for and the importance of this programme. It is just a matter of the wording. Forgive me for saying it, but the Group of 77 is trying to push too hard and by doing that they push into the defences of the people who have some reservations, who want to study the resolution and want to think it over. By doing that, one after the other you hear people saying, "I cannot agree", while if it had been handled a bit more carefully with some reflection overnight I am sure that a consensus on this matter could have been reached. Therefore I feel that I am obliged, being a new observer, and still feeling a bit the member of the Council that I was last year, to suggest that you ought to come back on your ruling that we must decide tonight on this resolution. I would say we should think it over and try to reach a consensus, either on that resolution with some other wording in it or that the Group of 77 feels that a consensus in the text is more important than a dissociation in the resolution.

CHAIRMAN: My duty here is to respect what members want. I put the question of delaying to the Group of 77. It is their resolution. It is not what I want. It is a matter of following what the majority of members want. I would like to make this quite clear. I will give the floor to Mr. West to answer a few of the technical aspects that have arisen.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): A few questions were asked and I think I ought to clarify the situation. First I have to draw attention to one very serious intervention. I do not want to add fire to the controversy at this moment but I feel that there was one statement in particular that I have to answer in a personal way. The delegate of Bangladesh said that my presentation was more beautiful than my face. I have to declare publicly, through you, Mr. Chairman, that flattery will get him nowhere. At the same time I should like to assure the delegate of the United States that I am not one of the physical inputs in the programme, so I will not affect his position in that respect.

I think it was the delegate of Colombia who first raised a point for clarification, or at least for comment. He referred to paragraph 28 of the annex, which was a question of using national resources. I would like to assure him that this is very much in the mind of the Director-General and it is also part of the recommendations in paragraph 17, 17(i) in particular. So this is I hope something that we will make progress on.

The delegate of France raised a question about paragraph 27. I think the wording here is a bit misleading. It referred particularly to agencies within a country which did not seem to have fully grasped the essential nature and purpose of the TCP and, as you see, the paper addresses recommendations to governments in this regard which have been generally supported by members of the Council. He referred also to the question of delay in implementation in paragraph 39, and here again this is one of the matters that the Director-General, in the action which he said in the document he is already taking, is trying to deal with, especially by improving internal coordination and decision measures.

A number of delegations raised the question of setting aside \$200 000 for identification of projects. This is referred to in paragraph 16 of the document: "the Director-General will as far as uncommitted resource permit set aside \$200 000 per biennium for special missions to LDCs" - and it is least developed countries - "to assist them, at their request, in the identification of problems and

needs and of means of tackling them." Well, I do not think this could be read as meaning a new fund within a fund, or duplication or any other kind of identification missions. It should be read as part of the point just made, that the essential characteristics of the TCP are not always fully understood by governments, and it might assist them not to make or press project requests which do not appear at first sight to fit into the TCP, if the TCP resources can be used to send out missions to ensure that their requests do fit the criteria of the TCP. In any case, it is a matter which can only be dealt with by the Director-General insofar as the resources of the TCP permit, and they are very heavily committed. I therefore do not think that those delegations which expressed concern about this point should feel that it raises any new point of principle or will lead to difficulties in practice.

I think that at this late hour I will only like to deal with one or two other points which have been raised. First, a general one in relation to paragraph 17. Some concern has been expressed about these recommendations. I think only one delegation challenged either the existing criteria - and then not wholly: it was a question of emphasis - and only one delegation actually opposed any extension of the criteria as proposed in paragraph 17. Some other delegations - a few - did express some reservations about paragraph 17, at least at this stage; but I think once again that perhaps they were reading too much - in the rather fraught atmosphere of this debate - into those paragraphs. They do not in fact involve anything fundamental. They do not involve any new principles or any extensions of the major purposes of the Programme as proposed by the Director-General and as approved by Council and Conference. They are merely matters of a slightly more flexible interpretation within the existing categories.

Action in support of the TCDC is something which is generally supported by Member Nations in the declaration passed by the Conference on TCDC and in expressions on TCDC already in the governing bodies of FAO. In this connexion, the Director-General has noted the slight words of reservation in the Programme Committee's report and will no doubt have noted those which were made today, and, although he is sitting here, I think I can anticipate his reaction to some extent by saying that, as usual, he will apply this particular recommendation in a pragmatic and careful way.

The same applies to the other points. On the question of flexibility and time limits, only one delegation raised this; I think it was the delegate of France. I would stress here that the paragraph is carefully stated to emphasize the fact that it would occur only in very special cases, and that in any case the total period covered should not exceed 12 months in all, even though the action might be spread out over a period longer than twelve months, but in any case not longer than 24 months. So I would stress that none of these points raised either extensions of the categories, new categories, or any real point of principle; and that, I think, applies to remarks made, for example, by the delegate of the United Kingdom, which have been duly noted.

I think the only real issue - and I do not want to stress it unduly, but I do think it is rather important in connexion with your further action on this - is a reference that was made to the UNDP provisions for training and other purposes. I deal with it mainly because I frankly did not recognize the figures that were given. They must have come from some other source. Our official figures agreed with the UNDP are that we expect a delivery this year of approximately \$104 million and next year, if things go well, \$125 million. I do not think either of those figures appeared. In any case, these figures have to be compared to previous deliveries, the highest point of which was achieved in 1975 at a figure of \$118 million, and with the effects of currency and inflation since then. I think that whatever figures you accept, even if you take the pledging conference recently, when you calculate the effects of currency and inflation, it is very doubtful whether we will have reached the same real level as was achieved in the past.

In any case, the main point about training and categories other than emergencies is not that resources might be theoretically available from some other source. The point is that, say, training schemes financed from other sources might take as much as two, three or four years to mount, whereas a quick training scheme mounted by FAO under the TCP might mobilize much larger training schemes financed from other sources in due course over a longer period. It is the quick action, the flexible response of the TCP, which is one of its characteristics. So that, I think, was the only substantive point raised in the debate.

I have one other point. This is a technical point, it is not intended as a debating point. As the officer responsible to the Director-General for budgetary matters, whenever I see a reference to strengthening of anything, I begin to worry on his behalf, but it is not unusual for resolutions to mention strengthening, and as long as they do not give target figures, they do not embarrass the Director-General. The same applies to nutrition, where I think Council and Conference also passed a resolution desiring to strengthen something. These are matters the Director-General has to take into account in dealing with his Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, but I think he likes to know what it is that delegations like and do not like.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. West. You seem to have excited a few delegates to want the floor again.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente, Sr. Presidente, para saber si usted ha dado por terminado el debate. Como son las seis menos cinco de la tarde y algunas personas tenemos compromisos que realizar, y tal vez por las palabras que hemos oído de algunos delegados es posible que nuestro Consejo se pronuncie con consenso en este tema, tal vez sería conveniente pensar en la posibilidad de quedarnos unos minutos, ya sea para que los que tengan que cumplir obligaciones las cumplan, ya sea para aquellos que pueden lograr un consenso que nos interesa podamos tener algún adelanto en nuestras conversaciones.

Yo creo que más importante para el Consejo es tener reflejada la opinión unánime de todos, y entre ellos me incluyo entre los que apoyan sin reservas el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que tener por un lado una resolución que es contestada o que es criticada o que no es apoyada por otros. Por lo tanto, tal vez apelo a su sabiduría y a su buen sentido para tratar de ver si podemos lograr un consenso.

CHAIRMAN: I have, in fact, summed up and the only reason I gave the floor to Mr. West was because he wanted to make some technical points, and I thought that was the end of it. That's why I said that Mr. West had incited people to speak again. Please let us stop now, it has been summed up.

C. BATAULT (France): M. Le Président, je suis désolé de vous contredire mais vous avez dit que le porte-parole des 77, le Président de ce groupe, avait refusé ma demande. Ór, dans sa réponse, le porte-parole des 77 a uniquement répondu à l'Ambassadeur de Belgique; je pense qu'il n'a donc pas entendu ce que j'ai dit et si vous voulez bien me donner les quelques secondes nécessaires pour le faire, je vais répéter ce que j'ai demandé. Ce que j'avais dit dans ce sens est ceci:

1. C'est que j'étais extrêmement heureux d'avoir vu qu'un aussi large accord, pratiquement unanime, s'était dégagé sur le Programme de coopération technique;

2. que je ne m'attendais pas à la présentation d'une résolution qui était donc une surprise pour moi. En général, on les présente avant les séances;

3. qu'il était d'une courtoisie élémentaire, me semble-t-il, et en prenant encore comme base le fait qu'il y avait un large accord, un très large accord sur ce qui avait été dit, de donner aux délégations le temps de réfléchir, le temps de lire soigneusement cette déclaration, et, le cas échéant, de demander des instructions à leurs gouvernements. J'avais donc demandé un délai pour qu'on puisse le faire, et à ce moment-là, on pourrait reprendre les débats pour quelques minutes pour le faire. Ceci, M. le Président, j'ai le regret de vous le dire, est tout à fait conforme à la procédure des Nations Unies, et dans un but de conciliation, je crois qu'on devrait l'adopter. Je regrette, les Français parlent toujours de logique, mais il paraît tout à fait illogique d'essayer de forcer la main à certains qui paraissent être contre et qui, au fond, sont tout à fait d'accord, simplement parce qu'ils ont demandé un délai de réflexion. Je ne puis croire que M. le Président du Groupe

des 77 nous refuse ce délai de réflexion; c'est une simple question de courtoisie, et je demande maintenant au Président du Groupe des 77 de répondre: veut-il, par égard pour nos opinions, par égard pour le fait que nous avons peut-être à réfléchir, à demander des instructions, donner le délai de réflexion que nous avons demandé? Nous n'avons rien demandé de plus; cela me paraît courtoisie élémentaire.

CHAIRMAN: I did put the question to the Chairman of the Group of 77, and I now put it to him again.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman, Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): I have heard the different views expressed here and have followed them with great attention. I cannot make a decision alone, as President of the Group. I merely wish to carry out the desires of this Group, and I am sorry if I said "Belgium" instead of "France". This might be due to the interpretation. The word "Belgium" may have been a slip of the tongue. We truly hope to come to a decision which might serve, first of all, our state and I must say that a number of points have been made. We respect the views of others. I had already stated this and I have great respect for others and I have tried to behave with the kindness that has been expressed by the delegate of France. We have to try to respect in all ways

this cooperation which exists. We have tried to come to an agreement without any confrontation, without any conflict. I have tried to give time to these States who studied this resolution and I would like to convene the coordinators of the Group of 77, call upon them to meet immediately after this meeting. We shall have consultations in our office and then consult with you and see if we can present new proposals.

CHAIRMAN: The coordinators of the Group of 77 will meet immediately after we close this Session.

LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL: Je ne voudrais pas intervenir, M. le Président, mais peut-être M. l'Ambassadeur de France pourrait-il nous préciser la durée du délai dont il a besoin, ce qui permettrait aux coordinateurs des 77 de mieux étudier la demande qu'il a faite.

C. BATAULT (France): En ce qui me concerne, je pense qu'un délai de 24 heures serait suffisant, mais c'est uniquement mon opinion personnelle; il me semble qu'en 24 heures, nous pourrions éventuellement essayer de nous mettre d'accord. Maintenant, je ne vois pas qu'il soit urgent de prendre une décision là-dessus puisqu'elle sera prise en tout cas. Je crois que nous aurions peut-être avantage, par exemple, à discuter avec un certain nombre de membres du Groupe des 77, parce que les explications étaient tout à fait claires, il n'y a pas de sujet de profond désaccord, simplement il faut essayer de nous mettre d'accord le plus rapidement possible sur un consensus, il faut essayer de le faire. Donc, je crois qu'il serait souhaitable de nous donner un délai suffisant. J'avais parlé dans ma première intervention d'un délai jusqu'à vendredi, je ne vois pas en quoi cela dérange le moins du monde l'issue du débat, mais enfin si l'on juge que c'est trop long, je vous laisse juge, M. le Président ou M. le Directeur général. Simplement, je remercie le Président des 77 d'avoir bien voulu nous donner un délai. Il me semble que ce délai devrait être au moins de 24 heures; s'il nous est accordé jusqu'à vendredi, tant mieux! Il ne faut pas qu'il aille plus loin que vendredi à mon avis, mais en un jour et demi ou deux jours, on doit avoir encore plus de chances d'arriver à un accord.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman of the Group of 77): For several reasons, and since many heads of delegations will be leaving Rome tomorrow evening we think that the deadline for discussing this point should be tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow evening. This is what I would propose.

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable to the French delegate, tomorrow afternoon, tomorrow evening?

C. BATAULT (France): Oui, Monsieur le Président.

P. MASUD (Pakistan). I suggest you give us a break for a little while and then perhaps tomorrow we will be in a position to let you know exactly when we can get a reply.

CHAIRMAN: We have concluded our debate really.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais me permettre, à cette heure tardive, de faire une proposition. Je fais appel ici au Président et aux membres du Groupe des 77 à leur bonne volonté; j'en appelle également aux représentants des six pays qui éprouvent des difficultés à approuver cette résolution, ou qui trouvent, du moins, inopportun d'en discuter. Je suggère de réunir demain, à 10 h 30 dans mon bureau, un petit groupe de contact. Ce groupe pourrait comprendre des représentants des six pays en question. Il pourrait comprendre, par exemple, M. l'Ambassadeur de France, qui a pris l'initiative de proposer un délai pour réfléchir et trouver un consensus, et un ou deux autres délégués qui seraient choisis par le "Groupe de Genève". Les coordinateurs du Groupe des 77 pourraient, de leur côté, procéder à de semblables désignations. Je ne sais pas combien de représentants ils devraient

designer, mais il est plus facile d'être un petit groupe pour négocier. Nous tenterons de trouver un accord. Je vais réfléchir moi-même ce soir avec mes collègues du Secrétariat pour voir s'il existerait une formule qui puisse satisfaire les deux parties ou qui puisse, en tout cas, permettre une tentative de réconciliation des deux points de vue. Si demain après-midi, après cette réunion, nous nous retrouvions avec une solution qui soit un consensus, ce serait très bien; sinon, nous pourrions prendre encore un peu de temps, puisque nous ne sommes pas pressés, mais je souhaiterais obtenir l'unanimité sur cette question. Je crois que c'est une question de mots, une question de forme seulement et non de substance. De toute façon, je dois dire très franchement que je serai amené à proposer une augmentation des crédits du PCT. C'est un enfant; il doit croître; on ne va pas en faire un géant, mais il ne doit pas rester rachitique non plus. Il faut qu'il grandisse de façon saine et normale pour que tout le monde soit satisfait. Je comprends que c'est le dernier paragraphe de la résolution qui gêne certaines délégations, mais je ne puis vous cacher que ce programme doit grandir.

CHAIRMAN: I have not imposed any opinion or my will on anybody. This is a consensus reached and a meeting will be held and we will bring this matter up tomorrow afternoon after the discussion.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I have similar proposals to make because such an effort has produced results in the past. Remember the last Conference, we had a meeting in the office of the Director-General and that produced very substantial results and the proposal is acceptable to Bangladesh.

I ought to answer Mr. West in his observations. I am very happy that Mr. West has taken my comments as compliments. I made my comments after a long hesitation, after noticing Mr. West was not in the room!

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A estas horas nosotros solo debemos manifestar nuestra aprobación a la propuesta del Director General. Desde que intervino el colega Embajador de Tanzania tuvimos la tentación de haber hecho una declaración porque él recordó algo importante para el funcionamiento del Consejo y es el Comité de Redacción* En el Comité de Redacción están representadas todas las regiones, y por cierto, Francia y Estados Unidos. De manera que en mi opinión ése debería ser el grupo que se reuniese con usted mañana, señor Director General.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/7

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74º período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(30 November 1978)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
F. Shefrin, Third Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence de
F. Shefrin, Troisième Vice-Président du Conseil'

Se abre la Séptima Sesión Plenaria a las 09.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de F. Shefrin, Tercer Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Good morning and welcome to you all. Yesterday we had a very exciting discussion dealing with food for the souls of delegates. Today we are dealing with a much more serious subject in many ways, the areas of feeding people, the malnourished and hungry.

Our agenda this morning deals with two areas of special importance to this Organization. One of them is nutrition. As you all know, nutrition is one of the mainstays of this Organization. When this Organization was set up nutrition stood in front, the concern was in terms of making sure that everybody had enough to eat, not only to survive but to grow up healthy. I hope that this morning from our discussion we will be able to report that we as delegates of the Council are not only fully conscious of the importance of the subject, but that we are able to provide the impetus that is necessary not only to maintain but to increase our tempo in making progress on these problems of malnourishment, undernourishment and severe cases of starvation.

I will ask Dr. Islam to open the discussion, to review briefly and to indicate the highlights of what we are to discuss this morning under the item of "Nutrition". I understand that he will also deal with item 10.1 and item 10.2 in his introduction.

III ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Nutrition

10. Nutrition

10. Nutrición

10.1 Report in Response to Conference Resolution 8/77 on Nutrition, and Report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food Nutrition Policies

10.1 Rapport sur les suites données à la résolution 8/77 de la Conférence concernant la nutrition et rapport de la deuxième session du Comité ad hoc des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles

10.1 Informe solicitado por la Conferencia en su Resolución 8/7-7 sobre Nutrición, e Informe sobre la Segunda Reunión del Comité Especial de Políticas Alimentarias y Nutrición

10.2 Food Standards Matters, and the Work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission

10.2 Problèmes concernant les normes alimentaires et travaux de la Commission mixte FAO/OMS du Codex Alimentarius

10.2 Asuntos relativos a las Normas Alimentarias, y a la labor de la Comisión FAO/OMS del Codex Alimentarius

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I will be very brief in my introduction. Since the Programme Committee dealt with these subjects in great detail I assume that the Chairman of the Programme Committee himself, who is here, will intervene to make a detailed presentation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Under this item of the Agenda there are two main subjects. The first concerns a Report in Response to Conference Resolution 8/77 on Nutrition, and a Report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies, document CL 74/29. The second concerns a Report on Food Standards Matters, and the Work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, document CL 74/28. Both subjects were examined by the Programme Committee in its 35th session in October. The recommendations and views of the Programme Committee are contained in its report, document CL 74/5, paragraphs 1.66 to 1.78.

First, on nutrition, action taken to date to implement resolution 8/77 includes studies to assess the nutritional impact of selected FAO programmes, studies in depth of the nutritional impact of FAO programmes in selected countries, the preparation of guidelines for the introduction of nutritional considerations into agricultural programmes and projects. The terms of reference of FAO^f internal Working Group on Rural Development have been widened to include nutritional considerations and thus provide a coordinating mechanism within the House for activities to improve nutrition. As requested by the Ad Hoc Committee, an assessment of the additional needs to meet country requests for assistance has been compiled, the details of which are contained in Annex 2 to the document CL 74/29; Annex 1 contains information on initiative taken by FAO additional to what is reported to the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Programme Committee welcomed the steps already taken by FAO to implement resolution 8/77 and expressed its appreciation of the Director-General's action in meeting part of the need for additional funds to carry out the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, and strongly supported the Director-General's proposal to seek extra-budgetary funds. Approaches are being made to possible sources of funding at the present time.

Concerning the future of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Programme Committee considered carefully whether the wishes of the Ad Hoc Committee could be met by including nutrition within the purview of the Committee on Agriculture as suggested in document CL 74/29. The Programme Committee decided that it would await consideration at the next Session of COAG on this item before making any recommendation to the Council on what the arrangements would be and recommended that the Council postpone consideration of this matter until 1979.

Next, on food standards, the Codex Alimentarius Commission has carefully examined the matters referred to it by the Seventy-First Session of the Council. Concerning the question of the economic impact of the standards, new procedures have been adopted by the Commission for consideration by the governments and the Commission of both the economic and technical aspects of the standards. On the question of orienting the Commission's work more to the needs and concerns of developing countries, the Commission carried out a review of its activities with a view to reorientating its work to meet the wishes and priorities of developing countries. In particular, increased emphasis is being given to the work of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Programme Committee welcomed the policy and work orientation by the Commission and the new procedures for the assessment of the economic impact of standards. I should also draw attention to the suggestion of the Programme Committee that because of the importance of the Codex work, the Council should follow general policy trends within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr. Chairman, may I first say how pleased I am to serve under your chairmanship. I will try to be very brief in referring, first, in response to resolution 8/77 and then I shall say only a few words on the joint FAO/WHO standard programme.

First, the Committee, considering the response to Resolution 8/77 of the Conference, considered the problem in the broader context, first of all, in the context of Resolution 5 of the World Food Conference as well as within the basic ideas contained in the Manila Communique and the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council, as adopted by the General Assembly and, more specifically, considered all the problems within Conference Resolution 8/77. First, what the Committee wanted to emphasize was that nutrition should not be treated in isolation but rather as an important component of the overall world food problem. After all, at the World Food Conference we all called nutrition a pillar of the world food problem. The prevailing view of the Programme Committee was that the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to requests from developing countries to improve the nutritional status of both the urban and the rural poor was by far inadequate.

In the same context, the Committee emphasized that in the light of the repeatedly recognized leading role of FAO in the United Nations system in the field of nutrition, the FAO's ability in this field to respond to the requests of developing countries should be substantially expanded. The Committee recognized that Resolution 8/77 contained two explicit concerns: the first relating to the level of FAO resources for nutritional activities, and the second concerned with the integration of nutritional activities in the overall FAO Programme, both regular and field.

The Committee then expressed its satisfaction with the internal measures taken and arrangements made by the Director-General to ensure that nutritional considerations were taken into full account in agricultural and rural development in FAO's activities. The Committee commended the section of document CL 74/9 which listed the additional resources needed for carrying out recommendations of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition, and expressed its appreciation for the Director-General's efforts in meeting a part of the additional funds in 1977 from savings, and especially underlined the need for extra budgetary funds to fill the remaining gap.

Coming now to the proposal of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition concerning the establishment of a standing committee under Article V of the Constitution, I must say that the Committee devoted proper time for consideration of this study, considering all merits of the proposal of the Ad Hoc Committee as well as certain other options. The Committee considered in particular the possibility of entrusting the task to the Committee on Agriculture. The feeling of the Committee was that in this case - in the case of COAG - the nutrition is included within the purview of COAG. The two basic motives of the Ad Hoc Committee would be properly met: first, provision of reform for intergovernmental consultations on all FAO's¹ nutrition policies and programmes; and second, better

better integration of nutrition within FAO's overall activities. However, I must say that after hours of debate the Committee was not in a position to suggest or recommend to the Council a firm conclusion.

The Committee suggested in its report, therefore, to consider the whole issue again at its Spring Session in 1979 in the light of the experience gained from the COAG meeting in April, and then to discuss the whole problem again and, hopefully, to come to a consensus as far as the final recommendation of the Council is concerned. One point in our deliberations and decision to be reached to suggest postponement of the whole issue was also that the Secretariat promised to prepare for the next COAG meeting a comprehensive policy document on nutrition which would, hopefully, make possible a full scale debate in the COAG next Spring.

Coming now to the point FAO/WHO standards programme, I would only say that the Committee welcomed - as has been stressed already by Mr. Islam - the policy reorientation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in response to the request of the Council as well as of the Conference, but it considered that it should be viewed only as a first step toward greater recognition of the needs and interests of the developing countries. It also welcomed the new procedures adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission which were expected to result - as is said in the report - in full consideration by governments and the Commission, not only of the technical aspects and issues of food standards, but also of their economic impact. The Committee wanted also to stress its feeling that the new procedures adopted were intended to benefit all countries, not only developing countries. In considering some new initiatives and programmes within the Codex Alimentarius Commission the Committee took a very principled stand that the Commission should concentrate primarily on the development of international food standards for finished products rather than for raw materials. Within the same context the Committee underlined the importance of the work of developing international maximum limits for pesticide residues. It also stressed that these limits should be realistic and took particular account of agricultural practices and pest-control problems in tropical and sub-tropical countries.

Now only a word about regional coordination committees and the problem of regional standards. The Committee voiced a kind of caution in this regard and considered that regional food standards, if not confined to products solely in the inter-region of trade could possibly become barriers to worldwide trade and it recommended that Codex Alimentarius Commission should keep a close watch on the whole matter.

With regard to the code of ethics, the Committee also stressed that it should proceed cautiously, taking full account of developments in GATT, concerning the elaboration of the GATT code of conduct for preventing barriers to trade.

Now I will finish with what has already been emphasized by Professor Islam, that one of the basic conclusions of the Committee was that, having in mind, of course, the importance of Codex work within the world context of nutritional improvement of food production and trade the Council should follow closely general policy trends within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

CHAIRMAN: We have now had an introduction to the item under review this morning. I will try to follow this procedure: I think it will be desirable that we deal with nutrition and food standards separately. I think it would cause considerable confusion if we tried to deal with them both at the same time. Nutrition is an important aspect; food quality is a different topic. We now have in front of us, in effect, to consider two issues. One is what governments themselves, through the FAO Council and the Conference, and in their own policies can do in respect to raising nutritional levels and how we plan in the Council to provide the impetus and with what kind of legislative procedure we want to do that. Then we have the other aspect which has been introduced, that is to look at the whole concept of what the FAO is doing that is what the Council is doing, and what the Secretariat is doing and how the two can mesh and work together.

RAMADHAR (India): I would like to compliment Professor Islam for his excellent introduction of the subject. I would also like to compliment the Chairman of the Programme Committee for summarizing the deliberations of the Programme Committee in a very concise and lucid manner. I would like to compliment him particularly because I had the privilege of working with him in the Programme Committee and we saw in what an able manner he conducted the deliberations of the Programme Committee.

Now coming to the item under review, my delegation has studied the documents CL 74/29 that the Director-General has submitted to the Council outlining the actions that he has already taken or which he further proposes to take in response to the Conference Resolution 8/77. My delegation

considers this item as of paramount importance, it is only because the problem of poverty and malnutrition is looming large in the developing world, particularly in the countries of Asia and Africa. May I crave the indulgence of this Council for a few minutes if I quote some statistics to examine as to how grave the situation is. More than one billion people live in the low-income countries of Asia and about half of them live in absolute poverty. Four countries of Asia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Pakistan contain two thirds of the world's absolute poor. In spite of the optimistic predictions of the World Bank in its Development Report 1978 the number of absolute poor will still remain 600 million at the turn of the century, and this will mean only a marginal decline from the present level of about 770 million people. If we look at the annual rate of growth in per caput availability of food the picture is quite depressing. While the rate of growth in the last decade has been 0.7 percent in developing countries it has slowed down to 0.3 percent in the first six years of the present decade. Among the MSA countries there has been a negative growth. During the first six years of the present decade the per caput output of food in the MSA countries has declined by 0.4 percent. If we look at the number of people below the adopted, critical minimum energy intake limit, the picture is no better. There has been an increase of about 50 million malnourished people between the periods 1969/70/71 and 1972/74; the MSA countries alone account for 307 million malnourished people. Of the total of 455 malnourished people at the global level 297 million are in the Far East and alone.

I would like to be excused at the liberty of quoting these figures but these are not my figures, these are the figures from the Public Records of the World Bank and the FAO. My delegation feels that without these figures the entire discussion on nutrition will be out of focus. In this background the action taken by the Director-General and the reorientation in the Organization are most welcome. We welcome the initiative taken by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, particularly its efforts in the direction of history of resources assigned to the programmes to improve nutrition and to sensitize the world community to the nutritional needs.

My delegation also welcomes the action being taken within the FAO itself in nutritional adjustments. It is encouraging to note that the review of the field programme 1978-79 will contain a special section with the full impact of field activities on improving nutrition.

The question of nutrition has been considered by the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies and the 35th Session of the Programme. The second session of the Ad Hoc Committee has made very useful recommendations in paragraphs 67 to 71 contained in its report, document CL 74/29. These recommendations which suggest greater coverage, improved methodology and mobilization of regional resources should in our view form the basis of future actions by this Organization.

There is, however, one point contained in paragraph 1.78 of the Programme Committee's Report CL 74/5 on which I would like to say a few words. The Chairman of the Programme Committee has already dealt with this matter in his statement. This is about the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee and what arrangements should be made within the Organization to discuss this issue. The Ad Hoc Committee has recommended that there should be a standing committee of the Council to discuss nutrition. We have deliberated on this matter and at quite length in the Programme Committee and I need not reiterate what the Chairman of the Programme Committee has already said. We felt that we may defer the decision of the Programme Committee and request the Council that at this session of the Council the Council may defer the decision because of two or three important factors. The one was that the Organization was going to place a policy paper on nutrition before the next Committee of COAG. The next Committee of the COAG should discuss this matter and the Council should take a decision on this issue regarding the advisability of having a standard committee or otherwise in the Spring session of 1979. As I had participated in the discussions of the Programme Committee and as we felt that this was the most appropriate decision at this stage, I would like to support the decision of the Programme Committee.

The recommendations of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the 35th Session of the Programme Committee, points to the basic question of mobilization of additional resources. The Programme Committee had considered this matter and has recommended that the field activities, such as training programmes, assistance in food and nutritional policies, needed to be expanded, especially to assist the establishment and the strengthening of national infrastructures. We also welcome in this connexion the analysis given by the Director-General in document CL 74/29, Annex 2, indicating the additional resources needed, resources available, in the gap to be filled for the remainder of the 1978-79 biennium. We welcome and commend the efforts of the Director-General in seeking extra-budgetary funds for these activities. We also hope that the field activities in nutrition, which are so vital for the developing countries, will get their fair and equitable share in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium both from regular as well as extra-budgetary resources.

MAURIA (Finland): My delegation has thoroughly studied the Director-General's report in response to Conference Resolution 8/77 presented to the Council as document CL 79/29, which also contained the response of the Secretariat to the report of the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies held in March of this year.

In agreement with the other Nordic countries I would like to comment only on one issue discussed in this document which we find crucial to all the others raised, that is the future of the Ad Hoc Committee. This concerns the possible mechanics through which Member Governments will be able to continue to participate in the debate on how nutritional objectives can become part of FAO's activities.

Since the World Food Conference we have seen an increasing interest in nutrition among Member Governments parallel to the renewed and intensified attention given to nutrition as part of development problems at large. This attention is now both of a different nature and on a different scale than only a few years ago when nutritional problems were considered by many as merely technical problems that could be solved with more knowledge and technology. Nutrition has become a complex issue to deal with. The complexity and the challenge it presents, both for the analysis, planning and implementation of nutrition-oriented programmes, is recognized by the ACC Sub-Committee for Nutrition of which FAO is a member. Several papers discussed at the Sub-Committee's last meeting in New York in October reflected this, and no one seems to deny that there are many problems still to be solved before it can be said that we really know what it will take to integrate nutritional objectives in agriculture and other development projects or how to evaluate the nutritional effects of various programmes.

Applied to practical matters, this philosophy would imply the continuation of the only mechanism whereby FAO's member countries today can follow the nutritional trends and give their inputs to their development, that is, the Ad Hoc Committee on Food Aid and Nutrition Policies. Those present at the Committee's Second Session in March of this year appreciated the opportunity to discuss nutritional matters at a high level, professionally as well as policy-wise. We feel that this opportunity must be safeguarded as long as we need it. The Committee recommended in paragraph 72 of its report before us that the Council change its status from that of an ad hoc body to a Standing Committee of the Council under Article V.6 of the FAO Constitution, with the title "Committee on Food and Nutrition", and that it should have the opportunity to meet before the Conference Session in 1979. However, the Programme Committee at its last meeting recommended that the Council postpone its consideration of the matter until 1979. It has also been suggested that nutrition, instead of being dealt with in a separate committee, should be included in the terms of reference to the Committee on Agriculture. We see this alternative proposal as a response to the philosophy put forward in FAO and elsewhere in recent years, that nutritional problems should not be seen in isolation but as an integrated part of development programmes and projects in agriculture, health and rural development.

I should add that the Nordic countries have been among the strongest advocates for this philosophy, and we would definitely support any proposal to the effect that the various other FAO committees should have nutrition on their agendas. For this reason we welcome the inclusion of nutrition in the competency of COAG. However, before nutrition can be integrated into individual sectors, we must have a clear picture of what exactly we want to integrate. We would hope that at some time in the future there will be no need for a separate Committee on Nutrition as a result of a development whereby nutritional objectives will automatically form part of development objectives in general and the necessary methodologies for incorporating and evaluating nutrition have been developed. For the time being, however, we do not think that we can do without the only FAO body offering an opportunity to contribute towards this development.

My delegation shares the concerns of FAO with respect to establishing new statutory bodies, as expressed in paragraph 18 and 20 of document CL 74/29. However, if the Committee on Agriculture could become the main FAO body responsible for nutrition, there is a definite risk that nutrition will not receive the full attention that it deserves. This would be all the more regrettable in view of the fact that FAO has recently been designated the lead agency in nutrition for the whole UN development system. I would therefore like to put forward the following compromise proposal: the Committee on Food Aid and Nutrition Policies should continue for the time being as an ad hoc committee and its future status should be left open, as also suggested by the Programme Committee. However, the date for its next session should be fixed already now. We realize that it may be difficult to have a session before the Conference; it may be just as useful to hold a session after the Conference. By that time, the Committee will be in a position to consider a number of activities or elements for future discussion on nutritional aspects in other FAO bodies, such as the announced discussion on a nutritional policy before the COAG meeting in April 1979, the World Food Council's annual meeting, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the UN Conference on Science and Technology, and the FAO Conference as well as several meetings of the ACC Sub-Committee for Nutrition, which will by that time undoubtedly have progressed with the development of several as yet undecided areas of relevance for nutrition policy and planning.

In the view of the Nordic delegations, FAO should endeavour to maximize its efforts so as to be able to contribute in the best possible way to the challenges facing the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. A good interaction between alert and interested member countries and a strong future secretariat core in the nutrition field in FAO will be supportive of these efforts. To keep the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition as a mechanism for integrated technical and policy discussions in FAO would also be in line with the FAO's and the UN's own recommendation to Member Governments that they establish a focal point for nutrition within the government machinery, although the aim should always be to make nutrition an integrated part of nutritional developments.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (brazil) : Mr. Chairman, as indicated earlier before we started our meeting, at 10.30 I will have to go to the Director-General's office to discuss, as the Council agreed upon, the issues which were left behind yesterday, and therefore I would like with your indulgence and that of the Council to be able to speak on both aspects. Unfortunately, I have no written text, so if you agree I would like to speak on both items.

CHAIRMAN : Yes, I agree, as long as you understand that we will stop the discussion on Codex after your intervention and go back to nutrition again.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Thank you, sir. My delegation is always very pleased to take part in the discussions on nutrition in FAO, and we have repeatedly indicated that we feel that programmes dealing with nutrition in FAO should be strengthened. We indicated this point of view quite clearly at the time of the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference. In fact, at that time we indicated that if resources were available we would indeed have favoured an increased budgetary allocation for nutrition. We feel that nutrition is a necessary and indispensable component of a social approach to development, and in fact by emphasizing nutrition we are helping those really in need. My Government has been devoted fully in line with this policy and has taken a national approach to nutrition, to start with, by a very well-known survey on nutrition on which plans and policies are being based, policies and plans in which nutrition is fully integrated with an overall production effort, the aim being, of course, to promote production so as to cause the improvement of nutritional conditions of all strata of the population.

That being said, my delegation would like to indicate that it is quite pleased with the manner in which resolution 8/77 has been implemented. We see that the Director-General is, within the limits of the resources available, making whatever efforts are possible to strengthen and accelerate programmes of nutrition. We concur with the Director-General's observations that an extra-budgetary reserve should be set for further improved nutritional programmes within the Organization.

Coming now to the question of the institutional aspects in the future, my delegation is fully in agreement with the recommendation of the Programme Committee. We feel that the position taken by the Programme Committee at the Thirty-Fifth Session was a reasonable one because it allows an experience to take place on the treatment of the issue at COAG early next year and the Programme Committee again to review matters and the Council to take a final decision. We feel that this approach does not preclude any final arrangement in a different direction. In principle, therefore, we very much favour this manner to settle the question of institutional aspects for nutrition. Of course, as I said, the fact that we favour an experience with COAG dealing with this matter does not in any manner detract from our utmost interest in nutrition.

Coming now to the question of the Codex Alimentarius Commission programme, I would like to offer to the Council a few observations. I will try to comment on two aspects, first, the question of the impact of food standards on the economic interests of Member States, in particular developing countries, and second, on the re-orientation work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The first issue, the impact of standards, is an issue which our Council has debated at length in the past. As we all know, the last session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission examined the issue in depth, and we have now before us a report of the Director-General indicating the trends of discussion within the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We feel that the Codex Alimentarius Commission took a pragmatic and correct approach to this question. The Codex Alimentarius did not pass judgment on the actual cases which were evoked to indicate an impact positive or negative, for the food standards. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, within its effort to promote the interests of developing countries in particular, decided to amend its procedures for adoption of standards so as to provide at two stages an effective consideration of the economic impact of food standards. I must say there was no substantive evaluation

of the observations presented by different delegations; what happened therefore was an action on procedure, and as the Programme Committee has indicated very clearly, a way to implement the changes introduced in the procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The importance at this stage is to ensure that observations of governments presented when standards are being prepared - and those observations will be made at two stages - are properly dealt with by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Programme Committee rightly points out the paramount importance of the recommendations that the Committee on General Principles will make next year to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the manner of dealing with those comments.

Developing countries speak in the Commission with the support of other countries that in principle favour the special machinery of the Commission, and we felt it could be extremely difficult for the Commission to go in depth into the analysis of the economic impact on specific standards. But this is a matter that the Codex Committee on General Principles will study, and we concur with the comments of the Programme Committee that this matter is very important and it is of paramount significance that an actual and effective arrangement should be made so that those comments on economic impacts are analyzed.

May I add that the preoccupation of developing countries with economic impact should in fact be recognized by all of us, as in order that the standards should be adopted it is important that we should all feel the standards are serving - as they should do - the functions they are supposed to perform, first of all the health of the consumer and second, the facilities of trade; these are two paramount considerations embodied in the constitution of the Codex.

Just to conclude on that point we feel the Codex Commission acted correctly and we hope very much that the changes made in procedures will prove effective in their operation.

Coming now to the reorientation of the Codex Commission work. We feel that prompted by the last session of the Conference the Codex Commission has made worthwhile progress in updating and reorientating the Codex work so that the issue at the present time is most relevant. This is not a question of developing or developed countries, it is for all of us. There are no two sides to that. The Codex Commission has not frozen or put in abeyance some commodity committees which had basically performed their work. On the other hand, the Codex Commission embarked on, or took measures to start work on, two very important new fields: first on cereals and cereal Codex. We concur fully with the comments of the Programme Committee that in principle food standards should continue to be made primarily for processed finished products - the products which are actually consumed. We feel it is very important that food standards should primarily be geared to those finished products. It would not be appropriate, in our view, to embark on qualification from the Codex point of view and the food standards point of view, to the raw material, although the Codex Commission allows for the possibility in principle. It is a question of priorities.

The second area of work which the Commission started, or took measures for the work to be started, is also very important. It is the work on food standards for vegetable proteins. Here again, my delegation fully concurs with the comments of the Programme Committee. It was stressed in the Committee, and the Committee adopted as its position, that care should be taken in fully taking into account in developing food standards for vegetable proteins the technological changes which are taking place. This is an extremely important standardization of work and it is an area where changes are still taking place. It is very important especially for those countries which are gaining and developing experience in vegetable proteins to be fully in a condition to participate in the work of standardization in this special and very important sector. It is not a negative word, it is a word of caution to take into account one aspect of the problem.

Still on the actual work of the Food Standards Commission, here is not a new area of work and activities, it is a traditional one. We would like in that area to offer a few brief comments. It is a question of pesticide residues. The Programme Committee rightly underlined the importance of this work. At the same time we feel that the observation of the Programme Committee that in developing food standards, maximum pesticide residue limits, the Food Standards Commission should take special care to take fully into account the agricultural practices for pest control in tropical and subtropical countries. It is necessary for the Council to take this into account, since our Council is primarily concerned with food production, and therefore we must be careful to avoid the efforts of developing countries to increase food production being unduly hampered.

On regional standards, here again there is a very important area which perhaps this Council should take note of. The observation of the Programme Committee that in principle we should always endeavour to have universal standards is the right one. We fully realize that in very special cases there might be products which are exclusively traded within one single region. For these special cases regional

standards might be in order, but in principle we should endeavour to look at and favour universal standards, as those universal standards are the ones best fitted to answer the basic objectives of the food standards work: the health and the protection of the consumer on the one hand, and on the other side facilitation of international trade in food.

A final word on the role of our Council and the Programme Committee. It is very important, as the Programme Committee indicated, that the Council follow closely the general policy trends of the work of the Food Standards Programme. I want to dispel any doubt that might arise out of this language; it is not a question of standards A, B and C. Not at all. The language of the Programme Committee is quite a profitable one. These are general policy trends, related of course to food production impacts. This close examination by the Council should not be seen as a negative examination - on the contrary, it should be seen as a positive one. The Council can help the standards work. This is the way my delegation sees the spirit in which the clause can be seen.

I am sorry I have taken up a little time of the Council on this specific item, but as you know, we take a very great interest in this area of the developing countries. We have shown considerable interest in the Codex work being attuned to our needs, not of particular countries but all countries, and all interest of food should be taken into account.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish first of all to express our pleasure at seeing Mr. Shefrin chairing the meeting of the Council, and all those who have followed closely the participation of Mr. Shefrin in previous sessions have noted that in addition to his light hearted remarks he always adds substance to our discussions. As a sign of appreciation, I shall abide by the indications he gave to us at the beginning of this session - namely, that we should first deal with nutrition, and I shall be as brief as possible.

I wish first to express my appreciation on the excellent introduction by Dr. Islam to the subject, also my appreciation of the clarity and precision in which the Chairman of the Programme Committee has made his introduction.

Secondly, we want to express our satisfaction for the steps taken by the Director-General and the Secretariat in responding to the Resolution of the Council at its Nineteenth Session.

In view of the shortage of time I shall confine myself to dealing with one point only, namely the recommendation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies in the sense of giving the Ad Hoc Committee permanent status. It has been customary for us always to express our reserve in connexion with the creation of new organs that may add to the complexity of our Organization. Naturally there could be special and very exceptional circumstances which would call for new organs which would strengthen the work of the Organization, but in the specific case on hand we feel that there is not a real need for the setting up of such a new organ. Here we find ourselves in line with the proposal of the Programme Committee as we have it in document CL 74/29. In line with that proposal we could ask COAG to do the work of nutrition in order to avoid duplication and perhaps also to be clear about the terms of reference of every Commission. I do not believe that in so doing we would be prejudicing or affecting any matter that could have any bearing on the objectives of the Organization or of the Commission, particularly when we speak of the possibility of representatives of member countries participating in discussions on nutrition and making nutrition one of the main subjects of the Organization in the sense that when they are discussed by COAG they will not be discussed in isolation of the overall view on nutrition. However, I would say that if in the future there are new data or considerations that would require us to reconsider our view, we will do so very willingly.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Pakistan I would like to remind the Council that there is also a Committee on Fisheries. I have been told that fish is an excellent protein food. If you are discussing nutrition in COAG, which is agriculture, you must bear in mind that the Committee on Fisheries should also be considered. Also, to maintain our balance may I say that nutrition is not only an agricultural issue, it is also a consumer issue. So in looking at this issue we must be careful not to become too narrow in our approach.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): May I say that it is always a pleasure to see a flexible chairman in the chair. We have read document CL 74/18, which is the report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies, with interest, and are gratified to see that nutrition is finally gaining recognition which is long overdue to it.

To be brief I will restrict myself to addressing only three issues. The first is the recommendations contained in paragraph 67 (a) of this report. We fully concur and support the view expressed therein, which suggests that FAO should assume a leading role within the United Nations system in the efforts to advance practical approaches to nutrition programme design and implementation.

The second issue on which we should like to speak is whether or not we agree with the suggestion of the Programme Committee to postpone a decision on the status of the Committee.

Also I would like to speak on the recommendation contained in paragraph 67(g). This talks about increased financial resources for nutrition and also about the availability of extra-budgetary financing being explored. This is very important. If we are genuinely supporting the cause of nutrition we feel that there should be some clear indications that increased financial resources will be made available to nutrition, otherwise we will be constrained to come to the conclusion that all this talk about supporting nutrition is merely lip service to what is a very deserving cause.

With regard to the proposal of the Programme Committee, we are not happy with the compromise solution which suggests that nutrition and agriculture should be considered together. We are unhappy with this because, as is always the case, people are always unhappy with compromise solutions. Both subjects are of paramount importance. There would be an obvious conflict of interest. The agriculturist would insist on greater attention to agriculture, and the nutritionist, quite justifiably so, would insist on greater attention to nutrition. We fear that neither party will be satisfied with this arrangement. On the other hand, we must also take into consideration the fact that we should not accord standing committee status to this ad hoc body just for the sake of doing so. There must be a strong indication that there is a commitment to support the cause of nutrition before such a decision is taken. Therefore, we feel that more work needs to be done before we take a final decision on the subject. We would therefore go along either with the proposal of the Programme Committee or the proposal put forward by the delegate of Finland.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): On behalf of my delegation I wish to express my appreciation of the report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies. Until today increase in food production has always been a subject which has received the highest priority. Food is the main problem and needs great attention. Without entering into details, my delegation would like to emphasize the significance of training in the field of nutrition in the sense that national personnel be given greater opportunities for training in food and nutritional planning and that regional and national workshops and seminars on food and nutrition policies should be organized, which would offer a good opportunity for the exchange of practical experiences among the participants coming from countries with similar climatic conditions.

With regard to the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee, my delegation is in favor of the recommendation that its status should be changed to that of a standing committee of the Council.

A. ZALAMEA (Colombia): Gracias, Sr. Presidente, quiero decirle en primer término que sus palabras de saludo matutino me han llenado de alivio. El anuncio de que en esta sesión tenemos brújula y que esta sesión puede ser una balsa de aceite después de la movida e incierta navegación de ayer, resulta tranquilizador. Seré, pues, informativo y espero aprovechar su benevolencia y esta pausa en el ritmo bastante acelerado del Presidente titular para decir algo sobre lo que hace mi Gobierno respecto a los problemas de nutrición, siguiendo su explícita invitación de hace un momento.

Seré, pues, breve, pero no telegráfico.

En el punto 15 de la Declaración de México, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación afirma que el sistema de las Naciones Unidas debería hacer de la eliminación del hambre y de la malnutrición un objetivo principal e incluir en los programas operativos del sistema objetivos específicos relacionados con la nutrición.

Este es un llamamiento moral que sin duda todos compartimos. Al respecto, deseo informar concisamente al Consejo sobre la forma en que mi país está enfrentando ese problema y los programas operativos que está llevando a cabo; tal vez sirvan para ilustrar nuestros esfuerzos y nuestras dificultades.

La agricultura tiene una función primordial en la economía colombiana; es la fuente más importante de divisas, produce aproximadamente una cuarta parte de los ingresos del país y proporciona una tercera parte de los puestos de trabajo totales.

En el sector agrícola el café, principal cultivo de exportación, es el producto más importante, pues representa dos terceras partes de las divisas del país y una décima parte del total de las fuerzas de trabajo.

La influencia del sector externo, dominado por el café en el ritmo y funcionamiento de la economía colombiana, sobre todo del desarrollo agrícola y rural, es considerable. Tan solo pueden obtenerse precios elevados e ingresos de exportación estables mediante la adopción de medidas internacionales como los Acuerdos sobre productos básicos y los planes de financiación compensatoria.

Por ello Colombia está muy interesada en que progresen rápidamente los convenios internacionales que puedan desarrollar el comercio de productos agrícolas y estabilizar y aumentar sus precios reales. La experiencia reciente es un ejemplo, tanto de los problemas como de las oportunidades que presenta la tarea de dirigir una economía como la colombiana, que depende en gran medida del sector externo.

Colombia no sólo debe aumentar al máximo los beneficios obtenidos de su dependencia predominante de las exportaciones de café, sino que también tiene que proteger su economía de los efectos desestabilizadores de la economía mundial. Por ejemplo, los altos precios del café y el aumento de las divisas han dado lugar a una tendencia ascendente de los precios internos durante los últimos años. A fin de contrarrestar esta tendencia, tenemos que movilizar los recursos obtenidos gracias al aumento de las exportaciones y destinarlos a inversiones productivas y a satisfacer las necesidades inmediatas de las clases marginales. Para ello es preciso eliminar, naturalmente, muchos obstáculos internos.

Visto a más largo plazo, el índice de aumento de la producción agrícola total ha sido similar al del crecimiento demográfico; sin embargo, el índice de aumento disminuyó de hecho en 1976 y 1977 debido a una pertinaz sequía. La reciente reducción del aumento de la producción agrícola de resultas de la sequía ha agravado las presiones inflacionarias internas; pero es el sector moderno, consistente en cultivos comerciales de exportación, el que ha registrado un índice de aumento considerablemente mayor que el sector tradicional, orientado principalmente hacia la producción de alimentos.

El progreso agrícola y el desarrollo rural no sólo constituyen, pues, la clave para el crecimiento constante de nuestra economía, sino que también son de importancia crucial para reducir las desigualdades, aumentar los puestos de trabajo y eliminar la deficiencia nutricional de una parte considerable de la población.

El Plan Cuatrienal de Desarrollo, iniciado en 1975 tiene como objetivo conseguir un aumento más equilibrado del sector agrícola; es decir, entre el sector tradicional de producción alimentaria y el sector de exportaciones comerciales.

También se intenta lograr el desarrollo integrado de las economías rural y urbana. El desarrollo rural y el progreso agrícola tienen una gran prioridad en nuestros planes políticos a fin de poder ampliar las oportunidades de empleo en zonas rurales mediante proyectos que exigen mucha mano de obra y aumentar la producción de alimentos para que corresponda al creciente nivel de los ingresos. Se insiste así en las necesidades de la familia de menores recursos de las zonas rurales y en las políticas destinadas a fomentar el incremento de la productividad del pequeño agricultor.

Nuestro Gobierno atribuye considerable importancia a los dos componentes esenciales del Plan: el Plan Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición y el Programa de Desarrollo Rural Integral.

El Plan de Alimentación y Nutrición entraña una inversión sustancial de recursos para aumentar los ingresos y los puestos de trabajo de las familias con bajo nivel de ingresos. Los objetivos centrales del Plan son: aumentar la producción de los alimentos conducentes a acrecentar el nivel nutricional de la mayoría de la población y mejorar los sistemas de comercialización y distribución, incluida la distribución subvencionada de alimentos.

Igualmente importantes son los programas de educación nutricional y de mejoramiento de la elaboración de alimentos, las industrias agrícolas y la mejor utilización de alimentos para el consumo.

Se insiste igualmente en la investigación de nuevas variedades con objeto de aumentar la productividad y diversificar los alimentos que se consumen.

Estrechamente vinculado con el Plan Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición está el Programa de Desarrollo Rural Integrado. Este programa está concebido para promover la agricultura y la integración de los campesinos en el sistema de mercado mediante el mejoramiento de los sistemas tradicionales del pequeño cultivador.

La agricultura de las pequeñas explotaciones no solo abarca a la mayoría de las familias campesinas, sino que produce la mayor parte de los alimentos destinados al consumo masivo; por consiguiente, el incremento de la productividad de este tipo de agricultura constituye la clave para reducir la pobreza por una parte y mejorar el abastecimiento alimentario y disminuir la malnutrición por otra.

Entre los componentes del programa figura un aumento del crédito, actividad de extensión y servicio de comercialización, así como el desarrollo de infraestructuras básicas, incluidos los servicios docentes y sanitarios.

El programa beneficiará a 500 000 pequeños agricultores en 5 millones y medio de hectáreas. Para aumentar la productividad y reducir la pobreza en las zonas rurales no solo se requiere un gran incremento y de la afluencia de recursos, especialmente en los sectores de los pequeños agricultores, sino que también hay que efectuar cambios en las instituciones de organizaciones rurales y fomentar la participación de la población campesina.

No menos importantes son las medidas de macro-política, como la concesión de incentivos adecuados, de precios para la agricultura y los mecanismos fiscales para la movilización de recursos en las zonas rurales.

El esfuerzo agrícola de nuestro país hoy puede sintetizarse, tal vez, en una iniciativa del Gobernador de Cesar, uno de los Departamentos agrícolas más importantes de Colombia. Esta iniciativa abarca la fundación de una universidad campesina basada en el criterio de dar educación a grandes masas sin la exigencia de certificado de estudios y utilizando los más modernos sistemas audiovisuales.

Volviendo al documento que estamos analizando, quisiera decir que nos parece acertada la nueva orientación que se ha dado a la Dirección de Política Alimentaria y Nutrición. La delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 52 del informe del Comité sobre la necesidad de insistir al respecto.

Dentro de ese orden de ideas la delegación de Colombia apoya igualmente la propuesta del Director General sobre medidas complementarias.

Sería deseable encontrar fondos extrapresupuestarios para poner en práctica tales medidas.

Nuestra delegación está igualmente de acuerdo con el párrafo 52 acerca de la necesidad de que los gobiernos concedan mayor prioridad a las actividades en favor del mejoramiento de la nutrición.

Atención especial nos merece el apartado (a) del párrafo 67 del informe del Comité. Estamos de acuerdo en que la función primordial de la FAO en materia de nutrición debe ser la de prestar asistencia a los países en desarrollo para que planifiquen y ejecuten programas de alimentación y nutrición.

En el párrafo 6° del informe se señalan adecuadamente los factores que impiden el mejoramiento de la nutrición en los países en desarrollo no obstante el ligero aumento de la producción.

Creemos que conviene subrayarlos en nuestro informe a la atención de todos los Gobiernos:

La distribución equitativa de los ingresos que aumentará el poder adquisitivo de la población, más empleo, mejores salarios, derecho a la tierra, política de precios de alimentos e información suficiente sobre la necesidad de seleccionar los alimentos.

Estos y muchos otros aspectos contribuirán a elaborar adecuadas políticas de alimentación y nutrición necesarias para eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo, como se dice al final del párrafo 12 " del informe del Comité.

Sobre el futuro del Comité, finalmente, se presentan dos posibilidades: convertirlo en Comité Permanente en virtud del Artículo V.6 de la Constitución de la FAO, con el nombre de Comité de Alimentación y Nutrición, según se recomienda en el párrafo 72 del informe; o incluir la nutrición en el mandato del Comité de Agricultura de la FAO de acuerdo con la alternativa que se plantea en el párrafo 20 del documento CL 74/29.

Nuestra delegación está dispuesta a estudiar las dos posibilidades, aunque veríamos con simpatía que los esfuerzos no se dupliquen ni den pretexto a la creación de comités paralelos. En este sentido nos parece muy estimulante la propuesta de nuestro distinguido colega de Finlandia. En todo caso, consideramos que lo esencial es lograr que la nutrición sea estimada y analizada a su debida altura en los órganos de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I must remind the Council that we are running short of time and we must find a half-way measure between interventions in telegraphic form and in the form of bulletins. I would appreciate it if delegates would speak more pertinently to the point. In view of the lateness of the hour I feel I must make this appeal.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation also would like to thank the Secretariat for documents CL 74/18 and CL 74/29 which were submitted for this agenda item, and for the introductions given to us. Let me say at the outset that the Federal Republic of Germany took an active part in the discussions at the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies, as we attach great importance to the questions which were dealt with in that body.

With regard to the improvement of nutrition, the first agenda sub-item, my Government's position can be given very briefly as follows. The basic requirement for concrete measures of aid is an analysis of the situation in developing countries. The first step of the governments of these countries is to identify the main ecological, sociological and economic criteria which are decisive for the unfavourable development in individual food sectors or in certain local areas; specific individual analysis as well as the evaluation of existing data on the kind, extent and causes of undernutrition or malnutrition will provide the necessary information. Such investigation should be undertaken in close relationship with rural or other development projects. On the basis of this analysis the activities for nutrition planning and surveillance must be formulated by the governments at country level, assisted by FAO.

My Government holds the view that greater attention than so far should be given to the nutrition aspects in the technical assistance projects. This will, however, only be possible with the widespread effect desired if the requirements mentioned have been met. We welcome the step^{*3} taken by FAO, as set out in document CL 74/29, paragraphs 4-10, aiming at including nutrition aspects to a greater extent in future in the technical assistance projects.

With regard to the statements in paragraphs 14-17 on the additional necessary funds, I should like to make the following remarks. The Ad Hoc Committee had recommended the elaboration of a Programme of Work in which the necessary resources should be seen in relation to the task of FAO in this area. The main concern of the Committee was to improve the capacities of FAO with a view to advising the Governments of developing countries on the setting up of nutrition programmes and the formulation of adequate policies. However, it is rather difficult to assess the supplementary proposals for the biennium 1978-79 because the result of the considerations is only described in the form of an enumeration of project activities, manpower requirements, available and uncovered resources. With regard to the planning for the next biennium to which paragraph 16 refers, my delegation would therefore suggest that detailed information should be given allowing us to assess the individual activities with regard to their priority."

As regards the question of whether the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies should be transformed into a standing committee of the Council, or the food questions should be included in the terms of reference of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, my delegation shares the view of the Programme Committee. We also feel it could be advisable to take no decision at the present moment. The Committee on Agriculture should first deal with that question at its next session and with the consequences which may result therefrom. We are also open to the establishment of a standing committee on food and nutrition if the majority of the Member States of the Organization consider it necessary.

My delegation feels that the interim proposal which has just been put forward by the delegate of Finland and supported by Pakistan also merits careful consideration in this context. Which institutional decisions will be taken is, to my delegation, of rather secondary importance. What matters most is that in future food and nutritional issues will be dealt with in an adequate way in FAO, the leading agency within the UN family for this vital area.

J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): I would wish to begin my remarks by thanking India for a very comprehensive coverage on the subject. I fully agree with her very lucid presentation of the subject. I would also like to thank my Nordic friends, because it was in the last FAO Conference that Norway introduced the resolution asking FAO to do more for nutrition and we supported that motion.

Coming to the paper under discussion, the report of the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutritional Policies, we agreed with the view that attention must be given to factors which affect food consumption, such as distribution of income, better employment towards improved wages, access to land, food price policies and dissemination of knowledge that would lead to better food selection.

We are for increased activity by FAO in the field of nutrition. The FAO should have more up-to-date statistics on food supplies, food consumption and nutritional studies, as was suggested by the Committee. The FAO should also finalize and distribute to member countries the guidelines for the evaluation of nutrition programmes. It should also develop a more comprehensive programme of work and estimate both the resources available within the Organization and the additional external resources needed. The FAO should work in close association with the World Food Council, as in other fields, in developing her programme of nutrition.

Like the Programme Committee, we hope the Committee on Agriculture in April will examine more closely nutrition activities within FAO and make more specific recommendations, including the question whether there should be a standing committee on nutrition.

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): Perhaps I could first thank the delegate of Venezuela for his kind cooperation in enabling me to make this statement.

My Government recognizes the importance of nutrition and the kind of problems which were so graphically illustrated by the delegate of India. We welcome, therefore, the emphasis being given to nutrition by FAO. We hope that it will soon be possible to appoint a director of the Nutrition Division and that the staff of the division can be brought up to strength.

We welcome the measures taken by FAO to assess the nutritional impact of FAO programmes in selected countries. Much can be achieved by the application of existing knowledge about nutrition to the early stages of project selection and design. We think, however, there are many aspects of this work which require research. We hope that the Nutrition Division, in collaboration with other institutions and agencies, notably the WHO, will consider defining and organizing a programme of medium- to long-term research. This could, we suggest, be based on a number of case studies; of communities and areas, and would aim to describe the changes in the nutrition and health status of different sections of the population in relation to the impact of agricultural or infrastructure development projects and to elucidate the direct and indirect causes of change.

Two important topics for research are, we suggest, first the study of statistical services and information analysis in relation to policy choice, planning and administration, and secondly the study of administrative structures and responses to food and nutrition issues. The amounts of money needed for such research would, we think, be relatively small. We would be interested to hear the views of the Nutrition Division on this subject. On the wider issues, we fully agree with those other speakers who have expressed the view that nutrition should not be treated in isolation. It must, we think, be treated as part of a complex of problems covering the production of food, consumption and the provision of the necessary economic means to enable nutritionally sound consumption patterns to be developed.

We note the Director-General's intention to integrate nutrition in FAO's other activities. We would support such integration in principle and would be interested to know what implications, if any, this will have for the Nutrition Division's budget.

We have noted the suggestion in paragraph 20 of CL 74/29 that nutrition should be included in the terms of reference of the Committee on Agriculture and we have noted also the views of the Programme Committee on this subject. As nutrition is a developing science there may be a case for continuing a separate committee. As I have already indicated, however, we recognize, the need, to avoid dealing with nutrition in isolation. If it is to be included in the terms of reference of the Committee on Agriculture we hope that nutrition matters will be fully reflected in the agenda and in the time available for discussion and that the appropriate nutritional expertise will be available to and represented on the Committee.

Finally, I would like to mention that my Government has undertaken to consider financing from bilateral funds various projects identified by the Nutrition Division and which comprise part of the additional resources required by paragraph 17 of CL 74/29.

CHAIRMAN: The last part of your statement was a very practical, useful one.

P. HALIMI (France): Mon gouvernement prend acte avec satisfaction des mesures prises par le Comité ad hoc des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles pour donner suite à la résolution 8/77, et qui consiste en études sur dossier en vue d'évaluer l'effet nutritionnel de certains programmes de la FAO

dans des pays déterminés, en études approfondies de l'effet nutritionnel des programmes de la FAO, notamment au Bangladesh et en Tunisie, dans la préparation de directives en vue d'introduire des considérations nutritionnelles dans les programmes et projets agricoles, et enfin par la mise en place d'un mécanisme de coordination au sein de la FAO.

Je dois, Monsieur le Président, exprimer ma franche préoccupation de voir l'étude des problèmes nutritionnels dépendre éventuellement de ressources extra-budgétaires. La nutrition est une des bases de l'action de la FAO. Sur ce point, d'autres délégués sont intervenus avant moi, je citerai notamment le délégué de la Finlande, le délégué du Brésil et le délégué du Pakistan, et il me paraît paradoxal de voir que les activités de la FAO dans ce domaine ne relèvent pas comme elles le devraient du budget ordinaire de l'Organisation.

Une telle tendance, contraire aux buts fondamentaux de la FAO, devrait être renversée. Il serait plus naturel que la nutrition occupe, une part importante du programme ordinaire de la FAO, et que ce soit d'autres activités moins immédiatement liées à la malnutrition qui soient financées par des ressources extra-budgétaires.

Nous remarquons à cet égard que si les travaux du Comité ad hoc des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles, en juin 1975, furent essentiellement consacrés aux incidences de la résolution 5 de la Conférence mondiale réunie en état de crise, par contre, la deuxième session du Comité ad hoc a procédé au recensement des éléments d'une action systématique dans le domaine de la planification nutritionnelle, avec ses conséquences en matière de formation des cadres locaux et d'éducation.

Il s'agit là, à mon sens, d'un tournant majeur dans la recherche des solutions des problèmes nutritionnels dont l'ampleur et l'urgence ont été maintes fois soulignées par la plupart des délégations.

On constate que les chiffres globaux présentés par la FAO font apparaître que bien que la production alimentaire mondiale se soit améliorée ces dernières années, le nombre de personnes mal nourries s'est lui aussi accru, particulièrement en Afrique, au cours de ces deux dernières années.

Pour ces motifs, l'assistance alimentaire ne doit pas être mise en oeuvre isolément. Ne s'attaquant pas aux causes de la malnutrition, elle est sans intérêt à terme. Il faut viser à ce que les Etats qui en sont les bénéficiaires deviennent autosuffisants.

Il est donc nécessaire que ces Etats soient aidés par le biais de la formation, par le biais de la création de laboratoires, pour qu'ils puissent définir eux-mêmes leurs stratégies en matière de planification nutritionnelle. On peut donc se féliciter qu'un large consensus soit apparu pour estimer absolument nécessaire:

1. Que les plans de développement prennent en compte et intègrent le problème nutritionnel;
2. Que les plans comportent une évaluation des retombées sociales, et en particulier nutritionnelles, établie au départ avec l'aide de la population locale;
3. Que chaque Etat définisse sa politique nutritionnelle nationale.

On notera à ce sujet que les Etats-Unis offrent de partager expériences et experts formés grâce à la mise en oeuvre du plan de lutte contre la faim.

Sur ce plan, le contrôle sanitaire et qualitatif des aliments est d'une importance fondamentale pour assurer la protection du consommateur et sauvegarder les disponibilités nationales. Il doit faire partie intégrante des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles dans tous les pays, quel que soit leur niveau de développement économique.

J'en viens maintenant à la transformation proposée du Comité ad hoc en Comité permanent sous le nom de Comité de l'alimentation et de la nutrition. Cette transformation pose une question de principe. Le Conseil est habituellement très réservé quant à la création de nouveaux comités et il a même précédemment souhaité une réduction du nombre de ces comités. De ce fait deux formules peuvent être envisagées, soit de reconduire le Comité ad hoc, ainsi que nous l'a proposé le délégué de la Finlande et certain nombre de délégations, comme tel, sans prévoir de périodicité de ses réunions, soit d'inclure la nutrition dans le mandat du Comité de l'agriculture, comme le suggère le Comité du Programme. Chacune de ces formules a ses inconvénients.

Dans le premier cas, les dépenses entraînées par la réunion du Comité ad hoc sont peu différentes de celles supportées par un comité permanent. Dans le second cas, on risque de surcharger le travail déjà lourd du Comité de l'agriculture et de prolonger la durée de ses sessions.

J'ai noté la préoccupation exprimée par une délégation du fait qu'il faudrait, si le Comité de l'agriculture était chargé de la nutrition, veiller à ce que des experts de haut niveau en matière de nutrition assistent, eux aussi, aux réunions du Comité de l'agriculture. Dans quel cadre institutionnel devrait-on donc traiter à l'avenir le problème de nutrition ?

Le Comité du Programme estime que le cadre institutionnel dans lequel devrait se poursuivre les travaux des gouvernements en matière de nutrition pourrait difficilement être le Comité de l'agriculture et il suggère à notre Conseil de ne pas trancher sur ce problème avant la prochaine réunion du COAG.

Ma délégation appuie bien volontiers la suggestion du Comité du Programme et pense que le prochain COAG pourrait avoir ce point du cadre institutionnel à l'ordre du jour de ses travaux. Ainsi, la soixante-quinzième session du Conseil pourrait-elle statuer en toute connaissance de cause, compte tenu des débats qui auraient lieu au COAG sur cette question. Ces débats, cela va de soi, quel que soit leur résultat, n'ôteraient rien à l'intérêt profond que nous portons au problème de la nutrition.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Four years ago the international community made a solemn pledge to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Four years after we are nowhere near the fulfilment of this resolution. I shall not repeat the facts here which have been repeated over and over about the growing number of hungry people, but I should like to state that at this point we need a dispassionate analysis of what happened to efforts taken to make good the pledge that was made four years ago.

At this point I would like to share with you the points that have been the results of the soul searching of the Group of 77 in this matter. I should like to refer to the paper which has been prepared by the Group of 77 in Rome for the Committee of the Whole of New York but which has never been presented because that Committee never took up substantive matters. That paper, a very short paper, makes just one general consideration, an identification of three bottlenecks and three short recommendations.

The general comment made by their paper is that - and I quote - "The efforts to increase food production and ensure food security become meaningful only when supplemented by efforts in the field of nutrition by measures designed to improve the quantity and the quality of food available to the hungry through such measures as more equitable distribution of food and income, nutrition education, quality control, nutritional programmes to reach the nutritionally vulnerable group". This was the first general observation made by that paper.

The three bottlenecks that were pointed out were these: first, there is a lack of effective leadership in the UN system in assisting governments, and second was the insufficiency of resources allocated for specific nutrition action, and third, a lack of systematic and concerted effort by the international community. The first bottleneck, therefore, was pointed out to be, and I quote: "that the United Nations system is not moving fast enough. The ACC's effort and its Sub-Committee's efforts to establish an effective interagency action mechanism still have to produce satisfactory results. The action plan required by Resolution 5, paragraph 2, of the World Food Conference which would represent the core of a long-term plan of action on Resolution 5 is still in an inchoate stage. Attempts of agencies to resolve operational issues associated with the approach to planning nutrition intervention programmes and implementation have not been altogether successful. Emphasis is still being placed on further research requirements rather than practical action that governments can take. There is likewise a lack of forceful leadership by the United Nations system to stimulate government action, both developed and developing countries. Agencies have tended to limit their efforts to responding to specific government requests and have been asked to initiate discussion with governments leading to a broad attack on a national nutrition problem. Furthermore, United Nations agencies have limited capacity to respond to governments' requests. A glance at the staffing patterns of FAO, WHO and Unesco would confirm this limited capacity for effective assistance".

The second bottleneck that was pointed out was the lack of flow of resources. They say - and I quote - "There has not been a significant flow of resources, and technical help for nutrition programmes in donor countries in spite of the avowed commitment to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition within a decade." No wonder some of the developing countries are asking how serious this commitment really is.

The third and final bottleneck was that of lack of concerted action, and I read the paragraph: "More and more governments of developing countries have been giving priority to nutrition and are setting up sensible nutrition programmes. It is clear, however, at this point, that more government commitments to specific nutrition goals and means to reach these goals are an indispensable element for the success of a concerted attack on hunger and malnutrition. The primary responsibility which lies with the developing countries themselves cannot be substituted by anybody else. The governments

of these countries must take on a priority basis all the political, economic and financial decisions necessary for the attainment of these objectives. Without such actions, support from the United Nations agencies and resources and donor countries would not achieve the desired impact." And after that we have the three draft resolutions saying first, that the international community should establish specific operational goals for the reduction of hunger and malnutrition and incorporate these into development plans and projects. They should include an all-out effort to eradicate vitamin A deficiency and endemic goitre within a decade. Second, developed countries and others in a position to do so should increase substantially and initiate major financial and technical assistance to achieve these goals, and third, the United Nations system should improve its capacity to provide governments with comprehensive assistance to nutrition planning and programme execution to implement the relevant resolutions on nutrition.

On the more specific action that is now being considered under document CL 74/29, the Philippine delegation would like to make the following comments. The initial actions outlined in paragraph 4 up to paragraph 10 of that document are very encouraging steps towards the implementation of Resolution 8/77. We would like to commend FAO very strongly for this initiative. Given the budgetary and personnel restraints of the division, I would not hesitate to say that much has been accomplished within the limited resources. However, without an interim report on the specific results achieved to date, we find it difficult to appraise the actual progress made within the 12 months since the adoption of Resolution 8/77. The joint ESN, ESP methodology paper that was supposed to have been finalized in October, as referred to in paragraph 7 of that report, I think is in an inchoate stage. It gives us a first-stage analysis of the methodology, but we believe that further steps would be required within this in the future biennia. Then the Council's ability to appraise the adequacy of action now underway is also impaired by the limitation to the present biennium of the steps and of the resources given in CL 74/29. Based on the budgetary allocations shown under Annex 2, we have the impression that methodologies to meet the needs of a wide range and of different country situations and various agricultural and rural development type projects can be achieved. A much more comprehensive and long-term project of action is called for, and this was the original intent of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation in paragraph 67 (g). If we look at page 11 of Annex 2, the requirements for in-depth study and the following-up of the application of selected countries would cost no more than \$104,000. I understand that at least one bilateral agency is spending on the very same subject about 2 or 3 million US dollars to complete the same effort.

One year after the adoption of Resolution 8/77 we were expecting a greater significant progress report on the implementation. Also greater specificity on reporting on what has been actually achieved and what needs to be done could have enhanced the confidence of Member Governments that FAO is now taking a leading role in the nutrition field as emphasized by the Council at its June session in 1977. This also holds true for the response to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation 67 (g) dealing with the expansion of FAO's overall capacity to assist governments in the design and implementation of nutrition plans and policies.

Like the United Kingdom, we believe that it would not be a bad idea if the post of Director is filled and the Division's capacity to assist governments bolstered. We believe that where FAO has the particular comparative advantage over agencies in assisting governments, efforts should be further strengthened. The development of methodology, provision of training at the country level, the development of FAO's manpower for increased improved technical assistance to the governments need to be geared to the integration of food consumption concerns in agriculture policies and programmes to select the nutrition intervention programmes, including efforts towards a more effective use of food aid in agricultural development and nutrition improvement.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for some of the pertinent points brought up and a good review of the developments since the 1974 World Food Conference.

A.G. RAMBOUX (Belgique): J'ai quelque crainte à parler après la brillante intervention de mon collègue des Philippines. Son information fut excellente et je suis heureux de l'avoir entendue. Tout cela a été bien préparé, bien présenté mais, comme le disait mon collègue des Philippines, il me semble que les progrès ont été réduits. Les recommandations émises par le Comité ad hoc sont bonnes, un peu générales et, à ce sujet, j'ai quelques considérations à présenter.

D'abord comme cela a été dit par plusieurs orateurs, la politique de la nutrition doit s'affirmer une composante de la production agricole. C'est l'indispensable qualité de l'alimentation. Il s'agit d'un aspect qui doit imprimer l'action de la recherche agricole internationale de la FAO, du FIDA, des services agricoles des pays, des paysans, consommateurs eux-mêmes.

Tout en acceptant la poursuite limitée des activités du Comité ad hoc, parce qu'il est nécessaire que des spécialistes se retrouvent et permettent une approche pratique de ces problèmes, je pense que, dans un stade ultérieur, il est inutile de créer un organe supplémentaire. Un organe supplémentaire dans ce domaine, d'abord coûterait cher et, secondo, aurait toutes chances d'être isolé.

C'est pourquoi, malgré ces craintes, je crois nécessaire d'envisager à un stade ultérieur l'inclusion du service de la nutrition dans le mandat du Comité FAO de l'agriculture. La réunion du COAG nous éclairera davantage sur ce point. En toute éventualité, ses services devront conscientiser tous les membres du Comité de façon persévérante et convaincante.

Deuxième considération: la coopération avec d'autres organismes du système des Nations Unies est indispensable et là il me semble qu'on aurait du mettre davantage en évidence la collaboration avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et le Bureau international du travail.

En ce qui concerne l'OMS, on en a beaucoup parlé. Mon collègue du Brésil a d'ailleurs mentionné combien ses travaux sont intéressants et combien une orientation autre devrait leur être donnée. Des formules d'application faciles doivent être trouvées afin que la pratique de ce Codex puisse être réalisée partout.

En ce qui concerne le Bureau international du travail, il doit aussi collaborer, parce que dans les entreprises, beaucoup de travailleurs sont nourris; dans les foyers sociaux on prépare la nourriture, on donne même des cours pour la préparation de la nourriture et, comme le soulignait le Président, il ne s'agit pas seulement de produire mais également de consommer des denrées de bonne valeur nutritive.

Une troisième considération concerne la formation. La formation est mentionnée en Recommandation, elle est très importante pour le succès de cette action, et je trouve insuffisant que dans le budget elle revête approximativement la même valeur que l'évaluation.

Ma délégation s'intéresse à ce problème car, pour la Belgique, comme tous les pays donateurs, il importe de connaître les résultats des recherches de la FAO, afin que ses efforts dans le domaine de la coopération agricole puissent être davantage orientés et plus efficaces pour l'alimentation de ceux qui ont faim.

Je termine. Dans ce domaine comme dans beaucoup d'autres, il s'agit d'acquiescer chez tous les intervenants un esprit de travail orienté vers le Bien.

CHAIRMAN: I think your last sentence is the key sentence in your statement.

WU TIEN-US I (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): We have already been deeply concerned with the serious under-nourishment and malnutrition of hundreds of millions of the world's population. The nutrition problem involves not only technical aspects but also socio-economic implications such as income distribution, employment, and food price policies. We hope that while formulating policies and programmes related to nutrition, FAO will take this state of affairs into consideration and enforce keen measures to help developing countries solve some of their nutrition problems.

I now make some observations about nutrition work in China. The Chinese Government has concerned itself with the people's livelihood, and attaches importance to food nutrition. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, great attention is given in particular to the food and nutrition of babies, children, pregnant women and invalids. Public health measures which are easy to adopt, practical, and effective, have been carried out. All of these have contributed to reducing the mortality rate of babies, accelerating the recovery rate of invalids, and building up the health of the people.

In 1974, criteria and regulations for food hygiene were promulgated by the Chinese Government. Biological control to deal with crop diseases is underway to decrease the contamination of agricultural produce and by-products by bio-chemicals. Comprehensive utilization is adopted by food processing countries by elimination of three kinds of waste - waste of water, waste of gas, and waste of residue - with a view to preventing the contamination of food during processing. Quality inspection of food has been strengthened and measures have been taken to avoid the deterioration of foodstuffs and oils during storage. All these have helped to improve food nutrition and protect the health of the people.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your interesting report on what is being done in China in respect of nutrition.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): We share the views expressed by other delegates concerning the importance of nutritional improvement, and we share their approval of FAO's actions and proposals to give greater emphasis to nutrition improvement work. Since we share these views, we need not reiterate them, given the time constraints that we are under.

On the suggestion that nutrition should be included in the terms of reference of the Committee on Agriculture, and perhaps in the terms of reference of the Committee on Fisheries, as suggested by the Chairman, New Zealand is in favour of this.

As the Secretariat has noted in document CL 74/29, this would allow nutritional considerations to be discussed in the overall framework of the activities of FAO in the field of food and agriculture - and perhaps fisheries - and it is in accordance with the policy of FAO, which we support, of restricting the number of statutory bodies of FAO and of meetings in general.

However, we could accept any consensus reached by the Council to defer a decision of the Ad Hoc Committee, as recommended by the Programme Committee and for the reasons given by it.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): There has been a lot of very good sense pronounced this morning on the subject of nutrition, and in consequence I can make my comments telegram-short.

The improvement of the level and quality of nutrition of the world's people is one of the traditional mainstays and one of the principal objectives of the FAO. Nutrition has also proved to be one of the most difficult issues for us to address; whereas at first glance the subject seems to offer a straightforward challenge, our experience has shown how dealing with nutrition the subject can be easily confused with other objectives and our efforts become immobilized.

It seems to us that the real question before us now is how to build up and maintain the necessary momentum to give this subject the priority it so obviously deserves. Without wanting to deny the importance of research and other collection activities and the need for strong national nutrition policies, we must not let ourselves be distracted by these activities from taking the action these resources call for.

We are satisfied the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee is the best way to deal with the nutrition question at this time, and Canada agrees with the proposal that the Ad Hoc Committee should continue to deal with the nutrition issue in FAO and the decision to form a standing committee of the Council should be deferred until 1979. We feel, too, it could be a mistake to limit our attention by forgetting to assign adequate priority to this subject and other FAO Standing Committees, and the Committee on Fisheries is the most obvious of these.

In conclusion, we agree that the Ad Hoc Committee should conduct its present duties, and the future of the Committee be left over for the meantime. In saying so, we round this table, want to emphasize that priority should be given to the nutrition question.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Prometí ser sumamente concreto y lo voy a ser. Nuestra delegación tenía que hacer alguna declaración de principios, pero para otros temas.

El tema de la nutrición lo consideramos suficientemente bien tratado por esta casa y por lo tanto sólo queremos tocar las cuestiones que están a consideración de este Consejo.

Antes de seguir quiero declarar la simpatía con que le vemos a usted, Sr. Presidente, en la posición en que está hoy y estamos siendo testigos de que la gran experiencia que usted tiene de la FAO y de este Consejo no le ha pasado en vano.

Nuestra delegación, como miembro del Comité del Programa, ha tenido la afortunada posibilidad de conocer a cabalidad los programas nutricionales tal cual se están adelantando en la FAO.

El Profesor Nour Islam, a quien agradezco su presentación excelente del tema de hoy, también fue para nosotros un magnífico expositor en la oportunidad en que lo expuso al Comité del Programa con todo detalle y reforzado por sus compañeros de Dirección.

Por lo tanto, nuestras opiniones en general sobre los programas de nutrición, tal como los viene tratando la FAO bajo la Dirección del Director General, es de completo apoyo, como se refleja en el informe del Comité del Programa.

El Sr. Trkulja, Presidente del Comité del Programa, las expuso en su oportunidad y la forma como fueron expuestas cuenta también con todo nuestro apoyo.

Quiero referirme concretamente al apoyo de nuestra delegación a la forma como se vienen atacando las medidas necesarias para implementar la Resolución 8/77 tal como está expuesto en el documento CL 74/29 sometido a consideración de este Consejo.

Concretamente compartimos la opinión de que debe ampliarse, por supuesto, la capacidad del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para amoldarse a los tiempos y atacar en una forma cada vez más eficaz y eficiente los problemas nutricionales de los países en desarrollo.

Entendemos que deben reforzarse estas actividades del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y concretamente deben reforzarse, por supuesto, las del órgano fundamental del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para los problemas de nutrición y de agricultura, como es la FAO. En este sentido apoyamos cualquier instrumentación dirigida a sustentar medidas de refuerzo en este sentido.

Agradecemos al Director General por las medidas implementadas y que nos han sido anunciadas en el documento CL 74/29 para satisfacer los alcances de la Resolución 8/77.

En cuanto a la transformación jurídica e institucional del carácter del Comité Especial de Política Alimentaria y de Nutrición, es un tema que merece toda la atención de nuestra delegación. En este sentido tenemos un criterio de principio y es el de tratar de evitar al máximo la proliferación de órganos competitivos en esta casa.

Nos parece sumamente positiva la preocupación que se está dirigiendo a la materia de nutrición tal cual la está atacando el Comité Especial. Hemos estudiado las alternativas que se nos han sometido a nuestro criterio y las estamos evaluando en su total amplitud; pero en todo caso, creemos que las condiciones actuales, tal como lo manifestó el Presidente del Comité del Programa, no son proclives a que se tome una decisión en este momento y preferiríamos que la materia se aplazara en el tiempo hasta la ocasión que se considerara necesaria, que pudiera ser eventualmente la primavera próxima.

En cuanto al programa que se nos ha presentado para dar cumplimiento a los alcances de la Resolución 8/77, tal como lo resume el documento CL 74/29, cuyo presupuesto resumido nos ha sido ofrecido en el documento 74/29, apoyamos este presupuesto; apoyamos las partidas en él enunciadas e igualmente creemos necesario que se deben instaurar vías de búsqueda para recabar los fondos presupuestarios para llevarlos adelante. No importa que sean fondos extrapresupuestarios.

Estas son las opiniones concretas que quería comentar ante este Consejo.

J.S. BAKER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I would like to say first that I take particular pleasure in addressing a session of this Council which you, Sir, are chairing. I am pleased to see you in a working function in the chair. I would have liked to have seen you arrive there in a somewhat more graceful procedure than was arranged, but the important thing is that you are there and you are functioning in the manner for which you are famous.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the useful introduction by the Assistant Director-General, Dr. Islam, and I would like to associate myself with my colleague on the Programme Committee, the Permanent Representative of India, Mr. Ramadhar, in pointing out the very useful contribution made by our Chairman, Mr. Trkulja, both of this item and in his general conduct of that difficult function. I fully appreciate the high evaluation of his contribution. In fact, I would have welcomed his contribution to our views on the Forestry Programme of the FAO in connexion with our discussion on forestry, had that been so arranged. It seemed to me that some of our study on that issue could have been quite relevant to the discussion of the COFO report.

More than three decades ago FAO was established to improve the wellbeing and nutritional status of people. At this Council Session we are informed that the number of hungry and malnourished is not declining, it is increasing. There have been many previous resolutions on the subject. In recent years the 1974 World Food Conference studied the problem and made specific recommendations for a leading role by FAO. The Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies has met twice to consider specifically what FAO should do to implement those recommendations and subsequent recommendations of

the FAO Conference and the World Food Council. I can say that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee is apparently in such great demand that it has been sold out since yesterday, at least in the English version, at the documents desk of our Conference. I hope this is good news, but I am not entirely certain.

We have got beyond the stage of resolutions. It is time for action. I would like first to comment on the report from the Secretariat, second on what governments such as my own might do, and finally have a word about the future.

First, concerning the FAO report, I want to express appreciation for the report itself, especially for the explicit detail on how various recommendations can be implemented, the analyses of resource requirements and availability of resources needed to respond to requests, and the intention to provide the Council with additional information on the nutritional impact of selected agricultural and rural development projects.

In reviewing the report, however, although we found it very useful we are left with a feeling that the actions which are proposed fall short of the objectives which were set up by the World Food Conference and reaffirmed by the World Food Council at its ministerial meetings in Manila and Mexico City. We share the views expressed by our distinguished colleagues who have spoken before us, that in order to implement these recommendations higher priority for food consumption/nutrition problems is needed. We found some of the points made by the delegate of the Philippines in this regard particularly relevant.

My Government recommends that the activities to implement World Food Conference and subsequent recommendations on food consumption and nutrition be strengthened significantly through the remainder of the current biennium and the next biennium. If additional resources are needed for these programmes as far as they concern activities in the field, they should appropriately be obtained as much as possible from extra-budgetary sources, but strengthening the Organization's capability in the nutrition area should be by regular budget allocations utilizing savings from lower priority areas.

Secondly, in the context of a higher priority for food consumption and nutrition improvement programmes in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, we suggest that some member countries may also be able to support FAO food consumption and nutrition efforts, either through extra-budgetary trust funds or through provision of technical experts to undertake assignments at FAO or in field programmes, and by financing the field activities bilaterally as part of or in conjunction with FAO country projects.

Let me note some examples of the kind of support that the United States is prepared now to provide. We are ready to consider assisting FAO-identified countries, countries which this Organization may identify as a result of requests, in undertaking nutrition assessment surveys and in establishing surveillance systems. We are also ready to consider requests to the USAID by FAO for United States experts for short-term assignments such as the following: working with FAO in developing surveillance methodology; assisting countries in developing indigenous weaning food assisting FAO in an in-house examination of the degree to which FAO programmes contribute to improving consumption by low income consumers; and assisting countries in planning consumption/nutrition analyses as part of farm and/or household surveys.

Our newly established Human Nutrition Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will seek ways to make its technical expertise available when desired to FAO activities, perhaps through cooperative arrangements similar to that already existing in the area of food composition. To contribute towards improved nutritional status worldwide, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare will undertake basic and applied research and support cooperative nutrition programmes, including surveillance, through multilateral and bilateral arrangements. We would hope that as the FAO's capabilities and programmes in the field of nutrition develop and we have a clearer idea of its projects, we will be able to provide additional types of support.

We invite other governments and agencies such as UNDP and IFAD to consider ways in which they might provide additional support. We urge FAO to take the lead in developing a comprehensive plan of action for nutrition improvement which can attract and utilize contributions from a variety of sources and in an effective manner. This kind of plan was called for both by FAO's Ad Hoc Committee and in the Mexico City Communiqué of the World Food Council.

Finally, a few words about the future. Clearly, much remains to be done and the best, therefore, and most careful deliberation of Member Governments will, in our view, be needed. Alleviation of hunger and malnutrition has been central to FAO's mission from the beginning and remains a major reason for its continued existence. FAO's Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies is the only forum

which now exists, in our view, in which governments can focus on the broad problems of improving food consumption and nutrition as their major target. We assume, therefore, that the Committee will continue. We believe, however, that our objective should be to accord it regular status as a standing committee of the Council. We see a need that it meet during the next year and in each successive year to review reports on the nutritional impact of agricultural and development projects, and review the proposed programme of food consumption and nutrition for the coming biennium. While we participated in the Programme Committee's discussion on nutrition and did not dissent from its interim recommendation, I should like to stress the interim character of that recommendation. The United States has serious doubts that an expansion of the terms of reference of the Committee on Agriculture to deal with the issues which the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies has been addressing, will meet the current need to strengthen FAO's leadership in the nutrition field. COAG is now serving important and valuable functions; its agendas are lengthy and varied. To include still another special area would reduce the effectiveness of COAG in performing its major function. It would add to the problem of putting together the appropriate delegations and would almost certainly mean that the important area of food consumption and nutrition would continue to get less attention than it deserves.

Therefore, my Government recommends that we maintain the objective of transforming the Ad Hoc Committee into a standing committee meeting annually, utilizing terms of reference such as those recommended to us in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee's March 1978 Session. We interpret these terms specifically to include food marketing, distribution and utilization. We look forward to having a regular forum to discuss those matters as they impact on nutrition and are ready to participate actively. I would stress again, however, that we favour the continuation of the Committee on an ad hoc basis until a final decision is made on this matter and in this sense we support the proposal of the delegate of Finland which has been seconded by the delegations of Pakistan, the Federal Republic of Germany and others.

CHAIRMAN: We were very much interested to note the type of specific contributions your Government is ready to make to the FAO to help it and developing countries in improving their own nutritional programmes and providing better nutrition to their people.

Md. FAISAL (Bangladesh): On behalf of my Government we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent work of the Ad Hoc Committee. We wish to express our thanks to Professor Islam for his excellent illuminative and educative introduction of the report under review. We are in agreement with the recommendations contained in the report but we wish to make a certain observations which we consider to be important and which require immediate attention. These are in general terms as follows: FAO's effort toward a solution of nutrition problems, for assisting nations in intensification of food grains and fisheries is very highly appreciated. However, since we feel and apprehend that exclusive emphasis on increasing food grain production might jeopardize or even negate the growth of other nutritious crops such as pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, as these crops compete with food grains for the same land and the same resources. These crops are not only richer in terms of proteins and vitamin content but also relatively cheap and consequently much more accessible as they are within the purchasing capacity of the majority of the masses of many developing countries, including ours.

I therefore strongly suggest and urge that FAO's objective function in its nutritional programme must strive for maximization of low-cost balanced diet instead of high-cost but poor diet.

Secondly, I should like to draw attention to paragraph 21 of the Report under review where very special attention is given by the Committee to the nutritional standards of the vulnerable groups through feeding programmes, etc. Though vulnerable feeding programmes are sometimes necessary I should like to point out that charity should not form a prime objective of the FAO, because charity is not a complementary but a competitive variable with respect to self reliance. what is needed is a comprehensive action programme in order to generate a capacity in the Member Nations to deal with nutrition through exclusive and cooperative efforts of hard work and dedication. I should like to request FAO to deal with the whole aspect in a most pragmatic manner. We found that there is a divergence of opinion regarding the creation of a standing committee to deal with the different aspects of nutrition. Though nutrition is very important, we feel and recognize that the entire aspect of nutrition should get immediate priority and consideration in FAO. We are, however highly apprehensive of the creation of another committee on nutrition. We honestly feel that the multiplicity of committees might diffuse the attention it deserves. We earnestly and strongly feel that the present work on nutrition can be done through the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) as nutrition interlinks

with the whole spectrum of the problems of agricultural development. Moreover, if it is integrated with COAG, it has all the more better chance to disseminate the idea of nutrition through effective agricultural activities which will help to percolate the result to the rural and hungry masses.

Lastly, FAO's efforts in terms of solution of the nutrition problem are highly commendable. However, FAO is trying to solve the various issues on nutrition in a sophisticated manner while we believe the solution requires a macro-approach ranging from production to consumption and comprising distribution of income as well as education. Unless these problems are tackled in their totality with a comprehensive approach, the solution of the nutrition problem will remain in practice beyond anybody's reach, including that of FAO.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): As appears in the document before us, serious concern was expressed in the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies that FAO would not be able to provide sufficient support in nutrition planning to meet all requests from member countries. My delegation therefore concurs with the recommendations made by several previous speakers that the budget allocated to this field should be increased both from regular and extra-budgetary sources so that resolution 8/77 can be implemented effectively, and FAO capacity be- increased to assist governments in nutrition programmes and policies.

As regards the institutional problem, we are of the opinion that the ad hoc body should eventually be given a status of a standing committee so as to ensure that this very important subject of . nutrition, which has a very strong impact on a large segment of the world population, will be dealt with on a regular and increasingly attentive basis. Moreover, such a transformation of the status will to some extent result in the commitment on the part of the participating governments in line with the Committee's decisions and suggestions. However, in view of the fact that the Committee on Agriculture is going to meet in April 1979 it might be more appropriate to wait for the results of that meeting before we make any decision on this particular matter.

CHAIRMAN: In order to allow remaining speakers sufficient time for their interventions, we will continue the discussion this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/8

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA
(30 November 1978)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
F. Shefrin, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence
de F. Shefrin, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la Octava Sesión Plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia
de F. Shefrin, Vicepresidente del Consejo

III - ACTIVITES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III - ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III - ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Nutrition

10. Nutrition

10. Nutrición

10.1 Report in Response to Conference Resolution 8/77 on Nutrition, and Report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food Nutrition Policies (continued)

10.1 Rapport sur les suites données à la résolution 8/77 de la Conférence concernant la nutrition et rapport de la deuxième session du Comité ad hoc des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles (suite)

10.1 Informe solicitado por la Conferencia en su Resolución 8/77 sobre Nutrición, e Informe sobre la Segunda Reunión del Comité Especial de Políticas Alimentarias y Nutrición (continuación)

C.P. ARIAS MARFIL (Cuba): En la mañana de hoy hemos escuchado las intervenciones de una veintena de delegaciones, razón que nos permite ser breves en el uso de la palabra y no repetir argumentaciones que de una manera destacada se han hecho sentir aquí. Las diferencias de criterio expresadas hacen evidente en lo que respecta a la conversión en Comité Permanente del Consejo del Comité Especial de Política Alimentaria y Nutrición, que se deba posponer la decisión. Se ha puesto de manifiesto que esta cuestión debe ser sometida a un análisis más pormenorizado que permita contar con la información necesaria para sopesar los pros y los contras de tal decisión. En tal sentido nuestra delegación se une a la proposición hecha por el Comité del Programa y reiterada por algunas delegaciones aquí, de que la cuestión sea analizada por la reunión del COAC de la primavera próxima. Ahora bien, sí queremos llamar la atención sobre la necesidad de que en nuevos y más detenidos análisis del problema se preste especial cuidado en evitar que se cree dualidad en las actividades que realicen los organismos o instituciones especializados en el problema de la nutrición a nivel mundial, lo cual redundaría en la multiplicación de esfuerzos para la obtención de un mismo fin.

Queremos, igualmente, aprovechar el que se nos haya concedido el uso de la palabra para destacar que nuestro país se siente satisfecho con la forma en que se ha instrumentalizado la Resolución 8/77 de la pasada Conferencia. Creemos, en función, como decíamos al comienzo, de la manera en que se han venido debatiendo estas cuestiones, que no debemos hacer ningún tipo de ampliación al respecto, a fin de lograr llegar a un acuerdo sobre los temas debatidos.

I. M0SK0VITS (Malta): Mr. Shefrin, as an old colleague of mine, I am sure you will understand better when I speak about the history of FAO and even about the time before you joined this organization. The problem we are dealing with is indeed not a new one, it is a very old one, because the League of Nations already dealt with these problems, and the gentlemen here in the pictures, Lord Bruce and Lord Boyd Orr, the first Director-General of FAO, and Professor André Meyer, they were all members of the famous Committee on Hygiene and Nutrition of the League of Nations. And it was just for the reason that agriculture policies and production policies and nutrition policies were not integrated that FAO was set up, and it was greeted as a great achievement to bring together these two disciplines in spite of the fact that as the United Kingdom delegate very rightly said, Nutrition is a developing science. It is to some extent new, and it is still developing.

That the problems are not solved was shown by the Philippines, who was kind enough to read a paper prepared by the Group of 77, which unfortunately was taken to New York but not read in Commission II of the United Nations General Assembly simply because the Commission did not meet, but I think it would be very good if some allusion to this paper and on the content of the points which the Group of 77 made could be inserted in our report. Resolution 8/77 of our last Conference might become really a milestone in the life of the Organization and also in integrating agriculture policies and agriculture production policies with nutrition policies, and here I would like to point out one thing which is not included in this report, that what we really need also is a kind of importation policy, because countries like Malta which have to import a very great amount of their food requirements need a policy, and for this reason a nutrition survey would solve a very important problem and would very much help the Government in defining its importation policies. This is perhaps a founding and basic cornerstone also for a social policy, because it was not mentioned perhaps in the following discussion, that the social policy has to include nutrition policies.

The Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food Nutrition Policies enlarged and interpreted the Resolution VIII/77 on which FAO has to be complimented, and in particular on its present Nutrition Division, because perhaps for the first time it made a very good and efficient effort to bring into the foreground the ideas for which FAO was created. In order to increase the level of nutrition it is obvious that FAO will need higher resources. We would like to see most of these resources coming from the Regular Budget. Of course extra-budgetary funds are also needed but these should be complementary to the Regular Budget of FAO.

Perhaps we need more field work than desk work. We need field work in order to train local people to make surveys, and also to make better understood the close relations between agricultural production policies and nutrition policies. We need assistance and help for laboratories, which are not sufficient, in most developing countries.

Last but not least, a nutrition survey if it was carried out would make a good contribution to consumer education, because it is not only the farmer who has to be educated on how to produce but also the consumer - how he can best allocate his expenditures on food.

I am coming to the last point which is on the papers before us, on the future of nutrition work in FAO. The advice of the Programme Committee not to rush a decision at this time is very wise. I know that the Council, and also the Director-General, very rightly are reluctant to increase the number of standing committees, but on the other hand, to include nutrition in COAG, as our colleague rightly pointed out, is not an ideal solution. COAG already has a large volume of work compared with other Council Committees. Its field of work is certainly divergent. To include nutrition among the fields of activities could make the work of COAG very burdensome.

What the Council should not forget is that for many of the smaller countries to appoint their delegations, which should include a nutritionist, scientists, etc., for the same meeting, is costly and very difficult. For all these reasons we should not rush with any decisions. Let us wait for the next meeting of COAG in the spring, and a decision could be taken at the next session.

CHAIRMAN: Your reminiscing about the days of the League of Nations - I am a little younger, I think, than you are, and I did not have the opportunity of attending, but I read some of the reports. Our Council has a perfect blend of young and middle aged delegates and I think you will agree some of us are mature delegates.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (Mexico): Sr. Presidente, por ser ésta la primera ocasión en que hago uso de la palabra durante los trabajos del Consejo, deseo pedirle que por su amable conducto felicite al Director General por el discurso en el que presento un resumen de las labores realizadas durante el tiempo de su actividad. En México recibimos copia de este discurso y lo analizamos en la Cancillería y mi Gobierno está muy satisfecho con el resultado de este trabajo.

A continuación me voy a ocupar del tema de la nutrición y la alimentación.

El documento presentado por el Comité Especial de Política Alimentaria y Nutrición también tuvimos oportunidad de analizarlo y consideramos que tanto el CL 74/18 como el CL 74/29 nos plantean objetivamente los problemas que representan para la FAO la aplicación de las medidas globales tendientes a mejorar la situación mundial en este aspecto.

En criterio de la delegación de México, el representante de Francia en su exposición de esta mañana hizo un resumen en el cual precisó las medidas que podían adoptarse por la Organización para realizar los fines de mejoramiento en el mundo entero sobre la nutrición y la alimentación. El planteamiento presentado por el delegado de Francia nos pareció sumamente objetivo y de una metodología que debe ser apoyada y aceptada y nosotros estamos de acuerdo en la forma en que lo hizo.

Deseo sólo mencionar que mi país se encuentra luchando activamente contra la malnutrición y la carencia de producción alimentaria. Para ello se están realizando varios programas que van desde el Plan Quinquenal de la Producción Agropecuaria, que es un plan general, hasta un proyecto de ley de la producción agrícola que el Presidente de la República está actualmente estudiando y está vigilando y apoyando su elaboración.

También existen varios programas específicos aplicables en las regiones de menor desarrollo económico del país, regiones que son auténticamente marginales, como es el caso de las zonas de la montaña de Guerrero, donde se está realizando un programa de desarrollo rural con énfasis especialmente en la nutrición infantil y de las madres gestantes y lactantes y que se encuentra en vías de ser firmado un apoyo con FAO. FAO prestará en este programa apoyo material y capacitación de promotores de desarrollo rural.

El trabajo realizado en estas áreas marginadas y también en otras áreas que se encuentran en proceso de desarrollo agropecuario integral, como es el proyecto del trópico húmedo, que comprende los 5 Estados que integran el litoral de la costa del Golfo de México y que también es un programa que FAO apoya y está contribuyendo activamente con mi país.

Hemos llegado a la conclusión de que el problema nutricional se agrava día a día en lugar de solucionarse y ello es debido a tres factores primordiales: el primer factor que determina esta situación bastante seria es el aumento de población, mucho mayor que el aumento de la producción alimentaria. El segundo factor es que se está presentando un deterioro en la dieta alimenticia motivado por el abandono de la dieta tradicional y por la sustitución que esta dieta está teniendo por fórmulas de consumo auspiciadas por los productores de artículos prefabricados y de distribución nacida en los mercados nacionales.

El tercer factor que tenemos en contra son los cuellos de botella que impiden una distribución conveniente de la producción agropecuaria, agravada esta situación por la fuerza económica de los intermediarios que logran grandes beneficios en dinero como consecuencia de la desmedida elevación de los precios de los productos en los cuales surgen como distribuidores.

Estas experiencias nos han llevado en México a la consideración de que el problema nutricional y alimenticio debe contemplarse dentro del marco global del desarrollo rural integrado, pues implica la aplicación de medidas que rebasan las soluciones parciales o que dan proyectos específicos y limitados.

Por lo anterior, necesariamente estamos de acuerdo en que FAO debe aumentar sus esfuerzos para hacer más efectiva su lucha contra la malnutrición en el mundo entero. De la misma manera, estamos de acuerdo con las diversas delegaciones que han solicitado se adopten en la próxima reunión del Consejo los mecanismos administrativos más adecuados para lograr el objetivo común de la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo.

CHAIRMAN: I quite appreciate the problem of Mexico. I saw a forecast the other day that said the City of Mexico, by the year 2000, would be the largest city in the world, and if that is true one realizes the immensity of the problem of feeding the population.

G. VASTA (Observateur pour l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économique): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord vous dire combien je suis heureux de vous voir présider cette séance. Cela me reporte en arrière dans le temps, précisément en 1961, à l'OCDE à Paris où j'ai eu le plaisir et la chance de vous connaître.

Je profite de cette occasion pour vous dire encore une fois merci pour la façon agréable que vous avez de diriger les travaux, pour la façon également très agréable que vous avez de vous entretenir avec vos collègues et vos amis, et pour le bien que vous avez toujours fait au sein des organismes internationaux.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais féliciter la FAO pour les initiatives prises dans le secteur de la nutrition.

Depuis quelque temps, nous assistons à un certain réveil, et cela, je pense, est dû au fait que dans plusieurs organismes internationaux on s'occupe de ce problème sans doute vaste et qui mérite d'être encadré dans un contexte le plus large possible.

Quand on parle de faim, de détresse, de bas revenus, de chômage, d'inflation, de pauvreté ou de désastres et calamités, il y a toujours une préoccupation constante: le niveau de la nutrition et la peur de ne pouvoir donner de quoi manger à des populations entières.

Il faut aussi considérer que, même sans parler de famine ou d'hyponutrition accentuée les carences alimentaires représentent quelque chose qui souvent reste caché jusqu'au moment où des troubles plus ou moins graves se manifestent et sans avoir toujours la possibilité d'y remédier.

Au sein de l'OCDE on a eu l'occasion de mettre l'accent sur ce problème si important et même, lors de la réunion des ministres de l'agriculture de l'OCDE que vous connaissez bien puisque vous y étiez en février- on a parlé de la nécessité de prendre des initiatives concrètes à ce sujet.

Outre ce qui a été fait au centre de développement de l'OCDE, même à l'égard des pays de la zone du Sahel, je me permets d'attirer l'attention du Conseil sur les études faites au sein de notre Comité de l'agriculture. Parmi ces études, réalisées ou en cours de réalisation, je me permettrai de citer celles des politiques de consommation alimentaires. A ce sujet, des exemples par pays ont été publiés et en particulier sur le Royaume-Uni, la Suède, les Etats-Unis et la Norvège. Ces études vont continuer.

Certes, il n'est pas toujours possible de transférer des expériences d'un pays à l'autre parce que le problème n'est pas si simple et il faut tenir compte de beaucoup d'autres éléments soit techniques, soit d'ordre socio-économique et commercial comme le disait ce matin le représentant de la Chine.

D'autres études sont en cours de réalisation sur les filières agro-alimentaires, sur les marges de distribution et sur la formation des prix de produits alimentaires, etc. Toutes ces études je les vois converger dans un effort de coopération entre les différents pays et avec le souci constant et commun du respect de l'individu et de ses droits et de ses exigences les plus élémentaires.

C'est là un secteur dans lequel il faut opérer avec un esprit de vocation en s'efforçant de donner le plus possible et avec amour -permettez-moi ce mot- mais cela ne suffit pas, car je pense qu'il faut aussi savoir recevoir avec amour sans oublier à chaque instant que nous sommes tous des frères. Je pense que pour cette dernière phrase Mgr. Ferrari-Toniolo voudra bien me donner sa bénédiction.

Souvent, on se préoccupe du danger des doubles emplois. Modestement, je pense que dans ce secteur rien n'est perdu de ce qui est fait car il sert à réveiller les gouvernements et les organismes compétents et à les pousser à faire toujours plus dans un secteur aussi vital. Il faut tenir compte également de l'importance de l'éducation du consommateur qui est souvent ignorant, insensible et paresseux. Notre collègue de Malte vient de nous en parler.

Naturellement, la coordination est nécessaire pour éviter des efforts inutiles et du gaspillage et pour tenir compte des expériences soit positives soit négatives des autres.

En vous remerciant encore, Monsieur le Président, je me permets de vous dire que l'OCDE, comme par le passé, est toujours prêt à collaborer et donner son appui et son expérience dans tous les secteurs où elle peut être utile.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I hope that both the FAO and the OECD practise what both parties said, that they cooperate and share jointly in this nutrition programme.

F. d' ALMEIDA (Observateur pour le Bénin): Comme c'est la première fois que j'ai l'occasion d'intervenir, vous me permettez, à l'instar des délégations qui m'ont précédé, d'adresser mes compliments au Directeur général et aux différents Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus, avec une mention particulière à vous, M. Shefrin, puisque c'est votre dernière session au milieu de nous. Nous pensons cependant que ce n'est qu'un au revoir et que nous aurons l'occasion de vous voir de temps en temps dans la délégation canadienne avec votre bonhomie et votre sourire.

Qu'il me soit permis également d'adresser mes compliments à notre ami Sylla qui vient d'être porté à la charge de Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil. C'est un poste très délicat et il a fallu beaucoup de courage au Directeur général pour avoir osé nommer un africain d'un pays en voie de développement à cette fonction. Nous pensons qu'il aura toute la collaboration qui pourra lui servir.

En ce qui concerne la matière qui nous intéresse, c'est-à-dire la nutrition, j'avoue que je suis un peu étonné que l'on puisse débattre cette question de façon si particulière parce que je me souviens que, dans les années soixante, il s'agissait là d'une question normale puisqu'il rentre dans la fonction normale de la FAO de parler d'alimentation et de nutrition. Cela me paraît donc faire un pas en arrière si l'on veut mettre l'accent particulier sur cette question, puisqu'il est tout à fait normal qu'à la FAO on puisse parler d'alimentation et de malnutrition.

En ma qualité d'observateur je pense qu'avant moi tout a été dit et bien dit parfois par d'autres délégations, mais il nous est agréable de savoir qu'à partir de maintenant la FAO considérera l'alimentation comme partie intégrante du développement. Nous savons également gré aux organisations financières qui prennent la tâche de financer les projets.

En ma qualité d'Africain de langue française je voudrais insister sur la formation de cadres dans les pays de langue française en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition. C'est un problème qui a souvent été débattu ici, au sein de l'organisation, et c'est certainement l'un des domaines où les pays africains de langue française sont les moins informés et où ils ont le moins de cadres.

Il existait par le passé un système de formation agréé par la FAO qui permettait de former annuellement des cadres supérieurs et des cadres moyens dans les pays africains de langue française. Il faudrait que la FAO reprenne cela en charge, car si nous devons considérer l'alimentation et la nutrition dans le cadre du développement, il faudrait, lorsque les experts arrivent, que l'on puisse discuter effectivement de nutrition avec des cadres du pays.

J'insiste donc sur le fait que cette formation devrait être reprise et l'on pourrait peut-être demander à la FAO de bien vouloir prendre en charge la formation en alimentation dans les institutions agronomiques des pays africains de langue française. Dans nos pays, lorsqu'on parle de nutrition, nous sommes perdus parce que cela ne fait pas partie de la formation normale en France. En France, il faut se spécialiser pour faire de la nutrition, alors que dans les pays anglo-saxons cela fait partie de la formation normale de plusieurs domaines.

Il ne faut pas oublier non plus que la nutrition est pluridisciplinaire et qu'aussi bien les agronomes que les biologistes et les économistes peuvent avoir une formation de nutrition. Dans la mesure où l'on peut inclure la nutrition dans les plans de développement, il faut que les agronomes, les économistes, les biologistes, les techniciens puissent parler le même langage et puissent arriver à se comprendre.

S'agissant de l'institutionnalisation des comités de nutrition, il faut que nous soyons prudents. On ne peut pas parler d'alimentation seulement dans le COAC. Il faut en parler dans les différents secteurs, aussi bien au niveau de la pêche, de l'élevage, de l'horticulture, etc. L'important est qu'il puisse y avoir un lieu où l'on puisse vraiment parler d'alimentation et de la nutrition au sein de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your excellent comments. I also want to express my personal thanks to the Observer from Benin who so wisely advised the Canadian delegation that they should keep me on the delegation for years to come. I appreciate that advice and I hope that my colleagues appreciate it also.

T. GLASER (Observateur pour la Suisse): Ma délégation a participé activement aux travaux de la dernière session du Comité des politiques alimentaires et de nutrition. Je n'ai donc pas besoin d'entrer de nouveau en la matière puisque les grands mérites de ces travaux sont incontestés. Je voudrais seulement faire une observation sur le futur institutionnel de la question de nutrition. Je suis pour le principe de ne pas créer trop de comités à l'intérieur de la FAO et de proposer le procédé opposé parce que le Comité du programme me paraît une bonne voie à suivre.

J'aimerais seulement suggérer que dans les considérations futures on ne se limite pas à l'examen de la possibilité d'incorporer les questions de nutrition au cahier des charges du COAC, car cela ne me semble pas une solution heureuse. Plusieurs orateurs ont déjà été de cet avis.

On a proposé également le Comité de la pêche. Il me semble à mon tour que le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire serait le comité existant le plus indiqué pour voir élargir ses compétences dans les questions nutritionnelles. Je n'ai pas l'intention d'approfondir, je voulais simplement soumettre cela à votre avis en vue de délibérations de la prochaine séance du COAG.

Cela dit, je m'aligne également sur la proposition faite par le délégué de la Finlande.

CHAIRMAN: We have had a very good discussion both with delegates and observers. We will now turn back to the table. I do not think that there are any points which require the intervention again by the Chairman of the Programme Committee. Perhaps Mr. Islam would like to say a few words now. A lot of questions were raised and some suggestions have been made.

N, ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like to make only a few remarks. We would like to thank the delegates of the United Kingdom and the United States of America for their offer of assistance for the FAO activities in the field of nutrition. We would be very happy to explore with them specific areas of assistance. We are happy to know that the United Kingdom delegate has indicated a willingness to support activities which have already been indicated in the document submitted to the Council. We hope to enter into further discussion with the United Kingdom on the specifics. He has also expressed interest in research projects, in the applied nutrition field, and we will also indicate our proposed programme in the area. Similarly, we hope that we will have discussions with the delegate from the United States. Clarification was sought as to the way in which the subject of nutrition would be handled in the course of the deliberations of the Committee on Agriculture. As the Council has probably noted, we propose to submit a paper to the COAG on nutrition in agriculture and rural development. We hope that enough time will be provided for a discussion on the subject. We also have indicated in our letter of invitation to the member countries that in view of this new subject in the Committee's experts relevant to the field may be included in the delegation.

Mention has also been made of the need for collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations system. As delegates are no doubt aware, there is an ACC sub-committee on nutrition and its Advisory Group on nutrition consisting of experts in the field. This sub-committee secretariat is located in FAO. We are closely working with other agencies. In fact, our paper on methodology, the guidelines for nutritional considerations and their incorporation in development projects was discussed in the last meeting of the ACC sub-committee and we were also able to get the opinions and the judgment of the experts from the Advisory Group.

In respect of the choices for the nutritional activities of FAO we have already made some reallocation in our budget within the existing biennium. As for the next biennium, as the Director-General has already informed the Council, the work on the formulation of the next biennium's budget and work programme is under way and the Director-General has not completed his examination of the proposals as yet.

- CHAIRMAN: You have now had comments from the head table and perhaps at this point I shall summarize what I think are the highlights without going into details but touching on the highlights that came out of the discussion. But first of all I would like to express the appreciation of the Council for the fine work the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Prasad, of India has done in steering that Committee and proposing a number of very important items. It has led to a very good discussion and I think the time spent was well worth it. These are very key items in the activity of FAO. What came out of the discussion was some very strong support of the nutritional activities within FAO, bearing in mind - as the delegate of the Philippines stressed - that there has been slow progress made to date, especially since the World Food Conference many resolutions were passed calling for more intensive activity in nutrition.

On the whole, satisfaction has been expressed with the Director-General's action in respect of requests made in resolution 8/77 on nutrition, and also it was emphasized that nutrition must not be considered in isolation; and it is clear that the Director-General is aware of the need to avoid isolation. At the same time the consensus is that there should be higher priority given to nutrition in the Organization.

A large number of very specific proposals for implementation by the Secretariat have been made by a very large number of delegates. I am sure they have been noticed by the Secretariat and will be taken into consideration.

In respect to extra-budgetary resources, on the whole this proposal has been supported by all the delegates. They hope to find additional resources outside the Regular Budget. At the same time one or two cautionary comments have been made, that there should be an assurance given that any extra budgetary resources raised to cover nutritional activities should be used for nutritional activities. Several delegates said that. Secondly, there was some concern that if you allow too much extra-budgetary resources, there might be a tendency to reduce the actual budgetary allocation, so really the delegates were saying to the Secretariat: do not in any way supplement or exchange extra-budgetary resources for Headquarters budgetary resources.

The other major question was: what kind of institutional structure shall we have to enable the Council to enable delegations to deal with this subject? In many ways we got no further than the Programme Committee got and many delegates said they would like to have a separate committee, bearing in mind they were trying to hold down the number of committees, yet the feeling was that a special committee on nutrition would give some momentum to the drive to expand the work of the Organization. Others felt that perhaps it would be useful, bearing in mind the correct views about avoiding too many

committees, to maintain the existence of the ad hoc committee, but everybody agreed that in order to arrive at a consensus, it would be desirable to follow the advice of the Programme Committee and put the item of nutrition on the agenda of the Committee on Agriculture, and then, on the basis of the discussions held by the Committee, to determine whether at this point the Committee could deal with it in terms of the time involved, the fact that it would mean a larger delegation for countries attending COAG and whether COAG could give the kind of momentum that is being demanded by the Council and the Conference.

One or two delegates did pick up the Chairman's own suggestion not to forget that we might ask the Committee on Fisheries, which deals with a very important food item, also to take a look in terms of their own commodity how they fit into an overall integrated food and nutrition policy.

I think these are the items which highlight the present discussion. It will be up to the Drafting Group to put the flesh and the fat on the skeleton that I have presented to the Group.

With this we complete our discussion on item 10.1 dealing with nutrition.

10.2 Food Standards Matters, and the Work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius-commission (continued)

10.2 Problèmes concernant les normes alimentaires et travaux de la Commission mixte FAO/OMS du Codex Alimentarius (suite)

10.2 Asuntos relativos a las Normas Alimentarias, y a la labor de la Comisión FAO/OMS del Codex Alimentarius (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: You may remember that this morning Mr. Islam introduced this item in combination with nutrition. Mr. Trkulja also touched on this in his report. I believe the first speaker this morning was the delegate of India whom I cut off just as he was about to read his instruction on paragraph 15, dealing with food standards. Perhaps I can call on him to open up the discussion this afternoon on food standards.

D.R. BHUMBLA (India): We have read with interest document 74/28 on the work on food standards. We find the information in it very useful and valuable. In furnishing the information, the Secretariat has responded to the anxieties expressed by the developing countries both at the Seventy-first Session of the Council in June 1977 and in the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1977, that more was expected of the Codex Commission to be done for the developing countries and that their needs and concerns should be taken into great account. We note that this matter has been considered by the Twelfth Session of the Commission in April 1978 and subsequently by the Programme Committee at its last Session in October 1978.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the good progress made by the Commission in this direction. The Commission has amended its procedures for the liberation of the worldwide Codex standards so that governments could henceforth be requested to furnish their comments not only on the technical aspects of the draft standards but on all aspects, including possible implications of the draft standards for economic interest. We feel, however, that the effectiveness of new procedures would depend to a large extent on the mechanism evolved within the Commission and in the Secretariat for dealing with trade impact statements from governments. We would like this matter to be kept under constant review by the Programme Committee and the Council.

A couple of new activities which are of interest to developing countries have been initiated by the Commission. These include the establishment of a Codex Committee on cereals and cereal products and a Codex Committee on vegetable proteins. We have great interest in these committees and hope that the orientation of the Commission's work in the Committee on vegetable proteins would be towards considering vegetable proteins in their vital context for the benefit of the member countries. The standards and guidelines to be evolved should be intended to provide sound and safe guidelines to develop fully the available vegetable resources, whether derived from soya bean groundnuts, cereals, cottonseed or other sources available in the developing countries. While these new developments give some satisfaction to us, our efforts have to be continued and intensified on the lines of the conference resolution. We will watch with keen interest the further manifestations to this new orientation in the functioning of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its various committees.

M. R. LEAR (New Zealand): My delegation welcomes-and supports the decisions taken at the Twelfth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to make Codex work more responsive to the needs of the developing countries, although we would note that it remains our conviction that the Codex's work has always been of great value to all countries, both developing and developed. This is certainly New Zealand's experience. There can, in our view, be no doubt that the main aim of Codex's work is to elaborate and encourage the adoption of uniform food standards. This assists food traders since it is much easier to conform to uniform standards than to a multiplicity of differing standards adopted by individual countries.

We welcome in particular the decision of the Commission to modify its procedures to ensure that the economic impact of standards is taken into account during the course of elaboration and development of those standards. We also welcome the decision to establish two new committees on vegetable proteins, and cereals and cereal products, and to adjourn indefinitely other committees whose current work programmes were completed.

Of particular interest to us was the decision taken with the keen support of many developing countries, to reconvene the Committee on Meat Hygiene to develop a code of practice on post mortem judgments on meat, and a code of hygiene practice for animals. This decision is of interest to us both because New Zealand is one of the largest exporters of meat and because we have the honour to host this Committee. It is New Zealand's practice to convene meetings of this Committee in London rather than in New Zealand to facilitate the widest possible attendance; and indeed, attendance and participation by countries interested in the meat trade - both developing and developed - has been very good in the past.

This delegation believes that with the reorientation of Codex work, the suggestion that the Council or the Committee on Commodity Problems should monitor the work of the Commission, has become redundant because the Commission has shown itself capable of adaptation and flexible response to the express needs of developing countries.

In conclusion, we would also endorse the comments of the Programme Committee that caution needs to be exercised by the regional Codex coordinating committees when they are considering the desirability of elaborating regional food standards. As the Committee noted, regional food standards, if not confined to products solely of intra-regional trade, could possibly become barriers to worldwide trade.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): Let me briefly, on behalf of the Nordic countries, say that we welcome the work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the document before us. I think that the new orientation by the Commission is a promising step towards better recognition of developing countries' needs in regard to food standards. At the same time, as the Programme Committee has quite rightly pointed out in this report, CL 74/5 the new procedures adopted by the Commission will benefit all countries so that the recommendation would be acceptable globally. We feel that the exercise in connexion with the Food Standards Programme has been useful and fully concur with the conclusions that are provided in document CL 74/28 and by the Programme Committee in its report.

D. ECKERT (Germany, Federal Republic of) : The Federal Republic of Germany also attaches great importance to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It is convinced that the development of international food standards and other activities of the commission have decisive advantages for all concerned, including developing countries. There is no doubt that the Codex standards have made an important contribution to promoting international food trade. The tendency towards an increased acceptance of the standards promoted by the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission will still strengthen these favourable effects. Moreover the Codex standards have proved to be a useful basis for the creation of national regulations, in particular in the developing countries.

On the other hand, it cannot be ignored that the implementation of the objectives as laid down in the statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the elaboration of Codex standards, may raise problems in individual cases. They result from the need to bring consumer protection in line with the economic conditions. The Federal Republic of Germany is fully aware of the economic difficulties which may arise in particular for the developing countries.

In the discussions at the twelfth session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission my delegation has, therefore, suggested to supplement the procedure for the elaboration of International Codex Standards to the effect that in future account should also be taken of the economic implications of these

standards. We can note with satisfaction that this proposal, in a still extended form has met with the approval of the majority of the Commission. On the other hand, however, we are convinced that the more extensive proposals originally submitted by the developing countries would rather prove a disadvantage for the further successful activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Federal Republic of Germany shares the view of the Programme Committee which has drawn attention to the importance of the mechanisms to review the impact statements of Member States. This point has been stressed also by the delegate of Brazil. My Government would highly welcome, therefore, the fact if as many developing countries as possible attended the next session of the Committee on General Principles to be held in Paris next spring where these questions, as well as the question relating to the Codex of Ethics for International Trade in Food will be discussed.

The discussions by the Codex Alimentarius Commission with regard to the reorientation of its activities, taking into account especially the interests and needs of the developing countries, are also welcomed by my Government» By postponing sine die, a considerable number of Codex committees the Commission have opened the way for the elaboration of standards which are of special interest to the developing countries.

The extension of the functions of the Regional Committees for Africa, Asia and Latin America is likewise of decisive importance. Through this measure the participation of the countries of these regions in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission can become much more effective. Thus another request of the developing countries would be met within the framework of the financial possibility.

My Government does not share the doubts of the Programme Committee and some preceding speakers with regard to the elaboration of regional standards within the framework of these committees. In view of the present circumstances it is highly improbable that new trade barriers will arise. In any case, possible disadvantages would more than be offset by the advantages resulting from an urgently needed strengthening of regional cooperation between the developing countries in this particular field.

Summing up, it can be stated with satisfaction that the measures taken and still envisaged by the Codex Alimentarius Commission have met the interests of the developing countries to the greatest possible extent at the moment. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has thus proved that it possesses sufficient flexibility, allowing it to tackle difficult problems on its own without questioning its activities in their overall orientation. In this sense we understand the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Council should follow the general policy trends within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

P. HALIMI (France) : La reorientation de la politique de la Commission du Codex demandée par les pays en développement retient toute l'attention de mon gouvernement. Le Comité des principes généraux devra se pencher, à sa prochaine session au printemps 79, sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour permettre à la Commission de procéder à l'étude des répercussions économiques des normes, en vue essentiellement de prendre en considération les intérêts des pays en voie de développement. La Commission a d'ores et déjà adopté une modification de la procédure d'élaboration des normes aux étapes 3, 5 et 6; aussi, selon la nouvelle modification, les gouvernements devront-ils fournir aux étapes 3 et 6 "Bases de consultation par correspondance des gouvernements", les observations sur les effets que les textes à l'étude pourraient avoir sur leur économie. A l'étape 5 "Examen par la Commission", la Commission devra tenir compte de ces effets dans sa décision d'adopter l'avant-projet de normes.

Par ailleurs, le Comité des principes généraux a été également chargé de mettre au point une procédure de vote par correspondance, pour permettre aux pays en développement qui ne peuvent, pour des raisons matérielles, participer aux réunions de différents comités, de prendre officiellement position sur les projets de normes.

Des changements importants ont également été apportés à l'orientation des travaux de la Commission. Il faut remarquer que cette dernière s'oriente vers l'élaboration de normes pour des produits agricoles de base: maïs, farine, blé, etc., ou encore pour les protéines végétales qu'elle avait jusqu'ici exclus de ses travaux.

Nous avons noté au sujet de ces travaux les observations, je dirai même les réserves du délégué du Brésil.

En ce qui concerne l'ajournement de certains Comités Codex, on ne peut que partager le point de vue de la Commission. En effet, les travaux entrepris par les divers Comités depuis 1958 se sont con-

créés par plus de 130 normes ou codes d'usages. L'inactivité normative du Codex peut donc se ralentir au profit d'activités présentant un intérêt pour les pays en développement, assistance pour la mise en place de services de contrôle, de laboratoire.

Enfin, une place plus importante devrait, à l'avenir, être accordée aux Comités régionaux. Nous partageons sur ce point l'appréciation du Comité du programme portée sur les normes régionales. Il faut faciliter le commerce international, et seules des normes universelles permettront pleinement d'atteindre cet objectif. J'approuve sur ce point ce qui a été dit par le délégué du Brésil et le délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande. La Commission a d'ailleurs souligné l'intérêt des Comités de coordination pour l'Asie, l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine, pour la recherche de solutions communes aux problèmes causés par les normes alimentaires et surtout la mise en place d'infrastructures de contrôle des aliments. Quant au Comité de coordination pour l'Europe, il devrait selon nous permettre d'appréhender les problèmes de normalisation en matière alimentaire de manière plus efficace.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): In relationship to the report at hand we should say that, the United States strongly supports the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the proposals, actions and conclusions outlined in the report. We see these as being an appropriate response to the very real problem of maximizing the benefits of the international standardization work of the Commission and making that work useful to both developed and developing countries.

Our delegation would like to indicate, that it agrees with the Commission that it was necessary to take into greater account the needs of the developing countries and to make Codex more responsive to those needs. We support the amendment of the procedures for the elaboration of worldwide Codex standards in order to allow government comments on the possible economic implications of draft standards on their particular interests.

We support the proposal that the Codex Committee on General Principles examine the adopted amendments and make a recommendation to the Commission as to the most appropriate mechanisms for examining economic impact statements submitted by the governments under the new procedures suggested above.

We support the Commission's position of giving particular consideration, within the framework of its statute, to the requests of developing countries regarding the future working activities of the Commission. We support reactivation of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene to elaborate codes of practice for the post-mortem judgement for meat and game animals.

We support also the new functions given to the Codex Coordinating Committees for Asia, Africa and Latin America as being appropriate and potentially useful new directions.

Finally, we also support the idea of elaborating international food standards for products having an international market potential, in addition to those with an established international trade and I should call attention to the fact that the United States has agreed to host the newly formed Committee on Cereals and Cereals Products as further evidence of our support for the Commission in this new activity.

The United States has been a strong and continuing supporter of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We believe that the Commission's work increases trade opportunities for all countries and particularly would be helpful for developing countries seeking to develop larger markets for their processed foodstuffs.

C.P. ARIAS MARFIL (Cuba): Queremos señalar que hemos estudiado con detenimiento los elementos expuestos en los documentos CL 74/5 y CL 74/28, relativos a la labor del Comité de la FAO del Codex Alimentarius, pudiendo expresar nuestra satisfacción por lo allí expuesto. No obstante nuestro apoyo en modo general a lo planteado en ambos documentos, deseamos subrayar nuestro interés en que se continúe reforzando la función y actividad de los Comités regionales y especialmente aquellos que se refieren a continuar el establecimiento de normas regionales para aquellos productos alimenticios que, teniendo la circulación exclusivamente al interno de la región, lo apruebe la norma, como se ha propuesto en los documentos que hemos señalado y en las intervenciones de algunos delegados.

Creemos que se debe estimular el fortalecimiento de la infraestructura de la inspección de los alimentos de manera que se puedan determinar las calidades y elaboración de los mismos.

Deben dirigirse a la atención de la Comisión del Codex de una manera creciente aquellos aspectos de trabajo de la Comisión que tengan una importancia particular para cada una de las regiones.

Como se verá, nuestra delegación propugna una interrelación dialéctica entre el organismo central y el regional, de forma tal de que sin que se debilite al organismo central, como es el Comité, se refuercen las actividades de los Comités regionales que en muchas ocasiones tienen una relación más directa con los asuntos prácticos.

CHAIRMAN: I now have to summarize. I want to say that the Codex Alimentarius Commission is unique because many of the Codex committees are hosted by governments and when a government is willing to put in additional funds to host committees in their own country, it is an indication of strong interest and this is one of the unique programmes. The FAO itself hosts a number of committees, but it depends very much on the various countries acting as host and that is an indication of their interest.

Certainly in listening to the speakers today, and I am bearing in mind the comments made by Brazil this morning, there is strong support by the whole Council in respect of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. There has been support expressed for the changes in procedures for the worldwide standards. There has been general approval that the Codex Alimentarius Commission has become much more conscious of the needs of developing countries. There was great satisfaction that the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its rules as they have been modified will be taking into consideration in a much greater degree than in the past an evaluation of the economic impact of any food standards that are established. There was general support of the new Committee on Cereal and Cereal Products and the Vegetable Protein and Vegetable Products Committee, and considerable satisfaction by certain countries who have strong interest in the revival of the Meat Hygiene Codex Group. There was support for the Regional approach to the Codex work, but at the same time some cautions were expressed in the sense of the establishment of regional standards, and a strong plea was made that the Council show a greater interest in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its various Codex Committees. This is a summary which I am submitting to the Council in turn to guide the Drafting Committee..

The Secretariat has taken careful note of the very specific suggestions. With this, I believe we conclude the discussion of this item.

11. World Food Programme

11. Programme alimentaire mondial

11. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

11.1 Third Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

11.1 Troisième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire

11.1 Tercer informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria

G.N. VOGEL (Executive Director, World Food Programme): I present to you the Third Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which is document CL 74/24. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes met twice this year in its Fifth and Sixth Sessions under the very capable chairmanship of Mr. Gamo-Kuba of The Congo, who added a great deal indeed to the work, and if I may say so, the success of the Committee.

The Report is, I think, self-explanatory. You will note that by the close of the Fifth Session of the Committee, the World Food Programme had 271 active operational projects. It now has 294 operational development projects, plus 136 emergency projects in 84 countries. It is only a few weeks since the end of the Sixth Session of the CFA, which a number of members of this Council attended. Certain things I have to say here today, will not, therefore, be new to some of you, but as the risk of repeating myself, I have a duty to bring to the attention of the Council the most important issues to be highlighted from the Report.

Of these the most important is the resources position. The World Food Programme can effectively help social and economic development and provide emergency aid only if it has adequate resources. This in turn can be obtained only if the Member Nations, which you represent, give it their full support, and in order to win this I must seize every opportunity to inform you as fully as possible so that you may understand the Programme's constantly changing difficulties, priorities and achievements.

In the one month since I reported to the CFA, the pledges for the 1977-78 biennium have not changed and still stand at \$717 million or 96 percent of the target of \$750 million. However, if pledges remain static, the \$717 million will be reduced, as it included the full amount of the United States pledge which in this biennium was made on a matching basis. Unless the remaining gap is closed, about \$12 million of the United States pledge will be unavailable so that the net availability to the Programme for 1977-78 would be \$705 million. I, therefore, again appeal to all countries to examine their possibilities in making new or additional pledges for this pledging period at the earliest possible time. Apart from the Programme's needs, fulfilment of this target would give a psychological boost to the attainment of the \$950 million target for 1979-80.

The news concerning that latter figure is even less encouraging. Since the generous announcement eight months ago by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a \$55 million cash contribution, the flow of pledges had been reduced a trickle. An additional \$4 million had been received so that we have received a figure of \$693 million, or 73 percent of the target figure of \$950.

Many donors may feel justified in believing that, with slightly more than two years to go until the end of the next pledging period, there is still plenty of time. But as you know, WFP's resources cannot be efficiently utilized unless we are given time to plan our projects properly. Our assistance is based on the project approach which has proved over the years to be the most effective way of disbursing food aid. But this approach requires the examination of every aspect of a project to ensure its success.

Certainly we cannot wait until the end of the period, in December 1980, to know how much we can provide in 1979-80.

The paper before you, the Third Annual Report of the CFA, also gives total contributions under the Food Aid Convention up to April 27 this year, when they stood at 1.3 million tonnes of resources with a total value of \$165.9 million. A further 105 000 tonnes and accompanying cash for a total of more than \$15 million has since raised FAO contributions to 1.4 million tonnes and \$182 million respectively.

Since FAO contributions form additional resources to the World Food Programme, I am anxiously awaiting news of the completion of a new International Wheat Agreement. I am concerned that negotiations which took place in Geneva have been further adjourned.

Coming as I do from what I suppose could be described as a "wheat background", I am keenly aware how important such a new agreement is to the world, both for exporters and importers. I am hopeful that a new agreement will be for 10 million tonnes of wheat to be distributed annually under the Food Aid Convention instead of the present 4.3 million tonnes, and I am optimistic that the World Food Programme will receive a larger and better balanced share than in the past.

I cannot conclude my report on resources without touching on the International Emergency Food Reserve. Although a figure of 500 000 tonnes of grains was approved by the General Assembly three years ago, the Reserve has never reached that level in any given year. The IEFER was fully reviewed at the Fourth Session of the World Food Council in Mexico in June, which urged that at a 500 000 tonne emergency reserve of cereal should be established as a continuing reserve with yearly replenishments determined by the Programme's governing body, the CFA, and placed at the World Food Programme's disposal. At the same time governments were urged to indicate the amounts of cereals and cash they are prepared to place at the Programme's disposal up to a level of 500 000 tonnes. I can only hope that the spirit and the fact of the Mexico Declaration may be honoured by all concerned.

Including the additional \$10 million authorized by the Sixth Session of the CFA, a total of \$55 million from World Food Programme, normal resources has been placed at the disposal of the Director-General for emergency assistance in 1978, and a further \$32 million has been committed from the IEFER. The year 1978 has been a bleak one for many nations which have suffered serious disasters, both natural and man-made. The Programme will continue to do all it can to assist but, as Council will appreciate, whatever our humanitarian desires may be, we are limited by our means.

It is now more vital than ever to have closer cooperation among donors, both bilateral and multilateral, if such mistakes as duplication or unsuitable commodities are to be avoided. The World Food Programme has always expressed its willingness to play a coordinating role in the field of food aid, as it did recently in the Sahelian countries during the drought emergency. It was able to reduce costs by avoiding congestion, expediting deliveries, improving the bagging of bulk food at wharfsides and through many other measures.

The Programme's efficiency and ability to produce results out of all proportion to its investment has been voiced many times from this and many other United Nations platforms. I believe it could respond

even more efficiently if bilateral and multilateral donors were to cooperate fully with us in implementing our new coordinating role not only in emergency relief, but in development assistance as well. The economic and social development of the developing world is, surely, the end-result at which we all aim.

I close my report to this FAO Council by expressing, as I did to the CFA, my appreciation to the Director-General for his close support and understanding, and for the excellent working relationship which we have established together.

CHAIRMAN: I would say this is one of the success stories of the United Nations. Canada had the privilege of being able to take part in it from Day 1, and I have seen it grow and expand, and it is one of the most successful programmes. I hope the Council would evince an interest in the World Food Programme, not only as a food aid programme, not only as assisting with malnourishment, but also being involved in economic development. At the same time, whether projects fail or succeed, people are being fed all the time.

D.R. BHUMBLA (India): Thank you for giving me this opportunity for the second time this afternoon. Let me first congratulate the Secretariat for having summarized the main activities of the World Food Programme from May 1977 to April 1978 in an excellent manner in the document we have before us, CL 74/24. We have noted with satisfaction that the resources of the Programme during the period under review have been directed along the right lines, particularly to the neediest countries to promote rural development and improve arrangements for emergency means.

There are, however, two points which I would like to mention specifically as they are vital to the functioning of the World Food Programme and for its operation. The first relates to the guidelines and criteria for food aid for FAO. This was a task assigned to the Committee by the World Food Council at its Third Session. My delegation would like to express its satisfaction at the manner in which the draft guidelines have been prepared by the Committee, but I would like to report the Government of India is of the opinion that food aid should be assured for longer periods so that the infrastructure created for executing these programmes is utilized for benefiting the needy people until such time as the recipient country is in a position to carry on the activities from its own resources. As these draft guidelines would be considered in detail at the Sixth Session of the CFA, I would not like to go into further details.

The other notable activity of the CFA during the period under review was the assessment of the food aid requirement considered by the Committee at its Third Session. The World Food Conference had recommended a target of 10 million tonnes of cereals in 1974. Even this target has not been achieved. Problems have since multiplied, and it is but appropriate that a realistic estimate of the future aid requirements should be made in view of the increasing number of hungry and malnourished in the developing countries.

We share the concern of the Committee that requirements of food aid would increase in future, and based on projections of available data the indications are that requirements of cereals, vegetable oil and dairy products are likely to be 15 to 16 millions, 300 000 tonnes of vegetable oil, and 250 000 tonnes of dairy products. My delegation and the Government of India fully recognizes the need that periodic reviews of these estimated food aid requirements in the light of actual development are necessary and the Government of India will provide any data required by the World Food Programme Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, there are indications of direct cooperation to ensure the success of the programme.

E. LIPPONEN (Finland): I should like to thank Mr. Vogel for his excellent report. We all know that under his most able leadership and guidance the World Food Programme is doing very well in completing its most urgent tasks and obligations.

The document before us, which covers the period from May 1977 to April 1978, has also been sent to ECOSOC and the World Food Council. In this way the activities of the Programme have already reached a wider audience and I feel they have also completed a proper linkage between the Programme and the United Nations family.

I will limit myself to commenting on two questions, namely, the pledges to the Programme and the suggested guidelines and criteria for Food Aid which the CFA discussed at its Spring Session in April this year.

During the period covered by the Report, the number of projects as well as pledges has increased considerably. This not only notes the growing demand of food aid projects but shows the World Food Programme has been successfully able to cope with this demand. When we remember that the target for 1975/76 was \$400 million and that the target for 1977/78 is \$750 million, and that this target has now almost been reached (96 percent), we must give credit to the way in which the World Food Programme has handled its task. We know that the Executive Director is worried about reaching the next target of \$950 million set for 1979/80.

Although pledges up to now amount to about \$689 million, we very much trust that more pledges will be forthcoming so as to secure the continuity of the Programme's development project and its capacity for emergency aid. The recent session of the CFA in October shows how important this latter aspect is, especially in years like this when unforeseen catastrophies empty the resources set out for emergencies. Happily, the Committee was able to agree on the solution of this difficult situation for the Programme this fall.

Coming to the question of the guidelines and criteria for food aid, the Executive Director has proposed that the CFA Committee at its Seventh Session next May resume consideration of the draft recommendations which were presented as an Interim Report to the World Food Council at its Fourth Session in Mexico. We believe that, with the suggestions received from the World Food Council, it should not be very difficult to agree on a common language which would unite divergent views which now are represented by the square brackets in our text.

Consensus on these two major unresolved issues, namely, forward planning of food aid on a multi-annual basis and the relative priority to be assigned to food assistance in support of food reserves and related infrastructural works, is indeed most vital to the future work of the Programme.

The Executive Director has asked for the views of Member Governments of the Committee by mid-December, so that the Secretariat can take them into account when preparing the report to the Committee for its next meeting, when the Committee should try to complete its work on this matter.

J.B. NEZEHOSE (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Rwanda voudrait profiter de ce moment qui lui est accordé pour présenter sa gratitude au Directeur général de la FAO pour le discours qu'il a prononcé au moment de l'ouverture des présentes assises au cours duquel il a présenté le programme qui a été réalisé et les perspectives d'avenir. Ces deux points ont beaucoup plu à la délégation rwandaise.

La délégation voudrait également féliciter le bureau qui a été constitué pour diriger la présente session.

Relativement au point en cours de discussion, la délégation rwandaise exprime sa grande satisfaction. Nous apprécions beaucoup la brièveté du rapport et sa consistance. Mais ce qui nous réjouit le plus c'est de constater que les appréhensions que nous craignons devoir exprimer au cours de cette assemblée ont été apaisées en lisant les directives consignées en page A du document en question.

Ainsi, nous consacrons notre entier soutien au paragraphe 8 a) où il est stipulé: 'L'aide alimentaire doit être fournie sous une forme compatible avec les objectifs de développement des pays bénéficiaires dans le but de favoriser leur action de développement à long terme et d'assurer qu'elle ne décourage pas la production alimentaire locale et ne perturbe pas le marché intérieur et les échanges internationaux. ...'. Ici, M. le Président, nous voudrions souhaiter que la philosophie traditionnelle du PAM, basée sur la notion de "vivres contre travail" ou "food for work" devrait être repensée. Nous acceptons de tout coeur les secours d'urgence, mais nous supportons mal les salaires exprimés en vivres. N'y a-t-il pas moyen, en cas d'intervention du PAM au projet de développement, de réserver une partie du salaire distribué en argent et une autre partie en vivres?

Dans ce même ordre d'idée, je voudrais mentionner que pour le Rwanda, la manutention des vivres PAM coûte énormément cher, tant en moyens humains que matériels et financiers. C'est pour cette raison que nous nous accordons avec la recommandation du CPA exprimée au point e) du paragraphe 8 concernant la prise en charge des pays donateurs dans le transport et la distribution des vivres PAM.

Pour le reste, nous réitérons notre satisfaction quant à la perfection du document qui nous a été présenté.

A. ZALAMEA (Colombia): Creo que mi primer deber es agradecer al Sr. Vogel su importante informe, y el segundo decirle que no nos preocupa lo más mínimo que haya dos canadienses en la Mesa directiva. En el caso de America Latina son nuestros asociados en la Organización regional americana, y en el caso de todos los demás presentes, todos conocen el benéfico papel que han jugado ustedes en la solución de muchos problemas importantes de la agricultura mundial.

He oído expresar en pasillos, y también a usted, Sr. Presidente, cierta Dreoocupación por la longitud y repetición de algunas intervenciones: vox populi vox dei, seguían y siguen diciendo nues-tos anfitriones romanos. Sin embargo, la voz de los pasillos no es siempre la correcta, aunque siempre es útil la vieja y legítima amenaza del poeta que le decía al otro poeta inoportuno: "si me lees, te leo, si me recitas te recito". Lo cierto es que aquí estamos para decir ciertas cosas, sean ellas largas, cortas o repetidas. Es fácil observar, Sr. Presidente, y lo sabe usted por su larga experiencia, cómo en las conferencias internacionales el orador de turno de los países menos desarrollados es generalmente el más largo y, en cambio, el orador de turno de las grandes potencias es el más corto. Treinta minutos emplea el pobre y le bastan pocos segundos al rico para decir no o sí. Tal vez en esta longitud y en esta parquedad resida una de las diferencias entre el orador desarrollado y el orador en vías de desarrollo. Pero esto obedece, como todo, a una causa; el más pobre tiene una larga lista de quejas, de reivindicaciones y de informaciones para dar, mientras al rico le basta con actuar. El uno tiene palabras y el otro blande los actos. No debemos, pues, recriminar a nadie por su longitud. Esta no es, desde luego, Sr. Presidente, una justificación ni una amenaza inmediata de que yo vaya a ser demasiado largo. Procuraré ser breve al menos en desarrollar demasiado.

Los países en desarrollo estamos aprendiendo también a ser breves. Breves, concisos y concretos. Por eso nos gusta, y nos sentimos muy representados en él, el lenguaje preciso y franco que están utilizando el Director General de la FAO, el Director del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, los voceros del Grupo de los 77 aquí, en Ginebra y en Nueva York y, naturalmente, el Informe del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, cuyo tercer Informe anual estamos analizando.

Este Informe nos indica, como ya lo dijo el Director General en su discurso inaugural y en su Informe sobre el estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación que: "la solución a largo plazo del problema de la escasez de alimentos en los países en desarrollo estriba en aumentar la producción en esos países" y que entretanto, dice el Informe, seguirá haciendo falta la ayuda alimentaria para proporcionar socorros de urgencia, luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición y fomentar el desarrollo económico y social.

Evidentemente, estas pocas palabras lo dicen todo. Podríamos pasarnos toda la vida aquí propinándonos discursos los unos a los otros y no lograríamos nada, si no avanzamos en el camino que señala el Informe, de aumentar la producción en los países en desarrollo. Para ello, es cierto, contamos con la colaboración, con el impulso, con la guía de organizaciones tan importantes como la FAO y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos; pero será imposible, a juicio nuestro, elevar los niveles de nutrición y de vida de los 144 pueblos que aquí representamos, mejorar la producción y la distribución de todos los alimentos y productos agrícolas y fortalecer la condición de las poblaciones rurales, que son la base de una economía mundial en expansión capaz de liberar a la humanidad de la amenaza del hambre, todo este ideario será imposible consolidarlo sólo con los tres mil especialistas de la FAO, su escaso presupuesto - hay que decirlo-, escaso presupuesto de 211 millones y los 705 millones de dólares prometidos al PMA para 1979/80.

No sólo necesitamos reforzar estos instrumentos y darles a sus Directores el respaldo necesario para que lleven adelante una política dinámica, original o inventiva, como la planteada por el Director General de la FAO. Lo básico es que los países desarrollados consigan consolidar una voluntad política que los convenza, por fuera de inútiles, estériles, costosas y, muchas veces, tardías confrontaciones, de la necesidad de liberalizar el comercio internacional.

Hace algunos años un eminente Ministro de Agricultura francés, Edgar Pisani, decía que "en el mercado mundial no compiten ya las capacidades económicas o tecnológicas, sino casi exclusivamente las capacidades políticas", y agregaba que "sólo los sistemas agrícolas de los países en grado de subvencionar sus propias exportaciones pueden penetrar en el mercado mundial, caracterizado ya por la intervención sistemática de las tesorerías de los Estados nacionales". Los síntomas que produjeron aquel diagnóstico se han agudizado, y hoy, Sr. Presidente, los países en desarrollo emergentes están convencidos de que es necesario encontrar un nuevo camino que lleve a la organización de los mercados agrícolas a nivel mundial. Ño será posible, en efecto, volviendo a la frase sintética del Informe, a "aumentar la producción" si no disciplinamos primero la política agrícola mundial y dejamos de lado no sólo el proteccionismo más ortodoxo, sino también toda la serie de obstáculos que han venido

presentándose a la exportación de nuestros productos agrícolas. Las restricciones, plafonds, impuestos, las dificultades para conceder licencias, complejos procedimientos aduaneros, tratamiento fiscal discriminatorio, y demás. De otra manera, terminaremos por convertirnos de socios y colegas parlanchines en socios silenciosos.

Y yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que los socios silenciosos no les convienen a nadie. Para que ello no ocurra, para que podamos enfrentar todos juntos la presión inflacionaria mundial causada en buena parte por la escasez y los precios elevados de los alimentos, hay soluciones. Quiero enumerarlas para que queden en nuestras actas. Son las mismas que siempre preocupan al Grupo de los 77: se requiere una mayor corriente de capital externo para inversiones, un aumento de los suministros de insumos materiales, mayor transmisión de tecnología y una infraestructura institucional adecuada, incluida la propiedad y la gestión de las tierras, la educación, la capacitación y la movilización de las masas.

A pesar de sus escasos recursos, la FAO y el PMA realizan una labor de extraordinaria magnitud. No es la solución, pero sí el camino. Como decía recientemente un delegado en la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius: no temamos que la FAO se desborde un poco. Al contrario, un organismo como éste es el más adecuado para seguir adelante, concretamente, la larga marcha del progreso. Y podrá hacerlo repensando ciertos esquemas, buscando nuevas soluciones, estableciendo nuevas formas de cooperación que conjuguen todos los esfuerzos, bilaterales y multilaterales, como lo señalaba ayer con tanta eficacia nuestro colega de la delegación de Venezuela.

Nos recordaba usted, Sr. Presidente, que un burócrata internacional es el que tiene un problema para cada solución. La FAO y el PMA, por su parte, tienen soluciones. Necesitarían más recursos, estamos completamente de acuerdo en eso con el Director General de la FAO y con el PMA.

Mi país, por ejemplo, se ha beneficiado altamente de varios proyectos adelantados por la FAO y de la cooperación estrecha del PMA. Por su parte, nuestro Gobierno ha prometido una contribución de 455 000 dólares en productos y 10 000 dólares en efectivo para el bienio 1979-80. El PMA, como lo ha reiterado varias veces el Grupo de los 77, sigue siendo la fuente más eficaz de ayuda alimentaria en forma de asistencia a proyectos, con grandes posibilidades de fomento del desarrollo socioeconómico y de mejora de la situación nutricional de los países pobres. Por ello resulta tan importante que se alcance el nivel requerido para el bienio 1979-80. En esta labor debemos trabajar sin prisa, pero también sin pausas. O como dijo algún directivo de la OCDE con: "un optimismo cauteloso y una enorme impaciencia".

La delegación de Colombia, para terminar, aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar, muy cordialmente, sus agradecimientos al PMA por la aprobación reciente de un importante proyecto que beneficiará a buena parte de la población colombiana vinculada al intenso proceso de desarrollo rural integrado que se está llevando a cabo en nuestro país.

Estoy llegando al final y tengo más de la mitad en el tintero; pero creo que lo dejaremos ahí. Si ya fuera el nuestro un país totalmente desarrollado me habrían bastado sin duda pocas palabras.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Colombia and assure him that his message came through very clearly, I understood very clearly what he said. I am sure much of what he said is of interest to Mr. Vogel in the World Food Programme. I trust that our colleague in the FAO, especially Mr. Islam's department, paid particular attention to the many points mentioned.

J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): We are happy to note that the World Food Programme target for the 1977-8 biennium has almost been met and we appeal with other countries that donors may contribute more generously to meet the 1979-80 target of US \$950 000. It may be noted that the World Food Programme has estimated that if it had sufficient resources it could meet \$870 million worth of requests that are already in the pipeline. Insufficient resources for the World Food Programme including the shortage of dairy products in its food basket are in striking contrast to the mounting surpluses of livestock products in Europe and ample cereal stocks in North America. We are also concerned that the balance available with the International Emergency Food Reserve is only 35 000 tons. Therefore, the recommendation made by the World Food Council in Mexico this year that the International Emergency Food Reserve should be a revolving reserve of 500 000 tons of grain to be replenished annually, is very far from realization. Tied to this question is the matter taken up at the Sixth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes this year to increase emergency food aid under the World Food Programme. We are in complete sympathy with the developing country point of view

that mitigating hunger should have priority over development projects. We consider the present allocation of \$45 million under the World Food Programme for emergencies as inadequate, especially as the replenishment of the International Emergency Food Reserve on a yearly basis is not certain and all the food that is available from that source is not channelled through the World Food Programme. Even as we sit here discussing this question, Sri Lanka is reeling under the effects of a cyclone that has left many dead and many more homeless. We are grateful to the Director General who has promptly responded to give us \$200 000 worth of aid to purchase urgently needed seed paddy under the Technical Cooperation Programme and thus ensure that our crop prospects for 1979 are not completely bleak. We also expect the World Food Programme to respond with quick food aid. We support the request that contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve should be completely at the disposal of the World Food Conference resolution that a more significant proportion of food aid be channelled through the World Food Programme.

We are also in agreement in general with the draft guidelines and criteria already drawn up for food aid by the CFA. These guidelines should be further refined, mainly in accordance with the wishes of developing countries. We believe that food aid should also be provided, among other reasons, to ease balance of payments problems of developing countries.

Finally, another matter which interests us is that the World Food Programme cargoes should as far as possible be carried in ships belonging to recipient countries. This will be in keeping with the objects of the new international economic order.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We have read with interest document CL 74/24. Pakistan is a regular donor country and has pledged to the World Food Programme 2 000 metric tons of rice for the 1979/80 biennium. In the 1977/78 biennium we had also pledged 2 000 metric tons of rice. In the biennium prior to that, that is 1975/76, we had pledged 1 500 metric tons of rice. All we would like to add at this juncture is, that being members of the CFA, the annual report reflects and incorporates our views as well. At this late hour and stage of the Council's deliberations, when we are way behind schedule, brevity should be the soul of wit and discretion the better part of valour.

I would only like to add that we would like to compliment the WFP for doing a very good job. They deserve to be complimented for the useful work they are doing in a devoted manner. We would like to urge donor countries to meet the pledging target of \$950 million. This is vital for the continued success of the Programme. It is our view that the guidelines on food aid should be agreed upon at an early date. In fact, we would like to sound a note of urgency in this regard.

We also feel that an increasing amount of food aid should be channelled multilaterally. We lay stress upon promotion of food security through food aid and also on forward planning on a multi-annual basis.

I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Vogel and his Organization for the appreciable manner in which WFP is functioning in Pakistan.

M. R. LEAR (New-Zealand): New Zealand continues to lend its full support to the aims and objectives of the World Food Programme. We consider that- it is a well run and useful organization which performs its role as United Nations food aid arm with distinction and to the credit of the United Nations system. The guidance provided to the Programme by the CFA and the dedication and efforts of its staff, from the Executive Director to the desk officers and the field workers are reflected in its sound achievements. We have listened to the Executive Director's appeal this afternoon for increased pledges to the World Food Programme. We have sympathy with this appeal, although our capacity to respond, regrettably, is limited. Ideally, the targets of this and the next biennium should be met by additional allocations from donors of food aid. However, if some find it difficult to increase total food aid for whatever reason, we would urge that they give serious consideration to distributing a higher proportion of their food aid through multilateral channels, especially the World Food Programme. Such a course would not only give the WFP the necessary resources to do its job properly; it is also important in our view because the Programme has a better record than many bilateral donors in minimizing disruptions to local production and markets and to international trade.

The aim of channelling a greater proportion to food aid through multilateral institutions is recorded also in the guidelines and criteria for food aid on pages 4 and 5 of the report before us.

New Zealand also welcomes the attention paid elsewhere in the guidelines to the priority needs of low income food deficit countries.

Finally, I would add that New Zealand has followed with interest the deliberations of the CFA in the period under review. We shall ourselves be taking a seat on the Committee as from the beginning of next year and look forward to the closer involvement in the Committee's work and that of the Programme.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): I should like to make a brief comment on the third annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The first point is the recent status of pledges to the Programme. According to the report the total pledges for the biennium 1977/78 were \$670.5 million as of 31 March of this year. That was 89 percent of the target. However, by the end of April it was \$716.1 million, representing about 96 percent of the target. My delegation is very pleased to see this improvement and further expects that targets not only for 1977/78 but also for 1979/80 will be attained at an early stage through the cooperation of all donor countries, in particular possible new donors.

My Government increased the pledge for 1979/80 by 33 percent.

Secondly, my delegation has some disagreement to the proposed guidelines and criteria for food aid. We have some technical difficulties and problems of principle. However, this matter will be discussed again at the next session of the Committee and I hope we will come to a compromise at that time. Finally, I should like to mention the problem of food aid requirements. The Committee reached a general consensus on some figures which could provide useful indicators of likely requirements for food aid. However, my delegation thinks that these figures are not perfect or final and would like FAO to make efforts to obtain more precise ones.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): The third annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes gives us a clear and concentrated survey of the activities of the World Food Programme in the period under review. My Government has always rated very highly the activities of the World Food Programme and the CFA. Since the establishment of the World Food Programme we have taken an active part in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee which has in the meantime been reconstituted into the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. Also, in the period under review my Government has taken an active part in the decision-making process of the CFA on international food aid policy and the method of work of the World Food Programme.

In order to strengthen the activities of that Programme further, my Government has increased its pledge of DM 63 million in the current biennium by about 20 percent to DM 75 million in the biennium 1979/80. Quite rightly the need for higher pledges has been pointed out again and again to achieve the goals that have been set. On this occasion I should also like to express my Government's view that the World Food Programme cannot fulfil its mandate of contributing towards diminishing and eradicating hunger and malnutrition merely through higher pledges of its traditional donors. The request for pledges has rather also to be addressed to all potential donors who have so far not yet supported the World Food Programme.

We welcome the fact that with the adoption of paragraph 14 of the General Regulations governing the eligibility to submit requests, all the General Regulations have now been adopted. Thus, the World Food Programme has been put on a procedural basis which is well coordinated with the current need of aid and the Programme of Work. This basis will contribute towards making the World Food Programme a still more efficient implementing Organization of multilateral food aid.

The CFA has worked intensively on the elaboration of guidelines and criteria for food aid, a task assigned to the Committee by the World Food Council. This task could not yet be completed because some decisions of other United Nations bodies are still pending and existing differences of opinion could not yet be fully settled. The parts of these guidelines and criteria which have already been adopted are in our view an important and good result of the joint efforts of all member states of the CFA. My Government hopes that the CFA will finish this work with success at its next session in spring 1979.

Ms. L. NAVANI (Thailand): Let me first compliment the Secretariat for the concise and comprehensive document and Mr. Vogel, the Executive Director of the World Food Council, for his excellent introduction. The Thai delegation would like to assure them both, the Director-General of the World Food Council and the Director-General of the FAO, of the full support of my Government for the programmes undertaken under their dynamic leadership.

My delegation noted with satisfaction the target for 1977/78 has nearly been achieved. However, my delegation would like to appeal to both traditional and new potential donors to increase their contribution in order to have it meet the target set immediately with a view to assisting the Programme to be able to continue its valuable work which has been of benefit to many developing countries, particularly to the neediest countries and for emergency needs.

Despite our full endorsement of the ten-point guidelines and criteria of the food aid set out in the document under review, my delegation is of the opinion that the resources allocated for this purpose should be reviewed periodically with an increase.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express my Government's appreciation and gratitude to the World Food Programme and particularly to the Director-General of the FAO in their approval and assistance granted to Thailand. Their assistance has proved to be very effective in terms of helping alleviate the degree of burden Thailand has to bear, especially on the problem of the growing inflow of refugees.

CHAIRMAN: That is a very interesting point you have raised which has not been touched on before, of the flow of refugees into your country.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan) : Not being a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies Programme we have not been fully aware of what is going on there. The annual report presented is all too brief. It fails to do justice to the stupendous efforts made by the World Food Programme itself.

We would like to express our appreciation of the Programme in taking up several useful projects in our own country. We commend its readiness to participate, with food assistance, in our developmental activities. We admire the promptness of the Director-General in approving emergency assistance when our country was visited by floods twice over in the earlier part of 1978. The assistance provided was not adequate but it supplemented to a considerable extent our own heroic efforts. Our Government, for the first time in decades, responsive to our toiling masses and responsive to their aspirations and needs, did everything possible to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people. The Director-General's emergency assistance came in as a very useful and welcome gesture.

We share the concern of several of our colleagues that the world community, especially the affluent few, have not yet risen to satisfy the target laid down for 1977/78 and 1979/80. Considering the fact that the world has witnessed more than once, and almost on a continuing basis, stark hunger and malnutrition, failure of development efforts and all kinds of emergencies, this recurrent shortfall in target and achievement, and more so in promise and fulfillment, cannot but cause us anxiety. Similarly we consider that the Food Aid Convention countries have been somewhat luke-warm in extending food aid. Paragraph 14 of document CL 74/24 seems to hide this inadequacy in the global total figures mentioned. My delegation would like to reiterate that it wishes the Wheat Agreement to be finalized early, with food aid as an integral part and that this would facilitate not only the fulfillment of the target of food aid mentioned in paragraph 16 but also provide for a specific emergency reserve target of 500 thousand metric tons of food.

The adoption of guidelines and criteria has been held over now for more than two years. That the few brackets continue to obstruct its implementation does not speak well of the roused conscience of the international community and still less of the expressed desire of the World Food Conference, to which all of us are a party, that "no child would go hungry in a decade", or that food security would be provided on a minimal satisfactory basis.

Nga Ma MAPELA (Zaïre): Ma delegation voudrait d'abord vous féliciter, M. le Président, pour votre élection. Nous voulons aussi saisir cette occasion pour féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document que nous examinons, et M. Vogel pour la présentation de ce dernier.

En ce qui concerne le document que nous examinons, mon premier commentaire porte sur le paragraphe 6 au sujet de la révision des Règles générales du PAM.

Il est vrai qu'à sa quatrième session le CPA a recommandé que l'ECOSOC et le Conseil de la FAO approuvent le libellé suivant en ce qui concerne les conditions à remplir pour bénéficier de l'aide du PAM. Il est dit: "Le Programme peut aussi examiner d'autres demandes et notamment celles que lui adresseraient les mouvements de libération reconnus par l'ONU et par l'OUA". M. le Président, si

ma délégation évoque cette question, ce n'est nullement pour ouvrir à nouveau le débat à ce sujet mais plutôt pour rappeler aux membres du Conseil que, lorsque cette question avait été discutée au CPA, ma délégation était parmi celles qui avaient formulé des réserves au sujet de l'équivoque à laquelle prête le début de ce libellé; lorsqu'on dit: "Le Programme peut examiner d'autres demandes", ceci sous-entend que les demandes émanant de mouvements de libération reconnus ne sont qu'un exemple de ces autres demandes. Donc, ce qui prête à équivoque, selon ma délégation, c'est le mot "d'autres demandes". Je le répète, Monsieur le Président, il s'agit là d'une réserve qu'avait formulée ma délégation quand on avait examiné cette question.

Cela dit, ma délégation estime que les directives et critères suggérés en matière d'aide alimentaire devraient être adoptés aussitôt que possible afin de permettre aux pays de s'en servir à l'avenir.

Je voudrais aussi faire allusion aux projets qui demeurent encore dans les textes, projets qui seront supprimés lorsque le texte sera examiné de nouveau prochainement.

Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie l'idée qui tend à ce que les enquêtes en vue d'évaluer les besoins d'aide alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement s'étendent à un plus grand nombre de pays.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): I am at a loss, really. I wanted to do an extremely short statement but I simply do not dare to do so, otherwise the delegate of Columbia, maybe some other delegates, might be tempted to think of Hungary as a rich country, which it is not!

The Hungarian Government has expressed many times and at many fora its preference for technical assistance projects assisting developing countries in promoting the utilization of their domestic resources. At the same time, however, we do our very best to contribute to the emergency needs of the countries concerned, not only through bilateral donors but through the World Food Programme as well.

My delegation feels the 5th and 6th sessions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes did a thorough job. Therefore we agree with the conclusions of the report of the 5th Session as included in document CL 74/24 before us.

My delegation included the 6th session of the CFA and it is our opinion that this session too has made great progress in directing food aid to the neediest countries, in promoting rural development and improving arrangements for emergency needs.

Specifically we must point out our appreciation to the CFA in handling efficiently and with no delay the request from the countries which had recently suffered flood, droughts or other calamities.

HSIUNG JUNG-CHEN (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): The Third Annual Report of the CFA covers the activities of the World Food Programme from May 1977 to April 1978.

As food production is still insufficient in some developing countries, food aid without any strings attached, when properly used, can serve as an effective supplement to the solution of the food problem and the improvement of the people's livelihood in the developing countries. In this connexion much useful work has been done by the WFP.

A set of guidelines and criteria concerning food aid are submitted in the Committee's report. Quite a few of them are positive as they reflect experiences and lessons drawn from past food aid operations.

We attach an importance, *inter alia*, to the stipulation that food aid should be provided in forms consistent with the development objectives of the recipient countries. In providing food aid, not only must the sovereignty of the recipient countries be respected, their requirements fully taken into consideration and aid be provided in forms consistent with their development objectives. Except for emergency relief operations, the food aid itself should be so designed as to ensure the promotion of the recipient country's food and agriculture production and the increase of her capability for self-reliance in this respect. If such guidelines are to be followed for food aid operations, food aid can certainly play a positive role for the developing countries.

M. KRIESBERG- (United States of America): The United States notes that at this date some 75 percent of the total amount of the contribution targeted for the next period has been pledged, and we, as others who have spoken on the subject this afternoon, are hopeful that the balance will be pledged. We urge that donors, new as well as old, who have not yet done so will make their commitments soon so that the target may be attained.

We are pleased with the continued vital work of the World Food Programme and commend the Executive Director for his able management of it.

We welcome indications that the World Food Programme is increasingly directing food aid to the neediest countries and, as always, among those needy in the developing countries, and that it is increasingly also directed to promoting rural development and improving the arrangements whereby emergency needs are met. In this connexion we want simply to indicate that the close cooperation of our Government with the World Food Programme in emergency programmes will of course be continued.

Just a word on guidelines which have been noted and which are appended to the Report. Our Government believes that the formulation of a statement of guidelines and criteria for food aid can be helpful, especially as they reflect the consensus of both donor and recipient nations. We are of course in substantial accord with those which have been indicated in the appendixes to this Report, and we trust that the remaining differences which are evidenced in a few bracketed words will be resolved at the next CFA Spring Session.

S. TATARITIS (Greece): In examining the Third Annual Report of the CFA to ECOSOC, the FAO Council and the WFC, we note that while the number of projects and assistance which-WFP grants to developing countries and particularly to meet emergency situations is continuously increasing, the availability of reserves does not show any improvement. Neither the target of 10 million tons of cereals a year set by the World Food Conference has so far been attained nor the annual target of 500 thousand tons of food grain of the International Emergency Food Reserve has been reached.

We therefore support CFS's recommendation that more intensive efforts should be made by all countries so that the above targets are attained.

We all know the solution to the food problem lies in increased production in developing countries and development of policies for achieving self-reliance, reducing poverty, and improving the nutritional status in the rural areas. Efforts should therefore be made towards this end.

We also submit that assistance should be directed mainly towards the least developed and poorest countries. Careful planning and programming is of primary importance for the- execution of projects, and special consideration should be given to matters such as food-for-work schemes and the creation and maintenance of food reserves.

In concluding, my delegation is in agreement with the guidelines and criteria for bilateral and multilateral food aid programmes, as referred to in paragraph 18 of the Report, so that food aid may effectively contribute to the solution of the food problems of the developing countries.

C. O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Mi particular felicitación al señor Vogel y a su Secretaría por el excelente documento que nos ha presentado. Hemos participado en las reuniones del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria y en oportunidad de discutir las directrices y criterios para la ayuda alimentaria, hemos tenido oportunidad ya de expresar cuáles eran nuestras opiniones. Me limitare a una sola observación en torno a este documento, y será bien precisa. Esto no implica seguir estrictamente el acertado criterio expuesto en forma brillante por mi colega y amigo, el representante de Colombia, Don Alberto Zalamea, en el sentido de que el que habla poco deber ser necesariamente rico. Es la excepción que confirma la regla; yo soy rico, pero soy rico en ilusiones y por eso me permito reiterar algunas observaciones formuladas ya como dije anteriormente.

En la página 4 del texto español, al principio del párrafo 18, se dice en la segunda frase: "Conforme a lo acordado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación y ratificado luego por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, la solución a largo plazo del problema de la escasez de alimentos en los países en desarrollo estriba en aumentar la producción en esos países*". Esto fue expuesto brillantemente, anteriormente, por otros oradores, pero quiero señalarle la aparente incongruencia que tiene

ese párrafo con lo que después se dice en el pie de imprenta, como lo conjugamos con el concepto discriminatorio que parece reflejarlo ese pie de imprenta. Consideramos que el inciso (d) cuando dice: "A la hora de asignar recursos de ayuda alimentaria, los países donantes deben dar prioridad a países de ingresos bajos y deficitarios de alimentos". Eso es claro, y el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos tiene perfecta capacidad para decidir quiénes son quienes deban tener prioridad.

Por lo tanto, a nuestro juicio, el pie de imprenta que figura al pie de la página 4 es redundante, innecesario, conflictivo y discriminatorio, y a nuestro juicio debería ser suprimido.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): Canadian faith in the efficiency and the relevance of the World Food Programme to the development assistance effort of the United Nations is already very well-known and is reflected in the size of our annual commitment to the Programme. We are truly pleased to note the increasing number of donors and the expansion of the importance of donations from some countries. We like to think that this increased contribution is a reflection and is indeed an endorsement of the management of the current Executive Director of the Programme. We can only encourage this trend and hope that even more countries find the resources to support this excellent pragmatic and effective United Nations programme.

In concluding, we would like to say how pleased we are to note the progress which has been made in responding to the requirements of the neediest countries in promoting rural development and the improved arrangements to meet emergency needs.

K. V. ARROWSMITH (Observer for the European Economic Community): I wish to make the following comments on the Third Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid and Policies and Programmes. Because of budgeting constraints, the European Economic Committee as such does not participate in World Food Programme Pledging Conferences. However, the allocations made to the WFP in the Community's annual Food Aid Programmes can be considered as its pledges. In its 1978 Programme, the Community allocated to the WFP a total of 55 000 tons of cereals, 20 000 tons of skim milk powder, and 5 thousand tons of butter oil. The overall value of this food aid including à cash contribution towards the transport cost amounted to some \$30 million.

Like the World Food Programme, the Community attaches great importance to the need to make a prompt response to emergency situations resulting from natural or man-made disasters, and to this end it includes a significant reserve element in its own annual food aid programmes. It has also been a contributor to the International Emergency Food Reserve since its inception. Under the 1971 Food Aid Convention and its extension to the 30th of June 1979, the Community will have channelled in all some 260 000 tons of cereals aid through the World Food Programme.

The progress so far made by the CFA to establish guidelines and criteria in respect of bilateral and multilateral food aid are welcomed by the Community. With regard to the CFA's assessment of the future global food aid requirements *inter alia* in the form of 250 000 tons of dairy products, I should like to mention that the Community already goes a long way in meeting this need, 150 000 tons of skim milk powder and 45 000 tons of butter oil being provided for in its current year's programme.

In conclusion, I would say that the Community derives much satisfaction from the good working relationship in matters of food aid which exist between it and the World Food Programme.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (Mexico): Mi delegación desea felicitar sinceramente al señor Vogel por el excelente informe que nos ha presentado, y por este conducto agradecer al Programa Mundial de Alimentos la cooperación que ha tenido con México desde hace varios años que nos ha permitido mejorar sensiblemente la alimentación sobre todo en materia infantil en algunas regiones desprotegidas del país.

Por ese mismo motivo, me permití pedir la palabra, porque estoy de acuerdo con la presentación que hizo el distinguido delegado de Argentina en el sentido de clasificar a los países como: más pobres, menos pobres, medianamente pobres, etc., pues es una clasificación un tanto discriminatoria. En algunos otros foros internacionales hemos ya insistido en que el desequilibrio económico afecta a regiones dentro de un país en una forma alarmante y puede otra región del mismo país no tener estos

síntomas de depresión económica, por lo que es una clasificación global. Presentada como se presenta en la Nota de pie de página, de la página 4, creemos que sí es un poco excesiva y sale un poco de tono lesionando los intereses de países como el nuestro que es un país en vías de desarrollo.

CHAIRMAN: I must say I am very sympathetic with the delegates of Mexico and Argentina. There are the poor, poorer, and poorest - or shall we say the less rich, rich and richest. I think it is one problem Mr. Vogel himself should answer, but first here is the delegate of France.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France); Je ne sais qui m'a fait inscrire tout à l'heure sur la liste des orateurs, ce n'est en tout cas pas moi. D'autre part, je ne peux pas dire que j'ai préparé une intervention, j'ai pris des notes et si je prends la parole maintenant c'est en espérant ne pas être trop long, étant donné que je dois me rendre incessamment au Comité de rédaction.

Ayant noté simplement les remarques qui viennent d'être faites sur les pays à faible revenu, je crois que ceci n'est pas nouveau dans les directives et critères. Je crois même me souvenir qu'aux temps anciens, non plus du Comité des politiques et programme alimentaire, mais au Comité intergouvernemental du PAM, ces règles existaient déjà, donnant un traitement privilégié aux pays qui souffrent le plus compte tenu du faible revenu par tête d'habitant. Je crois que c'est une règle dont il convient de tenir compte, d'autant plus que dans d'autres enceintes, telles que les Nations Unies ou la CNUCED, on parle toujours de prendre des mesures en faveur des pays les moins favorisés.

Je crois donc que là aussi, il est nécessaire, dans le cadre du PAM, de tenir compte des situations particulières. Je dirai également que celle-ci fait partie de l'ensemble des directives et critères de l'aide alimentaire qui seront examinés lors de la prochaine session de CPA et qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'en discuter plus longuement ce soir.

J. B. NEZEHOSÉ (Rwanda): C'est un petit élément que je voudrais simplement communiquer. Je désire m'excuser car tout à l'heure j'ai cité le paragraphe 8 à la place du paragraphe 18 et je vous prie de prendre note de cette rectification.

CHAIRMAN: We have now gone through our whole list of speakers and at this point I will ask Mr. Vogel if he wants to make some comments.

G.N. VOGEL (World Food Programme): At this late hour and stage I will try to be very brief, but there are some comments which I feel I should make.

I would like to thank all delegates for their comments, for their kind words, and in some cases for their criticisms, which were all constructive and which will all help not only the Secretariat of the World Food Programme myself particularly, but I think will also help the CFA in its future deliberations.

A number of delegates stressed the 1979/80 target and treated the 1977/78 one as being virtually fulfilled. Naturally I do want to stress the 1979/80 target, but I must again draw to your attention to what I did say in my opening remarks with respect to the 1977/78 target. It is very easy to say that a target has almost been reached, but when the word "almost" can mean something like \$40-\$43 million it is still a great deal of money and is not to be taken lightly, so I urge all of you not only to fix your attention on the 1979/80 target but we must all do everything we can still at this late date to try to stretch to the limit what we can do in respect of the 1977/78 target.

It should also be mentioned - because a number of delegates did refer to the question of new donors and increasing contributions from the present donors. I must remind the Council that when the World Food Programme was asking for more resources it really was not a question necessarily of more total aid. It is a question of that portion of the aid which will be directed to the World Food Programme. At very many international conferences one after the other resolutions are passed - more should be done multilaterally and more should be done through the Programme; but the World Food Programme is handling only 15 percent of the aid, which is hardly multilateral. Everyone understands the request for bilateral aid; everyone understands the bilateral aid will always be the major component, but really 15 percent is a very small percentage considering the constant repetition of

resolutions to the contrary effect. It is not only a question of new donors, it is not only a question of present donors, it is a question of that portion of the aid which is going to be directed through the World Food Programme,

The third category might in due course, perhaps, be the most important.

A number of delegates - almost all I think - refer to the guidelines. They are extremely important guidelines. They are intended to be guidelines not only for the World Food Programme and multilateral disasters but also for bilateral aid, and therefore they are all extremely significant.

Some of the points which you have brought out will undoubtedly form the basis for many future debates in the CFA because many of the points you have brought out are in fact the basic questions of philosophy in food aid both bilateral and multilateral.

The delegate of Rwanda raised the concept of food for work, and then there is the question of sales policy. This is a basic food problem which the CFA has dealt with from time to time and will no doubt have to do again.

Other delegates raised the question of the priorities that were given to LDC countries as contrasted with the poverty concept. This, too, is a basic type of debate which I am quite sure will be pursued in depth by the Committee on Food Aid Programme in the future because these are all extremely important conceptual tasks. I do remind you, however, that what we are talking about is guidelines. We are not talking about hard rules, and within the guidelines as Executive Director I still do have flexibility to examine good worthwhile projects whatever they may be while still observing a sense of priority for the least developed countries, and I do not think that is unfair.

Perhaps I might close by welcoming New Zealand and other new members of the Committee on Food Aid Policy also. Some have already been elected by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and others are to be elected by this Council next week. The reason I close on that note is because that very concept of the dual allocations points to the unique nature of the World Food Programme - its dual parentage, the involvement of the United Nations on one side and the World Food Programme on the other. It is a unique concept and a unique programme, and I trust it may continue to have your wholehearted support.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Vogel, for your short and concise comments. If I may briefly sum up the nature of the discussions we have had this afternoon - and again I am not going to try to give the details - we have had a good discussion which shows a very strong awareness of the methods by the Council as to the nature of the Programme,

There was a concern expressed by many delegates about the fact that We did not reach the 1977/78 target, and as the Executive Director rightly said, there are still some \$40 million still to come and that is not a small sum.

There was also concern about the target for 1979/80. What the Executive Director did not mention was that next week he probably will have to start working on the target for 1981/82 which the Council will have to consider next year. You never stop looking at targets - but then our problems never cease.

A number of specific comments were made by several delegates on items which could be discussed at the next Session of the CFA. These comments will be sent to members of the CFA in relation to the guidelines and the "poor, poorer, and poorest."

Also, there were one or two questions on paragraph 18 which Rwanda raised and these will have to be discussed. This report goes to ECOSOC and the World Food Council, and in these three bodies, I have often been tempted to see whether the same person says the same thing at each meeting!

There was also a strong hope expressed that agreement can be reached on the guidelines and criteria for food aid. The Executive Director rightly clarified the definitions of rules, regulations and guidelines, but there are still too many square brackets. Since we are not making a report on square brackets, the hope is that when the CFA meets in the spring it will be able to remove the square brackets and complete this exercise. This completes our discussion today.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous aurons probablement à l'ordre du jour de demain les questions suivantes:

Le point 16 en supposant que le Comité informel de consultations ait terminé son travail. Nous commencerons donc par ce point qui demandera probablement très peu de temps.

Nous continuerons avec le point 17 et le Président m'a demandé de vous informer qu'il a l'intention, avec votre coopération, d'en terminer avec le point 21 demain dans la journée. Ce point 21, comme je vous l'ai dit le jour de l'ouverture du Conseil, est un amalgame de plusieurs points mentionnés dans l'ordre du jour annoté. Il s'agit des points 12, 14 et 15 et enfin du point 21. Tous ces points ont été examinés par les deux Comités du Programme et financier; cependant les membres du Secrétariat vont probablement se joindre aux deux présidents de ces Comités pour introduire un certain nombre de sous-points prévus au point 21. Il est probable que ces introductions nous aideront à mieux saisir les problèmes.

Le Président m'a demandé enfin de vous informer qu'il souhaiterait que les débats sur ce point ne prennent pas trop de temps de façon à rattraper un peu le retard que nous enregistrons déjà sur le calendrier que vous avez accepté.

Pour en terminer, me référant à la dernière intervention de M. Vogel sur les nouveaux membres du Comité d'aide alimentaire, je vous rappelle que le délai avait été prolongé jusqu'à vendredi. Je souhaiterais que ceux des membres du Conseil qui sont désireux de présenter leur candidature remplissent les formulaires qui ont été distribués afin que l'élection puisse se dérouler dans la journée de lundi comme prévu par le Président.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I just want to raise a question on the statement made by our Secretary-General on the way in which we might proceed on item 21. It is at this stage a multi-splendoured item containing many items which admittedly the Programme and Finance Committees have reviewed but which have not of course been reviewed by this Council. On the Agenda it seems to me that considerable time was allocated for this item by virtue of the fact that it included a number of different items in the original agenda. I raise the question simply to ask that perhaps we might have more clarification at the time we take up that item as to ways in which it might be broken down for clarity of handling and clarity of discussion.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Ma question était presque la même que celle de M. le représentant des Etats-Unis et, en même temps, je voulais faire une suggestion au Secrétariat qui permettrait peut-être de voir plus clair sur ce débat sur le point 21. Il nous a dit tout à l'heure que ce point serait subdivisé en sous-points et peut-être en sous-sous-points, puisqu'il a parlé du 12, du 14, du 15, je crois, et également de différents rapports.

Je crois que pour la clarté des débats il vaudrait mieux que demain matin, par exemple, on nous remette en même temps que l'ordre du jour de la journée une liste de ces points et sous-points qui seraient repris dans l'ensemble du 21, de manière à ce que nous puissions les aborder successivement de façon très claire; le débat y gagnerait en clarté et en rapidité.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je répondrai à cette dernière intervention en rappelant que les détails sur chacun des documents de ces sous-points sont contenus dans l'ordre du jour provisoire annoté qui a été distribué sous la cote CL 74/1(a). Dans ce document, vous verrez que le 12 comprend quatre sous-points essentiels et six sous-sous-points si je puis m'exprimer ainsi. Tous les détails sont contenus dans ce document; je crois qu'on n'aura peut-être pas besoin, si vous en êtes d'accord, de publier une autre liste.

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be very helpful for delegates to have the information listed in the way requested.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Oui, M. le Président, vous avez résumé exactement, parce que cet après-midi j'ai essayé de reprendre ce document de base indiqué par le Secrétariat, et en me reportant à tous les

documents, je vous avoue que c'est un travail qui n'est pas très simple, et si l'on doit avoir l'ensemble sur son bureau au moment des interventions, eh bien on se perdra complètement. Alors simplement, c'est une liste d'une page environ correspondant à cinq points ou sous-points de l'ordre du jour, le document en face, et généralement il faudra indiquer dans le document le passage auquel cela correspond, parce qu'il y a je ne sais combien de points.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretary-General assures us that he will take care of all this, that he will simplify the procedure.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Briefly, it is not just the listing of the items that will come up, but the order in which they will come up, so that we are not dealing with them in the same hour, even though the hour may be extended by five.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je répéterai simplement que nous allons faire comme le délégué de la France l'a dit. Je voudrais aussi préciser que le Président du Conseil se propose demain, d'ailleurs, de donner davantage de précisions sur les questions qui seront abordées ou ensemble ou séparément. C'est une proposition qu'il pense vous faire.

CHAIRMAN: I think all the delegates have faith in you, Mr. Secretary-General, that you understand their problem. Are there any other comments? Then I would like to take this occasion to thank all my colleagues - delegates, observers and the Secretary-General - for their patience.

The meeting rose at 17.55 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/9

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA
(1 December 1978)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de
Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Novena Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de
Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

16. Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (continued)

16. Evaluation du Programme de coopération technique (suite)

16. Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (cont inuación)

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais vous rendre compte de l'heureux résultat des travaux du Groupe de contact qui s'est réuni, hier, dans mon bureau.

C'est avec le plus grand plaisir que je vous annonce que nos discussions ont conduit à un accord d'ensemble.

Avant de vous en exposer les détails, je tiens à rendre hommage à l'esprit constructif de conciliation et d'objectivité dont tous les participants ont fait preuve, dans l'intérêt général de notre Organisation.

Nos discussions ont porté sur deux points principaux:

D'une part, formulation des paragraphes du rapport qui introduiront la Résolution et, de l'autre, texte de la Résolution elle-même.

En ce qui concerne le premier point, je tiens à souligner que les membres du Groupe de contact se sont engagés à recommander à leurs mandants de ne pas rouvrir la discussion sur le texte des paragraphes introductifs, tant lors de la considération du projet de rapport par le Comité de rédaction, que lors de son adoption en séance plénière.

Je suis certain de pouvoir compter sur la coopération de tous pour que cet agrément soit respecté car, s'il en allait autrement, le résultat de nos efforts risquerait de s'en trouver compromis.

Ce dont nous avons convenu peut être résumé comme suit:

1. Nous sommes convenus que le projet de rapport commencera par une description des résultats de l'Evaluation.

Il fera référence au rapport du Comité du Programme, mais n'entrera pas dans les détails et ne formulera pas de commentaires sur les différentes positions des divers groupes - majorité ou minorité - au sein du Conseil.

2. Après discussion, nous nous sommes mis d'accord sur le texte de la partie du rapport qui présentera brièvement les conclusions du Conseil.

Cette présentation se fera en trois paragraphes.

i) Le premier traitera de l'opinion de la grande majorité.

ii) Le second traitera de l'opinion d'autres membres qui, tout en appuyant en général le PCT tel est aujourd'hui, ont eu cependant des réserves sur l'extension de ses critères et sur la nécessité d'une résolution.

iii) Le troisième paragraphe se référera brièvement aux opinions des rares membres, qui ont manifesté quelque souci au sujet de certains aspects des critères actuels, ainsi qu'à l'opinion d'un membre qui voulait restreindre ces critères et s'est opposé à la résolution en en dissociant son Gouvernement.

3. Nous avons discuté le projet de résolution du Groupe des 77, et sommes tombés d'accord sur une modification, sur un seul amendement aux termes du dernier paragraphe du dispositif, qui devient:

"Invite le Directeur général à n'épargner aucun effort pour renforcer et améliorer encore le PCT, afin que les compétences spécialisées de l'Organisation soient de plus en plus disponibles pour résoudre les problèmes les plus pressants des Etats Membres".

Il s'agit là d'un accord final et conclusif, couvrant l'ensemble du sujet. Il a été adopté sur une base qui dispense de toute autre argumentation ou discussion.

Comme vous le voyez, Monsieur le Président, nous nous trouvons en présence d'un ensemble équilibré qui, tout en respectant les opinions de chacun, reflète également l'appui chaleureux que la très large majorité de votre Conseil a apporté à notre Programme de coopération technique.

Je suis particulièrement satisfait qu'un consensus ait pu être réalisé sur ce sujet auquel j'attache, vous le savez, la plus grande importance.

Je suis également très touché de la confiance dont les différentes délégations m'ont honoré, en acceptant de venir se réunir dans mon bureau pour concilier leurs points de vue.

Etant personnellement convaincu de la valeur irremplaçable de conversations franches et directes, qui ne peuvent avoir lieu qu'en petits groupes et dans une atmosphère informelle, je puis vous assurer, Monsieur le Président, que je me tiendrai toujours à la disposition des membres du Conseil pour les aider à trouver une solution équitable et constructive chaque fois que de semblables difficultés surgiront.

Les délégations ici assemblées et, au-delà d'elles, notre Organisation tout entière, viennent de donner, une fois encore, un exemple éclatant de leur sagesse et de leur dévouement à la cause du développement du monde rural.

Par votre intermédiaire, je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, les en remercier très sincèrement.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The problem has not been that of disagreement. The problem has been that of approach and methodology and I am glad that it has been possible in the way you have just narrated to us to find a suitable way to assist you to do the thing that will be of use to all of us.

S.A.A. KHALIL (Chairman of the Group of 77) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank the Director-General for the report he has given us. It is a very realistic and very clear one. I should also like to thank him for the precious and effective help he has given us all on this point and I should also like to thank my colleagues, the members of the Group of 77, who united their efforts towards this solution. When the Director-General suggested to the Council that a meeting should be held in his office with my colleagues and the coordinators of the Group of 77, together with representatives from other Groups, the position was almost in an impasse but the Director-General has made our task easy because, as usual with him, he was very frank and has shown great activity in order to find a proper solution. Fortunately the atmosphere in the office of the Director-General was a very relaxed one, at any rate far more relaxed than it was in this room on the day before yesterday, as you may remember; you remember the tension which prevailed on that evening.

After an exchange of views we finally came to a solution based on the proposals submitted to us by the Director-General, as he has told us in his speech. I shall not revert to this, however, there are one or two points I would like to single out.

We agreed on the need not to reopen any discussion on this point or any question connected with this, neither here in this room nor in the Drafting Committee, and I am quite sure that my colleagues in the Group of 77 will abide by this decision. I think this is a very satisfactory solution for the vast majority of this Council. This solution also perfectly reflects the views of other Groups and constitutes the result, the perfect result in fact, of a debate which indeed started, I am quite sure, on a misunderstanding. We must say that when we met with our colleagues in the office of the Director-General, thanks to the help of the Director-General, we were able to eliminate all difficulties and if a conclusion may be drawn from all this I would say that this proves that in FAO when we find ourselves in a situation where there are great disagreements, thanks to the help of the Director-General, we can always overcome those difficulties and come to a consensus, the consensus which has been one of the main principles of this Organisation during the past three years. If there are similar differences in the future then we now know the solution we have to adopt in order to solve them.

In conclusion, may I thank you, Mr. Chairman, personally for all you have done during our meetings so as to facilitate this solution.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais simplement dire un mot pour remercier le Directeur général des efforts qu'il a faits pour nous permettre d'arriver à une solution favorable et je voudrais citer deux proverbes français, l'un est "Tout est bien qui finit bien" et l'autre qui pourra nous servir pour l'avenir est "Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir".

CHAIRMAN: Before we conclude this item, I want to inform you that certain delegations want to submit in writing their comments, which will not be in contradiction to what we have done already.

I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, Mr. Sylla.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il ne s'agit pas de commentaires sur ?e qui vient d'être conclu et adopté. Il s'agit des déclarations que ces délégations avaient l'intention de faire au moment où le débat était en cours sur ce point. Ce sont ces déclarations qui vont figurer dans le procès-verbal.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): Just as a matter of procedure, I would like to enquire as to whether this is a normal practice. I do not have any particular objection in this instance, but as a matter of practice the question arises that in a normal debate when delegations make statements, occasionally they raise points to which other delegations feel they may need to respond or wish to respond, and that possibility of course is not open to us when this procedure is followed. May I ask whether there is a precedent for this and whether this has been a normal practice of the Organization in the past.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, this is the normal practice here in Council. If anybody does not want to speak he will hand it in and then it goes to the Drafting Committee.

I will give the floor to the Secretary-General to explain.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Seules les délégations qui, pour des raisons de calendrier ne désirent pas prendre la parole pour ne pas prolonger les débats, remettent au Secrétariat leurs déclarations par écrit, lesquelles sont soumises au Président pour qu'il en informe le Conseil. Ensuite elles sont envoyées pour être insérées dans le compte rendu sténographique, mais pas dans le rapport. C'est une pratique courante qui existe à la FAO depuis très longtemps, m'a-t-on dit.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like to ask your permission that in this case perhaps also a statement from all delegations could be inserted in the record. Of course, we do not expect that it would be taken into account. We fully abide by this statement which was just made by the Director-General and we are very pleased and congratulate him for the excellence of his statement.

CHAIRMAN: It looks as if we are opening a debate on a procedure that is normal in this Organization but I give the floor to the United Kingdom.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I should not of course wish for one moment to open a debate on something of great importance, which, as the Director-General has said, is settled. As one who took part in some of the deliberations yesterday, I did want to say on behalf of certain other parties that we greatly appreciate the steps which the Director-General took, and secondly, I wanted to say how much we appreciated the spirit of good will on both sides.

As the Chairman of the Group of 77 said, we started from a difficult position but we emerged and we could not have emerged with the conclusion which the Director-General has given us without a very large measure of good will on both sides.

Finally, I want to say a few words about TCP. As some of my friends know, I was labouring yesterday from a very painful sore throat, and that does not always help, but when I got home last night I used a medical preparation which is familiar to some of my colleagues from our side of the world; I think Messrs. Boots somewhere in Nottingham prepare it. To those with a chemical background I think it is called tri-chloro-phenol. If you look at the package when it is sold it is called TCP. I am very happy to inform you this morning, Mr. Chairman, that my sore throat has gone completely. Could I just add that I strongly recommend it. To any of my colleagues suffering from this sort of flu or germ, I strongly recommend the preparation called TCP.

CHAIRMAN: Of course, we know that in your own country your own government may spend all of your time dishing out aid, so nobody can blame you for not supporting TCP or any other aid.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): The discussions on the pros and cons on the Technical Cooperation Programme tend to become more and more theoretical. I wish therefore to go back to realities and to refer to some concrete cases of Malta's experiences.

When Malta became independent, it needed urgent assistance in many fields. FAO helped it a lot and we are very grateful for the assistance we received. It was in many cases financed by the UNDP, to which organization we also owe gratitude. In general most experts were sent to Malta to study the actual problems and give advice. But, frankly speaking, we realized soon that this kind of assistance could not suffice. Malta was and is still lacking in research institutions, there are few laboratories and the scientific equipment available is insufficient. UNDP, according to its rules, could not supply this type of help.

Another example: In 1975, our livestock was menaced by a sudden outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease -since 30 years unknown to the island. We asked again help from FAO. We were told that funds were lacking to send to the island specialized veterinarians and the vaccines needed. Hence, we were urged to ask for funds from UNDP for this purpose. We had done so and our request was transmitted to Geneva and from there to New York. The only trouble was that the disease continued to spread in the meantime. Had we not received urgent bilateral assistance in time, the damage would have been huge. When UNDP's reply to our request arrived from New York to FAO, fortunately the worst was over and we did not need any more the help granted. These two examples show the weaknesses of assistance to which UNDP's involvement is necessary. In great part, due to bureaucratic complications, the multilateral assistance from the UN is less efficient and less effective as it was believed it would become when the UNDP was created.

These experiences prompted us to raise the problem at the 17th and 18th Sessions of the FAO Conference as well as at several European Regional Conferences. We expressed our view that more emphasis should be given in FAO's Regular Programme to projects with an outspoken country focus. Again and again we received the same reply: There are no provisions in FAO to supply actual assistance without UNDP's help. Hence, we felt that the Regular Programme, as it was conceived at that time, is much too rigid and can hardly give to a country urgent assistance when it was needed. FAO was not able to intervene in unforeseen cases, not included in the programme set up for a two-year period. And this even in spite of the fact that the distance from Headquarters to Malta is indeed very short, travel expenses insignificant and that FAO's staff at Headquarters considerably but most of its time was absorbed with studies of another general nature. This of course was in sheer contradiction to the preamble of the FAO constitution and to the argument stressed again and again that FAO is an action-oriented body.

The situation became even more complicated when UNDP introduced the system of the "Indicative Planning Figures" (IPF). Useless to say that the IPF for Malta was extremely small compared to the many needs the country was and is still facing. We need assistance not only in agriculture and fisheries which means from FAO, but also in fields which are falling within the competence of WHO, UNIDO, Unesco and so forth and all these undertakings have to be covered by the IPF set by UNDP. We were forced to plan how to use our IPF and to establish priorities to our requests - an immense and impossible task

for a small country which is lacking in all types of natural resources, trained manpower, specialists in many scientific and practical fields. Without the help of bilateral assistance of friendly countries, we would have been in a very grave situation because frankly the multilateral assistance did not perform to the expectations and was not as efficient as it was hoped for.

For all these reasons, we were very happy for the creation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We feel that it will solve most of the problems just mentioned. We wish to praise the Director-General for the effort he made to establish this programme and to the Council and the Conference which approved its implementation. We are glad to say that this has been recognized in all regions and the respective Regional Conferences formulated resolutions to express their recognition. I regret very much that this was not formally done at the last Regional Conference for Europe although there are several developing countries in the European Region. Our delegation was unfortunately not able to attend the Regional Conference and raise there the question. Nonetheless, from the working paper submitted to this Conference, I see that TCP assistance was granted not only to Malta but also to several other European countries, like Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Portugal, Spain and Turkey. It is true, that the European Commission on Agriculture at its June session expressed its gratitude to the Director-General for TCP assistance granted to fight the outbreak of the African Swine Fever in Malta which was not only a threat to Malta itself but to all countries of Europe, irrespective whether they are developed or developing countries. I regret very much that this formal resolution has not been brought to the knowledge of the Regional Conference for Europe.

We think, Mr. Chairman, that this concrete case shows that it would be useful if a closer contact could be established between the work of the Regional Conference for Europe and the European Commission on Agriculture and recommend to the Council and in particular to its Programme Committee to look into this matter.
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N. NONGA (Tchad): Le P.C.T. représente à nos yeux une des actions les plus concrètes de la FAO et nous ne pouvons qu'encourager les initiatives du Directeur général de la FAO dans ce sens. L'urgence dans ses interventions, sa souplesse, sa flexibilité en sont ses avantages qui font l'admiration des pays bénéficiaires. Mon pays étant un des pays qui bénéficient des avantages du PCT ne peut que féliciter le Directeur général pour ses propositions de renforcement du PCT. , Ma délégation se joint donc aux autres pour appuyer les recommandations du Comité et les suggestions faites par le Directeur général et, de ce fait, appuie la résolution présentée par le Président du Groupe des 77. 1/

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Sr. Presidente, nuestra delegación quisiera referirse muy brevemente a los aspectos que se plantean en el documento CL 74/14.

Consideramos que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO debe interpretarse como un hecho de trascendencia histórica dentro de la Organización, el cual ha demostrado que es posible cumplimentar la responsabilidad de la FAO, en proporcionar asistencia para la cooperación técnica a los Estados Miembros, siendo ésta la primera vía posible para hacerlo de una manera directa y con fondos propios.

Nuestra delegación considera que el P.C.T. puede servir no sólo para satisfacer necesidades urgentes sino también necesidades de los países a corto plazo, ayudando así de manera práctica, flexible y eficaz, al desarrollo de los sectores prioritarios de la alimentación y la producción agrícola de los países subdesarrollados, lo que justifica plenamente su creación y existencia.

En la evaluación realizada de la primera fase del programa, se pudo comprobar la buena marcha del mismo, así como la confirmación de que los proyectos se ejecutan de acuerdo con los objetivos, los criterios y las prioridades previstas, llegándose a la conclusión de que los mismos han contribuido a estimular la afluencia de recursos al sector agrícola.

Por todos estos motivos enunciados consideramos de mucha importancia mantener el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y lo que es más aun, que el mismo puede ampliar su ámbito de acción, saliéndose de los marcos nacionales y abordando problemas comunes a países vecinos, siempre que éstos lo soliciten, convirtiéndose así en un medio para fomentar la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo.

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1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

Nos parece que el objetivo principal del programa deberá seguir siendo el incremento de la producción de alimentos y por ende los ingresos de los productores y trabajadores agrícolas. Así mismo consideramos que el futuro de los proyectos debe estar encaminado a la aplicación de medidas prácticas en sectores que requieren la aplicación de tecnologías nuevas.

Consideramos que la realización cuantitativa del Programa demuestra la eficacia con que el mismo se está ejecutando. Los porcentajes de asignaciones son producto de las solicitudes hechas por los gobiernos y responden plenamente a sus necesidades, incluido el referente a Equipos y Suministros, aspecto sobre el que llamamos la atención, en el sentido de que el porcentaje señalado para ese rubro es decir 46.5 refleja exactamente las necesidades de los beneficiarios.

Este debe ser el criterio también para el futuro Programa, considerando además que el volumen del mismo debe ajustarse a las necesidades y solicitudes de los países subdesarrollados y continuar fortaleciéndose desde el punto de vista de los recursos financieros.

Sr. Presidente: Mi delegación apoya firmemente la continuación del P.C.T. ya que, aunque el mismo se encuentra en su fase inicial, las experiencias que se han tenido, hasta el momento, así como las evaluaciones efectuadas, han demostrado la validez de su concepción y su importancia práctica.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, quisiera dejar constancia de que mi delegación apoya en su totalidad las propuestas sometidas a la aprobación de este Consejo, contenidas en el párrafo 17 del documento CL 74/14. 1/

H. MAURIA (Finland): Regarding this item we would have only a few points to make. We welcome the evaluation that has been made concerning the Technical Cooperation Programme, and we like to say on the basis of the evaluation that in our view the TCP activities have been implemented in accordance with the aims and the criteria envisaged for the programme. It is obvious that the programme has filled gaps in the range of technical cooperation activities, and that it has been able to give prompt response in emergency situations, and that it has not duplicated but complemented assistance available from other sources.

On these grounds we agree that the Technical Cooperation Programme should continue on these lines and with the view of consolidating the programme and of improving the efficiency of the programme. 1/

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): Je veux, comme les orateurs précédents, saluer le Comité du Programme et le Directeur général pour le document qu'ils nous ont soumis pour examen et décision.

La délégation de Guinée-Bissau soutient, comme elle l'a déjà fait aux dernières sessions du Conseil et à l'occasion de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, à Arusha, toutes les actions concernant le renforcement du Programme de coopération technique.

Mon pays, récemment indépendant et un des plus gravement touchés, a trouvé dans le PCT un des moyens de plus rapidement implanter et organiser les infrastructures de base pour son développement. C'est ainsi qu'à travers le PCT, une étude de la rivière "Geba" permettra l'élaboration d'un projet d'irrigation du riz et l'obtention de deux cultures par an; un laboratoire de sols est monté; un projet d'enquête agricole au niveau national est prêt pour financement; et un projet de crédit agricole est presque financé. Il faut noter, Monsieur le Président, qu'aucune de ces actions n'a substitué les actions en cours sur le terrain, surtout en ce qui concerne le développement de la rivière Geba qui a une contribution du PNUD.

L'objectif avec lequel le Directeur général a proposé, à l'occasion de la soixante-neuvième session du Conseil, la création du PCT - et qui a été approuvée sans réserve - a été pleinement obtenu jusqu'à ce moment là puisque les pays bénéficiaires et surtout les paysans ont vu leurs besoins rapidement et efficacement satisfaits.

Ce n'est pas le moment, Monsieur le Président, de discuter des sources et moyens de financement du PCT. On doit laisser le soin à la FAO, à travers son Directeur général, de trouver une solution, avec notre accord bien entendu. A cet égard, ma délégation réitère encore une fois son plein accord

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sur le document dévaluation avec des recommandations ici présentées par le Comité du Programme et sur toutes les propositions et les efforts du Directeur général pour la poursuite du PCT. Ma délégation donne aussi son total appui au projet de résolution présenté par le Président du Groupe des 77. 1/

RAMADHAR (India): We have carefully studied the document CL 74/14 containing the Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have also read the other document, CL 74/5, containing the comments of the Programme Committee at its thirty-fifth Session on this document. As a matter of fact, I had the privilege of participating in the deliberations of the Programme Committee at its last Session in October 1978 as the Chairman of the Programme Committee has already mentioned, we had access to all the documents in our examination of this report. We found the report a very valuable document. Before I come to the contents of the Report, may I briefly refer to the basic and characteristic attributes of this Report - its uniqueness, its objectivity, its comprehensiveness and its valuable character. It is unique because for a Programme to be subjected to the scrutiny and evaluation of an independent consultant within 2 years of its inception is something very unusual. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, as to how many programmes in the UN System are subjected to this kind of scrutiny so soon after their initiation. My delegation has also been impressed by the objectivity of this Report. When the Director-General was asked, to submit an evaluation Report by the Seventy-first Session of the Council in June 1977, the Director-General did not entrust the evaluation to a unit in this Organization. He asked an independent consultant, a former UNDP Resident Representative to do this work. The independent consultant did not prepare his report sitting in a corner of this building. He carried out field evaluation of 44 Projects in 14 different countries. The consultant talked to the Government representatives in the recipient countries, assessed their reactions. He also talked to FAO Representatives and UNDP Representatives. The result was a highly valuable and comprehensive Evaluation Report of the consultant, analysing the entire gamut of the Programme. The present Evaluation Report of the Director-General, though based on the consultant's report, has relied on very valuable additional sources. The recipient countries have indicated their reactions to the Programme during the Director-General's visits to the countries, reactions which are based on the experiences of the countries concerned and not on textbook information or hearsay. This has further been reinforced by the resolutions of the Regional Conferences.

Now, coming to the conclusions of the Evaluation itself, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that TCP is a milestone in the history of this Organization. When one looks back in this Organization's past, it looks surprising how the constitutional responsibility for providing technical cooperation assistance was forgotten during all these years. It was only in 1976 that the present Director-General proposed creation of Technical Cooperation Programme at the 69th Session of the FAO Council. The Director-General deserves to be complimented for this innovative measure intended to make FAO more relevant to the member countries' needs and desires. We, the recipient countries know what the Programme means to us. My country, Mr. Chairman, has been beneficiary of this Programme. I may tell how quick and prompt was the response of FAO when my country approached the Director-General for assistance for locust control to make available much needed pesticides. Again, in the aftermath of catastrophic floods, when we approached the Director-General for assistance to rehabilitate vegetable cultivation and arrange vegetable seeds for small and marginal farmers, he responded with commendable speed and promptness. I might go on enumerating instances but I do not want to take the time of the Council. The benefit of the Programme for developing countries is fully exemplified by the fact that during the first 20 months of the Programme, 473 official requests were received from 109 member countries, 60% of the resources were committed for the LDC's and MSA countries though they constitute only 1/3 of the number of developing countries. Approximately 2/3 of the approved projects have a direct focus either on increasing food production or on incrementing incomes of small-scale producers and workers.

Then what are the factors responsible for the tremendous impact of the Programme in the developing countries? It is because the Programme has lived up to its objectives. The Programme's flexibility and rapidity in dealing with emergency situations and the high degree of Government involvement in the execution of the Programme has been outstanding. The unprogrammed character of the Programme has been its basic cause of success and appeal. The impact in the recipient countries has been visible and palpable. Unlike other programmes of assistance which requires long periods of gestation, formulation and preparation, the Technical Cooperation Programme has responded with minimum of bureaucratic delays, to unforeseen and urgent needs, especially emergencies.

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7/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

Mr. Chairman, TCP has opened a new chapter in the history of this Organization. This has placed the Organization on a completely different plane where member countries have discovered a new meaning in their association with this Organization, a meaning which we have missed so far all these years since the inception of the Organization. We do not want this Organization to remain merely a forum for polemics, discussions and academic studies. The Director-General echoed our own feeling Monday morning when he said in his opening statement that he would not like FAO to become 'an ivory tower of dusted documents'. My delegation would like to further support the statement of the Director-General that TCP is not a symbol but a cornerstone of new FAO which the present Director-General has been creating for the last three years. He deserves all our support in this endeavour.

If we have a grievance, Mr. Chairman, it is because very limited resources were placed at the disposal of the Director-General for the TCP which, looking at the large number of genuine requests, has fallen short of requirements. Even earlier, we had pleaded for substantial additional resources. We only hope that in the next biennium's Programme of Work & Budget, the Programme will be further strengthened and expanded and sufficient resources will be placed at the disposal of the Director-General for carrying out the mandate which has been given to him and which he has been carrying out so diligently in spite of budgetary constraint during the last 2 years. We also support fully the proposals of the Director-General in para. 17 of the document CL 74/14 to improve the impact of the Programme. We also fully support the Resolution presented by Chairman of the Group of 77. 1/

Ms. J. WEBSTER (Jamaica): My Delegation's position on the TCP is clear and definite. The TCP, in our eyes, is a decisive step towards the necessary adaptation of FAO to the imperatives of the new International Economic Order.

Even without having any evaluation, my delegation would have considered this programme essential to enable FAO to fulfil the objectives set out in its Constitution, that the Organization should have the capability of rendering assistance directly to member countries in a rapid and flexible manner, in particular, though not only in the case of emergencies.

We had our doubts when the evaluation of this Programme was proposed so soon after the Programme's commencement, but we are pleased that the TCP has rapidly demonstrated its potential and has achieved substantial results in a short time. This is evident not only from the document presented to the Council, but also from our own experience and from the comments made by other member countries.

Undoubtedly, any programme could be improved and we are pleased that the Director-General not only recognizes this, but has also presented proposals for improving the TCP.

My delegation considers that the TCP, which was given overwhelming support when it was introduced and which has been used so effectively to meet the urgent needs of deserving member countries should, as far as possible, be strengthened not only in qualitative terms, but quantitatively. We do hope that resources in excess of the current 10% of the FAO Budget would be made available to the Programme.

Finally, we wish to express our strong support for the conclusion of the evaluation report and hope sincerely that, given the success and proven usefulness of the Programme, all delegations would support an increased allocation for the next biennium. 1/

Sra. Doña G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México); Mi delegación desea también referirse al informe de evaluación que presenta al Consejo el Director General acerca del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Consideramos que la opinión independiente del Consultor contratado para tal efecto, confirma ante el Consejo la validez y oportunidad de dicho Programa, el cual se justifica, como reiteradamente se ha afirmado, porque ha venido a colmar un vacío que existía desde hace mucho tiempo respecto de una de las funciones básicas de la FAO, presenta en su carta fundamental, a saber, la prestación de asistencia técnica a los Estados Miembros, utilizando para este propósito los propios recursos del presupuesto de la Organización.

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Mi país ha recibido esta asistencia dentro del PCT y ha comprobado en la práctica las características y beneficios del mismo, y que sin competir con otros instrumentos bilaterales o multilaterales de cooperación, ha plasmado en la realidad sus características, acudiendo en forma inmediata dejando de lado innecesarios retrasos burocráticos a solucionar necesidades imprevistas y con objetivos precisos. Por ello la Delegación de México desea dejar bien sentado el reiterado apoyo del Gobierno de México al PCT y manifestamos nuestro acuerdo con el informe que se examina, respaldando específicamente las medidas adoptadas por el Director General y las propuestas que se indican en el párrafo 17 del citado informe, tendientes a reforzar el PCT mediante la ampliación de sus directrices y del eventual incremento de sus recursos.

Asimismo, estamos de acuerdo con las recomendaciones que se hacen a los gobiernos en el párrafo 13, formuladas en base a la experiencia, la observancia de las cuales sin duda acrecentará aun más la eficacia del PCT.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, la Delegación de México desea expresar su apoyo al proyecto de resolución que presentó el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 en nombre de éste, acerca del tema, por considerar que refleja un acuerdo general respecto de la gestión del PCT y de sus resultados. 1/

S.M.L. MARIKAR (Sri Lanka): Sri Lanka shares the opinion of all developing countries that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) introduced by the present Director-General has been of considerable benefit. The Programme Committee has very lucidly analysed the reasons for this in their document CL 74/5. Sri Lanka has received assistance among other fields to meet urgently required spares for our rice mills valued at \$90 000. One of the big problems we faced when we had a bumper paddy crop recently was that our milling capacity was not adequate. If FAO assistance had not been received it would have aggravated the problem for our farmers who would not have been able to sell their paddy at the guaranteed price that has been fixed as an incentive. Further we would have been forced to import more rice to meet the requirements of our rationing scheme that ensures free rice to half of our population.

We concur with the recommendation in paragraph 15 of document CL 74/14 that authority may be delegated to FAO Representatives in countries to approve requests for urgent small-scale projects up to a certain amount, say \$20 000. We also strongly support the refinements to the present guidelines presented in para 17 of the same document.

While thanking the Director-General for the evaluation already made of the TCP we agree that it should be fully evaluated at the end of its five years of operation.

We have noted in paragraph 28 of Annex I to CL 74/14 that utilization of national institutes and local, experts by the TCP has been rather limited. We hope this position can be improved. Similarly we support the proposal that more supplies and equipment required by TCP projects should be procured locally or regionally. In this way the TCP can be made to contribute to the concept of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) - a concept that has been fully supported at the Buenos Aires meeting held recently.

We are somewhat perturbed by the suggestion made by one member of the Programme Committee that physical inputs for projects should be limited. Part of our experience so far with donors has been the great reluctance to spend on equipment without thrusting some expert on us. We would even go so far as to say that equipment should form a very large part of any technical cooperation programme. Many of us developing countries have built up our own technical expertise but we very often lack other resources to buy very essential physical inputs. It is for this reason that a good many of us have been branded as "Most Seriously Affected countries (MSA's)".

In conclusion, we support the request that the Programme be strengthened in the 1980-81 budget and support fully the Resolution presented by the Chairman of the Group of 77. 1/

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Speaker after speaker has spoken in glowing terms of the prompt and effective manner in which this programme has been applied. My delegation has no contrary views. I wish, in fact, to affirm my delegation's complete support to the recommendations for strengthening the programme, as stated in document CL 74/14 and as mentioned in the resolution presented to the Council on behalf of the Group of 77 by Mr. Khalil.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request 1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal
1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

Because of the quick and flexible nature of its application, the programme has filled a gap that had existed for a long time in international assistance schemes. In this connection my delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Director-General for conceiving the idea of this programme in the first instance and for the efficient manner he has administered it, as brought out by the evaluation report and by the testimony of the majority of the recipient countries. I might add that this has also been our happy experience. The purpose of my intervention is, therefore, to express our appreciation and full support to the programme and urge that the Council adopt the resolution presented by the Group of 77. 1/

J.P.P. AMARO (Observateur pour le Portugal): Les nombreuses interventions antérieures ont bien montré l'intérêt d'un Programme unique de la FAO, caractérisé par la rapidité, la flexibilité et l'efficacité.

Je tiens, pourtant, à présenter à ce Conseil le témoignage de mon pays, le Portugal, en ce qui concerne les grands avantages du Programme de coopération technique et le besoin de garantir sa continuité et son expansion dans l'avenir.

Je tiens encore à manifester, au nom de mon pays, notre gratitude au Directeur général de la FAO pour les bénéfices que mon pays a déjà obtenus en conséquence du PCT. 1/

C. DUMITRU (Observateur pour la Roumanie): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document soumis à nos débats.

Je souligne dans le contexte du document l'idée pour la réalisation de programmes de coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement même, tenant compte avant tout des considérations qu'une partie de ces Etats disposent déjà de possibilités et d'expérience notables qui pourraient être utilisées par les autres pays en voie de développement.

Persuadés du fait que l'effort propre constitue le facteur déterminant dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement national y compris dans le domaine de l'agriculture, nous retenons qu'une contribution importante peut et doit en même temps mener à l'accélération du développement de l'agriculture, en premier lieu dans les pays en voie de développement, la réalisation sur le plan international d'une large coopération technique et d'assistance entre tous les Etats soit sur le plan bilatéral que multilatéral, d'un côté- et sur le plan sous-régional, régional et interrégional, d'un autre côté. A notre avis, dans le cadre de cette coopération il va de soi que les pays développés fassent progresser leur participation aux efforts faits par les pays en voie de développement, visant à la modernisation de leur agriculture, parmi lesquels par la garantie de l'accès illimité et dans des conditions avantageuses, à la technologie agricole la plus moderne, capable d'assurer des augmentations notables de la production.

Il est à réjouir que le Programme de coopération technique, créé sous initiative du Directeur général, ait eu une évolution positive, dans une période tellement brève. Du document CL 74/14 il résulte que 303 projets sont déjà approuvés, que 119 projets sont en train d'être examinés et qu'on a entrepris une série d'autres actions destinées à mener au redressement de certaines situations difficiles de quelques zones du monde.

La délégation roumaine apprécie le fait que l'organisation témoigne une attention spéciale à la solution des problèmes difficiles et qu'on cherche toujours de nouvelles voies en vue d'assurer graduellement une alimentation rationnelle, particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement atteints par les calamités naturelles. Dans ce sens notre délégation est d'accord avec les propositions soumises à l'approbation du Conseil. 1/

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request 1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal 1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

17. International Food Corps

17. Corps international de volontaires de l'alimentation

17. Cuerpo Internacional para la Alimentación

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): I do not wish to use your time in duplicating the information and suggestions contained in document CL 74/6 on the International Food Corps.

CHAIRMAN: Point of Order. May I give the floor to Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento interrumpir la sesión, pero la delegación de Colombia en esta Casa ha estado siempre en favor de que los idiomas de nuestro sistema de trabajo se mantengan en pie de igualdad. Por eso, agradecería al Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo, que es un latinoamericano, que hablara en nuestro propio idioma.

CHAIRMAN: If I may say so, delegate of Colombia, I would like to speak my native tongue in this house, but I like to speak English, so perhaps Mr. Yriart likes to speak English. If he likes to speak Spanish or French or Chinese he is most welcome to do so.

Mr. Yriart, would you please go on as you like. It is not a point of order.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director General, Development Department): Mr. Chairman, may I say that I will speak in English because most of the discussions we have had in this case have been in the English language and we have used documentation that was only available in the English language. On other points I will speak Spanish with great pleasure.

The Programme Committee in paragraphs 1.147 to 1.155 of the report of its Thirty-fifth Session, document CL 74/5, welcomed the Director General's conclusions based on the evidence of the Independent Consultant and on the experience of the Organization in dealing with volunteers. The Committee itself clearly identified the main issues for consideration and emphasized, agreeing in this with the Director-General, that it is vitally important to involve youth in agriculture and rural development. It stressed the great potential in service from young people and particularly those in the developing countries themselves.

I should call to your attention the interesting remark of the Programme Committee that - and I quote - "The original proposal had thus undergone a certain evolution as a result of the findings of the Independent Consultant, the review of the experience of the Organization and the enquiries made by the Director-General himself." The findings of the Independent Consultant and the Organization's own experience have confirmed the validity of the use of international volunteers. On the other hand, certain weaknesses in the present procedures and manner of using them have also been identified. From this point of view, the exercise conducted should also be of great value in improving the procedures and above all, in defining areas of action in which the use of volunteers will be most effective.

But what has really come to mind is the great opportunity open to developing countries to assist rural development and food production in mobilizing their own youth. Examples of the experience in this field are quoted in the document under consideration. However, the Director-General would welcome additional information from independent governments on domestic volunteer schemes which they may have launched, their mode of operation, their size and the experience they have gained.

The Programme Committee has agreed with the Director-General that at this time the basic issue at stake is not to create yet another organization or bureaucratic structures within the FAO or the UN system but to find ways in which general involvement of young people can be promoted and stimulated. FAO is in a position to assist governments in such tasks within its present structure. If the volunteer movement is to be successful it is essential that those who are willing to devote a part of their lives to this service must receive recognition and support. The paper before you has made a number of practical suggestions in this respect, and we will be pleased to have the Council*s

reaction on this particular point. It should be clear, also, that any new project schemes involving volunteers should bring about a net increase in the flow of resources, and should not substitute existing aid commitments. While the Director-General is prepared to consider the inclusion of TCP funds particularly to help governments in the elaboration of suitable schemes involving volunteers which they wish to pursue, it would be essential to call on additional resources from non-governmental organizations and official bilateral sources, and FAO could play a constructive coordinating role in this.

Finally, I would like to read out paragraph 23 of document CL 74/6 hoping the Council will give us guidance on the following four issues, and they are as follows:

"the interest of Member Governments in mobilizing additional manpower through the volunteer movement in the service of agriculture and rural development;

"alternative organizational and financial arrangements needed to provide adequate support for volunteers;

"the programmes and projects for which volunteers could be most effectively utilized;

"the administering of volunteer schemes, particularly regarding personal emoluments and career prospects for volunteers."

There is time ahead for building up experience during which FAO will continue to work for international volunteers and to continue to use them effectively in the light of the recent study. It will also assist governments in the light of international volunteer schemes, and in the light of the experience which will be accumulated it will define the role which the volunteers should play, as shown in the document under consideration.

CHAIRMAN: I now open discussion under this item and call on the delegate of Sri Lanka.

S.M.L. MARIKAR (Sri Lanka): Although we are first on the list of speakers, the Sri Lanka preference would be for the United States to speak first on this subject. If you remember, Sir, the originator of this proposal was the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. It would be correct for the United States to speak first on this subject.

CHAIRMAN: Very well, I now call on the United States of America.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): We are certainly happy to speak on this item but we would also have been happy not to speak first, not because we have any difficulties in presenting our views but because of the manner in which this item has developed, as Mr. Yriart has quite properly emphasized to us in the introduction of this item. He has pointed out the evolution of the idea which was first offered to this organization in a speech under the McDougall series, and that evolution has been a useful one pointing to the necessity for initiative in the developing countries themselves if the idea is to develop. For that reason I would gladly have yielded to my colleague for Sri Lanka if he wished to speak.

CHAIRMAN: You go on. He gave you the floor willingly.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Ambassador Andrew Young, in giving the McDougall Memorial Lecture which opened the 19th FAO Conference, suggested the idea of national, regional and perhaps even international Food Corps Volunteers dedicated to the task of increasing food production for home

consumption. Greater food self-sufficiency, among the rural poor, who cannot now buy food and who often remain outside the monetary economy, is central to the purpose of such a Food Corps. Training, the introduction of low-cost techniques and technical cooperation among the developing countries are integral parts of this idea.

The Conference asked the Director-General for a report on the Food Corps, and he engaged an able consultant, Dr. Gabriel Saab. The Director-General's findings, submitted to the Council in CL 74/INF/5, suggest that the idea merited further attention by the FAO. We commend the Director-General for this most informative report which I had the opportunity to consider at the Programme Committee as well.

The Committee noted that the Director-General's report brought to light "great potential for service" in support of domestic volunteers in developing countries. The Committee felt also "that FAO should continue to cooperate in the manner proposed by the Director-General, with multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental sponsoring bodies...".

The United States government has followed the Food Corps idea with great interest. Agricultural volunteer schemes need different forms in different countries, and the initiative for creating a Food Corps, of course, remains with the Member Governments. Flexibility could be the hallmark of any approach. There is no single organizational, financial or technical model which can guarantee success. My government is well aware that for every existing successful scheme designed to increase village agricultural production, for example, those cited in the Director-General's report, there are many that have not succeeded. It is worth asking, therefore, why some existing agricultural volunteer projects have worked, and put the answers at the disposal of those countries which seek to set up their own Food Corps.

Since the 1977 Conference of this Organization, a number of Member Governments have taken steps to explore the idea further. This summer, for example - and we hope we will learn more in the course of this discussion - eight Sahelian ministers of agriculture of the CILSS, the Interstate Coordinating Council of States fighting against drought, decided to set up a sub-regional Food Corps, and presently they are writing up a plan to test the idea in several regions.

We hope that this effort is something that we will have an opportunity to learn more about. We have several of our colleagues who have been following it with great interest, but this Council does not have as much detail as would be relevant to our discussion.

In several other developing countries the idea has received serious consideration and experimental national Food Corps are on the way.

In the planning stage we have heard here that some excellent assistance is already being given to these pioneer Food Corps planners by leaders of successful small farmer development schemes; of the Mexican Puebla Plan, and of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka, for example. Such technical cooperation among developing countries is a positive and rewarding feature of the work.

Several lessons stand out from these successful plans - the need to emphasize suitable technical training for the small farmer volunteers, and appropriate low cost technology; and the need to set clear and obtainable goals for increased production. The test of a successful Food Corps, I believe, is more than the mobilization of men and women for village development. It is rather the actual production of more crops so that hunger recedes, nutrition improves, and the income of small farmers grows. Above all, the objective of the Food Corps is increased production.

My Government commends the Director-General's offer of FAO facilities and expertise, and ability to mobilize resources, to governments interested in establishing domestic agricultural volunteer movements or projects. We urge him to take into account the need to maintain maximum organizational autonomy and flexibility for any international liaison office which could link those wishing to develop a Food Corps, with those who have positive experiences in this type of agricultural volunteer work.

We believe an international liaison office which may be considered would be more effective through the creation, in due course, of a small Food Corps Advisory Group, linking donors, experts, and successful existing movements, including governments and non-governmental organization. Such an advisory group could give direction and specialized supervision to countries seeking to establish their own national or regional Food Corps projects. Perhaps, at suitable intervals, the Director-General would inform us how the Food Corps idea is developing.

The Director-General and the Programme Committee suggested the Food Corps be considered at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. My Government heartily endorses this idea and we hope that among the national delegations there will be notable leaders of successful agrarian volunteer movements who can share their unique experiences, so that the Conference can make complete recommendations.

Our hope is that the Food Corps can extend agricultural technical knowledge among small farmers, making women and men in the villages better aware of how best to help themselves. Only if we pay careful attention to human organization can the objectives of rural development be attained.

The Food Corps idea calls for organizational creativity, for flexibility and for modest budgeting. There is no single formula. Rather, there is a great need to search for flexible and imaginative ways to associate small farmers and potential young farmers in the production of food for those who now remain hungry.

S.M.L. MARIKAR (Sri Lanka): Sri Lanka, as rightly pointed out in document CL 74/6, has volunteer schemes which work with the Government but not necessarily under its auspices. In fact, our tradition of voluntary labour or Shramadana, as we call it, dates back to very early times. The Government has always encouraged such initiatives. Recently, our Foreign Minister addressed a meeting organized by the International Council of Volunteer Services in Geneva. There he stated "I am of the view that voluntary agencies should have direct dialogue with the governments so that their activities fit in with the needs and plans of the government concerned".

Although there is no proper inventory of non-governmental organizations there are about 208 such organizations based mostly in urban sectors which are local in character and partly assisted by foreign donors.

In addition there are voluntary organizations which are directly sponsored by the Government. There are rural development societies and women's organizations. The Government has recognized the role of voluntary organizations in community development and created a new Ministry of Rural Development this year. Moneys have been voted by Parliament for improvement of road and irrigation facilities, construction of maternity homes, etc.

The Government has also set up the National Youth Service Council by Act of Parliament. It consists of a policy-making body which also undertakes training. Those who have been trained are expected to work in the large development projects like the Maharch River Scheme.

There is also a further category of village development societies which are NGO in character, such as Temple Committees, but which lack funds and continuity.

In conformity with paragraph 8 of CL 74/6 we have tried to give you some information on our domestic volunteer schemes. We will be happy to provide any further information that is requested.

As regards document CL 74/6, we agree with paragraph 5 that the basic issue at stake is not to create yet another organization of bureaucratic structure within the FAO or UN machinery, but to find ways in which genuine involvement of young people in agriculture and rural development can be promoted and stimulated.

We agree with the Programme Committee that domestic youth volunteer schemes should be promoted and agree with paragraph 14 of document CL 74/6 that few foreign recruited volunteers will be able to work effectively at the village level, where knowledge of local languages, and in some cases even dialects, is a prerequisite for effective work.

We suggest, however, that the Council may consider whether it may be advisable for the Director-General to have a very small advisory body drawn from a cross-section of our countries to counsel him about countries that may be helped to set up their own voluntary bodies. Also some of our countries may be willing to train volunteers of other countries and thus promote TCDC to some extent. Training in developing countries will not be half as expensive as in the developed countries.

C. BATAULT (France): Monsieur le Président, nous considérons que le rapport du Directeur général sur la question du Corps international des volontaires de l'alimentation, rapport fait à la demande de la 19^{ème} Conférence, est extrêmement pertinent, et la délégation française en particulier fait siennes les remarques contenues aux paragraphes 14 et 16, ainsi que les conclusions du Directeur général. Nous estimons en effet qu'il convient de s'en tenir à une meilleure utilisation des dispositifs existants.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Our delegation has already taken part in the debate on this item in the context of the Programme Committee; therefore I feel that we can be brief. We would like to thank Mr Yriart for his excellent presentation of the subject and to express our deep appreciation for presenting on this subject an excellent report which puts quite directly the perspective in which the volunteer services must be used nowadays.

In our opinion the emphasis on domestic volunteers in the correct one, and we are happy to see that the idea of Ambassador Andrew Young, presented at the last Conference in the context of the McDougall Lecture, has evolved so correctly and has produced added support for the use of youth in our countries in terms of domestic volunteer services. A number of developing countries have very interesting experiences on that, particularly in the use of university students, who are then sent to cooperate with their less fortunate brothers in the countryside in order to help to bring technology and information to speed the process of development. We feel, therefore, that this is a very correct approach which the Programme Committee and the Director-General's report have given to this initiative. On the other hand, we feel - and here we want to be quite explicit - that the Director-General is quite correct in his report when he indicates that there is no need for any bureaucratic, any new, institutional set-up. We feel that we have, within FAO - and the report of the Director-General clearly points that out - enough arrangements to help those countries which wish to be assisted in promoting volunteer services. Therefore we are not convinced that it is necessary at this stage to develop new institutions. On the other hand, we also agree with the Director-General's report, where he points out that assistance for developing countries to develop their own domestic services must be conceived in terms of additional assistance - added aid, not simply the moving around of resources from one place to another.

These are the observations that I wish to make. We, would also like to place on record the gratitude we have for Ambassador Young for presenting an idea which evolved in a very correct manner and could therefore become an additional contribution to the developing process of the developing countries.

A. G. RAMBOUX (Belgique): D'ores et déjà, je peux vous informer que mon pays est favorable à la création d'un Corps international de volontaires. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un excellent projet auquel nous souhaitons participer. Pour améliorer la compréhension entre les peuples, la rencontre de jeunes sur le terrain au travail est souhaitable. Un homme qui a connu les conditions de vie dans le tiers monde, qui a tenté de travailler avec les habitants pour le développement de leur pays, devient souvent un élément actif dans la compréhension et dans les bonnes relations entre les pays. La Belgique est favorable à la mise en place d'un tel type de volontaire.

Déjà plus de 600 volontaires belges travaillent dans différents endroits du monde dans le cadre de relations bilatérales. Par contre, seulement quelques dizaines de volontaires travaillent sous l'emblème des Nations Unies dans des organisations internationales.

Cette introduction me permet de répondre aux questions posées dans le document.

D'abord, la Belgique est favorable à la mobilisation d'effectifs supplémentaires de volontaires. Elle répondra donc aux demandes.

Parmi les dispositions administratives qui régissent actuellement le statut des volontaires des Nations Unies, ma délégation a noté le frein que constitue généralement la durée des formalités d'engagement.

Les dispositions financières sont généralement suffisantes, quoique des aménagements puissent être apportés. Pratiquement, tous les projets FAO conviennent pour l'utilisation des volontaires.

Ma délégation demandera cependant à l'Organisation, ou aux autres organisations qui prendront ces volontaires, de veiller particulièrement à l'encadrement. Le chef de projet doit jouer le rôle de tuteur et de formateur. Un bon accueil des volontaires par les jeunes travailleurs locaux est aussi souhaité. Les émoluments individuels peuvent être légèrement améliorés. Les perspectives de carrière ne doivent pas être négligées. J'insiste sur le fait que parmi les volontaires des Nations Unies belges qui travaillent sur le terrain plusieurs d'entre eux sont successivement devenus experts-associés et ultérieurement experts.

Dans le cadre de la Conférence sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, il existe aussi des possibilités, à condition que dans ce domaine les tâches soient bien définies et judicieusement réparties entre les volontaires locaux et les volontaires expatriés.

Sra. Doña G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (Mexico): En primer término, deseo felicitar al Director General por la forma en que ha ofrecido el apoyo de la FAO al Programa de Trabajo Voluntario Juvenil en la Agricultura. El informe y la exposición que tan acertadamente ha dirigido a nosotros el doctor Yriart, nos ha ofrecido la posibilidad de adherirnos a estas propuestas de que se estudie la posibilidad de crear los cuerpos de voluntariado juvenil en el mundo entero. Consideramos que la coordinación de la FAO que ha ofrecido realizar, será indudablemente de gran utilidad para todos los países que formamos esta Organización, pero especialmente para los países que, como México, nos encontramos en vías de desarrollo.

En México existen varios proyectos de acción operada en forma de voluntariado y dirigidos básicamente al mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de la familia mexicana en las áreas rurales y de los propios agricultores. Los programas básicos dirigidos a las mujeres se encuentran englobados dentro de un plan de acción que se llama el Movimiento de Desarrollo Integral de la Familia Mexicana, Movimiento que dirige la señora esposa del Presidente de la República.

Una parte importante de estos trabajos se realizan en las áreas rurales y tienen como objetivo básico el desarrollo de las comunidades indígenas y de las comunidades marginales en donde el proceso de culturación no ha sido tan favorable como en otras regiones del país.

Estos programas enfocan con un sentido de mejoramiento integral de la familia y con especial interés, la planificación familiar en el control de la natalidad, acción en la que el Gobierno mexicano ha puesto ya una de sus miras y objetivos básicos de desarrollo. Como es sabido, México tiene una de las tasas de crecimiento de la población más altas del mundo, y la idea del Gobierno, de esta administración, es de hacerla bajar, puesto que como lo manifesté en mi exposición de ayer, mientras nosotros no hagamos descender la tasa de natalidad estamos convencidos de que el aumento de la producción agrícola será insuficiente.

Uno de los programas que está teniendo más éxito es el que se realiza con el desarrollo rural integrado a base de trabajo comunitario y de voluntariado rural en la zona de Bahía de Banderas, donde un cuerpo de jóvenes mujeres, de origen campesino se está capacitando para llevar a cabo la campaña de mejoramiento rural de la campesina por medio de tres acciones.

Primero, un programa de desarrollo social comunitario con la idea de mejorar la educación de la mujer en forma integral. En estas áreas, se detectó que las mujeres campesinas tenían hasta un 80 por ciento de índice de analfabetismo, las adultas, y se está encomendando en cuanto a desarrollo rural dos tipos de programas, la capacitación y alfabetización para las mujeres campesinas adultas, y la educación para todos los niños que forman las comunidades que participan en este programa.

El segundo programa que se está realizando en forma de voluntariado es un programa de planificación familiar, con miras a disminuir la tasa de natalidad en el área. Son las campesinas las que asisten a un centro de capacitación en el poblado de San Francisco, y estas mujeres jóvenes serán quienes tomen a su cuidado los trabajos de la planificación familiar de control de natalidad en todo el resto del país, partiendo de estas áreas donde están siendo capacitadas con las últimas técnicas de adelanto mundial en este tema.

El tercer programa que se está llevando a cabo también con la participación de jóvenes campesinas capacitadas en materia de desarrollo rural, es sobre las bases de un desarrollo económico integrado en este plan. En este aspecto del programa se espera integrar a la producción agrícola a las mujeres que habitan en los mismos poblados. Se está pensando para esto en la creación de huertos familiares y utilizar sistemas de cultivos intensivos más sofisticados que van a ser enseñados por técnicos jóvenes de las Universidades Agrícolas, y que a su vez, van a capacitar a personal joven de la propia localidad, a mujeres básicamente, para que se dediquen al cultivo intensivo de flores, hortalizas, vegetales y sobre todo la producción de la tierra mexicana, típica, como son el frijol y el maíz, que por diferentes razones han venido descendiendo y actualmente nos hemos visto en la necesidad de llegar a importar.

Estos tres programas están conducidos básicamente por jóvenes mujeres voluntarias, algunas profesionistas que se han dedicado con todo entusiasmo al trabajo rural y se dedican básicamente al mejoramiento de la población femenina.

Pero otra experiencia que México puede ofrecer como ejemplo del trabajo voluntario es el Plan Puebla, conocido mundialmente en el campo de la agricultura debido al éxito logrado de la producción de maíz y frijol. El programa se inició hace 10 años como una derivación del trabajo social voluntario de la Universidad Agrícola de Chapingo, y el Colegio de Graduados de la Universidad pensó que era conveniente que los técnicos allí capacitados salieran al campo a trabajar, hombro con hombro con el campesino y con el agricultor.

Cada joven que sale de la licenciatura de la Universidad Agrícola de Chapingo ofrece un servicio social durante dos años y va a los campos mexicanos a trabajar con los agricultores y a enseñarles el mejoramiento de la técnica en el cultivo, sobre todo del maíz. El resultado de este plan ha sido admirable; se ha conseguido que la producción de una tonelada por hectárea que es el término medio de la producción agrícola de maíz en México, se aumente a tres y medio y hasta cuatro y medio toneladas por hectárea, dando un rendimiento cuatro veces superior a lo que es el común del trabajo agrícola en México.

Los técnicos del colegio y graduados de la Universidad Agrícola de Chapingo sienten y están sumamente complacidos de realizar este trabajo y de ver cómo gracias a su esfuerzo el agricultor mexicano de esta región del país ha podido superar sus condiciones de vida un tanto precarias. Además el programa se ha empezado ya a aplicar en otras regiones del propio territorio nacional y se tienen ya cinco estados con proyectos piloto en donde ya se ha iniciado una labor semejante y se espera que, al final de este decenio, la totalidad de los estados de la República cuenten con planes de desarrollo de voluntariado juvenil emergido de las universidades agrícolas que vayan a beneficiar directamente al campesino mexicano.

Nosotros consideramos que el trabajo voluntario debe de ser un modelo que se desarrolle de acuerdo a las condiciones de cada país. Es por esto que deseamos, a través de este foro internacional, hacer extensivo el interés que tiene México de que sus programas se conozcan y de que técnicos de otros países que tengan interés en ver cómo la juventud mexicana coadyuva en el desarrollo agrícola integral y social de la nación, puedan asistir a las escuelas mexicanas donde se les invita, sobre todo a las Universidades Agrícolas o al Plan Chapingo, al Plan Puebla oara que vean cuál es el esfuerzo que se está realizando.

La idea es que no se adopte el modelo mexicano. Nosotros somos contrarios a imponer modelos que sabemos pueden cambiar y pueden no ser adecuados para otras culturas, para otras formas de vida. Sin embargo, la experiencia del trabajo de los jóvenes universitarios al lado de los agricultores ha sido positiva, y con toda cordialidad invitamos a los países asociados a la FAO a que asistan a México, donde nosotros con mucho gusto les demostraremos los planes y los programas que se están llevando a cabo en estas materias.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): At this very early stage of the subject which is still at the stage of innovation, the documentation of the Secretariat from that point of view is excellent. The presentation by Mr. Yriart - in English! - has been very clear. We heard with interest the statement of Ambassador Young and we feel that the idea is intellectually sound and innovative. We thank the Government of the United States and the Representative of the United States Government in this Council for the interest his Government is showing for development of this concept and the readiness to help Member Governments. In our context, in the context of Bangladesh, such a corps would be fitting. As you know, we have very large numbers of rural unemployed. In fact, about a year ago we started a programme on an experimental basis which we call Village Food Production Committees. We have sixty thousand villages in the country but the Programme was started in a restrictive way, where the rural youth was involved, under the leadership of the Member of the Union Council who is a directly elected person on the basis of franchise or the lowest unit of local self-government. Above that unit there is a sub-division coordination committee. A sub-division is part of a district which has an average population of 1 1/2 million and above that there is a district coordination committee and then a national coordination committee under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. We separated the Ministry of Rural Development from the Ministry of Agriculture quite some time ago to give new impetus particularly to rural development.

I agree with the observation of the delegate of the United States that there cannot be any prescribed model for a food corps, the model has to be indigenous and the primary role should be of local domestic use, and this is the basis on which the Programme is being developed in Bangladesh. The Government, in

view of the large number of rural unemployed, is now thinking of creating a Ministry of Youth. This is under active consideration in the Government of Bangladesh. For the consideration of the delegate of Mexico, we already have a Ministry of Women's Affairs headed by a Minister who is a woman.

In paragraph 23 of the paper, Mr. Yriart mentions "Alternative organizational and financial arrangements". I understand that Mr. Yriart means alternative to the present arrangements. Like the delegate of Brazil, we feel that there should not be any proliferation of organizations and institutions in this regard. The FAO with its present capabilities should be able to serve the Programme.

There has been a suggestion made by the delegate of Sri Lanka to have an advisory committee to the Director-General on this item. We feel that the concept is at the stage of innovation even now. The Director-General has been kind enough to mention in paragraph 8 of document CL 74/6 that he will welcome the comments of governments on their experiences and other information. We feel that an advisory committee may be necessary at a later stage, but at this stage perhaps the main aim of the Director-General would be to assist Member Countries who are interested in developing, a programme on the lines which would, through their own indigenous requirements, be participated in by domestic youths. We welcome the spirit and willingness of the Director-General to help the Member Countries from the TCP and other sources to develop their own indigenous volunteer corps.

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): The comments of my delegation can be put briefly. We endorse the value of volunteers and we support their increased use in agriculture and food production. There are many existing schemes, both multilateral and bilateral, in developed countries and in developing countries. We agree that these should be encouraged and better use made of them, and we support the view that this is preferable to the creation of new organizations.

The United Kingdom agencies responsible for recruiting volunteers give priority to rural development and agricultural projects. We endorse the view, however, that care must be taken to ensure that the project is suitable for volunteers, that the volunteer assigned to the project has the appropriate background and knowledge, and that he is given the necessary back-up facilities such as transport and equipment. We shall be happy to give to the FAO Secretariat any information it requires about United Kingdom volunteers schemes.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): I have listened to the explanation given by Mr. Yriart and I have listened to the introduction of the paper with a great deal of attention and I must say that I listened to him in Arabic. I must say that he was very clear. He always is when he presents papers.

Now we have been asked what was the meaning of our new name. I told them, very simply, that it means the country of the masses, the country which helps the masses to improve their lot and improve their future. The agricultural masses, of course, are the first. The young people, male or female, are the first to be considered. We are fully convinced that these young people have a role of primary importance to play, not only through cooperation but through direct and efficient participation and at all levels, whether it be in the preparation, planning or implementation of projects. That is why we agree that any attempt at making young people an integrated part of development, especially food and agricultural development, any efforts for development have to be handled through these young people and if the Organization can play a role in this respect, we would like to give our full support to the Organization in this attempt. However, the official view of my country is that we cannot accept the setting up of new bodies, not only because this would increase the number of existing organizations and the volume of bureaucracy, but also because we know what the basic ideas are, we know that these ideas are not always very clear. We agree that every developing country should count on its own use and should give their own young people the possibility of participating actively in its development programming, especially agricultural development. We also feel that between developing countries, on a regional by regional, bilateral level, there should be an exchange of such youth services. There should be meetings such as the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In such a conference there can be an exchange of opinions, especially as we hope that in this conference young people from the rural areas are going to participate, especially groups of young women, girls from the rural areas.

The Ambassador of Mexico stressed the role of women in general, especially the women in the rural areas and we are absolutely ready to participate in the efforts which are made in order to reach this objective, either through exchange of experiences with other countries or in order to provide you with the results of our own experience, to those who would like to benefit from it. We are also ready to cooperate by any other means. We can always agree on this with our friends from the developing countries.

J. IÑURRIETA RIGORES (Cuba): La delegación cubana desea, Sr. Presidente, felicitar a la Secretaría y muy especialmente al Sr. Director General por los esfuerzos realizados con vistas a presentarnos en el día de hoy un documento que recoge en síntesis algunas de las experiencias en materia del Cuerpo de Voluntarios ya existente.

Mi país concede gran importancia a toda iniciativa que pueda contribuir al desarrollo agrícola y rural de los países en desarrollo como un medio más para hacer frente a los acuciantes problemas que implica el subdesarrollo. Sin embargo, somos conscientes de que tales iniciativas si no están antecedidas por la realidad profunda de los cambios de las estructuras económicas y sociales, no dejarán de ser paliativos a la situación actual. Así lo ha demostrado la historia de los países en desarrollo. La revolución cubana desde sus albores ha venido recibiendo una extraordinaria y hermosa contribución de solidaridad a través de jóvenes voluntarios que han participado colectivamente en actividades del desarrollo de una forma coincidente con los propósitos fundamentales de los llamados Cuerpos de Voluntarios que ahora se pretende revitalizar en la FAO. Nuestro país erradicó de su suelo el analfabetismo a través de voluntarios nacionales en los primeros años de la revolución y hoy continúa desplegando con jóvenes voluntarios una gran labor, jóvenes que una vez concluidos sus estudios universitarios se aprestan a trabajar en las zonas rurales de Cuba y ofrecen sus servicios en materia educacional, agrícola e industrial y, muy especialmente, en el campo de la salud pública.

Es por ello que Cuba valora altamente todo gesto desinteresado que pueda significar un apoyo real a la colaboración para el desarrollo.

Mi delegación, basada en la experiencia antes expuesta, considera que en materia de voluntarios aquellos que proceden del mismo país beneficiario son los que, generalmente, pueden aportar la contribución más valiosa.

Coincidimos con muchos de nuestros colegas en que no debe crearse una organización burocrática para atender estos asuntos, sino que la FAO debe dar su asesoramiento a los gobiernos interesados en desarrollar el movimiento de voluntarios nacionales.

Por último, queremos hacer énfasis en que toda actuación en el sentido antes expuesto que se efectúe en representación de la FAO, debe estar sometida a su control, con el fin de que se cumpla su verdadero objetivo.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We would like to compliment the Director-General for his report which combines both deep insight and a practical approach to the problem. We would like to commend the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department for the manner in which he has introduced the subject to us today.

I would like to begin my comments by going over various aspects which have already been covered by the Director-General's report and have also been discussed in the Programme Committee. I would like to inform the Council that we support the approach endorsed by the Programme Committee that FAO could in future play a role in promoting and supporting national volunteer movements.

We agree with the Director-General's assessment that only a flexible approach to the further promotion of a volunteer movement will do true justice to the needs as they present themselves under today's circumstances. We are of the view that the basic issue is not the creation of another organization of bureaucratic structure within FAO or the United Nations system, but to find the ways in which young people could be involved in agricultural and rural development.

While stressing this aspect I would add that this requires the creation of a domestic volunteer corps. Efforts towards mobilization of a domestic volunteer corps must primarily be a national responsibility, based on a country's own policies, compulsions and socio-economic framework. There is certainly a need for intensified national efforts to involve young people in, and to establish a domestic volunteer corps for, agricultural and rural development in developing countries. The benefits accruing from this would include social and national integration, provision of catalysts for development and prevention of the exodus of young people from rural to urban areas. Against this background FAO could assist the developing countries, upon request, through a practical approach, including flexible funding arrangements and utilization of existing structures and mechanisms. Possible areas of a system from FAO could include project preparation, training, exchange of experience and resource mobilization, subject to the condition that flow of resources for such schemes should be additional and not substituted for existing aid commitments.

We feel that it is not feasible at present, and neither is it advisable, for FAO to pursue the idea of a national volunteer scheme in view of the problems and limitations involved.

We find the concept of a volunteer corps to be laudable and would like to extend our support to the Director-General's concept. It is both tangible and realistic and could be implemented in the conditions that presently prevail.

Lastly, we feel that the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development would be an excellent opportunity in further discussions on this subject.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): With regard to the item under consideration I should like to limit my comments to the following points: first, my delegation too is of the opinion that in the promotion of agriculture in rural development, a lot could be done by a greater involvement of volunteers. Any organization of such a corps of volunteers at a national level is entirely up to the countries concerned. Our own experience shows that the greatest impact can be obtained if the volunteers are integrated in well organized and implemented projects and programmes. We share the opinion expressed in the document before us that recruitment of national volunteers within the developing countries seems to be the most effective way.

Secondly, my delegation agrees with the findings of the Programme Committee that FAO could in future play a significant role in promoting and supporting national volunteer movements. As such support can be planned and coordinated beforehand we are of the opinion that this is not an area for allocation of funds available under TCP. Additional external financial resources, with respect to any new programmes or projects in support of volunteer schemes, should be sought as proposed by the Programme Committee.

Third, we agree with the intention of the Director-General not to create any new structures for the purpose of supporting volunteer movements and their coordination. In this connexion we should like to ask the Secretariat (a) what are the ideas about the implementation of such a supporting and coordinating role of FAO at this stage, and (b) to which unit in FAO might this task be assigned.

R. PERALTA (Panamá): Antes que nada, mi delegación quiere nuevamente felicitar al Secretario General por la forma tan práctica y concisa en que presenta los documentos y, al mismo tiempo, el modo con que el Sr. Yriart ha presentado el documento 74/6.

En el párrafo 8 del documento, el Director General ve con satisfacción cualquier información que las delegaciones puedan dar. En este caso, mi delegación puede decir que en Panamá hemos tenido poca experiencia con lo que son los cuerpos voluntarios, los cuales estamos comenzando a formar en un cierto sentido más práctico con los estudiantes universitarios de las distintas carreras que puedan servir al desarrollo del país.

En la actualidad, además de ellos, usamos los que se puedan integrar a estos grupos voluntarios, especialmente estudiantes de los colegios agropecuarios o de las escuelas técnicas vocacionales que se quieran dedicar por un cierto tiempo a desarrollar especialmente el sector rural, aun cuando la mayoría de los cuerpos voluntarios por muchos motivos se encuentran generalmente en las áreas urbanas.

Mi delegación apoya en forma completa la opinión del Director General en cuanto a la no recomendación de creación de nuevas estructuras, porque en realidad lo único que hacemos es crear un aparato burocrático más grande, sin que llegue a llenar su cometido.

Con respecto a los voluntarios de los países desarrollados, creemos que las organizaciones que se dedican al reclutamiento de los voluntarios en estos países debían tratar en tal caso de que sus voluntarios fueran personas altamente calificadas para poder así dar una asistencia técnica más barata y más económica a los países en desarrollo, en forma de que estos cuerpos voluntarios sean verdaderamente altamente capacitados y llenen su cometido y no, como en algunos casos, sean voluntarios verdaderamente mediocres.

Concordamos plenamente con el delegado de Pakistán en que es un tema que debe tratarse a fondo en lo que es la Conferencia de la Reforma Agraria y del Desarrollo Rural porque es ahí donde se interesa más bien el desarrollo y el uso de los cuerpos voluntarios.

Miss S.M. DANSO (Ghana): My Government is very pleased with the prompt attention the Director-General has given to this request of setting up of the International Food Corps. We are also of the opinion that there are still many more areas to be explored before the right type of individuals can be identified and recruited to make the Corps achieve the objective of helping rural community dwellers to improve their standard of living.

We therefore strongly support the idea of setting up a small advisory group to use the experience of others in this field and provide appropriate guidelines for the solution of the question posed in paragraph 3 of the document before us. We wish to add our voice to the view expressed in this forum that the objectives of setting up a Corps will be best achieved when indigenous young people are used.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): We agree with the representatives of the developing countries that the task of this International Corps should be carried out through national organizations which would have different names from the International Corps. We in Iraq use the term "national work organizations". These organizations have really great achievements to their credit in the opening up of roads in the rural areas, in the building of dams and also with regard to harvesting. There are also organizations of students who organize programmes for the fight against illiteracy in the rural areas and in order to participate in the building of accommodation, farmhouses and so on.

With regard to extension work, we do not use national volunteers because most of our technicians work in government service and carry out their work according to programmes which have been established and which cover the whole national territory. We feel that it is useful for us to coordinate the activities of the volunteer corps on a regional basis, and I feel that the Regional Conferences could make a positive contribution under the aegis of FAO because we could indicate the number of volunteers, their competence, their mode of working in the country where they are to be used. The participation of a large or small number of volunteers in order to transfer knowledge and technology I think is something of a humanitarian nature which would be important and which would rely essentially on the motivation and energy of the young people, but I feel that this energy is dwindling when the volunteers have to face the difficult realities, especially with regard to accommodation and transport.

Therefore, I would suggest that first of all, each country should make use of its own working methods and should use the help of the Organization as far as the experience of other countries is concerned; secondly, there should be cooperation between volunteer corps on a regional basis under the control of the Organization, and thirdly, small machinery should be set up in FAO, perhaps in the Agricultural Department, which could receive national volunteers and could establish a policy for their work and for their distribution. This would make it necessary to make funds available to cover the expenditure which arises from the setting up of such volunteer corps and in the carrying out of regional and national programmes.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation is very pleased to see that the suggestion made by Ambassador Young has been followed up and has resulted in a very critical and excellent analysis of the whole issue. I would be very brief since as a member of the Programme Committee I already had an occasion to discuss this with the Committee.

In India we have had a number of programmes involving youth for agriculture and rural development. We are happy with the results of those programmes, and the present government is committed to accelerate the programme further. We agree that the question for national governments is to organize the national volunteer movement to involve rural youth in agriculture and rural development. The role of the UN system and FAO in particular is to be promotional and supportive.

We also agree with the conclusions of the Programme Committee that there is no need for any new organization or new mechanism to be set up for the purpose in the FAO. What is required is a better utilization of an existing mechanism. The FAO can assist in two ways: one, through more effective coordination of resources within the UN system with those provided by volunteer organizations; the other, as mentioned in the Report of the Programme Committee, is to assist the member countries in establishment of the new schemes through TCP. We expect that in the forthcoming Session of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the Conference will address itself to this basic issue and will make some important recommendations for utilization of rural youth in rural development.

J.B. NEZEHOSE (Rwanda): Je voudrais vous exposer en très peu de mots le point de vue du Rwanda sur cette question de volontaires.

Le Rwanda a bénéficié pendant plusieurs années des services de volontaires qu'on appelle quelquefois "les volontaires duprogrès". Nous les avons employés dans l'enseignement, dans la construction des routes, des maisons, dans la médecine, et enfin dans l'agriculture. Seulement, M. le Président, permettez-moi de dévoiler un peu notre déception sur certains aspects de la question: on a constaté, notamment dans le domaine agricole, que certains volontaires présentaient des lacunes, des lacunes au niveau de leur intelligence, des lacunes peut-être dans le domaine de l'expérience; de sorte que ce qu'ils nous apportaient sur le terrain en matière d'agriculture était moins valable que le travail, de certains nationaux, même de nationaux de formation moyenne. Il arrive même que nous assistions à des conflits entre ces volontaires et les nationaux formés soit à l'étranger soit à l'intérieur du pays.

Notre conclusion sur ce point est que ce qui nous manque ce ne sont pas. des volontaires pour suppléer les nationaux, mais plutôt des experts ou des personnes hautement qualifiées qui puissent intervenir dans le domaine de la formation, de la recherche, des techniques poussées dans le cadre des projets, etc.

Notre point de vue est que notre pays est déjà organisé au niveau de ses constructions. La commune est la cellule de base élémentaire dans l'organisation administrative et politique; nous avons au-dessus de la commune la préfecture, et enfin, si vous voulez, toute la république. Il n'y a pas d'autre échelon parce que le pays n'est pas grand. Nous avons, à chaque niveau, organisé une équipe pluridisciplinaire chargée de concevoir la politique de développement pour cet échelon. Si nous recevons des volontaires de l'extérieur, nous souhaiterions qu'ils soient affectés à l'enseignement ou à la formation, en participant au développement dans le cadre des projets de développement et en soutenant les activités envisagées au niveau de chaque circonscription administrative.

En marge de cette proposition, je demanderai à la FAO de mettre davantage l'accent sur la fourniture de moyens logistiques à nos techniciens nationaux, parce que, d'après- nos constatations, ces volontaires ne sont pas nécessairement beaucoup plus qualifiés que les nationaux. En matière d'agriculture, nous avons au niveau de chaque commune une moyenne de trois agronomes, ce qui est largement suffisant puisque chaque agronome n'encadre pas plus de 2 000 habitants, alors le jour où il disposerait d'un bureau de travail, d'une mobylette pour se déplacer et d'autres moyens nécessaires pour exécuter ces programmes, le rôle des volontaires serait plutôt de suppléer à certaines lacunes mais pas de remplacer les nationaux, animés de bonne volonté, désireux de travailler, qui manquent de moyens.

N. Ma MAPELA (Zaïre): Nous appuyons également cette idée de créer un corps de volontaires de l'alimentation.

Nous estimons que la FAO, par son programme de coopération technique, est bien l'organisme indiqué pour coordonner au niveau international tous les efforts tendant à soutenir les activités de cet ordre.

Nous estimons aussi que les équipes de volontaires devraient comprendre non seulement des jeunes possédant une expérience assez poussée dans le domaine agricole, mais aussi des jeunes ayant des connaissances poussées en médecine, en sociologie rurale, etc. Bref, il faudrait, à notre avis, dès jeunes qui soient en mesure d'aider et de comprendre les gens des milieux très arriérés dans les pays en développement.

Nous appuyons ce qui est dit au paragraphe 18, à savoir que l'on pourra à l'avenir recruter des volontaires d'un pays en développement pour un pays voisin.

En ce qui concerne les chiffres indiqués au paragraphe 19, pour la rémunération des volontaires, nous estimons que 50 dollars par mois ne peuvent pas permettre à un individu de satisfaire ses besoins essentiels. Nous n'avons pas d'opinion sur le chiffre à fixer mais nous pensons qu'il faudrait voir dans quelle mesure on pourrait relever ce chiffre.

E. SUZUKI (Japan): My delegation is quite satisfied with the conclusions of the Director-General contained in paragraphs 20 and 21. My delegation believes it would be the most reasonable solution for promotion of volunteer movement to subscribe to the better utilization of an existing mechanism with a view to mobilizing dedicated young people in the service of their countries and the world community at large.

My delegation would like to explain my country's activities briefly. My country established a volunteer organization which is called Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in 1965. Since then, up till this year, JOCV has sent 2 533 young people to 23 developing countries with necessary materials and equipment for their activities, and agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors formed 40 percent of them.

These volunteers must pass an examination to check whether they have the ability and expertise which are necessary. After passing the examination, they have training for four months in languages and to brush up their technology.

Finally, my delegation would like to support paragraph 23 of CL 74/6.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): We would like to associate ourselves with other delegates in thanking the Secretariat for the valuable document presented to us.

We recognize the value of volunteers' activities in other development programmes. However, as we all are aware, there is no one single system of volunteers befitting all nations due to the varying characteristics and typicalities prevailing in each country. Thailand has been experimenting in these volunteers' activities over quite some time, but we cannot say we are quite satisfied with the outcome. There is still a lot to learn, and so experimentation has to be continued.

In view of the fact there have been volunteers' activities being carried out in many countries, both developed and developing, we believe the exchange of experiences gained in those countries will be of great help in terms of broadening perspectives and bases for the appropriate design of volunteer programmes in each country. We suggest FAO should take immediate action to materialize this exchange by means of providing fellowships for observation studies in various countries, as well as organizing seminars or workshops on this significant subject.

P. VÂNDÖR (Hungary): The paper before us summarizes very well experiences gained with national and international volunteers for agricultural and rural development. We fully agree with the statement that establishing domestic volunteer programmes must be considered by the interested governments, being aware of the real needs in this field and of the best responses to these.

The paper states that only a few foreign-recruited volunteers are able to work effectively at the grass-root level. Their knowledge of local conditions and local languages is a prerequisite for effective work.

We are in agreement with the recommendation of the Director-General that there is no need to set up a new formal structure, either inside or outside the United Nations system. If we are not over-optimistic, we have to state that the contribution of international volunteers to the agricultural and rural development is less valuable than that of other experts with other great professional experience and skill, assigned in the regular structure of the United Nations system or other bilateral donor agencies. Therefore we suggest to be realistic, considering the organizational and financial arrangements at FAO, as we are considering the programmes and projects for which volunteers could be utilized.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estoy de acuerdo con usted en que debemos evitar que se repitan las declaraciones que ya hayan hecho otras delegaciones.

Por eso limitaremos nuestra intervención a apoyar un punto adecuado que ha sido expresado por nuestro colega y vecino de Cuba. En Colombia y en el pasado hemos tenido experiencias desafortunadas con los Cuerpos de Paz, situaciones que han degenerado en hechos políticos y sociales ciertamente no muy constructivos. Por eso queremos apoyar lo que ha dicho el representante de Cuba en el sentido de que toda acción de la FAO en esta materia debe adelantarse con cautela, con prudencia y moderación, porque no deseamos que la FAO pueda involucrar su nombre en actividades que no correspondan a la independencia y al carácter respetable que debe siempre preservar y fortalecer nuestra Organización.

A. TOURE (Observateur pour la Mauritanie): La Mauritanie voudrait intervenir sur le paragraphe 8, page 3, du document français. Elle voudrait faire part à la Conférence de son expérience sur l'utilisation des volontaires internationaux et faire quelques recommandations.

La Mauritanie a utilisé des volontaires internationaux du SIV et du Corps de la Paix. Elle voudrait remercier ici les pays qui sont à la base de ces organisations qui ont bien voulu les mettre à notre disposition.

Cependant, cette expérience des volontaires internationaux appelle de notre part certaines observations.

C'est ainsi que leur action sur le terrain a été limitée par un certain nombre de facteurs dont les plus importants sont les différences de milieux de travail et de milieux de provenance. A ce propos, le paragraphe 11, page 3 du document français est assez édifiant.

Un autre facteur est le nombre restreint.

Autre facteur encore, les difficultés de communication avec les populations qui sont dues en partie à la différence de milieux.

Autre facteur très important: le statut de ces experts dans nos pays. On s'est aperçu que ces volontaires avaient carrément un statut d'experts et qu'à ce titre ils en avaient les mêmes avantages et les mêmes conceptions de travail. La Mauritanie aimerait que les volontaires soient employés pour des projets précis sinon ce comportement d'experts sera renforcé.

L'idée de l'Ambassadeur Young est très belle puisqu'il demande que l'on mette des volontaires à la disposition des pays les moins avancés. En ce qui concerne la formation, nous pensons que c'est effectivement là que l'action des volontaires internationaux pourrait être efficace.

En effet, compte tenu des facteurs que je viens d'énumérer, il est bon que l'action de ces volontaires soit concentrée sur la formation de volontaires nationaux et cela particulièrement dans le domaine agricole.

Une seconde recommandation serait de favoriser le recrutement des volontaires des pays en voie de développement pour travailler dans des régions similaires à leurs pays d'origine. Cela aurait l'avantage de diminuer le coût, parce que les volontaires internationaux que nous avons chez nous se comportant comme des experts coûtent très cher, et cela permettrait de gagner sur le temps d'adaptation de ces volontaires, compte tenu du peu de différence qu'il y aurait entre les zones d'origine et les zones d'intervention.

Une autre recommandation est l'augmentation du nombre de ces volontaires internationaux dans le secteur agricole. En effet, au paragraphe 11, page 3, nous voyons que sur 12 200 volontaires il n'y en a que 2 585 pour le secteur rural. Cela me semble très insuffisant.

En ce qui concerne le rôle de la FAO pour ce corps de volontaires internationaux, nous pensons que cette organisation doit jouer un rôle de coordination et d'orientation pour limiter un certain nombre d'inconvénients que je n'ai pas besoin de citer ici.

G. de BARKER (Observer for the Netherlands): I will try to be brief, being an observer and one of the last speakers. I would like to associate our delegation with the interest shown in this paper, especially on this new approach to the matter of volunteer schemes, stressing the importance of domestic national volunteers. Our country has for many years supported the idea of calling on the young people to give up their more easy life in the developed countries and to go out to developing countries in more difficult circumstances. We have sent out hundreds of volunteers and we have trained them for the job as best we could before sending them out. I think in most cases it was successful. We realize that in sending young people, with all the enthusiasm which young people usually have, acting sometimes more from their heart than from their head, there have been some problems, but I think overall it has been quite successful. However, we certainly support the new policies set out in the paper, and supported by quite a large number of delegations here, that it would by far be best if more national volunteers could be put to the job to help agriculture and to help farmers develop their skills.

We can say that we have been participating in the meeting which was held in Mexico a few months ago. One of our experts was there and contributed with some enthusiasm to the discussions.

We have also shown some interest in the domestic volunteer scheme in Sri Lanka and we are certainly willing to discuss this issue of volunteers with representatives of developing countries if they feel that our experience and our view can be of any use to the further development of this important new issue, especially since this is in line with our thinking that in the long run most countries that can do so must in the first place try to solve their own problems with their own people. From that point of view we are glad that this issue has been raised here and that it has been supported generally from all sides and that apparently this is not an issue which causes confrontation.

G. VASTA (Observateur pour l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques) : Cet argument est trop important pour que je ne fasse pas une petite intervention et je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole.

On a souvent dit, ces dernières années surtout, que l'agriculture a besoin d'hommes. C'est pour cela que l'initiative de l'Ambassadeur Young a été accueillie au sein de la Conférence de la FAO avec beaucoup d'intérêt et beaucoup d'espoir.

Je me permettrai, Monsieur le Président, de vous parler des expériences de l'OCDE à ce sujet, parce qu'elle a toujours été convaincue que l'agriculture a besoin d'hommes ayant une certaine vocation. Effectivement, ces volontaires doivent être des missionnaires pour répondre à ce que les autres attendent d'eux.

Je voudrais vous parler d'une expérience qui a été faite en Italie ces dernières années où des cours ont été organisés pour des vulgarisateurs de base en agriculture dans les pays du bassin Méditerranéen. Ces cours ont été organisés sous l'égide de l'OCDE et ont toujours donné des résultats excellents. Naturellement, pour organiser des cours de ce niveau, il faut d'abord que les participants aient une certaine préparation de base. C'est pour cela que nous avons demandé que les participants puissent avoir un doctorat en agriculture, ou qu'ils puissent faire partie du Ministère de l'agriculture ou de l'organisation faisant partie de l'agriculture en général.

En ce qui concerne les frais respectifs, c'est le pays hôte qui chaque fois est chargé de ces frais, y compris les frais de voyage des participants à ces cours. Là, je pense que peut-être, comme l'ont dit justement quelques délégués, au niveau régional, on peut faire quelque chose. En effet, l'Italie qui a organisé des cours pour les vulgarisateurs de base seulement pour les pays du bassin Méditerranéen, l'a fait en ayant en vue la préoccupation de circonscrire des problèmes intéressants surtout les pays de cette zone. Je pense que l'idée est merveilleuse, qu'il faut faire tout le possible pour encourager la création de ces groupes. En effet, finalement, nous verrons peut-être que l'homme pourra venir à l'aide de l'homme en lui tendant la main, mais en veillant à ce que, surtout ici à ce Siège, ces hommes qui vont prêcher la vérité en matière d'agriculture y soient bien préparés. Je souhaite à la FAO de pouvoir réussir pleinement dans cette initiative qui est humanitaire et qui ne manquera pas de donner des résultats.

CHAIRMAN: Because of our time constraint I would like to ask the Observer from Senegal to submit his comments in writing. We have had 25 speakers and I do not think any really new ideas can be added to the debate at this stage.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to suggest that maybe we consider that proposal of yours. I agree that time is passing, but it is my understanding that the delegate of Senegal has rather specially relevant information on this subject. If I am wrong, I withdraw that suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the delegate of Senegal if he has anything new. In any case, I will give you the floor. Please be brief.

S. MADEMBA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Le sort a l'air d'être contre nous mais nous allons quand même être très brefs et, avec votre permission, je voudrais demander à mon conseiller de vous présenter notre point de vue et vous donner les informations que nous avons sur cette question, car c'est une question à laquelle nous attachons beaucoup d'importance.

S. AIDARA (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Le débat tire presque à sa fin et je ne prendrai pas beaucoup de temps pour expliquer à notre Conseil, me référant au paragraphe 7 de notre document, que je veux réitérer ici l'intention et le souhait de notre gouvernement de mettre sur pied un corps de volontaires, tant au niveau national qu'au niveau régional et je voudrais informer le Conseil que cette question suit son cours et qu'il est prévu qu'une équipe se rendra dans les huit pays du Sahel de décembre 1978 à janvier 1979. Ces déplacements permettront le rassemblement de toutes les informations nécessaires à la sélection finale du lieu favorable à la mise en place de projets pilotes au Sahel ainsi que l'élaboration d'une demande de subvention pour le financement des projets pour un corps de volontaires agricoles au Sahel.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): Permítame en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, agradecer todas las informaciones que se nos han dado. Verdaderamente el Consejo ha respondido al deseo, a la solicitud del Director General de informar sobre las experiencias de los diversos gobiernos en una forma excelente. Simplemente el estudio de los diversos comentarios que se nos han hecho tanto al uso de voluntarios nacionales, como al uso de voluntarios internacionales, significará para nosotros un estudio que haremos con el mayor cuidado y que, efectivamente, afectará desde ya, no solo el pensamiento en cuanto al trabajo material de voluntarios nacionales, sino, ciertamente también, esperamos que nos ayude a mejorar la utilización de voluntarios internacionales.

En este sentido, creo que también muchas de las informaciones dadas por los señores representantes serán de utilidad en la preparación de la documentación del programa de acción para la próxima Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Estamos seguros de que al considerarse los diversos temas, al considerarse las propuestas del programa de acción, será allí donde será discutida la pertinencia del establecimiento de Cuerpos Nacionales de Voluntarios, así como la cooperación de los cuerpos internacionales. Algunos señores representantes han dado a conocer sus experiencias sobre cuerpos nacionales y otros exclusivamente sus experiencias sobre cuerpos internacionales; pero en ambos casos les quiero decir a todos muchas gracias. (Continúa en inglés)

On the question of what FAO is going to do - a question, as a matter of fact, from the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany - I think it was the only question formulated and I thank him because it gives me the opportunity to refer to the interest expressed by many of the delegates as to how FAO is going to manage this idea. I want to refer again to what is said by the Director-General in the document: we think that within the ordinary competence, the ability of the Organization now, within its organizational structure, we can work, at the request of governments, on the promotion of the national volunteer corps. Of course, with regard to the international volunteer corps which, when they were totally within the aegis of FAO, had a very great success and we employed a large number of international volunteers; but now, since we are only clients of a United Nations system organization that supplies volunteers, the number has shrunk considerably. For those volunteers there is a unit already and this unit is located in the Government Cooperative Programme Service of the Field Programme Development Division. We think that the Field Programme Development Division is perfectly capable within its work to undertake its standard work on volunteers at the request of governments. The delegate of Pakistan, I believe, spoke about the types of assistance that FAO could give in project preparation, exchange of information, etc. None of this work is alien to our daily experience, neither the work on project formulation which is necessary nor the work on exchange of information which really underlies the whole of our daily work. Also, on the question of funding, as you know, we have important mechanisms within the Organization that allow us to consult, donors and to obtain resources for these programmes. We think that we shall be able to use the same mechanism in this case.

One delegate suggested that possibly there should be within the FAO mechanism a special unit to take care of developing the work on the international food corps and I think that two delegates expressed the idea that there would possibly be need for some kind of an advisory committee. I would say that as it was reflected by many delegates in showing a certain approval of our cautiousness, we approach the moves with - if you will allow me - budgetary caution, because either the establishment of a special organizational unit or the appointment of an advisory panel means needed budgetary resources. We have the small Volunteers Unit, the International Volunteer Unit. We have the capabilities of the people in the Development Division. We have furthermore the will and the interest of the Director-General which will result in a very keen following on our part of the work to be done. So we think that at this stage, organizationally, we are in a very good situation.

From the point of view of advisory services, gathering of experience, diffusion of experience, I think that also under the normal mechanism of consultations, of putting the subject up in certain meetings and workshops that are going to take place anyhow, and with the normal enormous exchange of views that is going on between us and Member Governments, that we promote between Member Governments themselves in the various channels where we have to do that, it will allow us also to focus on gathering experience and on the exchange of experience on this new subject, or relatively new subject, to the international focus which is the use of the national volunteers.

Let me finish by being very pragmatic and by telling you that frankly, the Director-General and we are very interested in helping countries in mobilizing their youth, and in our minds there is one thing that has to come first: some countries have to tell us how we can be useful to them in setting up or in improving their own present working scheme, and this may mean some kind of technical assistance. It may also mean trying to get some resources, and we will immediately react. I think that this, on the basis of some action by the Organization at the request of governments will then get a certain momentum and we will be able to come to donors for further additional resources.

We will circulate to all our people in the Field, especially to our Representatives, these ideas that have been expressed here. We will bring to the attention of the governments what we can do and then, I hope that next time that we review in the Programme Committee the question of volunteers, we will be able to bring to the attention that FAO has now been brought into this picture and that it has responded positively and with good quality work.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think from the discussion that anybody is really pressing the FAO to take a final position in this matter. Many views have been expressed. The idea has been accepted as an excellent one. In fact, from what we heard from some delegates, the idea is not a new one. There are already national programmes going on in various developing countries. Some developed countries also have ideas and the Programme is sending out their nationals to developing and other countries to take part in such voluntary exercises.

Two or three things, however, come out quite clearly from the debate. One is that there should be no new bodies established for that purpose. The good majority of members spoke of strengthening or making more efficient use of the existing machinery and institutions.

The other point that came out clearly is the national character of such a voluntary service. To be effective, it is clear from what Members have said that it should be based domestically, so that the young people of the nation concerned can take a direct part in its operations. The point was also made that if any country wants help, then that country should actually make a request so that intervention from outside is based on a request by the country which needs such help.

Finally, the consensus is also that at the coming Agrarian Reform Conference, the idea should be better developed; more discussions should take place so that in a wider field and a wider context there will be a consensus on what the world really wants in this matter. These and all the other details of discussions will go into our Report and will be brought back to us. If there are no comments or disagreements, I will close this debate. The debate is concluded.

21. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters: Work of the 34th and 35th Sessions of the Programme Committee, and 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Finance Committee
21. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration: activités des trente-quatrième et trente-cinquième sessions du Comité du programme et des quarante et unième et quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier
21. Otros asuntos del programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: Labor del 34° y 35° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 41° y 42° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas
- 21.1 Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Matters of Common Interest, including:
- 21.1 Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun, à savoir:
- 21.1 Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común Con inclusión de:
- 21.1(a) Decisions of the General Assembly on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the UN System
- 21.1(a) Décisions de l'Assemblée générale sur la restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies
- 21.1(a) Decisiones de la Asamblea General sobre la reestructuración del sector económico y social del sistema de las Naciones Unidas

CHAIRMAN: This is a mixed bag, as you can see, and I am sure that Members have been very much confused by this, but we have tried to sort the Agenda out in a manner which will make it easier for Members to discuss it. The reason why it is in this form is that the Programme and Finance Committees met twice this year and considered a whole range of subjects which must be brought to the attention of the Council in one way or another. Therefore the only way to do this is to put everything together, as has been done.

If you look at Page 3 of the Order of the Day, you will see that Item 21 has been broken down into its component parts. If you agree, we will handle it as follows: first of all, to break it into three groups of subjects. The first group is 21.1(a), 21.1(b), and 21.1(a). After we have finished with these, we shall go on to 21.1(d) which has the whole range of Joint Inspection Unit reports under it. Those will be taken in sequence, and then the last item will be matters which are not covered under these, and the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees will introduce those items last.

We will thus get rid of the things that we have in front of us and then we will go on finally to dispose of other matters. If this procedure is acceptable to Members, or if there are no comments, we can start work on these items. Are there any comments? I see there are none.

The first thing we are going to do is take Item 21.1(a). This first item will be introduced by Mr. Walton.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The basic document on this subject is the Resolution of the General Assembly, Resolution 32/197, which is reproduced in its entirety as Appendix A to document CL 74/21. The substantive decisions on restructuring are contained in the lengthy annex to that resolution.

In Appendix 2, document CL 74/21, are the comments of the ACC on all points of inter-agency concern.

The comment? of the Director-General are contained in the main part of CL 74/21 and deal with both the Resolution and the ACC report.

I would draw particular attention also to the observation of the Programme Committee contained in document CL 74/5, 1.5 to 1.20.

It is not the custom to summarize the information in the documents before the Council, but since the subject matter and language of the Resolution of the General Assembly and the comments on it are somewhat abstract, perhaps I may make one or two brief comments to help the Council.

The decisions of the General Assembly on many points represent an extension of existing tendencies. This is so, for instance, in the provision that the General Assembly, assisted by ECOSOC, should establish "strategies, policies and priorities" for the system as a whole. The General Assembly has done this in the past, for instance, in adopting the international development strategy and in adopting the declaration and programme of action on the New International Economic Order. The resolution clearly indicates, however, that the General Assembly intends to state systemwide strategies, policies and priorities more intensively in the future. I would, therefore, draw attention to the Director-General's observations noted by the Programme Committee that the restructuring resolution introduces no fundamental change in the relationship between the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the one hand and the Specialized Agencies on the other. So far as we are concerned this will depend on the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of FAO and the relationship agreement between the United Nations and FAO which established this Organization as a specialized agency.

I would again point to the section of the restructuring report dealing with the role of the economic commissions as an example of a text which represents an extension of an earlier tendency»

So far as the operational activities are concerned, here again much of the text is derived from and very close to the provisions of the 1970 consensus adopted by the General Assembly. There is provision, for instance, for the UNDP country programming process to be used as a frame of reference by the other agencies of the system for their own operational activities, and there is provision also for the appointment of a single official at country level to exercise team leadership and to be responsible for evolving a multi-disciplinary dimension in sectoral development programmes. These two provisions are obscure in language and intersecretariat consultations are under way to see how they could be implemented in a practical manner. Again I would point to the emphasis on joint programming as something in the restructuring report that is not new.

Alongside these existing features there are one or two completely new features in the restructuring report. There is a major restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat. The details of this are given in the document. The most salient feature of this restructuring is the appointment of a Director-General for development and international economic cooperation, whose terms of reference are contained in the restructuring resolution.

There is also a decision on a very considerable restructuring of the machinery for inter-Secretariat coordination.

The three bodies in which the executive heads of the Specialized Agencies and the operational programmes customarily participate and that are linked to UNDP, to UNEP and the UNIDO, are abolished, and their functions are taken over by the ACC itself. At the same time the ACC is called upon to streamline its subsidiary machinery.

Here I must give a little up-to-date information for the Council. The documents speak of the work under way to develop proposals for the ACC on the streamlining of the subsidiary machinery. Since the Programme Committee met this process has been completed and the decisions of ACC are contained in a further report to the Economic and Social Council which is about to be issued. If we receive copies of this report in the languages of the Council before the session ends, we shall certainly circulate it for the information of delegations. I shall not go into the details of this streamlining but the main provision is for the abolition of the standing sub-committees of ACC dealing with various subject matter areas. Instead there will be an overall Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions, CCSQ, which will deal with both programme and operational matters, and will set up specialized working parties to deal with specific problems as they arise.

Members of the Council may wish to know what, in terms of outcome or potential outcome, does this restructuring mean for FAO, or what can it mean. The Director-General hopes that it will lead to three things; first, higher priority for food and agriculture within the framework of a comprehensive approach to the problems of development; secondly, more assistance and here I would like to quote a phrase from the restructuring report itself. It calls for "A real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis". In third place, and as a consequence of the first two, a strengthened role for FAO in cooperation, of course, with other Agencies. Whether these three points can be achieved would depend on the discussions, negotiations and conclusions that will take place in many fora over the next weeks, months and years, but particularly, of course, in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and it is to be hoped that the spirit of these three points will be adopted by governments when they come to carry out these discussions, consultations and decisions.

CHAIRMAN: This is a developing subject, it is always developing, discussions are taking place all over the place, but it looks now as if we are having some concrete proposals and action coming from the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours.

La seance est levée à 12 h 25.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/10

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA
(1 December 1978)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Décima Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order. We will now discuss the item introduced by Mr. Walton this morning.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

21. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters: Work of the 34th and 35th Sessions of the Programme Committee, and 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)

21. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration: activités des trente-quatrième et trente-cinquième sessions du Comité du programme et des quarante et unième et quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier (suite)

21. Otros asuntos del programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: Labor del 34° y 35° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 41° y 42° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

21.1 Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Matters of Common Interest (continued)

21.1 Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun (suite)

21.1 Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común (continuación)

21.1(a) Decisions of the General Assembly on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the UN System (continued)

21.1(a) Décisions de l'Assemblée générale sur la restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies (suite)

21.1(a) Decisiones de la Asamblea General sobre la reestructuración del sector económico y social del sistema de las Naciones Unidas (continuación)

J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): Regarding document CL 74/21 we are concerned about paragraph 10, and would like more information as to how the continuous strengthening and expansion of the regional commissions has in some cases already led to duplication of activities for FAO, and how the problem is likely to become more acute. There is a strong feeling in many countries against the international bureaucracy that tends to multiply itself. It is our duty to be vigilant. This matter should have been examined by FAO regional conferences.

We support paragraph 36 of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee containing Appendix A which asks for adequate developing country representation at executive management levels in the United Nations system. In this respect, FAO under the present Director-General has taken many important steps.

We agree with paragraph 24 of Appendix B that the pledging conferences of the World Food Conference should continue as in the past, if there is any risk that to do otherwise might diminish contributions.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like to offer some brief comments, and first of all would like to thank Mr. Walton for introducing this item to us.

We feel that the issues of the restructuring of the United Nations system in the economic field are still in the process of being examined by, first, the Economic and Social Council itself; second, by the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Therefore, to some extent at least, we are in the process of waiting for the various agencies, and we cannot take either conclusions or possible measures that might be appropriate.

I agree with the observations made by Mr. Walton, that on the policy aspect what is being basically advised in this system is a bit more of the same in the sense that both the General Assembly and the Social Economic Council all the time had the kind of function of over-view of the system on a broad policy basis. The best example is precisely the preparation of the international development strategy for the second United Nations development decade. Therefore in that area of policy I would say there is nothing really new.

On the question of the structures for regional and inter-regional cooperation my delegation thinks a basic question is that it has to be seen also in the context of each agency and its own structures. They have to be taken into account. On the other hand, we feel that the coordination of the regional projects should continue to be based on the agencies themselves and not on the regional Economic Commissions. That is an important point to us.

On operational activities for development, again we feel, speaking in brief, the consensus of the UNDP in 1969 and 1970 gave the right tone, in which you have coordination of the system without undue limitation in the work of the agencies. We feel that the consensus struck the right balance basically.

I would also add that this stage, when we are moving to the actual implementation of the principle of the New International Economic Order, is particularly important to the work of the agencies at operational level so that we could help developing countries to translate the principles of the New International Economic Order into reality. I make this observation with the idea of suggesting that we should avoid an over-centralization. Over-centralization of the system would be contrary, in our view, to the delivery programmes and projects which developing countries have an interest in in each sectorial field. We feel that any possible arrangement in operational activities for development and coordination should take fully into account the need to avoid any kind of restrictions to the natural and normal development of the work of the agencies, including, of course, of our own agency.

On the question of planning, programming, programme evaluation and possible efforts to provide a greater level of uniformity throughout the system, we feel again there is nothing too much new under the sun. For many, many years there has been a continuous effort to find some compatibility in programming and timing and terms of descriptions of programmes and consultations between agencies. This is really nothing new. At the same time, we feel it would be extremely difficult to pursue any effort to straight system-wide programming. On the other hand, my delegation takes note with interest of the developments which are taking place in streamlining and the machinery for coordination at the Secretariat level. We understand of course this is a matter for the executive heads of departments to come to the best arrangement for the best solution to the system.

These are the basic observations I would like to make at this stage. As a concluding note, our major form of concern is to avoid over-centralization which could possibly result in hampering limitation of the operational work of the agencies.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar deseamos agradecer a usted la decisión afortunada que ha tomado sobre la manera de discutir este Tema 21 para el cual hay 16 documentos.

La intervención del delegado de Francia ha arrojado un poco de luz sobre esta cuestión, pero de todas maneras nosotros deseamos manifestar nuestra inconformidad por la manera en que la Secretaría presenta esta cuestión. Esperamos que esto no se repita en el futuro.

Vamos a referirnos por ahora solamente al subtema (a). Entendemos que el documento CL 74/21 se presenta al Consejo esencialmente para considerar aquellos aspectos que interesan a la FAO, ya que como se dice en el párrafo 2: "La Asamblea General pidió a todas las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas que aplicaran esas recomendaciones en sus respectivas esferas de competencia." Al respecto tenemos dos reacciones principales. La primera es la de que el Comité ad hoc ha hecho un buen trabajo, cuyas recomendaciones adoptadas por el ECOSOC y la Asamblea General contienen útiles elementos para cambios fundamentales en todo el conjunto de las Naciones Unidas. La segunda consiste en que la delegación de Colombia en cuanto a la FAO, registra complacida que las aprensiones e inquietudes contenidas en los párrafos 14 a 21 del documento CL 74/3: Informe del Comité del Programa, se hayan transformado ahora en el "optimismo", es la palabra textual que se expresa al final del párrafo 8 del documento CL 74/21. Seguramente entre uno y otro período de sesiones del Comité del Programa se produjo una de esas acostumbradas reacciones impetuosas sin conocer exactamente la realidad de los hechos. Si son hechos positivos porque es necesario preservar la unidad y la concordia entre todos en el seno de las Naciones Unidas de cuyas actividades en pro del desarrollo el objetivo final son y deben ser los países menos desarrollados.

En términos generales, la delegación de Colombia apoya el Informe del CAC que está contenido en el Apéndice B correspondiente a su período extraordinario de sesiones celebrado en mayo de este año. Ese Informe aclara, como se dice en el documento, muchas cuestiones que había planteadas en este Comité anteriormente. En el Capítulo II se trata de asuntos difíciles, de vieja consideración sin soluciones satisfactorias hasta ahora. Será necesario, como lo ha dicho nuestro colega de Sri Lanka: armonizar las relaciones entre las Comisiones regionales y las oficinas regionales de las agencias en orden a asegurar la cooperación y evitar la duplicación de actividades.

Finalmente, en el párrafo 36 de la Recomendación del Comité ad hoc se expresa que: "deberían adoptarse medidas para asegurar una representación adecuada de los países en desarrollo en las gestiones ejecutivas en las Secretarías en las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas". En el párrafo 34 de su Informe el CAC se limita a tomar nota de esta recomendación; pero nos habría gustado que el alto representante de la FAO en el CAC en vez de tomar nota se hubiera manifestado en favor de esta recomendación.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, agradecer a la Secretaría y al Director General el Informe 74/21 que contiene excelente información sobre la forma en que a nivel del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas se está tratando de incrementar la decisión de la Asamblea General con relación a la reestructuración de los sectores económicos y sociales del Sistema.

Nuestro país en su ocasión, dio pleno apoyo a la Resolución 32/197 de la Asamblea General y a su Anexo procedente del Informe del Comité ad hoc y, por tanto, no quisiera en estos momentos tratar sobre el fondo y el contenido de este Anexo, puesto que como lo señala la propia Resolución compete ver, más que a todos, a las diferentes agencias y órganos del Sistema cómo instrumentar esta recomendación. El proceso de reestructuración del sistema económico y social es un proceso lento y por eso la propia Asamblea General al adoptar esta resolución se reservaba el derecho, y así lo hace, de mantener bajo vigilancia, observación y examen, la aplicación de la puesta en práctica de esta recomendación.

Nosotros entendemos, Sr. Presidente, que este proceso se está adelantando a través de las consultas entre los distintos órganos y consideramos que así debe continuarse en el futuro; pero hemos visto con satisfacción en la mañana de hoy en el Informe del Sr. Vaiti, que la FAO, la Secretaría, entiende que a través de estas consultas y para insertar adecuadamente la participación de la Organización dentro del proceso de reestructuración debería atenderse a darle, por una parte mayor prioridad a los problemas de nutrición y agricultura dentro de un enfoque amplio del desarrollo, a incrementar los recursos hacia estos sectores y a tratar de fortalecer a la FAO para que juegue un papel central y catalizador en los mismos.

No dudamos en dar apoyo a esta óptica porque consideramos que es la óptica más adecuada. Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, puede ser que en muchos casos se llegue a duplicación de esfuerzos entre las actividades de las Comisiones Regionales y las de las agencias especializadas. Consideramos que se requiere que a nivel nacional, a nivel de cada país, y tomando en cuenta sus decisiones de búsqueda de cooperación técnica, esta duplicación se evite, y por vía de un análisis concertado lo que se logre sea una mayor eficiencia en la prestación de esta asistencia técnica, tanto por las Comisiones Regionales como por las agencias especializadas.

C. BATAULT (France): Tout d'abord je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité du document qui nous a été présenté et remercier également M. Walton pour l'excellent exposé qu'il nous a fait et qui nous éclaire sur plusieurs points. Si vous en êtes d'accord, Monsieur le Président, je vais étudier ces points un par un, en style un peu télégraphique, c'est-à-dire que je ne vais pas faire du style, ce qui est peut-être indigne de la langue française, mais je vais essayer d'être aussi bref que possible.

Auparavant toutefois, je voudrais faire une remarque qui, je crois, a son importance. Je voudrais remercier le Directeur général pour le soin qu'il a pris, dans les exposés qu'il a faits à plusieurs réunions du Comité du Budget des programmes et également dans l'exposé au début de nos travaux, de souligner, dans la préparation de son budget, qu'il tiendrait compte des difficultés que connaissent actuellement dans leur économie nationale les principaux contributeurs au budget de la FAO.

En effet, en ce qui concerne par exemple la France - qui est évidemment le cas que je connais le mieux - nous connaissons sans aucun doute actuellement des difficultés qui entraînent pour nous des restrictions budgétaires très sérieuses. En effet, la France est un pays qui n'a pas une goutte de pétrole, qui est obligée de faire face à tous ses besoins uniquement par son travail qui, dans la situation économique mondiale actuelle, se trouve parfois dans une situation assez difficile qui crée du chômage, chômage auquel nous avons à faire face et qui nous coûte fort cher. Nous avons été obligés, comme d'autres pays occidentaux d'ailleurs, de faire un budget d'austérité très sérieuse, budget qui a été vraiment calculé au centime près et dont nous sentons les restrictions dans chacune de nos activités. C'est pour cela que je suis particulièrement sensible au souci qu'a exprimé le Directeur général de tenir compte de cette situation, qui n'est pas seulement celle de la France, mais celle de beaucoup d'autres des principaux contributeurs de l'Organisation.

Ceci dit, Monsieur le Président, je vais en venir maintenant aux différents points de cet ordre du jour, et je voudrais vous remercier à cet égard d'avoir bien voulu adopter ce système de division en trois de tous ces points qui nous avaient été soumis ce matin. Je crois que cela facilitera beaucoup nos travaux et nous permettra d'être beaucoup plus brefs.

Si vous le voulez bien, je vais maintenant faire quelques remarques, aussi courtes que possible, sur chacun des points évoqués.

D'abord en ce qui concerne la restructuration du secteur économique et social du système des Nations Unies, je me contenterai de commenter l'excellent document du Secrétariat qui appelle de ma part les remarques suivantes :

- au paragraphe 4, il est exact que l'examen de la question de la restructuration n'est pas terminée; je pense donc que nous n'avons pas besoin de nous étendre sur ce point et que nous pourrions en discuter plus avant au prochain Conseil;

- en ce qui concerne les paragraphes 7 et 8, il apparaît essentiel au Gouvernement français qu'à l'avenir l'Assemblée générale et l'ECOSOC jouent plus nettement leur rôle d'organes centraux du système des Nations Unies, tout en faisant participer plus activement le Secrétariat des institutions spécialisées à leurs travaux. Ainsi pourrions-nous sans doute éviter un certain nombre de doubles emplois que nous voyons dans l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies;

- au paragraphe 6, il me semble que le rôle de coordination doit clairement être réservé aux commissions économiques régionales ;

- au paragraphe 12, les idées exprimées dans ce paragraphe nous paraissent très importantes et sont conformes au consensus de 1970 qui doit à notre avis rester la base pour les activités opérationnelles. Le système de programmation par les pays du PNUD devrait semble-t-il être utilisé comme cadre de référence pour les opérations réalisées et financées par les autres organismes des Nations Unies à l'aide de leurs propres ressources.

J. CHAMI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Nous avons examiné le document 74/21 qui contient la Résolution de l'Assemblée générale au sujet de la non-restructuration du système des Nations Unies. Nous avons examiné ce document; nous le considérons comme très important parce qu'il traite de nombreux sujets, notamment de la coopération régionale et des activités de développement, y compris la programmation de la planification, la coordination entre les différentes institutions. Toutefois, nous avons quelques remarques à ce sujet.

Il semble, d'après le rapport, que des organismes aient été éliminés et que par contre d'autres aient été constitués. Aussi, devons-nous vous faire part de notre préoccupation quant aux résultats éventuels ultérieurs à la suite des changements dans ces organisations. Cela exige beaucoup de temps de la part des comités spéciaux qui doivent envisager la nouvelle structure des organismes des Nations Unies, et nous nous demandons s'il y a eu ou s'il y aura une évaluation de ces mesures.

La coordination parmi les différents organismes, à notre avis, n'est pas un procédé très lourd; il vaudrait mieux trouver une coopération réelle et plus efficace parmi ces organismes. La coordination et la coopération devraient avoir lieu au niveau des pays; sur le terrain et pour les programmes de terrain pourrait exister ce qui se passe maintenant entre la FAO et le PNUD. De même, nous estimons souhaitable que la FAO participe de manière efficace aux travaux des groupes, dans la mesure où cela sera nécessaire pour préparer des études destinées à être présentées à l'Assemblée générale, et cela ne devrait pas aboutir à des travaux de politique générale concernant notre Acte Constitutif. Quant aux mandats des comités, ils devraient être adaptés à nos différents Comités et ne pas avoir un effet négatif en général sur l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRETO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación se referirá muy brevemente a los aspectos que se están analizando con relación a la reestructuración del sector económico y social del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Nuestra delegación ratifica su apoyo a la Sección III del Anexo a la Resolución 32/197 de la Asamblea General, fundamentalmente en lo que se refiere a que todos los organismos del sistema deben cooperar al eficaz cumplimiento de las funciones que incumben a la Asamblea General y el ECOSOC y deben aplicarse sin demora y plenamente las recomendaciones concretas de las políticas de estos dos órganos.

Asimismo la aplicación de la política global establecida por la Asamblea General, el ECOSOC y todos los órganos del Sistema, deben tener plenamente en cuenta las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Asimismo nos manifestamos de acuerdo con el papel que debe jugar el Comité Administrativo de Coordinación en cuanto a las coordinaciones entre los diferentes órganos del Sistema para la ejecución de las medidas de reestructuración con un carácter integral. A este respecto consideramos que debe hacerse hincapié en los aspectos siguientes : Necesidad de elaboración de procedimientos adecuados para regular la forma de sufragar conjuntamente entre los organismos que integran el Sistema aquellos gastos que se deriven de las aportaciones que éstos realicen a las actividades de carácter global. Ejemplo de ello pudiera ser el aporte de la FAO en documentos, proyectos, etc., a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo. También a la necesidad de una participación más activa de los Jefes de las agencias en las actividades del ECOSOC, así como incrementar, de acuerdo

con sus posibilidades, los aportes de las agencias, a los documentos que se presenten a los referidos períodos de sesiones del ECOSOC. Incrementar también por parte de las agencias su cooperación con las Comisiones económicas regionales, incluyendo la extensión de la práctica de celebrar reuniones de coordinación de las diversas regiones.

Asimismo entendemos que a pesar de la iniciativa contenida en el párrafo 31 de la Resolución 32/197, sobre la celebración de una sola Conferencia de Promesas y Contribuciones para todo el Sistema, la reunión de Promesas y Contribuciones para el Programa Mundial de Alimentos deberá seguir celebrándose como una reunión autónoma.

Apoyamos la recomendación del Comité Administrativo de Coordinación de que en la Conferencia únicamente se informe de los resultados de la Conferencia del PMA como un elemento de referencia.

En cuanto a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo, apoyamos el incremento de la participación de las agencias en las labores de esta programación por países que boga el PNUD; esta participación debe ser flexible y dinámica.

En lo referente a la unificación de las oficinas del Sistema, consideramos que deberá hacerse sobre la base de los derechos e intereses del país en que se trate.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The reorganization of the economic and social sector of the United Nations, initiated with the aim of achieving greater efficiency should, in our view, be supported by the fact that for all organizations, irrespective of their special functions, an analytical standard framework, as uniform as possible, should be introduced for drawing up the Programme of Work and Budget. The coordination of the activities of the organizations could thus be facilitated and duplication avoided. Let me in this context briefly recall the basic attitude of my Government towards the programmes and budgets of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. The Programmes of Work have to be drawn up clearly according to priorities whereby account has to be taken of the necessities, the existing possibilities, and, wherever possible, of a prior cost/benefit analysis. The probable termination of the individual programmes and measures should be indicated. Current activities should be reviewed to the effect of whether and how far they meet the objectives of the Organizations. The desired effect and the best possible use of existing funds must be ensured. Subsequent success controls are therefore inevitable as an objective yardstick. The programme of work should, in our opinion, find the full support, if possible, of all Member States of the organizations.

This applies particularly also to the budget. In this connexion it must, however, be pointed out that in the last year growth rates were accepted in the organizations of the United Nations system which were not, or hardly in conformity with the general economic and financial situation. This was also criticized by such States which are not necessarily among the largest contributors of the Organizations. Some of them, as is also known here, are faced with difficulties in meeting regularly their financial commitments. The problem of arriving at an adequate budget level should therefore be tackled in two ways: first, by drawing up the programmes of work even more carefully, taking into account the criteria already mentioned; secondly, by fixing the growth rates of the budget as early as possible, in conformity with financial conditions. * Similar to the medium-term budget planning in the Member States, indicative planning figures should be introduced in the international organizations for the nominal rates of growth of overall expenditure. Such initiative emanating from the Secretariats themselves would, in my Government's view, already have its favourable effects for the establishment of priorities and the drawing up of the programme of work. In the medium term this would also lead to a better calculation of the financial burdens of the Member States.

My country's Government is therefore particularly interested that the nominal rates of growth of total expenditure be fixed. For the conceivable case of fixing a ceiling for the real growth of expenditure with a programme volume as constant as possible, the rates of growth should only serve the purpose of covering the additional costs as a result of price increases and exchange rate losses.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Our comment will be a very brief and general one. We feel that this subject will continue to be discussed in the governing bodies of the United Nations agencies for some time to come and also until the General Assembly itself has clarified the implications of some recommendations. Under these circumstances we think that it would be advisable to proceed with caution and take decisions only after due deliberation.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): The United States played an active role in deliberations of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee which eventually resulted in the restructuring resolution, and we have been closely following the developments on the Committee's Report adopted by last year's General Assembly Session. The restructuring exercise is a complex matter affecting virtually all of the institutions and inter-agency and inter-governmental mechanisms of the United Nations system. Clearly the cooperation of all concerned is necessary, in our view, if this system is to be rationalized and made more effective.

As the largest of the Specialized Agencies, FAO has an exceptionally important role to play in the restructuring as it develops. As the lead Agency in the agricultural sector, and this is a role that my Government fully supports for FAO - its influence will inevitably grow as global resources increase for this vital sector. The three points which were given to us by Mr. Walton this morning as being the principal new elements for FAO restructuring emphasizes this fact. In addition, the effectiveness of regional economic commissions and of IFAD will depend in no small measure on the inputs which only FAO can provide.

Therefore, their close coordination by FAO with respect to FAO and to the regional economic commissions in the Programme Committee Report, deserves our support and encouragement,

My Government looks forward to an improvement in United Nations coordination System, particularly at the operational level. If the recipient governments - the governments who are making the greatest use of the technical competence of this Organization - are to obtain optimum benefits, it is essential that the system function harmoniously.

We note in particular the sentence in the Programme Committee's Report, paragraph 1.28, which I should like to read so that everyone will be aware of what I am emphasizing, which states: "The Committee considered in this connexion that the FAO Representatives should be prepared to assist governments in identifying effective inputs from the Organization or from other sources in agricultural sector programmes". We regard this as an encouragement to FAO's own role in the field as a coordinator. In the same way, we think that the FAO in the field should be an active participant in coordination with respect to overall country objectives, one reflection of these, the most important one as far as the United Nations system is concerned, is the UNDP country programming system. We do not believe that externally funded projects in the agricultural sector will always get the full domestic technical and administrative leadership that they need in the countries where they are being carried out, unless they are designed and implemented with a full knowledge or what other domestic and external resources are being utilized or are in the pipeline. As a means of improving the coherence of action at the country level, in our view FAO should be fully involved in the UNDP's country process. We do not believe that coordination with respect to projects financed from extra-programming budgetary resources, or from the TCP, should in any way endanger the Director-General's constitutional authority or his authority as it relates to agreements with Member Governments, with respect to those non-UNDP programmes. Our view of the coordination process does not result in placing anyone between the Director-General and the sources of those programmes. Nor does it endanger, in our view, his authority over them.

Perhaps the most important issue revolves around the designation of the single official in the field. On this, it appeared likely however that the agreement of all executive heads of agencies had been reached at the June session of the ACC. We have had some concern in learning that there are some renewed difficulties in finding an agreed definition of the function of this official. We hope that Ambassador Dadzie's efforts to resolve this key problem will produce agreement and that his further negotiations with those agencies concerned will be successful. The inter-disciplinary nature of development programmes, including the very important rural development area, in which FAO is quite properly taking a lead, requires a much stronger framework in the United Nations system and in this sense we differ somewhat with what appears to be the doubt about the system-wide planning effort expressed in paragraph 1.18 of the Programme Committee report.

In the eyes of my Government, I should like to point out in addition, the evaluation efforts emphasized in the restructuring resolution should be a continuing element. The restructuring process is in its initial stage. It remains to be achieved. It is the earnest wish of my Government that FAO will continue to play a constructive and operative role in this process.

G. DE BAKKER (Observer for the Netherlands) : On behalf of my Government I want to reiterate and to underline the very well known point of view of my Government that this continuing process of strengthening policies and actions aimed at the overall strengthening of the system is very important for the

healthy growth and respect of the whole United Nations system, with all nations involved. We feel that we know, and we do agree with what has been said this morning that this is not a fundamentally new issue and what is going on now with this restructuring does not give very many new ideas, but it is very important that all the time it is strengthened and improved.

We know also that FAO in the past and also today has been a partner in many inter-agency programmes and task forces to get together with a number of United Nations agencies. Recently, for instance, just to mention an example, FAO has become the lead agency in the task force for rural development - what we feel is due to FAO to be - but also there have been a number of other common activities with WHO, with WMO, with UNESCO, with UNDP and with the UN Secretariat, and also in individual countries, in individual developing countries in the field, in many field activities, FAO coordinated and worked, cooperated, with other United Nations Agencies, in many cases through UNDP. We trust, therefore, that FAO will contribute positively to the discussion that is going on regarding the role of the single official of the United Nations in his relations with the national government, the planning authorities there and with the individual country representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies, so that the Conference consensus resolution of a few years ago of UNDP countries is truly adhered to.

We can easily, therefore, associate ourselves with what has been said on this matter by several delegates before me, especially the delegates from the Federal Republic of Germany and from the United States of America.

We are glad also to have been able to notice that some delegates of developing countries who spoke before me stressed the point that it is in the first place the task of the national government of a developing country to coordinate the input of lateral and multi-lateral aid with its own development plans, but this does not mean that there is no need for internal coordination within the United Nations development aid system input.

On the other side we do also support the view expressed by the Secretariat that it is FAO's first major task to play a leading role insofar as agricultural and food development aid is concerned. In many cases, in fruitful cooperation with other United Nations and other development agencies, we hope very much that this will be possible in a good atmosphere of mutual trust and respect for each other's responsibilities and capabilities.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the list of speakers on this particular sub-item, and we have two more sub-items in this particular section, that is, (a) and (b), and I will ask Mr. Yriart to introduce the two together, because members seem to be better organized now and both items are straight forward and will not involve a very complicated debate.

Mr. Yriart will introduce 21.1(b), Developments with regard to UNDP and WFC which is document CL 74/22, and 21.1(c) which is Action Arising Out of the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which is document CL 74/23.

21.1(b) Developments with Regard to UNDP and WFC

21.1(b) Faits nouveaux concernant le PNUD et le CMA

21.1(b) Evolución de la situación respecto al PNUD y el CMA

21.1(c) Action arising out of the Conference, on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries - Buenos Aires, August/September 1978

21.1(c) Suite à donner à la Conférence sur la coopération technique entre les pays en développement - Buenos Aires, août/septembre 1978

21.1(c) Medidas dimanantes de la Conferencia sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo - Buenos Aires, agosto/septiembre 1978.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): The Programme Committee has dealt extensively with the subject of relations with UNDP, and paragraphs 1.21 to 1.29 in the Committee's Report now before the Council give relevant information. I shall therefore now just highlight a few of the most important issues. There are certain specific issues regarding our work with UNDP which have been dealt with as separate items on the Council agenda, such as support costs, the Joint Inspection Unit Report on the use of experts and the Joint Inspection Unit Report on backstopping of field operations.

As regards the UNDP's overall resources situation, we have been informed that the recently held UNDP pledging conference for 1979 resulted in pledges somewhat exceeding the 14 percent target for annual increases, with the contributions already received for the two preceding operational years, that is to say 1977 and 1978, and with a conservative 12 percent estimate of annual increases in contributions for 1980 and 1981, the situation regarding the whole 5-year cycle 1977-81 now appears to be that the

total UNDP resources will be adequate to sustain the IPF's set up by the Governing Council for the second cycle. However, the effects of the 1975 financial crisis in UNDP are still being felt. As the Council knows, after the crisis all work on programming and pipeline preparation virtually came to a standstill, and over a two-year period, the issuance by UNDP or allocations for new projects remained at a very low level. This year the rate of approval has picked up again and substantial new allocations are being received every month. This change in the trend has, however, come about too late to have a real impact on delivery this year, so that 1978 will be the third consecutive year with a substantial underdelivery against targets not only for FAO but also for the whole UN system. We estimate that we shall end the year with a field expenditure under the UNDP finance programme of somewhat more than \$100 million. As Mr. West mentioned the other day the real estimation is 104, almost 105, an improvement on last year but much less than the record year of 1975 when \$120 million delivery was reached. It has to be borne in mind also that the real value of the delivery is much reduced owing to inflationary price increases, although next year will show a substantial increase in field expenditures. Delays in approval by UNDP of new project budgets will at the same time cause substantial underdelivery compared to targets and resources available in UNDP.

Let me explain, Mr. Chairman. According to information from UNDP the system-wide total delivery target for 1979 is \$624 million, which will require a delivery by FAO of well over \$160 million. To meet such a target, taking into account normal anticipated slippage, FAO ought to have by the end of 1978 approved project budgets for 1979 for an approximate total value of close to \$200 million. However, at the end of October 1978 as much as 25 percent of the total system-wide target for next year apart from carryover from 1978 still had not been allocated by UNDP in the form of approved project budgets to the agencies. FAO has approved project budgets for 1979 for an amount of only \$102 million or 142 million including estimated carryover from 1978.

It does cause us very considerable concern that the share of agriculture also in the UNDP total programme seems to be declining. As is well known, FAO has traditionally executed close to 30 percent of the total UNDP programme. Over the last couple of years there has been a distinct deterioration, the percentage being reduced to around 26 percent. It is the Director-General's conviction that in the years ahead, food and agriculture will represent a key problem as regards development in a large number of developing countries, and through FAO's decentralization policy we are trying to correct the present imbalance in particular by assisting technical ministries in defining viable projects and in bringing to their attention the potentiality for the collaboration of FAO. At its recent session, the Programme Committee reviewed the matter in depth, and its report now before the Council urged that member countries give high priority to agricultural development and food production.

The Council will be interested to know that the question of delivery as well as other problems related to the UNDP operations were recently discussed with Mr. Brown, the new Deputy Administrator of UNDP, who visited FAO Headquarters for consultation with the Director-General and a number of officers concerned with field operations. Altogether we are very happy to report that the exchanges of the kind we had with Mr. Brown are proving extremely useful in resolving problems which at times may have posed obstacles to smooth collaboration at the policy and operational levels between the two organizations.

I am also glad to report that agreement was reached that a series of joint operational reviews region by region should be arranged on a yearly basis as well as policy consultations of the type held with Mr. Brown. The first operational review will be in March next year.

There was another area where UNDP and FAO after long and thorough consultations will now take concrete steps for close collaboration, that is to say in the area of investment follow-up. To strengthen the impact of FAO/UNDP development assistance, a co-sharing arrangement with UNDP will enable the Organization systematically to follow and monitor the preparation and implementation of UNDP-assisted projects with a view to subsequent follow-up investment as appropriate. We have just had UNDP's formal confirmation that \$100 000 to contribute to the financing of 40 man-months of professional services within FAO's Investment Centre has been set aside for the 1979 administrative budget.

Finally, I should mention the follow-up of the restructuring resolution which you have just been dealing with and confirmed that the Inter-Agency Consultative Board has now been absorbed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Under the ACC, a new Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions, CCSQ, has been established with two components, one, CCSQ Programme to deal with programme matters and development issues, the other, CCSQ/Operations to deal with operational questions. This for us in our work in the UNDP Programme will be the similar forum to what was IECD. UNDP's Programme Working Group has been disbanded as a formal group, and inter-agency matters relating to UNDP now continue in a more informal way. Within the next item, 21.1(b), as you stated, Mr. Chairman, there is also the question of relations with the World Food Council, and this is covered by document CL 74/22, and in that report of the

Programme Committee, which is CL 74/5, paragraphs 1.30 and 1.36 refer to relations work with the Council. Mr. Walton, who is responsible, does not feel there is need for a further updating statement on that.

Do you wish me to continue with this TCDC, Mr. Chairman? I warn you I am going to change track.

CHAIRMAN: Let me put it to members, we have heard now the relation of the UNDP to the World Food Council. Would you like, as originally proposed, to take this now - or join the two together, as both the United States delegate and the French delegate wanted to speak on both? Then I ask you to go on, Mr. Yriart.

J.F. YRIART. (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): El documento CL 74/23 a vuestra consideración, informa sobre los resultados de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas de Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo y cita aquellas disposiciones del Plan de Acción adoptadas, llamado Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires, que son de crucial interés para la FAO.

El Plan de Acción adoptado por consenso representa la voluntad de los países en desarrollo de movilizar en mutua ayuda sus recursos, especialmente su experiencia y conocimientos técnicos cada vez mayores. Recoge el compromiso de los países desarrollados de ayudar en este vasto esfuerzo ya que CTPD no ha de excluir la contribución tanto en conocimiento y tecnología como financiera que éstos pueden hacer y que todos los gobiernos de países en desarrollo y desarrollados conceptúan esencial para que prospere la CTPD. Con la misma claridad que el Programa de Acción se detallan los esfuerzos que han de realizarse para fortalecer instituciones nacionales, regionales y subregionales que han de ser base para prestación de asistencia técnica entre los países en desarrollo; también asigna a los organismos internacionales, y muy especialmente, a los del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas un papel catalizador y de apoyo fundamental. Puedo asegurarle, Sr. Presidente y Sres. delegados, que en los mecanismos que se habían establecido para preparar la Conferencia y en la Conferencia misma, el traslado de experiencias que hizo nuestra Organización fue valiosísimo y reconocido como tal, porque como indica el documento a vuestra consideración, en la FAO existe una larga historia de promoción de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, sus proyectos regionales e interregionales. La obra de subcomisiones regionales han sido casos claros de promoción de tal cooperación que han resultado en acciones e instituciones concretas en las que los países en desarrollo aunan sus esfuerzos. La lucha contra las plagas, las pestes y las enfermedades de los animales y de las plantas ha tomado en general forma cooperativa entre los países y ha dado lugar al establecimiento de instituciones intergubernamentales de la lucha y defensa que, a su vez, suelen administrar convenios promovidos por la FAO en los que los gobiernos han asumido compromisos de acción.

Aunque la razón sea de lamentar, desde hace meses han adquirido otra vez notoriedad los organismos regionales y subregionales, creación de la FAO, de lucha contra la langosta que moviliza los esfuerzos de los países en los que la Organización asesora y asiste contribuyendo a la movilización de recursos.

La Resolución 9/77, aprobada por la Conferencia de la FAO en su 19º período de sesiones, dio a la Organización nuevas metas y una conciencia clara sobre la necesidad de orientar la asistencia técnica de manera que en el máximo posible se traduzca, si no totalmente, por lo menos en parte, en acciones de cooperación entre los países miembros.

Este énfasis en la CTPD como instrumento para el desarrollo fue realizado por las deliberaciones en las recientes Conferencias regionales, habiendo el Director General propuesto la inclusión del tema en las cuatro correspondientes a los países en desarrollo.

En el párrafo 12 del documento CL 74/23, se resumen las recomendaciones de las Conferencias regionales a este respecto.

En todas las deliberaciones, ya sea en la Conferencia de Buenos Aires como en el 19º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, como en sus conferencias regionales, ha salido fortalecido el concepto prioritario del Director General apoyado por este Consejo, de trabajar con instituciones nacionales como la forma más eficaz de fortalecer la capacidad técnica de los países, básica a su vez para promover su desarrollo, permitiendo en la práctica el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional.

Nuestro programa de cooperación técnica, a su vez, es un adjunto precioso para la consecución de la política de apoyo a las instituciones nacionales y, por lo tanto, como lo observó una de las conferencias regionales, su acción apoya la CTPD.

Nuestro Comité del Programa también examinó esta utilidad del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, favoreciéndola, en caso que no comprometiera una de sus condiciones esenciales, que es la rapidez y brevedad de los proyectos.

Creo de interés llamar vuestra atención a la intención del Director General referida en el párrafo 14 del documento en consideración a orientar el próximo Programa de Labores y Presupuesto concentrando

las actividades de la Organización más intensamente en ayudar a los países miembros a mejorar e intensificar la capacidad de atender con sus propios medios las necesidades básicas de sus poblaciones, reconociendo especialmente aquellas susceptibles de ofrecer un mayor apoyo y mejor calidad a la CTPD, como señala el documento CL 74/23, la información sobre instituciones nacionales y su capacidad técnica será esencial para la promoción del CTPD; las oficinas regionales y los representantes de la FAO están llamados a jugar un papel de gran importancia en esta materia y en general en el vasto ejercicio que será la identificación de capacidades nacionales en los países en desarrollo para asistir a la solución de problemas, la transferencia de conocimientos y fortalecimiento de instituciones en otros países también en desarrollo.

El Director General conceptúa que las políticas y procedimientos de la FAO, así como su organización son adecuados para responder al desafío que ha lanzado la Conferencia de Buenos Aires en cuanto al apoyo que los países en desarrollo esperan para el CTPD de las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Los programas operativos de la FAO tienen la capacidad para dar un apoyo cada vez más eficaz a los países, aumentando las posibilidades de ello de ser activos participantes en la CTPD. En tal sentido no podemos sino hacer resaltar con satisfacción el hecho de que todos los gobiernos representados en la Conferencia de Buenos Aires de países desarrollados y de países en desarrollo se han unido en la constatación citada en el párrafo 60 (a) del Plan de Acción de que los países desarrollados deben dar su pleno apoyo a las iniciativas de la CTPD aumentando sus aportaciones voluntarias a los programas operacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, a fin de que se pueda dedicar un porcentaje mayor de los fondos de la cooperación técnica al respaldo de la CTPD. Estas contribuciones adicionales a los programas operacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas serán de fundamental importancia en cuanto, como lo informó el Director General al inaugurar esta sesión del Consejo, de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires no resultaron aportes nuevos específicamente para la CTPD.

Finalmente quiero llamar vuestra atención sobre el párrafo 16, párrafo final de nuestro documento.

El Director General agradecería que los distinguidos señores representantes expresaran sus puntos de vista como lo ha solicitado la Resolución 9/77 de la Conferencia en su 19º período de sesiones, en su párrafo 4 (a) sobre la conveniencia de celebrar una reunión intergubernamental para hacer el inventario de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en los sectores de la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca, examinar la función que la FAO puede desempeñar ayudando a los países en desarrollo a aplicar dicha recomendación.

En realidad, entendemos que por el momento la organización de una reunión intergubernamental, que siempre será costosa y requerirá tiempo y recursos para prepararla, poco agregará en materia de participación de los gobiernos miembros en la orientación de nuestras acciones hacia la CTPD. Las muy recientes deliberaciones de las Conferencias Regionales analizaron exhaustivamente las posibilidades del proyecto CTPD en aquellos temas de especial interés para cada región.

La consulta técnica sobre cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo sobre alimentación y agricultura, que tendrá lugar en nuestra Sede del 25 de junio al 6 de julio del año próximo también facilitará la ejecución de alguna recomendación contenida en el plan de acción de Buenos Aires. Será más fácil aplicar soluciones técnicas CTPD e identificar soluciones CTPD, preparar, ejecutar proyectos CTPD cuando las áreas para la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo en materia de alimentación y agricultura sean claramente definidas y acordadas entre los países interesados, lo que esperamos sucederá en la reunión del año próximo.

Igualmente pensamos que en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en su programa de acción se recomendará a los gobiernos claras acciones dentro del concepto de CTPD. Por otra parte, cuando fuere necesario, el Director General no vacilará en proponer temas relativos al CTPD para su inclusión en los temarios de los órganos rectores de la FAO o de sus comités técnicos o conferencias especializadas cada vez que ello sea así requerido.

CHAIRMAN: Before we start our debate on these two sub-items, I would like to tell you that we have with us here Mr. Maurice Williams, the Executive Director of the World Food Council. You will remember at the beginning of our meeting, our session, we were addressed by the Chairman of the World Food Council, Dr. Tanco, and I am glad to give the floor to Mr. Williams to address us before we continue our debate.

M.J. WILLIAMS (World Food Council): Mr. Chairman, Deputy Director-General, distinguished delegates: As you know, I have "only recently taken up my responsibilities as Deputy Director of the World Food Council, but I am pleased to have this first opportunity to appear before the FAO Council. I will be brief.

On 20 October I presented to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly the Report of the Fourth Ministerial Session of the World Food Council. I am glad to inform you that this Report and recommendations of the Mexico Declaration were well received. During the debate governments expressed their support of the recommendations and confirmed the role of the World Food Council within the international community.

The Report, which has already been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council last July, is now in the process of being adopted by the General Assembly. The implications of the recommendations of the Mexico Declaration in support of the FAO's activities have been presented in the document before you. I urge your endorsement.

The date of the next Ministerial Session of the World Food Council has been set with the Canadian Government for 4-7 September 1979 in Ottawa. As this will mark the mid-decade since the World Food Conference adopted its resolutions in 1974 I have asked governments and international agencies to assist in preparing programmes and projects and in indicating the prospects of achieving the implementation of these resolutions.

World Food Council President Tanco has informed you of the major undertakings for the forthcoming session. It is not necessary for me to say more at this time.

Let me conclude by assuring you of our full cooperation with FAO, working together as a team supporting FAO in its central role of assisting all governments in our common role to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and to achieve the New International Economic Order.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Williams. We are very pleased that you have found the time to come and address us. I am sure that the FAO Council will cooperate with your own Council, as you cooperate with the Secretariat as well.

Now we will take these two sub-items together, so delegates can speak on both sub-items and then Mr. Yriart can reply if that is necessary.

C. BATAULT (France): Comme je vous l'ai dit, je vais être extrêmement bref afin de ne pas prendre trop de notre temps qui est précieux, et je vais parler en style un peu télégraphique.

En ce qui concerne les relations avec le PNUD, je voudrais simplement rappeler qu'un groupe de travail intergouvernemental institué au sein du PNUD s'est réuni en janvier puis en juin dernier pour traiter de cette question et en particulier pour examiner un rapport du corps commun d'inspection qui fait des propositions nouvelles. En gros, le corps commun d'inspection propose de fixer le montant des frais généraux au coup par coup en tenant compte des dépenses réelles. Ce système paraît plus juste mais il serait difficile et long à appliquer. Pour le moment, la question n'est pas réglée puisque les membres du Conseil d'administration du PNUD estiment que le pourcentage actuel de 14 pour cent est trop élevé alors que les institutions spécialisées - pas seulement la FAO - déclarent qu'il ne couvre pas les frais réels qui s'établiraient à 35 pour cent. Il me semble que ce n'est pas dans cette enceinte que nous pourrions régler cette question. Nous estimons pour notre part que, pour le moment, il faut laisser au groupe de travail ad hoc au sein du PNUD le soin de trouver une solution convenable à ce problème. Nous espérons que cette solution sera équitable et ne lésera pas les institutions spécialisées.

En ce qui concerne les relations avec le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, il me semble qu'il convient de souligner la dissolution du CPAI, dont nous nous félicitons, car nous sommes résolument opposés par principe à la prolifération des institutions des Nations Unies. Cette dissolution donne au CMA le rôle de coordinateur des activités de l'ex-CPAI. Nous pensons en particulier qu'il devra s'assurer que les plans nationaux alimentaires qui étaient en cours d'élaboration seront menés à leur terme et demander aux institutions spécialisées telles que la FAO de fournir l'assistance technique nécessaire aux pays en voie de développement qui désirent mettre sur pied des stratégies nationales d'investissements destinées à promouvoir la production alimentaire.

Pour le reste, avec l'excellent exposé qui vient de nous être fait et avec le document du Secrétariat que nous avons sous les yeux, en ce qui me concerne je suis parfaitement éclairé et je n'ai pas d'autres commentaires à faire. Je vous remercie beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, et je remercie M. Williams.

CHAIRMAN: Before we continue with our speakers, we have a representative of UNDP with us and as he is going to help our discussion I would like to give him the floor now.

A.B. HARLAND (United Nations Development Programme): I am speaking on behalf of the Administrator as well as the Executive Director of UNICEF. In the interests of time I am abbreviating the text of my statement. This Assembly is the first major departmental meeting following the highly successful pledging conference of UNDP which was held in New York in November. Governments of both developed and developing countries responded at an overwhelming and unprecedented level in their pledges to UNDP in the next year in the total amount of \$682 million, which represents a 16 percent increase in contributions. A sum of \$3 million was pledged by one government for the Post-Harvest Food Losses to be made available through UNDP to FAO for programmes and projects in this field. Upon receipt of this money it will be transferred to FAO with the understanding that FAO reports directly on its use. This substantial increase in contributions is a welcome vote of confidence in the United Nations development system and its programmes in Third World countries which are carried out in cooperation with FAO and the other specialized agencies. It also comes at a time when the United Nations system is mobilizing its efforts for a massive attack on global problems affecting the welfare of people in the developing countries through the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

Increasing agricultural and food production in the developing countries has the highest priority, and likewise it is accorded top priority in the planning and programming of the Administrator and the Executive Director of UNICEF. Both organizations look to the Director-General and his staff to provide the intellectual leadership, guidance and advice so important to governments in this critical area of economic cooperation.

I would like briefly to comment on what this means for the role and activities of UNDP. The General Assembly Resolution calls for the UNDP Country Programme to be the frame of reference on planning programmes of technical cooperation. As a result of the attention accorded by the Governing Council and other bodies, including the Joint Inspection Unit, to the process of country programming, we are proposing to discuss at an interagency meeting later this month an outline for a study on country programming process both as regards past experience and future direction. The purpose of this analysis would be to improve the collaboration with agencies in programming of UNDP resources at the country level. More important still, it would introduce greater flexibility into the country programming process in order to respond to the difficult challenges likely to be faced in the 1980's on the evolving nature of technical cooperation. It is hoped that this study will also be of use to the ACC in how best to apply the requirements of paragraph 33 on restructuring. For FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations systems the designation of a single official in the country is likely to have an important impact on the Joint Programme and on the agencies' programmes of technical cooperation, including FAO, with UNDP resources. I might add that on this joint programming, some progress has already been made with UNICEF, WHO and World Food Programme.

I would like to refer to the interagency task force at UNDP headquarters, which has been providing valuable assistance to improving the consultation process between UNDP and agencies. In March 1978 the executive heads agreed to extend the task force for a further experimental period of one year. The Director-General indicated that FAO would participate in the meetings of the task force when matters of interest to the Organization are to be discussed. The Administrator welcomes this decision of the Director-General and looks forward to the future participation of his representative in meetings of the task force when matters of specific interest to FAO are to be discussed. The task force has been working closely with UNDP in developing the terms of reference for the study on country programming, working to improve the cooperation with agencies and regional commissions on programming regional and inter-regional IPS. It has also assisted in preparing a two-year joint UNDP/agency programme of evaluation. In this respect I must refer to the excellent progress with FAO in collaborating with UNDP in the evaluation of agriculture training. In this evaluation FAO is carrying out a unique experiment in utilizing national institutions in the country concerned to carry out the evaluation studies. We will work closely with FAO to ensure that there is adequate feedback of the evaluation studies of planners and development specialists at the country level.

We are also collaborating with FAO in programme development leading to the improvement of the role of women in development. FAO was the first of the specialized agencies to issue guidelines on increasing the participation of women in development. The Governing Council has called upon the Administrator to make an assessment of the measures that the UNDP and agencies have already taken and to use the results to report to the Council in June as well as the World Food Conference on the participation of women in development in March 1979.

The Governing Council attaches great importance to investment follow-up and has called upon UNDP to strengthen its activities in this direction. In spite of the fact that pre-investment is looked upon as one of the principal responsibilities of UNDP, reports from field officers during the last two years have indicated that only 10% of UNDP financed projects are investment-oriented. Discussions have therefore been taking place with FAO to find proper ways and means to strengthen the resources of the FAO Investment Centre to enable it to provide the necessary back-stopping to facilitate investment in a carefully selected group of UNDP-financed

projects.

As the proposals have been further elaborated and some experience gained, it is anticipated that similar arrangements can be explored with other agencies. I am pleased to be able to announce that the Administrator has agreed to make available the amount of \$100 000 from the Programme Reserve, on the understanding that a similar amount is provided by FAO to the Investment Centre.

Increased use of national experts in project implementation and government execution of UNDP-supported projects continues to preoccupy the attention of the Administrator, The Governing Council at its Twenty-fifth Session reconfirmed Governments' responsibility for the overall management of projects and directed UNDP and the Organizations of the United Nations system to ensure an approach consistent with the effective exercise of this prerogative. Guidelines were issued in March containing some broad criteria but this document dealt with the appointment of national project coordinators and UNDP financing of professional project staff, Progress regarding increased reliance on national capabilities has fallen short of expectations.

At the Inter-Agency meeting in December it is proposed to re-assess with agencies the United Nations system's policies and actions towards the promotion of greater self-reliance on national capabilities. At the same time it is proposed to discuss a draft document which has been prepared on government execution of UNDP-supported projects. The UNDP would prefer at this stage of breaking new ground to leave more room for experimentation rather than burdening governments from the outset with seemingly cumbersome procedural requirements which may discourage initiatives with governments execution of projects. UNDP and UNICEF are following with interest the resolution FAO is making for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the recently completed detailed study on rural development by UNDP will be made available to the Secretariat.

We have read with interest the conclusions of the evaluation which was carried out in the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme and are pleased to note the close and constructive collaboration which has been established with UNDP Resident Representatives.

In conclusion, I should like to reassure the Council that the United Nations Volunteers are very alive to the important role Volunteers can play in agricultural and rural development projects, and that the Coordinator is more than ready to collaborate with FAO in increasing the viability of UNDP including mobilization of domestic volunteers and youth programmes.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your useful contribution. I am sure Members will bear in mind the things you have just said.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I think I might have been able to fold my remarks a little bit more quickly into the discussion of restructuring to which the relationship with UNDP relates considerably. The United Nations family, as is the case in many personal relationships, has its trials and tribulations. While harmony is often to be found in the intricate work of inter-agency contacts, the friction that occurs cannot escape us, and it is the earnest wish of my Government that closer cooperation will prevail within the FAO and other agencies, particularly UNDP, in particular the Inter-Agency Task Force at UNDP and the central procurement scheme for the purchase of common use items which UNDP has developed in cooperation with the Specialized Agencies. Issues emanating out of the restructuring exercise are, in our view, of particularly great importance.

If I may also address the issue of IFAD, which is not listed but comes under the general topic of inter-agency relations, I would like to emphasize the great importance we see for IFAD of the role which FAO can play by helping field teams of experts to formulate projects and otherwise providing the technical assistance elements of such projects. As perhaps some of my colleagues in the Programme Committee are aware, I made a point in that forum and I would like to mention it again today: think it is particularly important, as IFAD is considering forms of funding of technical assistance, and considering the types of technical assistance it might wish to fund, that the two organizations remain in particularly close contact in that area to be mutually supportive and avoid any duplication.

The United States regards FAO as the lead agency in matters pertaining to food and agriculture on efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, but both UNDP and IFAD's resources would strongly reinforce these efforts.

With regard to the World Food Council, we view it as the highest political body of the United Nations for assessing and coordinating policies and programmes concerned with efforts by the International Community to overcome hunger and malnutrition, and for calling attention of governments to the most pressing problems in that area. This is why we are particularly pleased to take note in this Council that Mr. Maurice Williams, whom we regard as a highly qualified and experienced diplomat in the development field, is heading its efforts and is, as we know, very certainly here playing a very important role in the very successfully developing relations between the World Food Council and FAO.

J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): I should like to limit my comments to the relationship between FAO and the World Food Council. Since we are members of both the FAO Council and the World Food Council, we are particularly keen that there should be close cooperation between the two bodies. We therefore agree with paragraph 7 of document CL 74/22 that the World Food Council report on agricultural inputs to be submitted to its Fifth Session should not duplicate the work of FAO and should, in particular, take into account the study of agricultural input requirements made as part of Agriculture Towards 2000. We can also agree with paragraph 8 in the document that FAO should be responsible for any reports on fisheries that may be required by the World Food Council.

At the World Food Council meeting in Mexico this year it was decided that the work expected to be done by the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment should now be handled by the World Bank, FAO, UNDP and IFAD. This work includes analysis of internal resource allocations for agriculture. We note that FAO is taking urgent action to improve the serious lack of information on domestic investment in agriculture in developing countries and we hope that FAO will work closely with other bodies to monitor the flow of external resources for food production.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Quiero agradecer, en primer lugar, al señor Yriart la introducción de los temas 21.1(b) y 1(c) que ha hecho con su natural capacidad y con su extraordinaria amplitud. El participo especialmente representando a la FAO en la Conferencia de Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, y por lo tanto valoro muy especialmente sus comentarios y yo remitiré los míos exclusivamente al documento CL 74/23.

Celebro también que el señor Yriart haya recordado la larga experiencia de la FAO en la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y la tarea de pionero realizada por nuestra Organización y confiamos que ahora con un instrumento amplio y un mandato preciso, se puedan identificar nuevos campos de acción en la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Las recomendaciones emanadas en la reciente Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo por su trascendencia han señalado una nueva dimensión en todas las actividades de asistencia técnica dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y deberán servir de claro marco de referencia a la futura acción de la Organización,

Desde ya, existe una toma de conciencia por parte de los países en desarrollo en procurar aunar esfuerzos en la lucha por su progreso y el mejoramiento del nivel de vida de sus pueblos.

El deseo de compartir experiencias en países que tienen los mismos problemas y las mismas esperanzas, ha hecho que se concretara esta vieja aspiración. Se trata en esencia, de canalizar experiencias y recursos a nivel horizontal en los casos en que puede contarse con posibilidades claras y promisorias de resolver y encarar situaciones de necesidad. De este modo, también se procede a una racionalización de las actividades de asistencia, orientando aquellas que no pueden ser proporcionadas por los mismos países en desarrollo hacia las fuentes tradicionales, sin que ello implique, como lamentablemente ha ocurrido en el pasado, excluir la participación de países en desarrollo en la prestación de asistencia técnica.

Si seguimos atentamente la evolución de los pueblos desde los albores de la civilización y de la historia vemos que, en general, cada uno de ellos ha dejado algo a la posteridad y se ha caracterizado por capitalizar ciertas cualidades, habilidades y realizaciones. Pues de esto se trata; de identificar, en este caso dentro del campo de la producción de alimentos, la agricultura, la pesca, la tecnología de la tierra, campos o sectores en donde la experiencia y capacidad de los países en desarrollo puede ser utilizada por otros.

Celebramos de manera muy especial el párrafo 1 de nuestro documento en el cual se señalan los objetivos principales y las recomendaciones del plan de acción. En el párrafo 7, se describen los aspectos financieros y sería deseable que los países desarrollados y el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

para el desarrollo apoyen financieramente las actividades de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. En las Recomendaciones 32 y 33 de la Declaración de Buenos Aires, están transcritas en el párrafo 4 con los números 56 y 57 y describen la tarea a realizar por las agencias de las Naciones Unidas y que nos sirven de guía.

Por último y como corolario de una posición general que ha sido ampliamente compartida en Buenos Aires, sobre la necesidad de que los Organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas sean los instrumentos válidos de aplicación de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, mi delegación tiene el honor de proponer lo siguiente:

Primero, la inclusión de manera permanente en el temario del Consejo del tema de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en las reuniones regulares de este foro.

Segundo, proponer la constitución de un Comité permanente para el tratamiento específico de las actividades de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el marco del Consejo y conforme al artículo 6 de la Constitución. Entendemos que este procedimiento permitirá un seguimiento ordenado y sistemático del tema y cumpliría en una primera fase, los objetivos de la descentralización del tema acordada en las agendas específicas, de acuerdo con lo convenido oportunamente en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas. Por ello, compartiendo el criterio que fue explicado por el señor Yriart con respecto al párrafo 16 sobre las grandes erogaciones que significarían la convocatoria a una Conferencia intergubernamental que evaluara las conclusiones de Buenos Aires, por ahora mi delegación se limita a subscribir y sostener las dos propuestas que acabo de formular que dentro del marco adecuado de la FAO, podrían resultar un instrumento idóneo para la continuación del tema en el futuro.

E. LIPPONEN (Finland): My comments relate to item 21.1(c).

Before commenting on the role of FAO on technical cooperation in developing countries, permit me first to say a few words on the Buenos Aires Conference and on the concept of TCDC in general. I am doing this with a special satisfaction as we know this Conference in Buenos Aires about three months ago was undoubtedly a successful one and constitutes, in the view of my delegation, a major contribution to strengthening individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries. The fact that the Buenos Aires Conference was able to adopt that consensus and without reservation an extensive plan of actions for promoting the TCDC, must be regarded as a positive impact on the international dialogue concerning development issues as a whole.

Finland has consistently supported the concept of TCDC as a new important dimension of international technical cooperation and as an essential element of a new international economic order, ever since the subject was approached under systematic consideration in various United Nations fora. Finland also participated actively in the preparation for this important meeting, as well as in the Conference. This has been done with the understanding that the developing countries themselves must play a decisive role in TCDC but their efforts have to be supported by the developed countries and by the United Nations development system. The TCDC process which led to the Buenos Aires Conference and the production of a final document, has now moved to the implementation. The provisions of the TCDC plan of action are now carefully discussed and implemented by the developing countries as well as by various international organizations. I feel that we are carrying out a very important part of this work here now. My delegation believes that technical cooperation among developing countries offers benefits and new opportunities, particularly in areas where the limitations of traditional technical cooperation have been most evidenced, that is to say on the grass-roots level, in rural development and in the fulfilment of the basic needs of food education, health and employment. For this reason, my delegation attaches particular importance to the work of FAO in promoting TCDC and to our discussion on this subject in this body.

In this connexion I would like to take the opportunity to express the gratitude of my delegation to the Director-General and his staff for work well done, for ensuring FAO's full participation in the preparations of the Conference and in the conceptual elaboration of the TCDC, which evidently has helped us to clarify our debate on the subject.

Without going into details of the role of FAO in implementation of the plan of action, I would like to make some general observations in this respect. It is known that FAO has undertaken already a number of measures directed to the objectives of TCDC, as stated in the Secretariate background document CL 74/23. Many of the activities proposed in that plan of action for attention in the United Nations development system, already have received careful attention within FAO. This forms a good starting point for the future reorientation of FAO's policies and procedures to better response to the principles of the TCDC.

These activities should be continued and deeper in the light of the recommendations adopted in Buenos Aires. As envisaged also in the aforementioned document before us, special emphasis should be put on an improvement in the exchange of information relating to the TCDC in the agricultural fields on the role of regional offices and FAO representatives in promoting the TCDC.

My delegation also welcomes action by the Director-General to ensure that in the preparations of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980/81 special attention will be given to activities supporting and promoting the TCDC. My delegation will follow this work with a great interest and will be ready to consider the outcome of these measures with a positive attitude.

While speaking of technical cooperation policies in favour of the TCDC, I would further like to say a few words of ensuring effectiveness and quality of technical cooperation.

Finland has already stated in other international fora, also in Buenos Aires last September, that TCDC should imply a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the flow of technical resources to developing countries, and in the view of the delegation of Finland, this is a very essential improvement of the TCDC. The developing needs of each individual country as well as the quality and effectiveness of development inputs should be the primary consideration in determining technical resources for cooperation. In this light, the origin of the input is after all a secondary factor. My delegation has noted with satisfaction that these ideas are shared in paragraph 10 of the document submitted to us by the Secretariat.

My delegation is also pleased to note the plea of the Director-General that for reviewing and implementing TCDC policies the present internal arrangements within FAO are satisfactory and require no immediate change. Finland has seen TCDC as a method of work, a policy which should permeate all activities and organizations of the international development system. For this reasoning we have preferred, with certain reservations, the permanent secretarial arrangements within the United Nations organization for TCDC purposes.

Finally, I wish to underline the importance my delegation attaches to the fact that for implementing the Buenos Aires plan of action, the FAO will work in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations development system, particularly with UNDP, which according to the decisions of the Conference has a special coordinating responsibility in promoting TCDC. It is encouraging to see that this is also referred to in the Secretariat background document.

RAMADHAR (India): At the outset I would like to compliment Mr. Yriart for his excellent introduction of the item 21.1(c) to which I would like to confine myself, again arising out of the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

The Conference Resolution 9/77 had asked the Director-General to ensure full participation in the preparation of the Conference and to prepare a comprehensive document examining the state of technical cooperation among developing countries in the field of food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. The Director-General was also requested to consult Member Nations with a view to holding an inter-governmental meeting to take stock of the decisions of the Conference. He was asked to take certain actions about the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1980/81, appropriate adjustments in the policies, procedures and programme of the Organization, and to increase the awareness of the importance of the TCDC within the Organization.

Document CL 74/23, which is a very good document, has to be examined in this background. At this stage my delegation would like to compliment the Director-General for the initial response of the Organization, which he has spelled out in this document to the Buenos Aires plan of action.

As we all know, the Buenos Aires plan of action contains 38 recommendations, outlining actions at the national level, sub-regional and regional levels, inter-regional levels and global level. The activities to be undertaken by the Organization of the United Nations developing system in their respective fields have been outlined in recommendation 32, paragraph 56 of the United Nations document A/CONF/79/39. So far as these recommendations are concerned, there could be no disagreement. Our apprehension, however, is that these recommendations might remain as pious hopes, like so many other earlier recommendations of other international bodies and might not result in any concrete action. We have been talking about the TCDC for the last couple of years, not only in this forum but practically in all concerned international fora. I might, however, point out that in spite of all our professions, the concept of TCDC is yet to permeate all the organizations of the United Nations, including its specialized agencies.

We have all been talking about the use of national institutions, experts, equipments from the developing countries, but what has really come out of the United Nations organization so far? I will single out only two, the UNDP and the FAO. I am talking about the UNDP for two reasons, because the UNDP had the Secretariat for the Conference and has been assigned the covering role for the TCDC. If we take the record of UNDP projects during the first programming cycle for 1972 to 1976, the proportion of experts and consultants serving in the field who were recruited from the developing countries was merely 25 per cent of the total. The share of equipments ordered from developing countries has been about 11 per cent. As a matter of fact there was a deep line from 12.4 per cent in 1975 to 8.1 per cent in 1976. The same is true of the contracts awarded to the organizations and institutions of the developing countries. Their share has ranged from 3.9 to 8.1 per cent. I would not like to take the time of this body any further by quoting these figures, but one could go on substantiating the arguments by such figures to show that the concern for TCDC has yet to manifest itself in concrete action.

So far as FAO is concerned, I have not been able to lay my hands on any exact figures on the use of developing country inputs, except that there is a mention in paragraph 4.48 of the Review of Field Programmes in 1976/77 that the progress in this year has been slower. I hope than in the next review of field programmes this clear break-up will be given by FAO.

We do realise our responsibility in promoting TCDC. TCDC has to be based on the strict observance of national sovereignty, economic independence, equal rights and non-interference in domestic affairs of nations, irrespective of their size, level of development and social and economic systems.

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action has recommended a number of activities to be taken up at the national level to promote TCDC. These activities are meant to increase the awareness in each developing country of its own capabilities, skills and experiences and of those available in other developing countries, to establish and strengthen the necessary supportive arrangements - institutions, information, human and other resources - on which TCDC must be firmly based. We are aware that such action would clearly be the responsibility of each developing country but the United Nations system as a whole and this Organization in particular has to extend its fullest support to the Member Governments in achieving these objectives.

My delegation shares the conclusion in paragraph 11 of document CL 74/23 that the major hurdle in the way of promoting TCDC has been the lack of information about technical capabilities which individual developing countries can share with others. This is an area in which FAO can play a major role. There is no mechanism within FAO for the systematic dissemination of whatever information has been made available with the respective units among the interested countries and institutions and for continuous updating and expansion of data. This, my delegation feels, is overdue in this Organization and should be taken up on a priority basis.

There is a great potential for TCDC in agriculture. There are a number of fields in agriculture where FAO can play a major role in promoting this concept. I would not like to take the time of this Council in enumerating them, but in paragraph 4.46 of the Review of Field Programmes 1976/77, document G 77/4, 17 specific fields were indicated which in the opinion of my delegation firmly show the basis of further concrete action by FAO. These fields may not be exhaustive but they are indicative of the areas which can be attended to on a priority basis. We believe that these activities will lead to the use and strengthening of national institutions, promotion of national reserves and training centres with multilateral scope, strengthening of mutual contacts and communications by exchanging experience. FAO can also assist the member countries on request in the establishment and strengthening of national information systems as contained in recommendation 4 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action is a good document. My delegation would, however, like to express our dismay on a very crucial aspect and that is the financial arrangements for TCDC. Recommendation 38 of the Plan of Action is couched in very glossy phraseology but if you scrutinize it there is nothing substantial in it. Does it really add to the resources already available for TCDC? The answer is obviously in the negative. The size of the cake is fixed; it does not increase if you earmark a part of national or regional IPF for TCDC. The United Nations Development system has been asked to explore additional financing of TCDC. Developed countries have been requested to provide on a voluntary basis additional financial support for TCDC projects and activities. An increase in development assistance has been recommended on a predictable, assured and continuous basis. Such recommendations are not new; they have been made by other international conferences for other purposes. These recommendations in themselves do not add anything to what is already available.

In this background we welcome the assurance of the Director-General of FAO in paragraph 14 of document CL 74/23 that in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 he will give special recognition to the activities which promise a better degree of and stronger support for TCDC.

In conclusion, I would like to support the statement given by Argentina that the TCDC should be kept continuously as an item in the deliberations of the Council.

J. CHAMI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Nous tenons à dire ici combien nous sommes satisfaits de la nomination de M. Williams en tant que Directeur exécutif du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Il n'est pas nécessaire de le présenter, ni d'énumérer toutes ses qualités, car tout le monde connaît bien le travail excellent qu'il a fourni dans le Programme de développement. Maintenant dans sa nomination au Conseil de l'alimentation, nous trouvons un élément important pour arriver à une coopération plus étroite entre le Conseil et d'autres pays qui peuvent donner une assistance quant à ce travail.

Nous nous félicitons aussi d'avoir un nouveau directeur du Conseil en la personne de M. Salahuddin Ahmed et nous tenons à lui dire combien nous sommes heureux de sa nomination, parce que nous l'avons connu en tant que président du Groupe des 77, Représentant permanent de son pays auprès de la FAO. Il a toujours été un membre très actif dans toutes les institutions.

Nous tenons aussi à déclarer que nous sommes très satisfaits de la déclaration de M. Tanco, le président du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, où il a annoncé, il y a quelques jours, que les rapports entre la FAO et le Conseil sont caractérisés par la coopération et la coordination, qu'il n'y a pas de doubles emplois d'activité et d'action, compte tenu du fait que la FAO est considérée comme l'organisme principal du système des Nations Unies et le plus spécialisé dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de la nutrition.

Nous lançons un appel pour qu'il n'y ait pas de conflits de mandats ou de responsabilités. Ici, le Conseil de l'alimentation sera une nouvelle tribune qui contribuera à appuyer les activités de notre Organisation. Ainsi, on pourra améliorer la situation de la nutrition dans les pays en développement. En parlant de coopération, je voudrais mentionner les nouvelles que nous avons lues récemment dans le "New Herald Tribune" à savoir que le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation prépare une conférence qui se tiendra en Italie au mois d'avril prochain et qui traitera des problèmes qui font obstacle à la production agricole. Nous demandons alors dans quelle mesure cette nouvelle est exacte et si cette conférence sera organisée en coopération avec les autres institutions qui s'intéressent à ce domaine. Nous espérons que la FAO et le Conseil de l'alimentation vont coordonner leurs efforts pour que les objectifs de la conférence soient bien réalisés.

Je vais maintenant parler des recommandations de la Conférence de Buenos Aires sur la CTPED. Ces recommandations dans l'ensemble représentent un plan d'action qui devrait être mis en oeuvre par les organismes des Nations Unies en plus des pays intéressés. Nous nous félicitons de toutes ces recommandations mais nous devons mentionner le fait que la FAO a été un pionnier dans ce domaine. Sous la direction de son Directeur général, la FAO a toujours favorisé la coopération entre les pays en développement et les institutions techniques.

La FAO a aussi favorisé les échanges d'informations et d'expériences entre pays en développement et les capacités de l'organisation; ces renseignements seront distribués à tous les Pays membres.

Je voudrais mentionner ici le rôle important que la CTPED pourrait jouer pour financer les projets qui sont de nature à favoriser la coopération technique entre pays en développement et nous aimerions répéter ici que nous appuyons les différentes recommandations des conférences régionales, à savoir que l'on pourrait compter sur la CTPED pour promouvoir les programmes de coopération technique entre ces pays tout particulièrement le soutien que donne la FAO en vue d'une meilleure utilisation des institutions internationales et une meilleure utilisation des fonds à la fois pour ces institutions et pour la CTPED.

Nous espérons que la FAO, dans son programme 1980/81, continuera ses activités pour aider les pays en développement à promouvoir la coopération technique.

Nous constatons que le programme de développement des Nations Unies pourrait jouer un rôle très important pour appuyer les activités de tous ces organismes, pour appuyer la CTPED. Nous estimons par conséquent qu'il pourrait y avoir un secrétariat pour rassembler les données et les renseignements à ce sujet à l'intention des institutions et des pays membres, ces renseignements pouvant être utilisés en vue de l'identification des projets; en tenant compte du texte que la mise en oeuvre de ces projets relèvera des organisations et des pays. Ce rôle est aussi celui du PNUD; par conséquent ce dernier devrait allouer des fonds spéciaux *sj-sx*. projets qui seront utiles pour les gens du monde entier.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Habiendo escuchado la extensa lista de oradores que usted tiene, Sr. Presidente, me voy a permitir ser sumamente breve y centrar mi comentario en el tema 21 (c) Medidas dimanantes de la Conferencia de Cooperación Técnica entre países en Desarrollo. En tal sentido permítame expresar la gratitud de nuestra delegación al Sr. Yriart por la brillante y objetiva introducción al tema que nos efectuara, muy particularmente por recordarnos el papel pionero de la FAO en lo que respecta a la conceptualización, desarrollo y fomento de la CTPD.

Esta exposición del Dr. Yriart a nuestro modo de ver fue complementada por la contenida en el documento 74/23 y consideramos que es el párrafo 11 de este documento en realidad donde se encuentran las acciones que debe emprender la FAO de manera prioritaria para ayudar al fortalecimiento y desarrollo de la CTPD. En tal sentido, es cierto que el principal obstáculo al fomento de esta cooperación sigue siendo el desconocimiento a nivel de los países en desarrollo sobre los medios técnicos que otros países en condiciones similares poseen y que podrán, por tanto, compartir. Y también es cierto que la FAO a través de su larga experiencia ha podido recabar y compilar la mejor información al respecto, pero desgraciadamente no lo ha hecho, del conocimiento nuestro, en forma sistemática. En tal sentido hacemos un llamado para que esta información sea difundida a nivel de los países en desarrollo y consideramos que en tal sentido jugarían un papel muy importante los representantes de la FAO y oficinas regionales de la Organización.

En cuanto a los representantes de la FAO, ellos podrán establecer una mayor cooperación con los sistemas nacionales de planificación de los países en desarrollo a fin de asegurar que contemplemos adecuadamente las posibilidades de utilizar medios técnicos existentes en otros países en desarrollo y que ya han dado pruebas de eficiencia.

Y en cuanto a las oficinas regionales, consideramos que éstas deberían hacer una mayor utilización de los organismos o esquemas subregionales, regionales, de cooperación al objeto de contribuir eficazmente al desarrollo armónico de los proyectos nacionales y regionales.

En lo que respecta a la región latinoamericana, permítame, Sr. Presidente, hablar sobre ella porque es quizá la que mejor conozco, la oficina regional podría hacer buen uso de los esquemas de integración subregionales tales como el Mercado Común Centroamericano y el Pacto Andino, al igual que del sistema económico latinoamericano, que agrupa a todos los países de la región y que sus acciones emprendidas hasta el momento tienden fundamentalmente a desarrollar la cooperación técnica entre nosotros; pero también es cierto que la cooperación técnica no puede ser tan sólo a nivel subregional y regional y por tanto es conveniente que tanto los representantes permanentes de la FAO como las oficinas regionales tengan en cuenta la necesidad de poder fomentar la cooperación interregional.

El Sr. Yriart nos solicitó nuestra opinión sobre la idea contenida en el párrafo 16, pero nos dio la impresión de que voluntaria o involuntariamente nos dio la respuesta al señalar los obstáculos reales y objetivos para la celebración de una reunión intergubernamental destinada a hacer inventario de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires en las áreas de particular interés de la FAO. Nosotros hacemos nuestros esos comentarios, pero al mismo tiempo, por considerar que es importante este inventario y este examen y análisis sistemático de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, apoyamos enfáticamente la propuesta de la distinguida delegación de Argentina en el sentido de que se incluya como tema permanente del Consejo el tratamiento de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Ello podría incluso ayudarnos para que en un futuro cercano adoptemos disposiciones de carácter institucional que consideremos adecuadas.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): De acuerdo con lo que dice el párrafo 17 del documento 74/22 la delegación de Colombia registra con satisfacción el hecho de que el acuerdo entre la FAO y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación estén en acto con mutua aceptación y plena cooperación de las dos partes; se evitará así la duplicación de actividades a que se refiere el párrafo 36 del informe del Comité del Programa.

Damos nuestra cordial bienvenida a los Sres. Morris Williams, nuevo Director Ejecutivo del CMA, así como al Sr. Salahuddin Ahmed, Director Ejecutivo Alterno, compañero y amigo de Bangladesh con quien compartimos muchas actividades de la FAO y por quien sentimos sincera amistad y viva simpatía. A los dos funcionarios deseamos buen éxito.

Nos complace mucho que el ECOSOC haya apoyado la declaración de México y recomendado su aprobación a la Asamblea General. Las recomendaciones 3 y 4 de la Declaración de México, cuyo texto aparece en el Anexo A tiene relación muy directa con la FAO.

La delegación de Colombia considera que es necesario ayudar a los países en desarrollo a elaborar planes básicos para asegurar la alimentación, la adecuada nutrición de sus poblaciones, tal como lo dijimos cuando nos ocupamos del tema sobre nutrición. De allí que no entendamos por qué la FAO se asoció al Banco Mundial, al PNUD y al FIDA para dejar la reserva que se cita en el párrafo 5 del documento sobre la conveniencia de asistir a esos países para elaborar planes de nutrición y alimentación. Dijeron los representantes de esos organismos, y entre éstos la FAO, que en cuanto a "ellos esa recomendación estaba sujeta a la disponibilidad de recursos y a la conformidad con sus respectivos planes de labores".

Esa reserva, por obvia, tal vez era innecesaria; los gobiernos son los mismos en una y otra organización. Si queremos que se realice lo que recomendamos en un organismo internacional es lógico que debemos estar dispuestos a suministrar los recursos y a incluir esas propuestas en los programas de trabajo de la Organización que deba ejecutarlos.

La delegación de Colombia manifiesta su apoyo a la actitud afirmativa del Excmo. Sr. Presidente de México, López Portillo, cuando afirmó que el hambre no debe ser considerada como cuestión que concierne exclusivamente a los hambrientos. Pensamos que el hambre, la malnutrición y todos sus derivados implican un grave problema social que debe preocuparnos a todos.

El nuevo Presidente de Colombia y el Ministro de Agricultura han hecho manifestaciones semejantes a las del distinguido Presidente de México.

Estamos seguros de que este Consejo querrá asociarse a las manifestaciones que ya han hecho el Consejo Mundial y el ECOSOC para reiterar nuestro agradecimiento al Gobierno y al pueblo mexicano por haber acogido en ese hermano país latinoamericano la celebración del cuarto período de sesiones del CMA a nivel ministerial, cuyos resultados todos concebimos como un buen éxito excepcional.

Unas breves palabras sobre el documento 74/23 para decir que seguramente también el Consejo querrá agradecer al Gobierno y al pueblo argentino las facilidades y el apoyo amplio que ofreció ese lindo y agradable país latinoamericano para la celebración de la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia comparte plenamente la serie de medidas que constituyen los objetivos del plan de acción de Buenos Aires.

Igualmente apoyamos con entusiasmo y firmeza las propuestas que ha hecho el colega y amigo de Argentina para que no se olviden los resultados de esa Conferencia y se implementen los mismos.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRETO (Cuba): En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer al Dr. Yriart por la presentación clara y precisa de los documentos que analizamos. Nos referiremos brevemente al tema referente a las medidas dimanantes de la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Como bien se expresa en el plan de acción aprobado en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo celebrada en Buenos Aires en septiembre de 1978, en los últimos años ha aumentado progresivamente la extensión de las relaciones y la colaboración internacionales, así como la interrelación económica entre las naciones a consecuencia de diversos acontecimientos internacionales.

Como ha expuesto nuestro país en otros foros, consideramos que estos aspectos exigen una participación igual y soberana en la conducción de las relaciones internacionales y una distribución equitativa de los beneficios, debiendo ajustarse las actitudes políticas y económicas, así como las instituciones y relaciones a las nuevas situaciones cambiantes.

Nuestra delegación considera que el papel que debe jugar la FAO en apoyo del plan de acción aprobado en la mencionada Conferencia, debe estar encaminado a lograr la solución de los problemas del desarrollo social y económico en el plano nacional e internacional, lo cual exige esfuerzos concentrados tanto de los países en desarrollo como de los países desarrollados a fin de convertir en realidad el nuevo orden económico internacional.

Si bien la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo es considerada como un elemento importante para la promoción del desarrollo en el mundo actual, no debe considerarse un instituto de la cooperación técnica con los países desarrollados. El Consejo de la FAO consideramos que debe pronunciarse por que exhorte a los países en desarrollo a que formen su capacidad para valerse por sus propios medios, orientar el trabajo de la Organización a cooperar con los mismos a fin de que aumenten su capacidad

creadora para encontrar soluciones a los problemas en consonancia con sus propios valores, aspiraciones y necesidades específicas. Debe promover además el intercambio de experiencias, compartiendo y utilizando sus recursos, combinando y desarrollando capacidades complementarias.

La FAO podrá orientar también sus actividades hacia el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de los países en desarrollo para identificar y analizar colectivamente los principales problemas con que tropiezan, así como ayudarlos a formular estrategias necesarias para dirigir sus relaciones económicas internacionales con miras a establecer el nuevo orden económico internacional.

No debe olvidarse el papel que en todos estos aspectos tienen que jugar los países desarrollados en la adopción de medidas y políticas necesarias, particularmente en el aumento de la asistencia al desarrollo para asegurar el adelanto de los países en desarrollo. Considero que la FAO está realizando esfuerzos en los diferentes aspectos de cooperación técnica que se plantean a la Organización. El Consejo debería insistir en el cumplimiento de esos aspectos acordados en la 19ª Conferencia General de la FAO, especialmente en lo que se refiere a movilizar recursos financieros para acelerar la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, facilitar intercambios de experiencias e investigación científica y de su resultado tecnológico y desarrollo de nuevos instrumentos y maquinarias, desarrollar la agricultura y la industria, el almacenamiento y conservación de alimentos para reducir las pérdidas después de las cosechas y crear y aprovechar las oportunidades de capacidad personal a todos los niveles.

Todo lo anterior consideramos deberá estar orientado a incrementar la producción agrícola, pecuaria, forestal y pesquera y mejorar los actuales niveles de nutrición de los países en desarrollo, los cuales no alcanzan actualmente en su inmensa mayoría los niveles nutricionales mínimos requeridos.

Asimismo consideramos que la FAO debería promover una mayor utilización de expertos de países en desarrollo en la consecución de proyectos que soliciten estos países. Ello permitiría a los países receptores recibir expertos vinculados con sus propias necesidades, a la vez que pudieran ofrecer experiencias de otros países en desarrollo con vistas a la búsqueda de soluciones apropiadas. De igual forma un país en desarrollo a la hora de elaborar un proyecto conjuntamente con la FAO, pudiera solicitar la subcontratación de empresas estatales de otros países en desarrollo para la ejecución de algunos de sus componentes, permitiendo la disminución de los costos y un mayor intercambio de experiencias.

Nuestra delegación apoya categóricamente las medidas financieras propuestas por la Secretaría, relativas a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo que aparecen en la página 3 del texto en español del documento CL 74/23, las cuales efectivamente interesan directamente a la FAO.

Asimismo, mi delegación apoya las medidas complementarias por parte de la FAO, especialmente las resumidas en la página 5 del documento que analizamos.

En cuanto al párrafo 16 del documento, nos preocupan los efectos financieros de la celebración de una nueva Conferencia a nivel intergubernamental. Esta preocupación, creo que fue a nuestro entender, analizada también por el señor Yriart en su presentación. Nos parece, sin embargo, muy acertada y apoyamos la propuesta del delegado de Argentina en lo referente a mantener el tema de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo como un tema permanente en la agenda del Consejo de la FAO.

Por último, quisiéramos señalar que en las medidas que deben adoptarse para respaldar las recomendaciones del Plan de Acción para la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo deben tenerse muy en cuenta las actividades y programas decididos por los países en desarrollo contenidos en el programa de acción para cooperación económica adoptado por el Grupo de los 77 en México, entre los cuales están contenidos también el Programa de Acción sobre Cooperación Técnica de los Países no alineados.

CHAIRMAN: It is now 5.30. As the Drafting Committee has a backlog of work I suggest we close now to allow them to meet immediately.

This week has been a hard week, everybody has worked very hard, but in spite of that we have slipped behind in our estimation by one day's work. Next week, the subjects being non-controversial, we may be able to catch up this slippage of time so that delegates can have one or two days in Rome before they go home.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

council

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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/11

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

11ª SESION PLENARIA

(4 December 1978)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV - QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

21. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters: Work of the 34th and 35th Sessions of the Programme Committee, and 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)
21. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration: activités des trente-quatrième et trente-cinquième sessions du Comité du programme et des quarante et unième et quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier (suite)
21. Otros asuntos del programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: Labor del 34^u y 35^o períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 41^o y 42^u períodos "de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)
- 21.1(b) Developments with Regard to UNDP and WFC (continued)
- 21.1(b) Faits nouveaux concernant le PNUD et le CMA (suite)
- 21.1(b) Evolución de la situación respecto al PNUD y el CMA (continuación)
- 21.1(c) Action arising out of the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries - Buenos Aires, August/September 1978 (continued)
- 21.1(c) Suite à donner à la Conférence sur la coopération technique entre les pays en développement - Buenos Aires, août/septembre 1978 (suite)
- 21.1(c) Medidas dimanantes de la Conferencia sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo - Buenos Aires, agosto/septiembre 1978 (continuación)

V. FISER (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic evaluates very positively the conclusions of the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and especially so the adopted Plan of Action and its elaboration into specific tasks. In our opinion, the tasks which will ensue from the Conference conclusions for our Organization will be a significant asset to the economic progress of developing countries especially in their agriculture, the condition of which is still often unsatisfactory.

The Czechoslovak delegation appreciates the effort to transform technological cooperation among developing countries into an instrument for the gradual introduction of a New International Economic Order which is quite in keeping with the conclusions of the Sixth and Seventh Extraordinary Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and other adopted documents.

Czechoslovakia helps the developing countries in their realization on a multilateral and bilateral basis and is ready to help in the development of technical cooperation among developing countries in the sphere of agriculture and nutrition. We are ready further to develop our cooperation with developing countries both on a bilateral and multilateral basis. We would like to state that besides the conventional and established forms of our cooperation we still have extensive and so far not yet fully exploited possibilities of study for young agricultural specialists from developing countries in our agricultural, veterinary, food industry technology and other universities where all the conditions for mastering the given subjects, including language preparation, already exist. We can also offer possibilities of cooperation in joint solving selected research tasks for the need of developing countries and many theoretically prepared papers are already available to some scientific places of work. The same applies to the information sphere where we participate in the publication of the journal FAO/Agrindex.

As already stated in the introduction, the tasks for FAO ensuing from the Buenos Aires Conference are surely going to lead to an intensification of mutual cooperation within both developing countries alone and to greater cooperation of the developing countries with the developed countries, and Czechoslovakia is prepared to materialize its share in the activity.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): For the sake of brevity, I will not make detailed comments on the developments with regard to UNDP, the World Food Conference and IFAD. My delegation feels that the relevant questions pertaining to the relationship of FAO with those organizations have been clearly identified by the Programme Committee. While it should suffice, in our view, for the Council to endorse the observations and conclusions advanced by the Programme Committee, my delegation would like nonetheless to underline its concern for the declining share of the agricultural sector in UNDP-financed activities. Such a declining share is not in our opinion the result of a lack of interest on the part of the recipient countries. The priority of agricultural development within the overall development

efforts of the developing countries would normally have led exactly in the opposite direction. The explanation for the increasing figures both in terms of percentage and absolute amounts could perhaps be found in the difficulty of carrying out project identification and project formulation for the agricultural sector within the rigid arrangements of country programming.

If present trends persist, our Council might well wish to undertake a more in-depth examination of the subject so as to devise appropriate corrective measures. The question is sufficiently important, in our view, since there is usually a direct relationship between the level of principal investment work and bankable projects ready for investment financing. It will be meaningful to press for additional resources for investment if we discover in the process that the absorption capacity has been seriously curtailed.

On the question of TCDC, my remarks will be equally brief. In different fora my government has consistently supported technical cooperation among developing countries. Within the agricultural sector, TCDC would appear to us an even more interesting and appealing proposition, for conditions of climate and soil, not to speak of levels of development would normally suggest that cooperation would be more efficient and fruitful if developed among countries and regions within the same latitudes sharing the same ecological conditions. This is certainly valid for agricultural research and is equally valid for specific development activities in terms of choice of crops, of cultivation methods, of seeds, of equipment, etcetera. My delegation is not at all surprised therefore to see that FAO has in fact pioneered in TCDC activities.

We are happy to register the information provided in document CL 74/23 to the effect that the Director-General will take further measures to orient the work of FAO both under its regular programme and extra-budgetary programmes more strongly in support of TCDC. The preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 provides additional opportunity for an effective utilization of TCDC as an invigorating perspective of practically each Programme and Sub-programme carried out by the Organization.

It is also important that bilateral donors fully realize the benefit that can be derived from their support of TCDC in agricultural development for their financial resources can make viable a new kind of triangular operation of particular significance for increasing full availability in the world. While there is already ample scope for promoting effectively TCDC in the field of agriculture, my delegation would agree with those who observe that the strengthening of national institutions can in many cases well be an essential work condition for TCDC. This is an additional reason for our Council to support the declared intention of the Director-General to ensure that in the biennium 1980-81 FAO activities will be even more strongly focused on assistance to member countries in developing and strengthening their own capabilities.

My delegation would also like to suggest that FAO representatives can play in their countries of responsibilities a very useful and fruitful role in identifying areas of cooperation with other developing countries and in stimulating specific joint ventures within the context of the TCDC. Specific guidelines should in our view be developed if they do not already exist to orient and inspire the work of FAO representatives with regard to TCDC. My delegation would like finally to conclude its remarks by agreeing with the suggestion of Argentina that TCDC become an item for continuous review of FAO Council. Perhaps, I would add, the Programme Committee could give suggestions on the manner this proposal could best be implemented.

I. OZARAI (Hungary): My delegation particularly appreciates Mr. Yriart's introduction which was a great help in having a clearer picture of TCDC. The Plan of Action adopted at the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries strung together some recommendations with which my delegation is in full agreement. To promote each developing country's making better use of her own capabilities and skill is a high-priority objective indeed of all UN agencies and thus of FAO. I would only like to make some practical comments in the impact TCDC may have on FAO's work.

Reading carefully the document before us - CL 74/23 - we were unable to find a direct indication of the increase in identified development investment needs and proposals which will no doubt constitute a strong part of what has been referred to in paragraph 4 as "TCDC solutions or TCDC contributions to solutions for specific development problems". My delegation does not have any hesitation in foreseeing a development investment activity under the TCDC umbrella, which may be supplementing present UN activities without prejudice to existing programmes.

At any rate, and that is the point I would like to make, I wonder whether the setting up of an interdisciplinary working group inside FAO might prove efficient to gather, record and analyse information on would-be investment-oriented projects identified by the various units in FAO, whether they are

bankable or not. The two reports of the Programme Committee submitted to this Session of the Council have mentioned the usefulness of some inter-departmental working groups within FAO. I trust this would be useful all the same. This working group, of course, may not only have an eye on the investments generated under TCDC but may also help in better coordination of development investments in general and may at the same time strengthen the leading role FAO has to play in agricultural and food development.

I have to admit that a reference to the FAO Advisory Committee on Investment so far escaped my attention. I found reference to it in the footnote in CL 74/OD/6, in other words, the Order of the Day, issued this morning. This Committee may very well be what my delegation has in mind.

In concluding, let me say that we are satisfied with the Director-General's approach to TCDC. We ourselves feel that - and I quote - "It is not surprising that most of the activities proposed in the Plan of Action for the attention in the UN Development System already have been receiving careful attention within FAO."

LI CHEN-HLIAN (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): I would like to express our views on the cooperation between countries in the agricultural field. The plan of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires this year reflects the just and reasonable demand of the developing countries. Therefore, the implementation of this plan of action will play a positive role in the promotion of technical cooperation among the developing countries with economic and technical exchange between developed and developing countries, based on equality and mutual benefit and the establishment of a new international economic order.

As a matter of course, it is no easy task to put into effect the correct principles set out in the Plan of Action in various fields. We are glad to know that, with a view to promoting TCDC, FAO has taken a number of steps in its policies and procedures. In other words, the Director-General is preparing to adopt more measures to deal with the problems still in existence. For all this we wish to express our appreciation.

China attaches great importance to TCDC. We have established very good economic and technical cooperation with many developing countries. We hold that the achievements in science and technology are the common property of all mankind, and all countries have their own strongpoints irrespective of their size. They could progress together more speedily through learning from each other.

Over the years we have introduced from the Third World and other friendly countries a number of improved crop varieties, fine grades of domestic animals, and other domestic expertise, some of which have already been applied and extended considerably in China, and through bilateral or multi-lateral channels we have also offered some technology to other developing countries which we think suitable to their circumstances.

In recent years we have also enhanced our technical exchange with developing countries through FAO. We are ready to learn the advanced scientific and technical "know-how" from all countries to further strengthen cooperation in agriculture among developing countries in various ways, and make our share of contribution within our capabilities.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (Mexico): Me permito felicitar, en primer término, al Sr. Yriart por su presentación en los asuntos tan importantes como son la cooperación recíproca entre agencias especializadas del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Realmente su informe nos permitió apreciar la amplia gama de programas en los cuales la FAO está ahora cooperando y cómo lo que en un principio fue un programa auspiciado por el Director General en una forma pequeña y limitada, está cobrando más importancia dentro de las formas de actuación de nuestra Organización.

Asimismo me complace felicitar al Sr. Morris Williams, por su designación como Director Ejecutivo del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, organismo con el cual México ha colaborado expresamente y con quien, además, hemos afianzado nuestra forma de trabajo después de la reunión celebrada en mi país, donde tuvimos el gusto y el honor de recibir a varios de los representantes permanentes de la FAO que son además representantes ante el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, y de atender a nuestros colegas con el afecto y aprecio que México brinda siempre a quienes nos honran con su presencia en eventos de carácter internacional.

A continuación deseo referirme al tema 21.1(b) y respecto a ello hemos escuchado del distinguido representante del PNUD su informe relativo al traslado de los 3 millones de dolares a favor de la FAO para su empleo en programas dirigidos a evitar pérdidas post-cosechas.

Mi delegación desea expresar su complacencia en esta materia por este apoyo ofrecido en asuntos de tanta importancia para los países en desarrollo, y concretamente para mi país resulta sumamente importante porque en países como los nuestros requerimos asistencia técnica que deberá ser recibida por las vías adecuadas que procedan de la FAO o de otras agencias que nos puedan ayudar en esta materia; porque es importantísimo para nosotros calificar técnicos en el manejo de las cosechas y en la preservación de los alimentos, sobre todo de los productos vegetales perecederos y de las frutas. En estos dos renglones es donde México pierde más dinero cada año debido a que no se sabe aprovechar el fruto de las cosechas, no tenemos los elementos necesarios de refrigeración ni las formas adecuadas modernas para el transporte de los elementos de los productos alimenticios y su conservación; entonces, sufrimos anualmente pérdidas por varios millones de pesos al descomponerse estos productos que, de otra forma, podrían ser aprovechados si supiéramos conservarlos adecuadamente.

De la misma manera es muy importante para mi país el requerir la presencia de expertos en el establecimiento de agroindustrias de pequeña y mediana inversión, que se destinen a la producción de productos frutales enlatados. Esto a nivel de comunidades pequeñas donde se podría ayudar a implementar unos programas de establecimiento de agroindustrias que pudieran ser manejadas en forma de trabajo remunerado por las mujeres campesinas que al aceptar los programas de planificación familiar quedaban liberadas del cuidado de la familia por varios años y entonces sería muy conveniente que este ocio, este tiempo libre, con el que van a contar las mujeres campesinas sea ocupado en forma productiva y que les dé a ellas otra imagen de sí mismas que además les permitiría colaborar activamente con dinero en el sostenimiento de su familia.

Es uno de los cuellos de botella con que se ha encontrado el Programa de Control de la Natalidad en las Areas Rurales, el saber en qué se van a ocupar las horas libres de las mujeres que han aceptado participar en este tipo de Programas; así que nosotros debemos duplicar y redoblar todos nuestros esfuerzos, y por ello, estamos muy de acuerdo en que se extiendan los programas de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo porque necesitamos redoblar los esfuerzos para abrir este tipo de industrias pequeñas, de tipo de economía familiar, pero que sean remunerativas, programas en los cuales la FAO también está poniendo un esfuerzo muy importante para aumentar.

De esta manera, consideramos que la cooperación técnica de la FAO que se aumentará gracias al apoyo del PNUD puede ser un inicio de una nueva etapa de ampliación de programas de beneficio a la producción agrícola de pequeña y mediana escala; por esto estamos sumamente complacidos.

Además, por lo que se refiere a la situación entre la FAO y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación nos complace también la colaboración que ha ofrecido el señor Williams ya que esto garantizará un entendimiento mucho mayor, más amplio entre las dos organizaciones cuyas metas y objetivos consideramos que en última instancia son los mismos, o sea, ayudar a mejorar las condiciones de alimentación y nutrición en el mundo.

Pero además de eso, deseo reiterar la colaboración ilimitada de nuestro país a fin de que la Declaración de México sea implementada a la brevedad posible por lo que respecta al tema 21.1(c), me permito reiterar la posición de mi país en el sentido de que México apoya las medidas que favorezcan la CTPD, pero también en mi país deseamos poner énfasis en que la cooperación horizontal entre países en igual nivel de desarrollo es muy conveniente, y que en los acuerdos bilaterales deben de dárseles la misma importancia a aquellos acuerdos que procedan de las organizaciones internacionales hacia las naciones y entre las cuales destacan lógicamente la cooperación técnica que procede de FAO en sus programas de CTPD.

Asimismo, la delegación de México, por mi conducto, opina en el sentido de que debe buscarse la forma para lograr hacer operativa la propuesta del distinguido representante de la Argentina, en el sentido de hacer permanente la búsqueda de conductos que nos lleven a conocer mejor los programas de Cooperación Técnica para el Desarrollo y de que FAO también busque las formas de que la evaluación de sus programas sea más accesible y sea permanente.

N.M. MAPELA (Zaire): Tout d'abord, ma délégation voudrait appuyer la proposition qui a été faite l'autre jour par le délégué de l'Argentine, à savoir, d'une part la nécessité à l'avenir d'inscrire, à l'ordre du jour des sessions de notre Conseil, des questions ayant trait à la coopération technique entre pays en développement; et d'autre part, examiner la possibilité de créer un Comité permanent du Conseil qui serait chargé d'examiner les questions ayant trait à la coopération technique entre pays en développement.

Pour terminer, ma délégation estime que toute modification éventuelle du taux actuel de remboursement à la FAO des frais d'exécution de projets financés par le PNUD, devrait faire l'objet d'une concertation entre les deux institutions.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): With regard to the World Food Council, I would be grateful to the Secretariat if it could give us some additional information about the Director-General's analysis of the implications for FAO of the recommendations of the World Food Council, as set out in the Mexico Declaration.

With regard to Recommendation 2 of the World Food Council I should like to ask whether it can now be stated how the competent organization will identify the shortcomings, difficulties and bottlenecks which they have encountered so far in supporting the efforts of developing countries in the agricultural sector. When and where, we should like to ask, will FAO and the other organizations consider these questions and make their findings known.

Recommendations 3, 4 and 10 of the World Food Council deal with the drawing up and implementation of food and nutrition plans and the continuation of the activities initiated by CGFPI. The Secretariat could perhaps inform us whether measures have already been taken for the implementation of the four plans already available and whether other governments have asked for assistance in developing such plans and strategies.

Let me add two remarks. Recommendation 6 of the World Food Council requests its secretariat to report to the Fifth Session on the supply of developing countries with agricultural inputs. In this respect the Director-General fears duplication with the work of FAO. It should be possible to avoid this danger if the envisaged close cooperation with the competent organizations, in particular with FAO, is realized in the preparation of the report.

With regard to Recommendation 7, I associate myself with the Director-General that the development of fisheries is a subject which also particularly concerns FAO. As in the case of other reports, it can also be assumed here that the World Food Council secretariat will fully invite the cooperation of competent agencies, even though it is not explicitly expressed in the text.

I come now to my second point.

(Continues in Spanish)

En cuanto a la Conferencia del CTPD que mi Gobierno favorece, quisiera agradecer al doctor Yriart por su excelente introducción del tema bajo consideración. El ha señalado, a nuestro juicio en forma muy acertada, las áreas de los sectores agrícolas, ganaderos, pesca y forestal que se prestan para una colaboración mutua más estrecha entre países en vías de desarrollo.

Tal colaboración entre países con las mismas o similares condiciones generales ecológicas y económicas en los sectores de la producción de alimentos es de especial importancia, sea en forma bilateral, a nivel regional o subregional o mundial.

Abrigamos la esperanza de que los resultados de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires contribuyan a fortalecer aun más esta colaboración. Con respecto a la sugerencia de incluir este tema permanentemente en las Agendas de las Sesiones Ordinarias del Consejo, se me ocurre que quizás sea aún más importante de tomar en cuenta la cooperación técnica entre los países en vías de desarrollo y sus vastas posibilidades continuamente en cuenta cuando se discuten los salientes problemas del agro y del desarrollo rural a nivel de las Conferencias Regionales como también en las sesiones de los Comités Competentes para Agricultura, Pesca, Silvicultura, Seguridad Alimenticia, etc.

No en forma aislada sino al enfrentar los problemas técnicos, es ahí donde, a nuestro juicio, a nuestro entender, se abren las perspectivas para el trabajo en común entre los países en vías de desarrollo para una estrecha colaboración en forma práctica.

B. de la KETHULLE de RYHOVE (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, mon propos a trait à la CTPED.

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. Yriart pour la qualité du document qu'il nous a soumis à ce propos.

Le Belgique a participé activement à la Conférence de Buenos Aires sur la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement. Lorsque l'idée en avait été lancée il y a quelques années, mon pays avait déjà soutenu cette option et dans certains projets mon pays avait appliqué ces idées.

Cette coopération s'inscrit dans l'Histoire. Il est en effet logique que la solidarité entre pays en voie de développement se traduise en relations concrètes. Cela peut être très enrichissant. On pourrait qualifier cette coopération de troisième dimension.

Cette coopération jusqu'ici n'a été approchée que de façon sporadique. On pourrait agir de façon plus méthodique.

La détermination des pays en voie de développement d'entreprendre cette coopération est un premier signe favorable.

Beaucoup d'efforts devront être déployés, et il est indispensable que les participants, pays et organisations internationales, notamment la FAO, orientent directement leur action vers les objectifs de coopération entre les pays en voie de développement.

Comme il a déjà été proposé dans cette enceinte, la FAO peut stimuler, suivre, évaluer suivant des procédures appropriées, l'avancement et la réalisation de l'idée lancée lors de la Conférence de Buenos Aires.

Cette troisième dimension de la coopération peut apporter une impulsion extraordinaire au développement dans le monde.

S. SAITO (Japan): I would like to make some comments concerning the sub-agenda of TCDC. First of all, my delegation supports the FAO's approach to promote TCDC in the field of food and agriculture and we share our view with the secretariat, which stresses the necessity of assistance from donor countries and international agencies in order to supplement the activities of TCDC by developing countries efficiently.

TCDC is still at an early stage, and each developing country has its own natural, economic and social conditions. Therefore, it is essentially important to strengthen the exchange of information, knowledge, experience and technologies between developing countries and to establish mutual confidence in utilizing those inputs of developing countries.

In this context my delegation expects FAO to support self-help efforts of developing countries in cooperation with donor countries and international agencies.

At the same time my delegation would like to emphasize the necessity of a realistic and effective approach concerning how to promote TCDC of developing countries with limited budgets.

My delegation thinks that the objective of TCDC in the field of food and agriculture is to increase food production and to meet the basic needs of small farmers, which occupy a large share of population in developing countries. Therefore, in order to achieve this purpose it is needed that those small farmers, as beneficiaries, should participate fully in the process of making decisions on policies for planning and implementation of TCDC.

At the same time, my delegation feels that various institutional changes for making a fair distribution of benefit to small farmers should be made by developing countries themselves.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): We realize that we are taking the floor at a late stage of the debate and will therefore endeavour to be as brief as possible and I will restrict myself to the subject of TCDC.

Insofar as the proposed intergovernmental arrangements are concerned we feel after examining the document in question that since responsibility for overall intergovernmental review has been assigned to the Administrator of the UNDP, who will convene meetings for this purpose, there should be

no duplication of these functions by other UN bodies". We would particularly caution against the creation of new committees or bodies with the same or similar terms of reference. Of course, if an existing body in FAO could keep the subject under constant review at no additional expense we would gladly support the idea.

As regards the financial arrangements outlined in paragraph 7, we have a suggestion that the Council may like to consider. We feel that the Programme of Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries should be more flexible so as to include triangular cooperation by involving a third developing country which would provide financial means for such cooperation. Whilst the financial arrangements for TCDC do envisage such assistance through multilateral financing, the possibility of doing so through triangular cooperation should also be explored. Perhaps the creation of a trust fund for this specific purpose may act as a catalyst.

Secondly, on the exchange of experts among developing countries, we feel that these should not necessarily be covered by the same salary structure as is applicable to the developed countries. Our proposal would be to evolve a new system which would be just, equitable and rewarding to the experts from the developing countries.

Lastly, there are two questions that we would like to flag, not necessarily for consideration now but at some future date. These are the questions of attitudinal barriers to the implementation of TCDC and the strengthening of national institutions.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wish to make four very brief points, if I may, on TCDC. The first is that the United Kingdom welcomes the consensus achieved at the conference in Buenos Aires and believes that the recommendations on a plan of action should give added impetus to the promotion of this particular aspect of international cooperation.

Secondly, we agree that FAO should of course help foster the objectives of TCDC and we think that this can be done within the existing framework of FAO.

Thirdly, we support the objectives of TCDC as the plan brings out, provided the choice of inputs -I hope that is not too obscure - remain with the recipient countries, and that the concept is not promoted as a sort of theoretical end in itself.

The last point is the important one: that the requirements of the recipient country obviously take priority. And lastly, we agree with those delegations who have expressed concern about the expense of holding another FAO sponsored special conference when alternative arrangements - and I refer here specifically to the periodic reviews at intergovernmental level - already seem to be available.

P.L. SALES (United States of America): My delegation has read with interest the report Role of the United Nations Development System in Promoting TCDC as Envisaged in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. In the view of my Government, TCDC is essentially a concept to encourage further participation of developing countries in the development process and consequently affects the operational mood of the United Nations organizations. FAO should therefore, within the confines of its budgetary resources, explore further opportunities for TCDC and accordingly use national and regional institutions, identify specific areas in the respective regions, and make full use of information to overcome the obstacles that are impeding the effective utilization of the knowledge and experience of developing countries. As evidence of my Government's support for the TCDC concept, the United States Agency for International Development is reviewing its policies and procedures in order to enlarge the opportunities of using the institutions and facilities of the developing world in the execution of its programmes. An inter-agency committee has been established to consider fully a broad range of possible actions.

My delegation has taken note that consideration is being given at this Council on means by which stock can be taken of the Buenos Aires conference in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We would urge the Director-General to include the subject matter as an item of the agenda of appropriate FAO fora.

My delegation concurs with the remarks of the Pakistani delegation that we should avoid duplication of intergovernmental mechanisms.

E. DOUEK (Observer for Israel): The item to which I wish to refer is technical cooperation among developing countries. First of all, I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent introduction of the subject by Mr. Yriart. Secondly, I wish to express our satisfaction over the steps taken by the Director-General in a responding to the recommendations made by the Buenos Aires conference to constitute a plan of action for promoting and implementing technical cooperation among developing countries. It is in the field of food and agriculture that this kind of cooperation is most urgently needed. It is also in this field that Israel can boast a long tradition of cooperative action, thereby sharing its own experience as a developing country with other countries facing similar problems.

Israel therefore heartily welcomes the inclusion of the TCDC concept into the FAO and declares itself and its experience available for any form of cooperation with any other developing country. As we all know, food crises are the fear of the world as a whole. Shortages of production, failure of supply, lack of adequate reserves, are menacing the world's population and above all that of developing countries. More sinister still is the number of undernourished people who, according to the statement by the President of the World Bank, will reach 600 million this year. No one will deny the urgent need for considerably larger contributions by the industrialized countries and international organizations within the framework of a coordinated international food aid strategy to match the growing needs of developing countries, and above all those of the least developed countries. But, just as according to a famous proverb, the Lord helps those who help themselves, developing countries need to cooperate and help one another, and other kinds of factors paving their way to self-reliance in food and to a constant improvement of their agriculture. This task, although difficult and still largely dependent on economic support by the industrialized world, is certainly not impossible. Some developing countries have undergone a "green revolution" and are on the verge of independence in food. It is their moral obligation to make available their experience, experts and material to those lagging behind for whatever reason, and to extend a friendly hand to them.

Consequently, we should like to suggest that urgent cooperation action be taken in the following fields in which Israel has been working for nearly 30 years now, in cooperation with other developing countries. First, development of new food sources emanating from techniques such as aquaculture which in Israel has produced amazingly high yields. Secondly, development of seed production and the supply of an adequate share of improved seeds for developing countries. Third, agricultural development of arid and semi-arid zones making habitable areas out of deserts through techniques developed in Israel but applicable also in Africa, Asia, Latin America and, above all, the rest of the Middle-East. Israel is willing to expand this cooperation in the future. The Government of Israel appreciates very much the efforts made by the United Nations and its agencies for the encouragement of exchange of know-how among developing countries as a part of their common striving towards development.

My Government particularly welcomes the results of the TCDC Conference in Buenos Aires. I wish to recall that my country put forward in that Conference a proposal for a voluntary agreement for the exchange of technical assistance among developing countries aimed at reducing the high rate of dependence of developing countries on the industrialized world as well as promoting a meaningful exchange of assistance among developing countries. We consider such an arrangement to be an adequate framework through which cooperation among developing countries in food and agriculture can take place and contribute to render this world available to the people of unfavoured areas as it is to the rest of the world.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the discussion on this complex subject and I should now like to call on the various ADG's to respond to the important points made by members.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I should like to reply to just one specific question on World Food Council matters, the question from the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegate of the Federal Republic asked how and when FAO would be called on to analyse and explain its own shortcomings, difficulties and bottlenecks. I thought he asked the question with a certain relish and I am sorry to have to disappoint him because it is not the shortcomings, difficulties and bottlenecks of FAO that are supposed to be dissected but the difficulties in increasing the flow of official development assistance, together with, on the other side, constraints within developing countries on increasing food and agricultural production including constraints on giving a higher priority to food and agriculture in general development plans. The procedure for

implementing this paragraph of the Mexico declaration was explained by the President of the World Food Council in his address to the Plenary of the Council at its second meeting. He stated there that there would be a series of meetings organized by OECD in respect of donor countries, organized by regional development banks for countries in the different regions; and organized by the World Bank for the international financial institutions. These meetings will lead into an inter-agency meeting in Bellagio in April of next year from which will come the documentation for the next session of the World Food Council.

There is very little complementary information that I can convey, but the Director-General would certainly hope to be associated rather more closely with this exercise as it unrolls. By the way, I should add that this also answers the more specific question on Friday from the delegate of Lebanon about the Bellagio meeting. There was a second question from the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany addressed to the Secretariat, and that was about food plans. The four food plans that were completed and submitted to the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment, the CGFPI, have now been so to speak a sort of regular process of development aid and are being crystallized out into specific projects, planning assistance etc., and to these, FAO, the World Bank, UNDP are responding in the normal way through the normal channels to requests from the governments concerned.

We have not received a specific request for assistance in preparing any other food plans, although we know that some governments have been interested in them, but experience with the food plans so far drawn up has certainly not been encouraging and as, indeed, FAO had predicted from the beginning, they have not served as a suitable vehicle for taking investment or technical cooperation decisions.

Y. F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): May I take up first the discussion on relations with UNDP. I shall be very brief because I think the debate has been very illuminating and there are very few points on which the Secretariat has anything to add to the presentation. It is indeed the delegates themselves who have given us guidance. I should like to refer to the first intervention, that of the delegate of France, where he discussed the question of support costs briefly, saying that he felt the matter was now for discussion by the Intergovernmental Committee that will report to the UNDP Governing Council, and we should rest at that for the time being. May I say that my colleague Mr. West, when we come to item 21.1 (d), (v), which is the JIU Report on the Expanded Preliminary Note on a New System for Agency Support Costs, will, however, update the information that you have on what is going on in the intergovernmental committee, but I would like to take the opportunity to recall to the Council that the FAO Conference, at its Nineteenth Session, decided that the Council be involved in consultations before the UNDP Governing Council takes any action on the Report, on the intergovernmental report on support costs. This indeed is in paragraph 248 of the Nineteenth Conference Session.

May I now refer to something which was mentioned by the representative of Brazil and which is indeed a crucial matter. He referred to the difficulties that sometimes governments experience in project identification and preparation and the result being afterwards that in the country programme there may be problems with regards to the share allotted to agriculture. This was in respect to the concern expressed by the Director-General as to the falling share of FAO in the UNDP Programme. Indeed, this question of project identification and preparation is one that concerns us very greatly. It is one of the issues behind the insistence of the Director-General for a better participation of the agencies in country programming. It is certainly one of the main tasks visualized for the FAO representative and on this score I would say that I begin to find already good signs of the effects of the FAO representatives being able to work closely with the governments and I have already identified several countries where the results are a clear, better presentation of the agricultural part of the country programme, better definition of projects and indeed a larger share for FAO. So while indubitably we have to keep a very close watch whether the question of a smaller share in the UNDP Programme is a question of falling priority on the part of the governments, in which case we have immediately to report this to you because it would be up to the Council and Conference to bring this to the attention of governments. However, we follow closely the mechanical aspects of the problem as identified by the representative of Brazil and we do our utmost to extend assistance to the governments in improving their programming.

I would like also to say a very brief word with regard to the evaluation programme that UNDP follows with the agencies and to which the representative of the UNDP referred, and as I have told the Council at other sessions, evidently we concur with the importance that it will have with regard to certain issues, this evaluation, which will provide us with knowledge to improve our effective work afterwards. As you know, the Director-General's priority, supported by you, is really in fields of action, of direct action, keeping a proper balance for stock taking for learning from our own actions and on this question of the evaluation programmes we have always told UNDP that the way it is being shaped, it is something that we have to plan jointly, to plan ahead of time because the resources necessary are resources that

we cannot provide ad hoc, but should certainly be included in our normal programmes of work and budget. This is, for example, what happens with the evaluation on agricultural training where the main resources are being put by FAO with the participation of UNDP, so if we drag our feet sometimes, it is to keep a proper balance between action and stock taking, though we realize also the importance on certain occasions of stock taking.

(Continues in Spanish)

Permítame ahora, Sr. Presidente, pasar a la discusión sobre el CTPD. En este debate, que fue muy grato para mí oír ya que estamos todavía en una etapa en que vamos acumulando experiencia, la guía que se nos da es muy útil. Se han presentado algunos puntos que, por su importancia, quisiera mencionar.

En general, los señores delegados se han referido a una debilidad que afrontamos en todo el Sistema y que afrontan, también, los países; así lo reconocemos en el documento que todos ustedes tienen delante y, claramente, en el párrafo 11, que es el problema de dar difusión de información y de conocimientos sobre las capacidades de las instituciones nacionales en los países en desarrollo en varias ocasiones, no solo en nuestros propios cuerpos rectores sino también en otros órganos de las Naciones Unidas al tratarse del CPTD.

Hemos insistido mucho sobre la necesidad de buscar que el Sistema de Información sobre Referencias, que le llaman SIR, que está siendo desarrollado por el PNUD como un adjunto de la CTPD, tenga calidad. Hasta el momento, los registros que se hacen de instituciones nacionales carecen de una valoración de la competencia técnica de esas instituciones.

Quiero decir también que somos muy conscientes de la necesidad de trabajar en la materia de mayor información y difusión de esa información sobre las capacidades de las organizaciones, de las instituciones nacionales; y otra vez repito que en ese aspecto el Director General asigna mucha importancia a la labor que tendrán que realizar las oficinas regionales y los representantes de la FAO, que se convertirán en un instrumento de acción en las oficinas regionales para la promoción de la CTPD.

En el debate hubo también alguna mención a un problema que tiene mucha importancia para nosotros, que es el aumento del uso de insumos, equipos, expertos, consultores, etc., de los países en desarrollo. Quiero asegurarle, Sr. Presidente, que la FAO está comprometida en un aumento del uso de insumos de los países en desarrollo; sigue una política constante para favorecerlo y en la actualidad hemos establecido un sistema de supervisión de monitores del uso de insumos como una de las maneras de alcanzar niveles mayores.

Hemos progresado bastante en cuanto, al uso de expertos de países en desarrollo; hemos progresado algo, pero menos que en esta materia, en el uso de equipos, pero debo mencionar que en este sentido me alegra que el representante del Reino Unido indirectamente lo haya mencionado; uno de los problemas principales es que, en efecto, sea el país beneficiario el que determine de dónde van a provenir los insumos en forma de equipamiento, y entonces es dentro del espíritu del CTPD que tiene que ser compacto, no sólo entre las agencias de cambiar sus actitudes, pero también los países deben cambiar sus actitudes, los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo que tienen que buscar ellos el uso, a veces, de insumos de otros países en desarrollo.

En este sentido, nuestra posición es que al discutirse los proyectos sobre los documentos que van a regular los proyectos de cooperación técnica, en ese momento es cuando los países en desarrollo deben hacer un esfuerzo consciente y nosotros debemos ayudarles para identificar insumos de países en desarrollo que pueden utilizar.

El Sr. representante de Hungría hizo una interesante referencia al problema de la inversión en relación con el CTPD y quiero decirle que en el problema general de la inversión, como manifesté al introducir el tema sobre el PNUD y lo han visto también en nuestros documentos, está habiendo en los últimos tiempos un esfuerzo constante por parte de todo el sistema para aumentar o mejorar la labor que hacemos en cuanto a identificación en los proyectos de cooperación técnica de posibilidades de inversiones futuras.

En este sentido les mencioné al hablar del PNUD que éste en su Consejo de Administración se ha ocupado de ello y la FAO por su experiencia en materia de inversiones está haciendo el principal asesoramiento dentro del sistema y estamos tomando medidas prácticas para ver si se puede, en los proyectos financiados por el PNUD, manejar mejor la posibilidad de un seguimiento con inversiones.

No sé, pero tomamos muy seriamente la indicación del Sr. representante de Hungría, no sé hasta qué punto las medidas que estamos tomando para mejorar el seguimiento en materia de inversión de los proyectos del PNUD pueden ser extensibles a los proyectos del CTPD, pero es evidente que allí tenemos un asunto que tratar y que espero en el futuro podamos darles información a ustedes.

Quisiera, sin embargo, indicar, Sr. Presidente, por su intermedio al Sr. representante de Hungría, que la mención que ha visto en la agenda sobre el Comité de inversiones es sobre otro tema, es el Comité que asesora al Director General sobre la inversión de los recursos en manos de la Organización.

Finalmente, quiero referirme al problema de la atención que seguiremos solicitando de los señores representantes para el tema de la CTPD, al que muchos señores representantes se han referido, y dentro de este tema quiero hacer mención a la consulta que les ha formulado el Director General sobre la necesidad o no de celebrar una reunión intergubernamental especial. En este sentido, no miro al distinguido representante de Venezuela porque me lee el pensamiento, y en efecto estoy contento de que me lo haya leído, porque es evidente que el Consejo ha estado de acuerdo con esa idea que teníamos nosotros de que a esta altura no es necesaria otra Conferencia especial organizada por la FAO para tratar el problema de la CTPD. Es evidente que los señores representantes tienen muchos deseos de que se mantenga siempre a la vista y latente este tema, ya sea, como un número de señores representantes ha sugerido, teniendo siempre el tema en la agenda del Consejo o, como lo han sugerido otros, que esté en las agendas de las Conferencias Regionales o de los Comités Técnicos, como son el de la Agricultura, Pesca y Montes.

En este sentido, salvo una indicación más clara del Consejo, estoy seguro que el Director General tiene la intención de mantener el tema latente tanto en los organismos rectores como en los Comités Técnicos, también en el Comité del Programa y, en lo que compete, en el Comité de Finanzas, pues este momento es una etapa de comienzo en forma más formalizada de actividades del CTPD, una etapa para aumentar la participación de los países en desarrollo como suministradores de insumos en toda la cooperación técnica, y en esta etapa nos es necesaria orientación y guía de los órganos; así que, Sr. Presidente, haremos propuestas en los órganos a quienes les compete, técnicos o rectores, en los momentos oportunos para mantener siempre el tema latente.

Creo, Sr. Presidente, que no tengo otras observaciones que hacer excepto una y es también la satisfacción con que he escuchado en el debate el interés tanto de los señores representantes de los países en desarrollo como de los señores representantes de los países desarrollados, porque es evidentemente cierto que si vamos a prosperar en el desarrollo consciente del CTPD será por los esfuerzos de ambas partes del mundo, desarrollado y en desarrollo, ya que con la una pero sin la otra no podrá llevarse adelante. Yo creo que los acuerdos triangulares que se han mencionado verdaderamente serán los que más vamos a ver en el desarrollo de la CTPD, sobre todo en los primeros años; será evidentemente muy necesario que haya insumos externos a los países en desarrollo, ya sea en tecnología o financiamiento para permitirles desarrollar actividades del CTPD.

CHAIRMAN: There is one other item which Mr. Yriart referred to, that is, Agency Support Costs. I would like to call on Mr. West to speak on it now rather than wait for the next sub-item, because this may clear up some questions that may be put by members if he did not intervene now, and. I would therefore like to call on Mr. West.

E. M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr. Chairman, as you have indicated, the item under the next stage of discussion on Support Costs has been overtaken by events under the heading of relations with the UNDP. The JIU Report was issued some months ago and was followed by intensive interagency discussions and the meeting of the UNDP/Intergovernmental Working Group on the subject and finally by a meeting of the ACC. As a result of this, the Administrator has prepared some proposals of his own to submit to the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group to be held in New York in January. These were discussed by the ACC. They are fairly short proposals dealing with only two aspects of the matters discussed at great length and great complexity by the JIU. However, there is no agreement between the various members of the ACC on the subject.

United Nations maintains the strongest opposition to any consideration of any change in the present system of support costs. The FAO also has reservations of principle about any change in the system of agency support costs and certainly about any change before the governing bodies of FAO have had an opportunity to consider the question. The Administrator is presently preparing his proposals to the intergovernmental working group. We do not have a text. It will be considered in January and then presumably by the UNDP Governing Council at its next session in the summer of 1979. That will be the stage at which the UNDP will wish to come to conclusions, but we will not be able, of course, to come to conclusions ourselves until you and the Conference have considered the matter. That is where we stand.

W. A. F GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): To the point just mentioned by Mr. West, I think you wish us rather to give our views at Stage B, as stated in the document.

Before you conclude the section on our last agenda item 21 which is called Stage A, I should like to thank Mr. Walton for his answers, from which I conclude that FAO is ready to join the major international financial institutions in order to identify ways and means by which they can support more effectively the efforts of developing countries as proposed by the World Food Council.

Y. P. CHESTNOY (Observer for Economic Commission for Europe): Listening to those addressing this Council's session, I did find that the joint efforts of ECE and FAO, which go far beyond normal cooperation and the work of ECE itself, while contributing a great deal to the problems directly connected with many items of the agenda of this meeting, are not properly reflected in this discussion.

Today, when you are considering the programme of work, it would be appropriate to give you a brief account of what is going on in the ECE and what is relevant to your agenda items, and of ECE/FAO's joint efforts.

The work of ECE is solidly founded on more than thirty years of economic co-operation in the region, which have created a fund of mutual confidence between member countries as well as tried and tested organizational structures and methods of work. In recent years, however, new dimensions have been added to the Commission's work. At the thirty-third session of the Commission last April, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Stanovnik, said:

"The role and authority of the Economic Commission for Europe in providing a unique forum for cooperation in economic and related fields among countries with different economic and social systems has continued to strengthen since the thirty-second session last year. The Commission has received a major impulse from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and has become the main instrument for multilateral implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act."

The programme of ECE shows an ever greater degree of co-operation and interdependence between the different sectors. Some aspects, such as energy, environment, transport and trade have an impact on almost all the sectors covered by ECE.

The Commission's activities have taken on a new tempo in recent years, as a response to the pressing economic problems of our region and because of the consequences of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which specifically endorsed some of the Commission activities and included certain provisions which have led to a modified and stronger work programme for the Commission.

In addition, the Final Act laid the foundations for new work in several sectors and gave rise to several new and important initiatives. In particular the Commission is considering the convening of high-level meeting on the protection of the environment, as a result of the proposition by the Government of the USSR. Although a final decision has not yet been taken on the convening of such a meeting, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems have been requested to prepare recommendations and concrete proposals for important decisions to be submitted to a high-level meeting on long-range transboundary air pollution; low and non-waste technology and reutilization and recycling of wastes as well as on water pollution, control of toxic wastes and protection of flora and fauna. Needless to say, all these problems are of direct concern to the agriculture and forestry sectors, which are in the agenda of this Seventy-Fourth Session of the FAO Council.

While it should never be forgotten that ECE is a regional organization for East-West co-operation and remains as such, the general trend towards interdependence in the world requires more and more that the broader global aspects be taken into account in regional work. Experience has already shown that this aspect is particularly important in the discussion of an Overall Economic Perspective for the region, in the field of development of trade, in individual industrial branches and resource co-operation such as steel, timber, chemicals and so on. ECE has also co-operated in the preparation of the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development with UNIDO, UNCTAD and a number of specialized agencies.

Through the very close working relations through the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division as well as the joint implementation of projects, we have the possibility of making a substantial impact on the agricultural and forestry situation in the region and the world.

The relations between the ECE and the FAO have during the past thirty years been marked by a perfect and smooth co-operation. This co-operation makes it possible to avoid any duplication of effort in the actions undertaken by the two organizations and to ensure that both organizations receive the optimum benefit from this co-operation. This history of thirty years' successful co-operation is probably unique in the annals of the UN family. The ECE is in a position to contribute, through the mechanisms of the FAO world-wide organization, to the development efforts of the less developed world and regions;

FAO, on its part, is able to draw on the experience in the ECE region, and on information which might be beneficial to developing countries. The problem for these countries has been and continues to be how to make the best use of this information by extracting, adopting, presenting and disseminating the most appropriate parts to those for whom it could be the most useful.

There are a number of projects in the programmes of work of the ECE Committees on Agricultural Problems and Timber which should be of direct interest to many of the developing countries. In the field of forestry and forest products the work done by the ECE Timber Committee on forest products' market intelligence in general, and in the tropical hardwood sector in particular, would be important for tropical countries whose development programmes foresee an expansion of their trade in tropical hardwoods with the countries of the ECE region. The same applies to the efforts made by the ECE to study and to improve the techniques of utilizing tropical hardwoods, both from the technological and economic points of view, efforts which should have a direct bearing on the efforts to further develop trade in these products. The very intensive work that is going on in the field of forest working techniques contains many aspects of direct interest and applicability for the developing countries in the tropical regions. The work carried out in this field may be considered as of a pioneering nature.

I would like to mention the many seminars, symposia and technical meetings dealing with economic and technological aspects of forest and wood, whether oriented towards production processes or towards the techniques of final utilization of the many different types of forest products. Subjects to be covered by the technical meetings, seminars and symposia organized by the ECE Timber Committee include production technologies in the wood working industries, for instance, the furniture industry and the wood-based panels industry, the handling and transport of forest products, harvesting methods, waste-saving processes in both harvesting and industrial transformation of wood raw material, and most recently the energy aspects of forestry, forest operations and forest industries. Many of these subjects are of global interest and correspond to present or future preoccupations also in the developing world outside the ECE region.

In the field of agriculture, the present programme of work of the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and its joint FAO/ECE subsidiary bodies contains many components which should be of considerable interest also to the developing countries outside the ECE region. In addition to the annual market and trade reviews on agricultural products, giving information on the most important aspects of international trades in these products, and particularly the present studies of market outlook for meat, milk and feeding stuff until 1985, and the special market studies for products of particular interest to southern Europe and other regions, e.g. on fruit, tobacco and flowers, the ECE has undertaken or is undertaking specific actions on problems or problem areas whose importance goes very much beyond the ECE region.

Last May there was a symposium on Problems of the Agricultural Development of Less Favoured Areas. Next January there will be a symposium on the Prospects of the Use of Fertilizers with a View to Raising Soil Fertility and Yields, and of Protecting the Human Environment.

Symposia on sugar beet and maize are planned, as well as one on the role of co-operation (in all its forms) in marketing. Technical reports such as on combating erosion, recultivating land and improving soil quality should certainly have an audience beyond the ECE region. A wide-ranging study is being prepared on large-scale animal husbandry, which would probably be of great value to the developing countries outside the ECE region.

In the field of environment, the work of the ECE with regard to a number of problems of pollution of vegetation by intensive industrialization, or of pollution of the environment by certain industrialized techniques of agriculture or animal husbandry, could probably save the developing countries from making the same mistakes, which cannot be remedied except at enormous extra expense.

I would like to suggest that a fairly small investment by the agencies primarily responsible for passing on information to the developing countries to increase the use of available sources of information, to strengthen contacts with countries in the ECE region, and to tap the goodwill which undoubtedly exists in these countries, would be useful to the agencies themselves and the developing countries they serve, at considerably lower cost than if they undertook such actions in isolation. ^{1/}

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes Stage A or those aspects of our discussion on agenda item 21.1, and we shall move on to the next stage, which consists of a whole lot of Joint Inspection Unit Reports. Now, these reports relate to the UN system in general and therefore affect not only FAO but the governing bodies of all the UN agencies. I have discussed with the Secretariat as to whether they have sufficient information to give so that the papers can be introduced, but apart from what Mr. West just said, there are no additions to what is in the documents. Now, the documents contain comments of the Director-General, comments by inter-agency meetings and so on, on the recommendations and proposals and so on made by the inspectors. What we will do now, I will give the floor to anybody who wants to speak, and, as we have just done, all the Assistant Directors-General and officials of the Secretariat who are concerned with the various aspects will then come back and reply to points made by delegates on those parts of the JIU Reports which concern them. Therefore, you are free to speak, but do so clearly on each item so that the Secretariat is not confused.

21.1(d) Joint Inspection Unit Reports, including:

21.1(d) Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection, à savoir:

21.1(d) Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, con inclusion de:

(i) Tenth Report on the Activities of the JIU

(i) Dixième rapport sur les activités du Corps commun d'inspection

(i) Décimo informe sobre las actividades de la Dependencia Común de Inspección

(ii) Implications of Additional Languages in the UN System

(ii) Incidences de l'emploi de nouvelles langues dans les organismes des Nations Unies

(ii) Consecuencia de la utilización de idiomas adicionales en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

(iii) Some Aspects of Backstopping of Technical Cooperation Activities in the UN System, and Joint Comments Thereon

(iii) Quelques aspects du soutien aux activités de coopération technique dans le système des Nations Unies, et observations collectives à ce sujet,

(iii) Algunos aspectos del apoyo a las actividades de cooperación técnica en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y comentarios conjuntos al respecto

(iv) Professional Women in the UN System

(iv) Les femmes dans les organismes des Nations Unies: catégorie des administrateurs et grades supérieurs

(iv) Personal femenino de categoría profesional en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

(v) Expanded Preliminary Note on a New System for Agency Support Costs

(v) Note préliminaire développée concernant un nouveau système de remboursement des dépenses d'appui

(v) Nota preliminar ampliada sobre un nuevo sistema para los gastos de organismo de ejecución

(vi) The Role of Experts in Development Cooperation

(vi) Role des experts dans la coopération pour le développement

(vi) La Función de los expertos en la cooperación para el desarrollo

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): J'interviendrai donc d'abord sur le point 2): l'emploi des nouvelles langues; sur le point 3): quelques aspects du soutien aux activités de coopération technique; sur le point 4): les femmes dans les organisations des Nations Unies, et sur le point 5): note préliminaire pour un système de remboursement. D'autre part, en ce qui concerne le point 6), je vous demanderais de donner la parole à mon collègue, M. Halimi.

Je commence par le point 2).

En ce qui concerne l'emploi des nouvelles langues et l'examen de la politique de l'Organisation en matière linguistique, nous partageons assez sensiblement l'opinion du Comité financier qui est exprimée, si mes souvenirs sont exacts, dans le document CL 74/4.

Certaines des remarques qui ont été faites à l'égard d'une suggestion d'un corps commun d'inspection nous paraissent pour le moins irréalisables. Par exemple, l'institution de services communs d'interprétation ou de traduction nous paraît difficilement réalisable, étant donné la spécialisation qui intervient bien souvent dans chaque organisation. Si on veut avoir de bonnes interprétations et de bonnes traductions, il faut avoir des spécialistes. Celui qui s'occupe de la météorologie n'est pas celui qui s'occupe du commerce, et celui qui s'occupe des engrais et de la nutrition n'est pas celui qui va s'occuper de questions relatives à la santé.

Il y a aussi une remarque formulée dans le document du Comité financier et également dans les remarques que nous trouvons dans les commentaires du document CL 74/12 que nous approuvons; il est certain que le maintien de la parité entre les langues est nécessaire. Mais il y a une remarque du paragraphe 10 du document CL 74/11 qui nous surprend quelque peu.

Il s'agit en effet d'une remarque qui ne touche pas mon pays mais qui a malgré tout un caractère général.

On nous dit, pour expliquer certaines réductions de services d'interprétation ou de traduction, qu'il y a par exemple plus d'Etats arabophones que d'Etats hispanophones, et que par conséquent il est surprenant que leurs effectifs soient inférieurs à celui des traducteurs espagnols.

Je crois qu'il s'agit d'une remarque qui n'est pas pertinente. Ce n'est pas au nombre des pays que peut se juger véritablement l'utilité de telle ou telle langue. Actuellement, dans le système des Nations Unies, l'espagnol est une des langues officielles. L'arabe ne l'est pas. C'est pourquoi le nombre de traducteurs ou d'interprètes vis-à-vis de l'espagnol est plus important que celui de l'arabe, et cela se rencontre non seulement chez nous mais dans toutes les organisations des Nations Unies.

On nous dit aussi, au sujet de la Recommandation 4 qui est reprise avec les observations du Secrétaire général au paragraphe 12 (CL 74/11) que toutes les langues de l'Organisation sont "d'emploi limité".

J'avoue qu'une telle expression nous a surpris parce qu'en fait l'interprétation et la traduction des documents sont sur un niveau de parité et doivent être faites dans toutes les langues. Alors que veut-on dire exactement en disant que toutes les langues de l'Organisation sont d'emploi limité? Nous ne voudrions pas que par la suite on soit amené à réduire l'usage de telle ou telle langue officielle du Conseil et de la Conférence.

Nous avons ensuite le rapport sur "quelques aspects du soutien aux activités de coopération technique" (CL 74/12).

Dans les premiers paragraphes de ce rapport, c'est-à-dire les paragraphes 1 à 6, et tout particulièrement dans le paragraphe 2, il nous semble que le jugement porté par le Directeur général sur ce document est quelque peu sévère. On semble dire qu'il est trop général et qu'il n'a qu'une utilité relative.

Nous ne partageons pas ce sentiment, et après tout nous pensons que le Directeur général lui-même a un peu la même opinion, car il y a une différence entre le ton donné dans les généralités, paragraphes

1 à 6, et ensuite l'approbation de la plupart des recommandations qui figurent dans les pages suivantes, c'est-à-dire les paragraphes 7 à 19.

En définitive, Monsieur le Président, la plupart de ces recommandations nous paraissent avoir leur valeur. Et bien évidemment, puisque c'est un document assez général fait par le corps commun d'inspection, il ne pouvait pas rentrer dans une étude extrêmement précise de la méthode et de la personnalité de chaque institution. Mais en fait, la plupart de ces indications sont justes.

Je reviens maintenant au rapport sur le rôle des femmes dans le système des Nations Unies et, en particulier, pour la catégorie des administrateurs des grades supérieurs.

Evidemment, c'est un point qui, depuis longtemps, est à l'étude par le corps commun d'inspection. En fait, nous pouvons approuver les conclusions de ce rapport, ainsi que les remarques du Directeur général.

Il est évidemment certain que les femmes sont moins attirées par les sciences agricoles que les hommes, et tout au moins c'est ce que nous avons pu constater jusqu'à présent, et que sur le terrain il peut y avoir certaines difficultés pratiques. C'est une constatation. Mais nous espérons que cela changera et nous pensons que dans l'Organisation elle-même, dans les postes administratifs au siège, ceux-ci pourraient être tenus par des femmes aussi bien que par des hommes. Nous ne sommes pas certains que jusqu'ici un effort de recrutement suffisant ait été accompli dans ce sens.

Le quatrième point est le rapport sur le système de remboursement des frais de soutien aux agences d'exécution (CL 74/15). Ceci se relie aux relations avec le PNUD. Nous sommes déjà intervenus précédemment et nous avons entendu des réponses et les explications du Secrétariat. Je n'insisterai donc pas.

Le dernier point est le rôle des experts dans la coopération pour le développement et je désirerais, à ce sujet, que la parole soit donnée à mon collègue M. Halimi.

P. HALIMI (France): Mon intervention portera donc sur le document intitulé: "Rôle des experts dans la coopération pour le développement" (CL 74/17).

L'évolution des concepts de développement et de coopération techniques, ainsi que la demande de services d'experts dans le cadre de la coopération technique, posent certaines questions fondamentales en ce qui concerne les travaux du PNUD.

Dans ce contexte, l'étude établie par le corps commun d'inspection propose certaines recommandations fondées sur le principe de la gestion des projets par les gouvernements et visant à réduire le coût des services d'experts.

Le principe de la gestion des projets par les gouvernements (partie I du document) nous paraît être une garantie effective pour une meilleure prise en compte et pour une plus profonde intégration des projets dans les programmes nationaux.

Il paraît difficile toutefois que la gestion des projets puisse être assurée entièrement par les gouvernements dans la mesure où l'exécution des projets nécessite l'appel d'experts étrangers. Il nous apparaît en effet important que la FAO ait non seulement une certaine maîtrise des experts et qu'elle les fournisse sous forme de mois/experts et non d'équivalent monétaire, mais aussi qu'elle continue à en contrôler le contenu technique et ne se transforme pas en simple bailleur de fonds.

Nous nous attacherons à examiner les différents points de la partie de ce rapport réservée aux experts.

Fonctions des experts: les fonctions des experts, telles qu'elles sont définies dans cette partie du rapport, ne soulèvent aucune objection de notre part. (J'en viens au statut des experts, traité dans la partie II A2).

Dans le cadre de la gestion des projets par les gouvernements, il semble logique que ceux-ci puissent remettre des instructions aux experts. Mais il serait peut-être utile que soient définies les limites quant au type d'instructions qui pourront être données par les gouvernements. Il se pose ici un problème de déontologie quant au rôle des experts qui doivent garder une certaine indépendance vis-à-vis des gouvernements et ne pas y être totalement assujettis. La recommandation NO 9 qui dit que le statut des experts dépend de qui les recrute et les rémunère paraît à cet égard contenir beaucoup d'ambiguïté.

J'en viens aux conseillers techniques des organisations, dont il est question dans la partie II A7.

Il me semble que les conseillers techniques, dans le cadre proposé, doivent avoir un rôle déterminant, et nous agréons cette recommandation.

Pour ce qui concerne le recrutement des ressortissants des pays en qualité d'experts (partie II A9), on ne peut que s'étonner de cette proposition, parce que l'assistance d'experts nationaux devrait normalement être considérée comme partie du gouvernement. S'il s'avérait toutefois nécessaire que des nationaux soient pris en charge financièrement par le PNUD, il faudrait veiller à ce que leur rémunération corresponde à des normes nationales. Il serait utile également de s'assurer que ces nationaux pouvant retrouver localement un emploi à la fin du projet, n'utilisent pas cette procédure comme voie de recrutement de fonctionnaires internationaux.

Pour ce qui concerne les experts associés (partie II A10), la formule du parrainage de candidats autres que les propres ressortissants des pays donateurs n'appelle pas d'opposition de notre part. Il semble difficile, dans les circonstances économiques actuelles, que mon pays pour sa part envisage dans un proche avenir, d'assurer le parrainage de candidats étrangers. Il convient également de souligner que le statut et les conditions d'emploi des experts associés ne nous paraissent pas devoir être dissociés de ceux des experts. Il ne nous semble pas souhaitable de les rattacher localement de façon plus étroite que les experts, étant entendu que, s'il s'agit de mettre des experts à la disposition des gouvernements, ceux-ci entrent déjà dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale.

Pour ce qui concerne le nouveau système de rémunération des experts (partie II B) il est fondamental qu'au niveau de qualification exigée des experts, la rémunération s'inscrive dans la moyenne mondiale. Réduire cette rémunération à un niveau inférieur du barème mondial risque de n'attirer que des experts de pays où sévit un chômage intellectuel important, de plus il pourrait s'ajouter le risque d'une sous-qualification des experts.

Par ailleurs, le recrutement à durée déterminée, sans garantie d'un emploi ultérieur, présente des dangers liés à l'instabilité de l'emploi, et on assisterait beaucoup plus à la recherche d'une situation qu'à la réalisation de projets.

Les deux recommandations visant à réduire, l'une la durée des contrats, et l'autre les rémunérations, peuvent d'ailleurs paraître contradictoires. Si on souhaite recruter des experts qualifiés pour des contrats de courte durée, il semble difficile de vouloir réduire simultanément les rémunérations. Le Comité du Programme a émis sur ce point deux réserves, qui figurent aux points 1.43 et 1.45 de son rapport (page 7 du texte français) et qui sont partagées par la délégation française.

Pour ce qui concerne la description du système de rémunération des experts, fondé sur le paiement d'une somme forfaitaire (partie II B2), le nouveau système proposé tend à accentuer la précarité de la situation des experts. Le recrutement devient analogue à celui des consultants. Or les experts n'assurent pas le même rôle que les consultants.

Dans les projets, l'appel différencié à des experts ou à des consultants est lié aux caractéristiques des projets et ne peut s'inscrire simplement dans le cadre d'un choix sporadique. Un emploi plus large de consultants ne peut être développé que dans les pays bénéficiant de nationaux suffisamment qualifiés pour assurer l'exécution des projets. Par contre, l'utilisation de consultants à titre individuel, ou par le système de groupes consultatifs, évoquée dans la Recommandation 27, pourrait être développée à titre de conseil ou de supervision des opérations.

J'en viens à la Recommandation 28 pour dire que nous sommes particulièrement favorables à cette prise en considération.

Pour ce qui concerne la contribution à la coopération entre pays en voie de développement, la Recommandation 29 souligne l'importance que la CTPD peut avoir au niveau régional pour la coordination des projets. L'échange de spécialistes nationaux paraît possible dans la mesure où les gouvernements acceptent de financer des experts associés et par ailleurs que cet échange ne se traduira pas par un appauvrissement en compétences des structures nationales d'interventions. Cet échange pourrait être envisagé en termes de formation et non pas sous l'angle d'une simple prestation d'experts, car on peut se demander si les spécialistes expérimentés ne sont pas plus nécessaires en priorité dans leurs propres pays.

Nous émettons un avis très favorable sur la proposition de la participation des pays en développement aux projets régionaux.

La partie de la Recommandation 29 mérite des éclaircissements sur sa signification. Nous espérons en recevoir du Secrétariat.

Pour ce qui concerne la partie e), cette recommandation est effectivement importante dans le cadre des moyens de mise en oeuvre de la CTPD pour son rôle de concertation.

Pour ce qui concerne les institutions-conseils locales, la création et le renforcement de ces institutions paraissent un objectif important.

J'en viens actuellement au service d'informations techniques et scientifiques traité dans la partie II H du document. Mon pays a eu rôle important dans ce domaine en participant activement à la création, à la mise en place et au financement du système AGRIS. Nous avons confiance dans l'importance de ce genre d'action et dans la nécessité de la mise en place de réseaux d'information internationaux.

Pour ce qui concerne les avis techniques par correspondance dans le cadre de l'élargissement de ces réseaux d'information, notre groupement de recherche et d'études technologiques, qui existe au plan bilatéral français, pourrait, nous semble-t-il, être éventuellement ouvert aux organismes des Nations Unies.

J'en viens à la Recommandation 34 pour dire qu'à notre avis le point ii) nous semble devoir être supprimé, dans le cadre d'apport, par le gouvernement-hôte, de l'intégralité des éléments financés par le PNUD. Ceci tendrait à prouver qu'en dehors des moyens financiers, le pays peut conduire toute l'exécution du projet. Dans ce cas, on peut se poser la question de savoir si le PNUD devrait limiter son intervention à celle d'un simple bailleur de fonds. Nous estimons que non.

Par ailleurs, dès qu'il y a partage des responsabilités, on se retrouve dans la situation du point iii).

En conclusion, il ressort des propositions de ce rapport que la partie réservée aux experts tend à restreindre la représentation des experts européens dans l'ensemble des experts utilisés par les Nations Unies au profit d'experts de quelques pays en développement en fort chômage intellectuel. Nous pouvons considérer que ces propositions sont de nature à nous inquiéter pour les raisons que j'ai évoquées précédemment.

Il convient toutefois de souligner des éléments positifs visant à une plus grande implication des gouvernements dans les projets. De plus, les modalités de coopération régionale entre les pays en développement définis dans ce rapport nous paraissent très constructives car elles peuvent s'appuyer sur des aspects complémentaires de certains pays en développement et notamment dans le domaine de la formation.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I know we have quite a number of JIU reports and I will try to find my way through them. My delegation would like first to offer a few remarks on the subject of Implication of Additional Languages in the UN system, with particular reference, of course, to our own Organization. This subject is dealt with extensively in document CL 74/11, where the relevant report of the JIU is reproduced, together with very interesting introductory comments by the Director-General. A number of specific recommendations are advanced in the JIU report. It is stated: "While the Programme Committee generally considered that most of the JIU recommendations were sound ..." I would like to stress the words 'generally' and 'most'. The Programme Committee's assessment of the suggestions of the Inspectors' were surely cautious. In an obvious qualification of the general thrust of the JIU report, the Programme Committee agreed with the Director-General's comments concerning the value of linguistic and cultural diversity as a positive factor in international thinking and action. While recognizing the need for economy and while supporting some of the recommendations of the Inspectors, my delegation would like to take exception to at least two of the recommendations of the report.

My reservations go first to recommendation 3, which suggests that additions to existing language services should be avoided, and then to recommendation 5, which proposes that Member States requesting new language services should pay for such services. My delegation feels that those recommendations are made with a somewhat utilitarian approach, which the Director-General correctly identified in his introductory comments to the report. To the adjective utilitarian I would add the epithets of short-sighted and discriminatory. With your permission I will substantiate my point. The recommendations in question are short-sighted in as much as they do not take into account the advantage for all parties of permitting a better communication to be established with those countries and peoples that do not yet have the benefit of an official language within the UN system and with our organization in particular. The benefit, may I underline, is not only to those who speak another language but also to those who could be enabled to communicate better with their colleagues who do not have as their mother tongue one of the present official languages. You probably realize that my immediate concern relates to the possible introduction of Portuguese- as an official language. My own native language is presently spoken by seven Member Nations of this Organization located in three continents. The Portuguese-speaking Member Nations have an aggregate population that will soon reach the 200 million mark, which is quite a number of people. In each case agriculture is the dominant activity. In practically all cases they have an export-oriented economy, which constitutes an added requirement for effective communication with the external world. While not asking for any specific decision to be taken at this stage, my delegation feels that sooner or later language services will have *to be* extended to Portuguese, at least for interpretation facilities, on an equal basis with other already accepted languages. We are confident that all of us will benefit from such a measure and that it will produce clear and positive results for an enriched international cooperation in the agricultural field. Earlier, in my statement I qualified the proposals of the JIU as discriminatory. They are discriminatory in the sense that they are necessarily negative towards additional languages. They are also discriminatory when they suggest in recommendation 5 that Member Nations requesting additional language services defray their cost. Our contribution to the Regular Programme is presently utilized to pay for language services for the current official languages of the Organization. I cannot possibly agree that when Portuguese, or any other additional language, Swahili for instance, is introduced the cost will not be shared in the same universal manner. I very much hope that any action that our Council may take in relation to the report of the JIU on additional languages will take fully into account the views just expressed by my delegation.

I would like to address briefly a couple of other reports. I would like to offer a few brief comments on the JIU report on Professional Women in the UN System. The report makes a painstaking effort to represent all points of view fairly, so much so that it cites both arguments, both the pros and cons, for the issues covered without any evaluation of their merits. This can be misleading. For example, the large concentration of women in professional posts at a lower level in the UN system is explained by the fact that many women have been promoted to those grades from the general service category. This begs the question of why so many women and so few men of professional calibre should have been recruited into the general service in the first place, but the report does not take note of this. Moreover, it fails to suggest the obvious in analysis by disaggregating the professionals from general service and those recruited directly when studying promotions and grade levels by sex. The report provides useful but limited information on women in the UN system including FAO, chiefly by giving data on professional staff by sex, grade and country. Meaningful data on recruitment, applications, promotions, length of service, with grade level, job responsibilities, etc. by sex are largely missing. Unfortunately, the report makes poor use of its already scanty data base. Thus it reports in Table 1 percentage changes in staff by sex and year. This is certainly of interest, but it would be more useful to give the proportionate change in the sex distribution.

To conclude my remarks on this specific point, my delegation would like specifically to endorse the recommendation of the Inspectors in favour of the adoption and fulfilment of specific targets for the number of professional women in each unit of the Organization and all its grades. The suggested targets for FAO are not excessive. The proposed target of 17 percent of women in FAO professional staff by 1980, if achieved, would put FAO still below the 1976 average for the five larger UN Organizations. The fact that FAO stands out through its excellent top level commitment and support for improving the role of women in the Organization makes us confident that there will be encouraging progress in the near future in the Organization with regard to this subject that we are dealing with.

I would like now to make two points on two other reports. First, on the new system of agency support costs, we have just been informed by Mr. West that the Administrator of UNDP will present in 1979 new proposals on this question. First I would like at this stage to register our point of view that any change in the support costs arrangements between UNDP and agencies in the case of our specific Organization will have to be approved by our legislative bodies before coming into force.

The second point is the concern with the fact that at present from the regular programme from our budget FAO is already subsidizing UNDP-financed projects. We understand that the proposal made by the JIU in its preliminary note suggests what will result in further subsidization of UNDP-financed projects by the regular budget. We are concerned with this development since we feel that we have already quite a strain on the regular budget.

The other point on which we would like to comment briefly is the role of experts in developing cooperation. We see in the JIU report, document CL 74/17, a very innovative approach to technical development cooperation. I do not want to make detailed comments on the recommendations given because the Governing Council of UNDP is still going to analyse those recommendations more in depth.

However, we would like to put on record our support for the basic thrust of the report when it places emphasis on what it calls the broader concept of government management of projects.

We feel that the concept of government management of projects in which the control of projects by the governments of the recipient countries is in hand, is the right approach for the future. We feel that this is the way we should move into it. We understand that a number of recommendations on the role of experts are linked to this basic concept. I do not want to analyse or pass judgement on those specific recommendations but we do want to indicate quite clearly that the general thrust of the report in terms of government management of projects is a correct thrust.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): Je saisis cette occasion, puisque c'est la première fois que je prends ici la parole, pour saluer le Président, les Vice-Présidents élus et tous les membres du Secrétariat. Je désire aussi saluer tous les membres du Conseil et remercier le Directeur général pour les documents qui nous sont présentés et qui sont d'excellents documents de travail.

Mon intervention se limitera au point 21 ii) concernant le problème des incidences de l'emploi des nouvelles langues dans l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Mon pays, comme ceux de l'Angola, du Mozambique, du Cap-Vert et de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, au nom desquels je parle aussi, a adopté le portugais comme langue officielle depuis l'Indépendance. Ayant écouté le délégué du Brésil - qui parle la même langue que nous - je soutiens pleinement les considérations qu'il a présentées.

La Délégation Guinée-Bissau fait remarquer au Conseil et au Directeur général qu'il ne s'agit pas d'introduire une langue de plus dans l'Organisation, mais le problème se pose surtout pour les interventions et les débats. En ce qui concerne les documents écrits, on pense qu'une quelconque des trois langues officielles adoptées peut nous servir. On rappelle aussi, comme le délégué du Brésil l'a déjà fait au Conseil, que les pays membres de la FAO, qui ont comme langue officielle le portugais, sont déjà au nombre de sept: le Portugal, le Brésil, l'Angola, le Mozambique, la Guinée-Bissau, le Cap-Vert et Sao Tomé-et-Principe qui font partie de trois continents.

Je rappelle aussi que l'OMS vient d'adopter cette langue comme langue de travail.

Notre délégation ne demande pas une action immédiate, mais désirerait que cette question soit examinée plus attentivement par l'Organisation en vue d'améliorer notre participation aux débats.

RAMADHAR (India): May I take this opportunity to congratulate the JIU for an excellent report, a report which is of a very high order, even though this report was promoted by the concern expressed by the UNDP Council over the rising costs it has concentrated on a very wide spectrum of development cooperation. We had considered this report in the Programme Committee, and I would not like to go into details of the report, but may I highlight some of the important points.

We are aware that it is rather too early to react with any degree of precision to some of these recommendations, as they are to be examined in greater depth. The joint comments on the United Nations agencies are therefore appropriately of a provisional nature. We also note that the report will be considered in depth by the UNDP Governing Council in its June 1979 session.

There are a number of very important recommendations in the report which furnish much food for thought, as has been pointed out in the joint comments; and we think that these recommendations should be considered further in depth. We agree that the central recommendation of the report is that in future the programme should be based on the principle of government management of projects, meaning that those governments should exercise authority over other activities, regardless of whether they are financed nationally or by international agencies. I do not think there could be any problem in this concept, at least for the new projects, depending of course on the wishes of the countries concerned. Other things such as lump sum payments, we agree, are a matter to be examined further in depth.

Coming to the other recommendations, we agree that the correct functioning of the international experts is to provide technical information and skills to national project management staff who are responsible for applying their advice and techniques in the course of project implementation. Projects requiring the development of permanent institutions and the training of national personnel for continuing programmes should be given priority. Other things such as recruitment of experts, outposts of agency headquarters personnel to field projects, employment of expatriate nationals in projects, further improvements in the utilization of associate experts and United Nations volunteers and technical backstopping of experts will no doubt need further examination.

On the Associate Experts Scheme, may I point to one specific recommendation in paragraph 154.3 which says that donor countries may wish to support candidates other than their own national and associate experts; I think this is a very sound recommendation which should be considered.

These are some of the primary comments which my delegation wishes to make at this stage. We are aware that the UNDP Administrator is still examining these recommendations in collaboration with agencies and we hope that this Council will have an opportunity to discuss these matters in greater depth for further examination in the next inter-agency consultation.

P.L. SALES (United States of America): The review of Joint Inspection Unit Reports has become a regular feature in all of the governing bodies of the organization of the UN Development System. This attests to the growing and recognized importance of external evaluations and, in particular, the growing stature of the JIU. This body has demonstrated in recent years its capacity to oversee a wide range of technical subject matter, and to produce reports of a high quality. The fact that there are six reports before this Council is proof in itself of the impact that the JIU is having not only on the UN System at large, but the FAO, as well.

The Director-General is to be commended for the actions he has taken in following up many of the JIU recommendations. He has urgently argued those cases where FAO has either taken exception to such recommendations or has been unable to carry them out.

I do not intend to comment separately and in detail on each of the JIU reports as these have already been discussed at the May and October meetings of the Programme Committee.

I believe FAO should endorse the document entitled "Joint Comments on the Report on Certain Aspects of Backstopping of Technical Cooperation Activities in the United Nations System". It is particularly gratifying to note that UNDP and all of the Specialized Agencies collaborated to produce a document outlining their common views.

On the subject of "A New System for Agency Support Costs", my Government is most interested in achieving maximum economies in any formula which will be acceptable to the agencies of the UN System. We note that further deliberations will be held in other fora and that the subject matter will be reviewed again in FAO governing bodies.

The "Report on the Role of Experts in Development Cooperation" also deals with a subject which will continue to be under further study in inter-agency, as well as inter-governmental, bodies. My delegation continues to urge FAO, as it did in the last Programme Committee Session, to play an active role in the inter-agency reviews and follow-up tasks. The implications of some of the JIU's recommendations, such as the impact which a reduction in salaries of experts would have, on the quality of the corps of experts who are available to the UN System, clearly bear detailed scrutiny. My Government believes that the principle of "new diversions" and Government examination of projects should be advanced with care, bearing in mind the capacities of recipient governments. I would also like to reiterate a particularly important point made by the Programme Committee, namely the importance of organizations to have the latest technical information and to ensure that fresh talent is made available through their recruitment process.

The JIU report on "Women in the Professional Category and in the United Nations System" itemizes the numerous measures which the Director-General has taken to integrate women more fully in the Secretariat as well as the field staff. My Government lays great stress in this process and wishes to congratulate the forthright steps already taken by the Director-General. Since the latest figures presented in the JIU report are for 1976, it is unfortunately not possible for my delegation to note the progress effected in the past two years.

Mr. West may wish to give us a brief status report.

Attaining the 17 percent target established by the JIU would require an annual addition of 13 women to FAO's professional staff, including the replacement of any women already on board who may be separated. The measures taken by the World Food Programme also show a positive attitude which would enable it to meet its target.

H. PUURUNEN (Finland): I should like to make some brief comments on document CL 74/13 concerning the JIU report on women in the professional category in the United Nations system. The JIU report provides a comprehensive and at the same time detailed analysis of this matter which is of interest to us. We strongly feel that the efforts aimed at improving the status of women in general should be strengthened by the corresponding action within the United Nations system. In our view the report and its conclusions and recommendations form a realistic basis and orientation to the efforts aimed at improving the status of women in the United Nations system. They should be implemented as soon as feasible. We have noted with satisfaction the assurance given by the Director-General to follow within the framework he described in his comments to the report.

It is evident that the Director-General cannot succeed in this task without the full cooperation of Member States and we urge all countries to assist him in the implementation of the recommendations of the JIU report.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): I shall be dealing with all the documents listed under Stage B of document CL 74/OD/6, together. The Tenth Report of the Activities of the JIU is a detailed and comprehensive document and we have no comments to offer on it. As regards the implications of additional languages on the United Nations system, we agree with the Director-General's view that linguistic and cultural diversity contributes positively to international thinking and action. The problem of including

additional language services should therefore not be viewed from the point of view of costs only but also in the light of the interests of the Organization as a whole, as well as of the country or countries directly concerned.

Caution should, however, continue to be exercised in this field since, when a certain number of languages is exceeded, communication tends to become too cumbersome for efficient operation and so costly as to become counter productive. We concur with the substance of the Director-General's comments on the JIU recommendations about the common language service on an interagency basis.

As regards document CL 74/12 on some Aspects of Backstopping on Technical Cooperation Activities in the UN System, we note that the JIU report covers fairly well-known ground on its comments on a number of aspects of work in support of projects and programmes. Nevertheless we feel it is a useful document which comprehensively analyses the difficulties to be overcome in the area.

We have one brief comment here relating to the reported difficulties of administration support at the project level in developing countries and suggest that rather than burden individually the field projects with administrative support costs, this function may be assumed by the FAO country offices when established. We would also like to stress upon the need for post-project follow-ups, as also the need to overcome delays in this connexion. Terminal and technical reports on executed projects should be sent to the concerned governments expeditiously since these form the basis of post-project follow-up.

As regards professional women in the United Nations system, document CL 74/13 we note that the relatively low number of women in professional categories was largely due to the specific nature of FAO's activities but we are confident that with women showing more interest in the agricultural discipline this problem can be overcome. As regards the 17 percent target proposed by the JIU report for professional women in FAO by 1980, we feel that this may be ambitious under the present circumstances but nevertheless this can serve as a target which must be borne in mind. We would take this opportunity of encouraging the Director-General to continue with this policy of recruiting more women in FAO so as to achieve the target. On our part we would be willing to assist FAO in improving recruitment of professional women to the organization. In this connexion we would suggest a drive, not only to governments but also to other possible sources of candidates in individual countries. We would, however, stress that in the final selection of candidates, the prescribed government selection procedures must invariably be followed and no unilateral selection should be undertaken by FAO.

As regards document CL 74/17 on the Role of Experts in Development Cooperation, we can only say that judging from both its size and its bulk it could perhaps be deferred to the next Council meeting to give us more time to examine it.

In conclusion, we agree with the view expressed by several delegates that we would have to revert to some aspects covered in Stage B in a subsequent session of the Council when their consideration would be more opportune as by that time they would also have been examined by other international agencies concerned.

V. FISER (Czechoslovakia): I have only a few comments on the very well prepared document CL 74/17. When discussing this point of the programme, I would like to emphasize the importance and significance that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic attributes to the function and role of the FAO and the UNDP in the system of cooperation. With full justification it can be said that this significance will grow still more because at the stage of reconstruction of international economic relations, equal and just relations will be set in mutual aid and cooperation. After study of the appropriate document, it is possible to state that under conditions of cooperation between FAO and the UNDP the main activity should be concentrated on the effort to overcome starvation, malnutrition and the overall economic backwardness as fast and efficiently as possible.

Another field in cooperation is creating conditions for equal international economic relations, hence to accelerate maximum overall economic development in countries of the Third World. Naturally Czechoslovakia wishes to take an active part in this cooperation and besides the established forms we present our new proposals. Next year we intend, in cooperation with FAO, to organize three training seminars for experts from developing countries. They would include mainly problems connected with biological nitrogen fixation in soil, and the utilization of recycled organic matter as fertilizers and finally, the utilization and economy of the wealth of forests. We expect these to be four week seminars each attended by about 25 experts. In this area we have good experience from cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe.

The further subject is one of complex monothematic study trips for more countries, where especially workers for developing countries would be able to familiarize themselves with modern agriculture and; food, industrial enterprises.. In working through this topic we arrived at the conclusion, that in the interests of a systematic elaboration of findings acquired in this way during study tours it would be expedient to establish training centres different' in some FAO Member Countries, at which the qualification growth of young experts, mainly from developing countries, would be ensured in the form of intensive theoretical instruction and to subsequent programmes in practice. Of course, the establishment of such training centres would be connected with investments and the cost of running the centres and it would be necessary for the eventual materialization of this idea to include it in the financial budget considerations in future years.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan): My delegation's comments are related to document CL 74/12 and CL 74/17 and the relevant portion of the reports of the Programme Committee.

We consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN on Some Aspects of Backstopping of Technical Cooperation Activities an extremely useful and informative document. Its usefulness is not reduced by the fact that study of projects was not made random. A more scientifically selected study is more likely to confirm the findings and justify major recommendations.

The backstopping could be anatomized into three categories, namely, purely technical, purely administrative, and mixed, appears to us a fair categorization. Any attempt at more refined definition can only obscure the basic problems which need solution.

In paragraphs 44 and 45 of their report, the JIU have referred to technical backstopping. It would do the organization credit to take further measures for improving the quality of technical guidance. It has to be realized that the categorization of good, excellent and poor by the project managers themselves may have an exaggerated estimate. The response from governments might provide a more balanced view.

The results of the survey mentioned in paragraphs 58-68 point to certain inadequacies which must cause all UN agencies to sit up and think. Particularly disturbing is the information that appointment of project personnel is unconsciously delayed, briefing is superficial and that administrative supervision left so much to be desired.

In paragraph 69, among other things, the JIU has rightly emphasized the need for integrated input from all organizations of the UN in the preparation of country programmes. The Director-General has, on the other hand, pointed out that this input was not sought and adequate cooperation not desired by UNDP in the preparation of country programmes. There has been a visible tendency to ignore or supplant the contributions which specialized agencies can and should make. This leads to considerable duplication of expertise and competitive efforts at project implementation. This is not a happy development.

In paragraph 74 there is a recommendation which seems to us of dubious use, if followed in every case. Firstly this may mean appointment of Chief Technical Adviser months and maybe years before the project can hope to get implemented. Secondly, the qualifications for a satisfactory supervised implementation are not necessarily the same as project planning.

We are pleased that FAO stands out, among major international agencies, in comparatively more prompt recruitment of international staff - well ahead of the UN itself which is increasingly looking for execution of projects than the system had even envisaged.

But there is one related subject which has caused us some worry. In paragraph 130 of document CL 74/3, we are informed that FAO followed the practice of submitting one candidate's name for each post. This practice is fine where technical expertise required is so specific that more than one candidate is not available. In paragraph 131 it has been suggested that FAO have improved on maintenance of rosters of experts. Other agencies have no difficulty in submitting several names. Why should FAO find the problem so insurmountable? This system is causing so much wastage and loss of time that, we would counsel, FAO should have another look at it. We would also suggest that in forwarding names, invariably more than one region should be kept in view and the representation of developing countries must also figure.

Similarly, we are not sure if the statements made in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document CL 74/12 are correct.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I should like to limit the comments of my delegation on Section B at this stage to (v) . My Government realizes that the issue of overhead costs is of great concern to FAO and other specialized organizations. We recognize that the financial implications of the project execution on behalf of third parties can have impact on the regular Programmes which have to be handled in accordance with the financial rules of the Organization. We are of the opinion, however, that the United Nations as a whole have a responsibility of permanently looking into the overall cost implications of the growing technical assistance volume charged through the system. We therefore welcome the documents before us as a first step of a thorough review as well as the various comments made on the document. We feel that we are in the middle of a system-wide discussion, and we look forward as to what the ACC will have to tell us about the revised version of the document on cost elements prepared by the UNDP Working Group on overhead questions.

We wish to encourage the Director-General to give all necessary detailed information required in order to contribute to a solution of this problem. We are in this context not in agreement with what is stated in Paragraph 2.86 of the document CL 74/5. The Governing Council of UNDP had invited the Special Agency to provide more information. The pertinent decision taken reads as follows, and I quote: "Invites the executing agencies to provide information on the Working Group at its next session in January 1979 on possible measures which could be taken to strengthen their procedures so that the actual level of support cost components can be more clearly identified".

We welcome the intention of the Director-General to report further on the matter and to keep the Programme and Finance Committees as well as the Council up to date about the ongoing discussions. We would recommend that the Council respects the situation as it stands and without prejudicing future development takes note of the information as given in document CL 74/15 before us.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (Interprétation de l'arabe): Nous avons beaucoup de rapports devant nous, et je ne vais pas les discuter en détail car cela a déjà été fait par plusieurs délégations. Je veux simplement parler de deux questions: d'abord le document CL 74/11 sur l'utilisation de langues supplémentaires dans le système des Nations Unies, et ensuite le document CL 74/13 sur les femmes dans les organisations des Nations Unies.

En ce qui concerne le premier sujet, les recommandations qui sont contenues dans le document CL 74/11 sont basées dans une large mesure sur la réalité. La FAO, pour sa part, essaie de prendre ces recommandations en considération lorsqu'elle décide de limiter le coût de l'interprétation et de la traduction dans différentes réunions.

Nous sommes en complet accord avec le Directeur général lorsqu'il parle des différentes cultures, des langues différentes qui s'y rattachent et de l'importance de l'utilisation de ces langues. Pour cette raison, je suis tout à fait d'accord avec les délégués qui m'ont précédé: il ne faut pas s'attacher simplement au coût de ces langues supplémentaires, mais il faut comprendre aussi l'utilité de l'utilisation de ces langues vivantes. L'adjonction de nouvelles langues à celles déjà utilisées dans l'Organisation peut être extrêmement utile pour certains pays qui en bénéficieraient et ceci contribuerait à enrichir les débats au sein de notre Organisation.

Ma délégation est tout à fait satisfaite des efforts que le Directeur général a déployés dans ce domaine tendant à adopter la langue arabe comme langue officielle au sein de notre Organisation, et ma délégation voudrait remercier le Koweït, l'Irak, le Qatar, les Emirats arabes unis et les autres Etats qui ont contribué à l'utilisation de la langue arabe. Sur le plan financier, ils ont proposé un crédit de 300 000 dollars pour développer l'utilisation de la langue arabe dans notre Organisation. Nous espérons que les autres Etats arabes feront de même pour que la langue arabe soit employée de façon plus large.

Ceci pour répondre à certaines délégations qui ont exprimé leurs craintes au sujet des implications financières sur le budget de l'utilisation de nouvelles langues. Nous sommes tout à fait conscients de l'importance de cette question, et c'est pourquoi nous demandons aux Etats arabes de donner une contribution dans ce domaine.

En ce qui concerne les femmes dans les organismes des Nations Unies, nous sommes conscients du fait que les femmes ont un rôle à jouer extrêmement important dans le combat contre la faim, la malnutrition, les maladies, etc. La femme ne peut pas avoir un rôle inférieur à celui de l'homme dans ces domaines. C'est pourquoi nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec les décisions qui ont été prises par la FAO et avec les mesures qu'elle a appliquées pour essayer de définir le rôle de la femme d'une façon plus large et lui donner une place plus importante aussi bien au sein de la FAO que dans le travail qu'elle peut fournir sur le terrain.

J. IÑURRIETA RIGORES (Cuba): Mi delegación desea referirse al documento CL 74/13 de trabajo sobre la Mujer en la Categoría del Cuadro Orgánico y categorías superiores del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Primero que todo, debemos reconocer el esfuerzo realizado por la Secretaria con vistas a ofrecer una visión general de cómo está la situación de la contratación de la mujer además de hacernos proposiciones concretas.

Nuestra delegación en general coincide en sus análisis con los aspectos que al respecto señala el documento y tiene a bien que se incremente la participación de la mujer en el Cuadro Orgánico del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Indudablemente, constituye un factor importante de análisis el papel de la mujer en el Cuadro Orgánico ya que el promedio de las cinco Organizaciones más grandes de las Naciones Unidas está comportando a un nivel por debajo del que se aspira con independencia de que en general se catalogue como positivo la participación de la mujer, por demostrar una evolución social. No debe verse esto aislado de la representación de los países como tal; no se debe ver la representatividad de los organismos como un problema de feminismo, lo cual constituye una distorsión del problema esencial.

La mayor incorporación de la mujer en el Cuadro Orgánico del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas no debe ir en detrimento de la representatividad de los países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, queremos referirnos a la proposición del distinguido delegado del Brasil sobre la incorporación del idioma portugués. Mi delegación brevemente quiere expresar que no tendríamos inconveniente en que se entrara a considerar en otra ocasión la posibilidad de utilizar el portugués como idioma de trabajo.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): In regard to the new languages, one of the speakers who took the floor before me said that the Arabic language was not an official language of the United Nations, and I think here there has been a slight misunderstanding. This is, of course, not intended, but we felt it was our duty to correct this misunderstanding.

It would also be useful to mention here the constructive role that has been played by the Arab States in regard to the use of the Arabic language in the UN and the specialised agencies so that this language could be used in a flexible way without it having any or at least not too heavy a financial effect on the work of the Organization.

I have asked for the floor at this time to say that we would agree that what has been said by the Director-General concerning the use of new languages, particularly in regard to Recommendation 12, where he said that the use of different languages has a positive aspect and is one of the types of positive exchanges that can take place between countries. We would agree with what was said by Lebanon with regard to document CL 74/13 on the role of women and on the need for increasing the contribution of women and the recruitment of women in the organization-. We feel that when we say this could be done by stages or steps, we should try to make these stages as short as possible.

A.V. MARTINS MONTEIRO (Observateur pour le Portugal): Monsieur le Président, ma delegation désire manifester son plus chaleureux appui à la proposition de la délégation brésilienne concernant l'éventuelle introduction du portugais comme langue officielle de la FAO.

L'appui, déjà exprimé par le délégué de la Guinée-Bissau également au nom des autres pays africains d'expression portugaise, témoigne l'intérêt commun et l'espoir de voir cette proposition bien accueillie au sein de l'organisation.

Dans ces dernières années, les millions de personnes qui dans le monde parlent le portugais ont pu ici être représentées, en dehors du Brésil et du Portugal, par de nouveaux Etats qui regardent l'action de la FAO avec enthousiasme et détermination. Les pays lusophones prônent une coopération active et efficace avec l'organisation et sont conscients du rôle important qu'ils peuvent jouer pour le renforcement de ses activités.

La diversité et la distribution géographiques de ces pays, l'importance des positions qu'ils occupent en Amérique du Sud, en Afrique et en Europe, les nombreuses communautés qui parlent le portugais et qui contribuent par leur travail au développement d'autres pays et d'autres continents, la contribution à l'union entre les peuples apportée par une langue si répandue dans le monde sont, me semble-t-il, des raisons importantes et valables. Nous croyons qu'elles justifieront le soutien du Conseil à la proposition de l'honorable délégation du Brésil, comme cela a déjà été fait par l'honorable délégué de Cuba. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the end of our discussion on the JIU reports which forms the stage B or stage 2 of our discussion of item 21 on our Agenda. These are all developing subjects and not really very many new suggestions have been made-I would like to call on the Secretariat to round off the subject.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation): Only three delegations referred to the subject of support costs, and I think they did not wish to do more than record their comments at this stage.

CHAIRMAN: I will now give the floor to the Secretary-General who is responsible for languages.

SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais tout de suite exprimer notre gratitude à toutes les délégations qui ont reconnu et salué les efforts que déploie le Directeur général pour établir et renforcer l'équilibre linguistique dans les langues officielles de l'organisation.

Nous avons pris note des observations qui ont été présentées, en particulier celles du distingué représentant du Brésil et du distingué représentant de la Guinée-Bissau tendant à demander au Secrétariat de tenir ce problème en mémoire et d'analyser la situation pour un examen éventuel et une décision possible des organes politiques de l'organisation.

Nous avons enregistré le fait que tous les orateurs qui ont parlé sur ce sujet sont d'accord avec le Directeur général pour considérer que l'utilisation de langues nouvelles ne pourrait être qu'un facteur d'enrichissement des discussions, un facteur positif pour développer les communications entre les différentes cultures. Ce sont là des considérations essentielles que le Directeur général a toujours eu à l'esprit.

Je conclurai cette brève intervention en répondant à deux questions précises qui ont été posées par le délégué de la France, à savoir ce que voulaient dire exactement les termes: "toutes les langues étaient limitées". Nous voulons simplement dire par là que toutes les langues ne sont pas toujours utilisées de la même manière. Il y a des réunions qui sont tenues dans une seule langue et, par conséquent, les documents sont produits dans cette seule langue. Il y a des séminaires, des réunions techniques qui se tiennent dans l'une ou l'autre des langues officielles de l'Organisation. C'est la signification que vous devez donner à ces deux mots "emploi limité".

Un autre point a été soulevé par le délégué de la France, à savoir la spécialisation des interprètes et des services de traduction. Je crois que c'est un élément qu'il faut avoir à l'esprit, mais je pense que la spécialisation des interprètes, dès lors qu'on a recours au marché des interprètes pour le recrutement des interprètes Free lance, permet difficilement de parler de spécialisation. Au contraire, on peut parler davantage de familiarisation avec les problèmes et les responsabilités de l'Organisation en question mais pas de spécialisation, la spécialisation découlant de l'emploi permanent, continu d'un personnel spécialisé dans l'utilisation d'une langue déterminée. Je crois que, dans le cas qui nous préoccupe, ce n'est pas la question. La familiarisation, nous en tenons le plus grand compte dans le recrutement de nos interprètes sur le marché des interprètes en faisant appel le plus possible à ceux qui ont l'habitude de travailler avec nous, car ce facteur de familiarisation nous paraît effectivement essentiel pour rendre l'interprétation beaucoup plus efficace en faveur de nos débats.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): Voy a limitarme a responder a tres preguntas que se han hecho; pero debo asegurarle, Sr. Presidente, que especialmente en cuanto al Informe sobre la función de los expertos en la cooperación para el desarrollo, hemos tomado nota de las nuevas sugerencias y comentarios que se han hecho, ya que este Informe permanecerá bajo consideración de los Organismos Rectores, de las Comisiones Técnicas del Sistema durante bastante tiempo en el futuro; así que vamos a seguir aumentando nuestro acervo de comentarios sobre el Informe.

Sobre este Informe, sin embargo, el Sr. Representante de Francia manifestó que la Recomendación 29(d) era confusa en cuanto a que hablaba de las instituciones asociadas en un acuerdo de cooperación y la CTPD. Creo que, en efecto, el párrafo es confuso y la única explicación que nosotros tenemos para este párrafo es que este Informe fue redactado mucho antes de que la Conferencia de Buenos Aires sobre

CTPD tuviera lugar y aun también en un proceso muy inicial de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires. En el tiempo en que este párrafo fue redactado se hablaba, principalmente en la documentación preparatoria de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, de insumos en materia de expertos y equipos y que esos insumos calificarían si eran de países en desarrollo a los proyectos como de CTPD; pero desde entonces en el plan de acción se contempla también la asociación de instituciones nacionales. Yo creo que en este párrafo del Informe se quiso prever, como así fue, que al utilizar instituciones nacionales, eso calificase ya las actividades como de CTPD y se pudieran beneficiar del financiamiento especial para CTPD.

Las otras dos preguntas son del representante de Afganistán, mejor dicho, una de ellas es una observación respecto a la práctica normal de la Organización de someter sólo un candidato por vez para ocupar cargos de expertos en los proyectos de campo. En efecto, esa es la práctica de la Organización, aunque hay algunas veces, excepcionales y a solicitud de los gobiernos, a quienes en tales casos se les pide que tomen compromisos generales. Normalmente presentamos un experto a la vez porque tenemos gran carencia de ellos y nos es muy difícil mantener en principio a disposición de un gobierno tres expertos, sobre todo cuando los gobiernos suelen tardar mucho tiempo en darnos una respuesta. Entonces lo que hacemos es mantener uno a disposición del gobierno, en principio, aunque supongo que las excepciones las podemos hacer cuando los gobiernos adquieren un compromiso especial de respondernos con rapidez y, sobre todo, si tenemos más de un experto para ofrecer.

La segunda pregunta del representante de Afganistán es sobre los párrafos 10 y 11 de los comentarios del Director General sobre el Informe de algunos aspectos del apoyo a las actividades de cooperación técnica. Estos párrafos son correctos. Esa creo que es la pregunta del representante de Afganistán y esta es la forma como actuamos. Lo único que puedo agregar al párrafo 10 es que desde que se consideró este Informe en forma detallada en el Comité del Programa hemos hecho grandes adelantos en cuanto a la preparación y computerización de listas de posibles expertos.

P. SKOUFIS (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): With regard to the JIU report on professional women in the United Nations system, I can be very brief. Perhaps I can answer the concern expressed by the delegation from France on the level of recruitment effort being made to improve the participation of women in the Secretariat by providing the delegate from the United States with a progress report since the issue of the JIU report.

I am pleased to report that as a result of the Director-General's programmes and intensification of his efforts to improve the participation of women in the Secretariat, we are currently reflecting a total of 197 professional women among our staff as opposed to 173 reported in the JIU report. This increase of 24 reflects a percentage increase of 14.3 per cent as opposed to the 12.7 per cent reflected in the JIU report.

It is also gratifying to note that many of the new employees and staff members were put into higher grades. We have now four senior professional staff women at the D-1 level, whereas at the time of the JIU report we had two.

Most recently the Director-General appointed a woman national staff member from Turkey to serve as a Deputy-Director of the Field Programme Development Division in Mr. Yriart's Department. She is the first woman Deputy-Director of an FAO Division.

Efforts to continue along these lines will be made. The Director-General has formalized a programme calling attention to the need to increase participation both at Headquarters and in the field.

The second query related to the target figures. As the report reflects, in the Director-General's comments the Director-General has not accepted a target figure as expressed by the JIU report. Both the Programme and Finance Committees commented on this, and these are certainly considered as negative figures, but for the reasons expressed in the Programme and Finance Committees' reports to the Council the figures were not considered to be realistic as a result of our analysis. There are no significant numbers to be increased in the overall staffing of the Organization, therefore opportunities for the employment of women must come about through Nutrition. It is important to keep in mind also that women do leave the service, and it is necessary to replace them as well, therefore we must approach target figures with caution.

Moreover, the emphasis appears to be more on qualification rather than just numbers. The qualification criteria is the one the Organization must keep in the forefront as it goes about its recruitment programme. Certainly when women graduates are qualifying for the position being recruited for, we must be assured their qualifications and equipment will be acceptable.

That sums up our comments on the JIU report on women in the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN This afternoon's session will be chaired by Mrs. Florence A. Chenoweth, First Vice-Chairman.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/12

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74º período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

(4 December 1978)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mrs. F.A. Chenoweth, First Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence
de Mme F.A. Chenoweth, Premier Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 12 sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia
de la Sra. F.A.T Chenoweth, Primer Vicepresidente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAQ ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAQ Y DEL PMA (continuación)

- 11. World Food Programme (continued)
- 11. Programme alimentaire mondial (suite)
- 11. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)

- 11.2 Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
- 11.2 Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire
- 11.2 Elección de cinco miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda AlimentarTa

CHAIRMAN: We have come to the item of the agenda dealing with the election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the United Nations World Food Programme, As we have seen in the Order of the Day, nominations received by the Secretariat as of 18.00 hours Friday, 1 December 1978, are as follows: Angola, Brazil, Kenya, Netherlands, Thailand. This means that we have five candidates for five vacancies. According to Rule XII.9 (a) of the General Rules of the Organization , in cases where there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairman may submit to the Conference or the Council that the appointment be decided by clear general consent , I would therefore like to submit to the Council that the five countries I have just mentioned be appointed by acclamation. I submit this to you for your approval,

Election by acclamation
Election par
acclamation Elección
por aclamación

A. MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): Allow me to take this opportunity to inform the delegates –particularly those representing the Member Governments of the FAO Council - that the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Rome in its note of 8 November 1978 communicated to all Member Governments of the FAO Council that the Government of Indonesia wishes to stand for re-election for membership of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as from 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1981 and solicits their support. However, noting that Thailand - one of our neighbours and a member of the association of South East Asia nations, well known as ASEAN - wishes to become a member of the CFA, my delegation has decided to withdraw its intention of presenting its candidature for re-election to the CFA giving the opportunity to Thailand.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to extend our highest appreciation to the Member Governments of the FAO Council for the prompt and positive response to my Government's solicitation. I believe the decision is quite understandable for the reason mentioned earlier.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Member States who have just been elected within FAO to be members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We also wish to thank you, Madame Chairman, in particular, for having chaired that election.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): It is indeed a great pleasure for Thailand to be nominated and elected as a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the United Nations World Food Programme. Our keen interest in the CFA has been inspired by the ever efficient operation and activities of the Committee for which the whole Committee - both remaining and outgoing members -are highly commendable. The CFA has done much for needy peoples of the world and has established a very high standard which Thailand, being a new member of the Committee, is determined to do her best to maintain in collaboration with the other members, in order that such standards be at least maintained and, whenever possible, further improved.

On behalf of my delegation I wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude especially to the delegate of Indonesia, our Asian brothers, for the kindness shown to us in making way for us. Our gratitude also goes to the Council members for their kind support and the confidence they have shown us.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I should like to express the deep appreciation and gratitude of my Government to the members of the Council for permitting us to serve another mandate in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

I think I need not underline the importance we attach to the World Food Programme and its humanitarian mission throughout the world.

G. DE BAKKER (Observer for the Netherlands): I too would like on behalf of my Government to thank all those members of the Council who have supported our reelection in this important Committee. I had the opportunity and privilege at the last meeting of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to announce that our Government would appreciate being a candidate again, and asked for support. We are really grateful that this support has come forth so overwhelmingly and that this means that we can now continue to be a member of this very important Committee.

Like the other delegations who have been elected, we too feel that this is one of the most important efforts in the field of food and agriculture and we can therefore assure you that we will continue in the future with the same attention and devotion as we have shown in the past. For that reason we again thank all those who supported our candidature.

A.I. MACHAYO (Observer for Kenya): On behalf of my delegation I wish to thank the Council for electing us to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. My Government attaches considerable importance to the work of this Committee and I only wish to assure the Council that we will shall do our best.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

21. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters: Work of the 34th and 35th Sessions of the Programme Committee, and 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued) (CL 74/3; CL 74/4; CL 74/5)

21. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration: activités des trente-quatrième et trente-cinquième sessions du Comité du programme et des quarante et unième et quarante-deuxième sessions du Comité financier (suite) (CL 74/3; CL 74/4; CL 74/5)

21. Otros asuntos del programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: labor del 34° y 35° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 41° y 42° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (continuación) (CL 74/3; CL 74/4; CL 74/5)

Including:

A savoir:

Con inclusion de:

Format of medium-term objectives

Présentation des objectifs à moyen terme

Formato del documento objetivos a plazo medio

Future cooperation with the industry

Coopération future avec l'industrie

Cooperación futura con la industria

Review of FAO's Language Policy and Practice, with special reference to Category 3 Meetings

Examen de la politique et de la pratique de la FAO en matière linguistique, notamment en ce qui concerne les réunions de la catégorie 3 Examen de las políticas y métodos de la FAO en materia de idiomas, especialmente en lo que respecta a las reuniones clasificadas en la categoría 3

Strengthening National Agricultural Research

Renforcement de la recherche agricole nationale

Fortalecimiento de las investigaciones agrícolas nacionales

Review of FAO Statutory Regional Bodies

Examen des organes statutaires régionaux

Examen de los Organos Regionales Estatutarios de la FAO

CHAIRMAN: As was announced by the Chairman this morning, we now move on to stage "C" of item 21, where we have on Other Matters: the Format of Medium Objectives, Review of FAO' Language Policy and Practice, the Future Cooperation with Industry, the Strengthening of National Agricultural Research, the Review of FAO's Statutory Regional Bodies.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): There are five matters under Other Matters for me to introduce and I would take them in a slightly reverse order so I would first of all take up two matters which are included in the May report of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Programme Committee. Then I will come to three remaining issues which are dealt with in our report from our last session.

The first issue is a Review of FAO's Language Policy and Practice, with special reference to Category 3 Meetings. You will certainly recall that the last Conference required very specifically that the Programme Committee undertook the task of initial and periodic review of the Organization's language policy and practice in the light of applicable criteria and that such review should include specifically the classification of conferences and sessions from the point of view of the use of languages, and, even more, the Programme Committee was very specifically asked by the Conference to take an initial review and then to refer back to this Council Session.

When the Committee considered this specific issue it first shared the view of the Director-General that there had been no major problem involving language policy in relation to the meetings falling between categories 1 and 2, especially so since we are all aware of the steps already taken by the Director-General, as well as the political stand taken by this Council and the Conference. With this in mind, the Committee concentrated itself basically on category 3 meetings, and for the sake of clarity it agreed first of all with the Director-General that a new category, category 4, should be established and that this category should include seminars, training courses, workshops and other group training activities and be attended primarily by selected nominees participating at FAO's expense. These training activities are often funded from extra-budgetary resources.

Then the Committee noted with great pleasure the steps again taken by the Director-General to improve language balance with regard to meetings falling now within the newly established category, and you will find the whole list presented on B 6, 7 and 8, and I failed to mention one thing, that since the document was prepared only for the Programme Committee and the Committee thought it would be useful to contain some essential information and then the Committee attached an Annex with this information at the end of this report. From the table I have just referred to, you will certainly see the great improvement that has already been achieved and the greater prominence being given now to Arabic, French and Spanish languages and the Committee was especially pleased that the Director-General was able to improve language balance within the existing budgetary allocations.

In reviewing the issue the Committee requested the Director-General to envisage the greater use of non-FAO languages in group training activities and that within such a context a greater use should be made from national institutions, especially for training purposes.

The Committee was also requested by the Conference to study the issue of some meetings and publications that were terminated and in reviewing the whole list of issues, referring first of all to publications, the Committee studied one issue especially, relating to the publication of a per caput fibre consumption survey and report. The Committee realized that most of the expense were related, but

for not that much, for printing, but mostly for compiling relevant information, tabulation analysis and survey. It considered that particular publication as being valuable and urged the Director-General to make all possible arrangements for the continuation of the publication that I have just now referred to.

Now I would say only a few words about the future cooperation with Industry. The Committee was requested by the Conference to review the paper on future relations with Industry and the Committee was informed about the steps taken by the Director-General in compliance with the decision taken by the Conference to terminate the present relationship with the Industry Cooperative Programme, ICP and then came to grips only with the future cooperation with Industry. The Committee fully shared the views of the Director-General that the cooperation with the Industry should be energetically pursued mostly on a sectorial basis and was pleased to know that the steps that had already been taken to continue activities previously covered by ICP such as by dye development, agricultural organizations, pulp and paper and so on.

The Committee welcomed really the flexibility and forms of cooperation proposed by the Director-General and recommended that the industries should be encouraged to assist in development, not only in an advisory capacity but also through investment and technical assistance. The Committee also wanted to bring to the attention of the Council its views on the need for further strengthening cooperation among developing countries in the field of agricultural industries.

Now I am coming to the last report, the report of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Committee, and I refer to the Formative Medium Term Objectives. Here again the Committee was required by the Conference to look at this issue again since all Members of the Council will recall that the Formative Medium-term Objectives issued has been for quite some time now a very controversial issue, both in the Council and Conference, and the Conference I should also recall specified a few most important issues that should be considered by the Committee, and referred, of course, to this Session.

First on format: the very precise account prepared by the Director-General, the Committee noted that the Conference itself, though with a very thin majority, had already decided to continue a separate document on medium-term objectives, as was very specifically recorded in the Report of the Conference.

Then the Committee considered proposals of the Director-General about the content of the document. It agreed with the Director-General that some of the topics that had been traditionally within the context of medium-term objectives should not be continued any longer, such as world situation and especially the role of FAO since the Committee felt that these two subjects should be dealt with successfully elsewhere, especially in the Programme of Work and Budget. Nevertheless, the Committee felt that the original presentation should be retained, and this is a specific recommendation to the Conference.

The Committee also studied the question of quantification of resources, even in a very indicative form, as a kind of reflection of relevant priorities. The Committee was of the opinion that quantification of resources on medium-term should not be pursued. I am not going to go into too much detail, especially about some possible improvement in the presentation, especially with regard to some improvement in data presentation or even some system of indicators that might be included in the medium-term objective document, but you will find all these things in our report, and of course, I am ready to answer any question that members of the Council might wish to put.

The next issue is a review of FAO statutory regional bodies. The Committee was informed that the Director-General had undertaken a review during 1978 of some 46 regional and sub-regional bodies, and the main findings of the Director-General were that he found insufficient ground to suggest or recommend abolition of any of the bodies reviewed, so the position of the Director-General, shared by the Committee, was that he would not take any initiative in abolishing any of the regional or sub-regional bodies unless governments indicate their wish for the abolition of some bodies.

But looking at the future, the Committee again shared the view of the Director-General that criteria for establishing new regional statutory bodies should be improved, and here on Page 23 of the English text of the Report of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Programme Committee you will find a formal proposal which is now before the Council and requires the formal approval of the Council. It relates, of course, to all bodies under Articles 6, 14 and 15 of the Constitution. I will not read out the whole text, but what is relevant here for formal decision of the Council is (b) in Paragraph 1.158, which sets out three basic criteria to be pursued and to be considered when any new regional statutory body is proposed: first, that the objectives of that body are to be very carefully reviewed; second, that all impacts that creation of a new body might have on FAO programmes should also be looked at carefully, and third, that all financial implications should be studied with due care.

If the Council agrees with the suggestion contained in our report, especially as far as (b) of the relevant paragraph is concerned, this text should then be handed over first of all to CCLM to propose to the next Council and the Conference in formal language but in the understanding of the Programme Committee it should not be included under paragraph (b) 20 on Page 184 of the basic text.

I now come to the next sub-item, which is one called International Service for Strengthening International Agricultural Research. I would like to say only a few words about the history of the issue. That issue had been for quite some time in preparation in various circles and then it formally surfaced for the first time in a kind of formal meeting of some development assistance donor countries in Munich in April 1977. I need to say also that the Programme Committee in November last, when reviewing the research programme of FAO, was very fully informed about the developments and was given even more full documentation to prepare for the Munich meeting. After carefully studying all relevant material, the Programme Committee, you would certainly recall, expressed its very, very deep concern indeed with the initiative, and you would also recall that the Conference itself took quite a strong stand on it, expressing its own concern with regard to this initiative.

I must say also that the Committee at its Spring Session again reviewed the whole problem. You will find in our report information of the Director-General in compliance, of course, with the stand of the Conference and the views expressed by the Programme Committee as formally proposed to the Consultative Group Task Force which had been already created a proposal that a proper or relevant programme be established within FAO instead of creating a new organization and that donors were requested to cover 75 percent of the Programme budget. The Task Force of the Consultative Group welcomed the Director-General's proposal but decided not to suggest to the Consultative Group to recommend FAO service instead of creating, as I said, a new entity. I am not going into all details to give you the views of the Task Force, but I should, I think, call the attention of the Council especially to two points: first, that the Task Force expressed concern that if the task is entrusted to FAO, then the programme might be under undue influence of the FAO governing bodies and FAO managerial structure, and the second point in their opinion was that the salary level in the UN system is not appropriate to give full possibility of hiring high specialists, as they said, specialists at the level of the International Research Institute. But at the same time the Task Force, as you can see from paragraph 1.165, listed a whole series of various cautions that should be pursued, and I think what they said really was self-evident, but certainly not very persuasive, that the FAO was not able to perform that task much better with greater efficiency.

The Programme Committee having studied all this information was especially concerned that no one government was officially approached on this matter. The Programme Committee was also of the opinion that the creation of a new service would most likely lead to a kind of isolation of research from development in general. The Committee discussed very rightly indeed, the juridical stages of the new bodies which recognized, of course, that the new bodies would not be in any strict form or sense a part of the UN system, but being established by the Consultative Group, which was in turn sponsored by FAO, UNDP and the World Bank, could directly at least be considered strictly as a part of the UN system.

I should add I think only a few words, that the Consultative Group met recently, in November, in Washington, I guess, and though the views of members present were differing I would say, nevertheless the Consultative Group with a clear majority decided to establish the International Service for Strengthening National Research.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We have listened with great interest to a report on many subjects.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): At this juncture of our deliberations I just wish to speak on one subject, namely, the International Service for Strengthening National Agricultural Research. My delegation has read with attention the comments of the Programme Committee on the proposal for establishing an International Service for National Agricultural Research, ISNAR, in the developing countries. The written report of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, CGIAR, which dealt with the establishment of ISNAR in Washington at the beginning of this month was not yet available when I left for this Council Session. Let me therefore repeat the three decisive criteria of my Government towards the establishment of ISNAR and its gradual realization; first, with the establishment of ISNAR no new, costly, independent international agency should be created for the Agricultural Research Sector; the Service should rather be established within the system of the CGIAR and it should not employ more than 20 professionals; second, important items of the terms of

reference for ISNAR as far as they are described in the Report of the Task Force must be modified. From our point of view ISNAR as an organ of the CGIAR should mainly fulfil a sort of mediator function between the International Research Centres and the National Research Institutions. In this respect, special attention has to be paid to the fact that there should be no overlapping with the activities of FAO; third, it should carry out its activities in full agreement with FAO.

After what I have heard so far about the outcome of the CGIAR meeting I believe that the misunderstandings which existed in the past between FAO and CGIAR as well as its Task Force may be cleared up. My delegation hopes that future work in this vital field of agricultural research and its application will be carried out on a basis of a consensus between FAO and CGIAR.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt): (Interpretation from Arabic): Madam Chairman, I wish first to congratulate you for chairing this meeting and commend the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his valuable review of the documents on the Committee's report.

I would like to discuss one point only out of the various items included in the documents, and that is the FAO policy regarding the use of languages and the classification of meetings. The Egyptian delegation expresses its satisfaction to the Director-General's policy regarding the use of official languages in the various meetings categories.

As an Arabic speaking country, Egypt supports the Director-General's policy towards strengthening the Arabic language whether in the Headquarters or the Regional Office in Cairo, to raise its efficiency and attain the required equilibrium with the other official languages. In this respect we would also like to thank the Arab countries who contribute to the expenses of the use of the Arabic language in the work of the Organization.

While speaking on this point, the Egyptian delegation recommends to the Secretariat to exert more effort to the unification of the use of the Arabic terms in the various FAO documents in order to facilitate their study and discussion.

In dealing with the classification of meetings we support the Committee's attitude to agree to the Director-General's proposal to establish a new 4th category of meetings devoted to training activities, and we have no doubt that national institutions could play an outstanding role in this respect.

P. HALIMI (France): Je voudrais avant toutes choses remercier le Président du Comité du Programme de l'exposé qu'il nous a fait, et surtout d'avoir attiré notre attention sur un certain nombre de points des deux rapports qui sont soumis à notre examen.

Je n'ai aucune difficulté avec les points qu'il a soumis à notre attention. Pour ce qui concerne les pratiques de l'Organisation en matière linguistique, je remercie à nouveau M. Saouma des efforts qu'il a déployés pour arriver à un meilleur équilibre linguistique, et je ne reviendrai pas sur ce qui a été dit par ma délégation ce matin.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les conclusions du Programme en ce qui concerne la coopération avec l'industrie et ce qui a été dit des objectifs à moyen terme. Pour ce qui concerne les organes statutaires régionaux de la FAO, nous approuvons la proposition qui est formulée à la page 26 au paragraphe 1-1158 b). Vous me permettrez d'intervenir sur un certain nombre de points qui figurent dans ces deux rapports.

J'aborderai tout d'abord des points qui figurent dans le premier rapport, qui est le rapport du mois de mai:

- au paragraphe 28 on nous parle de la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. Je voudrais signaler que l'unité de détection de la FAO, en collaboration avec Telespazio de Rome, la Météorologie spatiale à Lannion (France), l'Université de Munich et l'Institut allemand de recherche spatiale, a entrepris avec le Gouvernement algérien une étude dans le but d'améliorer les enquêtes, voire les prospections d'acridiens au sol au moyen de techniques de télédétection par satellite. On est ainsi arrivé à déterminer à coup sûr les endroits où il y a de très grandes probabilités qu'il existe des sauterelles. Je pense qu'il est intéressant de noter la parfaite collaboration de trois pays européens à ce genre d'études très précieuses pour les pays pouvant être victimes d'invasions acridiennes;

- au paragraphe 46, ma délégation exprime le souhait de recueillir du Secrétariat le maximum d'informations sur la procédure et le calendrier qui sera appliqué pour l'examen de la Convention internationale sur la protection des plantes ainsi que sur les propositions nouvelles et la méthode de travail adoptée en l'objet par la FAO;
- au paragraphe 53 où l'on parle de la régionalisation des vaccins, je dois dire que la position de ma délégation est conforme à celle qui est reflétée dans le document;

au paragraphe 62 du même document, on traite de l'activité et des réseaux coopératifs européens entre instituts nationaux de recherche de la Commission européenne d'agriculture, auxquels coopèrent de nombreux instituts de pays en voie de développement. Mon pays, pour sa part, coopère aux huit réseaux existants et participera au prochain réseau qui sera créé sur l'élevage ovin.

La formule qui a été mise au point par le bureau européen de l'Organisation et qui fonctionne à la satisfaction des institutions coopérantes permet à celles-ci d'évaluer tous les deux ans les résultats obtenus par une consultation des responsables des centres de coordination. La première consultation a eu lieu à Cordoue en septembre 1977.

Il est à mon avis souhaitable que le Secrétariat donne à cette activité européenne, si utile à de nombreux pays en développement puisqu'elle porte notamment sur l'olivier, le tournesol, le maïs, le blé durum, l'attention qu'elle mérite.

Nous nous réjouissons d'apprendre que la formule des réseaux coopératifs sera étendue à l'Afrique et à l'Amérique latine.

- J'en viens au paragraphe 66 du même document. Ma délégation constate que la décentralisation des activités de CARIS, qui était prévue depuis la fin du projet pilote en 1973, s'avérait indispensable en raison du volume des informations à traiter, de leur intérêt local et de la nécessité de les diffuser le plus rapidement possible pour leur conserver leur actualité.

L'année 1979 sera, tout entière, occupée par la mise en place des centres nationaux et régionaux sur lesquels nous souhaiterions avoir des informations.

Si l'on souhaite que ce système d'information sur les recherches soit vraiment efficace, il s'avère indispensable que le maximum de pays y participent, tant développés qu'en voie de développement.

En effet, la recherche agronomique, très importante dans les pays développés, reste encore difficilement accessible pour un grand nombre d'institutions de recherche situées dans les autres pays et cela, bien que de nombreux sujets de recherche (céréales, légumineuses à graines, nutrition animale, etc.) puissent, malgré les différences de sol, de climat et d'environnement, présenter un très grand intérêt.

Pour ce motif, ma délégation suggère que la FAO invite les "pays développés" à apporter leur contribution à CARIS, comme ils le font déjà pour AGRIS, soit en adoptant la méthodologie CARIS s'ils n'ont pas déjà de système d'information sur leurs recherches, soit en mettant à la disposition de CARIS des informations conformes à la méthodologie de ce système, qui pourraient être intégrées directement dans la base des données et donc diffusées dans tous les pays ayant adopté ce système international.

J'en viens maintenant, Madame le Président, au deuxième rapport de la 35^{ème} session du Comité du Programme.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 1.61, ma délégation appuie la position prise par le Comité du Programme, et estime qu'il est possible et souhaitable de faire davantage en matière d'utilisation des institutions régionales et nationales ainsi que des experts nationaux. Elle appuie la suggestion du Comité d'organiser une campagne active et soutenue pour garantir que les possibilités d'utiliser ces institutions nationales soient pleinement mises à profit.

Au paragraphe 1.84, nous notons avec satisfaction l'élimination du décalage que nous avons parfois constaté entre la publication des versions anglaises et celle des versions françaises et espagnoles des documents de l'Organisation. Nous espérons que l'exemple du Bulletin mensuel de la FAO "Economie et statistiques" sera suivi par toutes les publications de l'Organisation.

J'en viens maintenant au rapport sur le système international et la recherche agricole nationale. Nous partageons les préoccupations exprimées au paragraphe 1166 et nous pensons, comme le Comité du Programme, que le nouveau service dont la création est proposée risque d'isoler la recherche du développement, en s'attachant uniquement à la recherche agricole sans prêter suffisamment attention aux grands problèmes de l'agriculture et du développement rural.

La délégation française appuie sans réserve toute initiative que le Directeur général pourrait prendre pour éviter tout double emploi avec des activités de l'Organisation. La création de cet ISNAR n'a d'ailleurs pas été approuvée par la majorité des pays développés, et le représentant de mon pays, à la réunion du GCRAI, avait exprimé sa vive préoccupation. Un groupe doit étudier la création de cet ISNAR. La France pense qu'un tel organisme ne doit pas être créé si un consensus sur l'utilité de cette création n'est pas obtenu entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement. Or, à la connaissance de ma délégation, aucun représentant des pays en voie de développement récipiendaire d'aide n'assistait à la réunion du GCRAI. Ils n'ont donc pas été consultés; il faut donc d'abord connaître leur position avant d'arriver à une décision.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je vais d'abord remercier le Président du Comité du Programme pour l'exposé très complet qu'il vient de nous faire, et je vais me borner à faire quelques commentaires sur seulement trois sujets évoqués dans cet exposé:

- le premier est celui de la présentation des objectifs à moyen terme traité dans le document

"Rapport de la trente-cinquième session du Comité du Programme", les Numéros 1.140 à 1.146 b) : cette section me laisse un peu sur ma faim. Je sais que c'est un sujet dont il a été question dans le passé mais le document sur lequel s'est basé le Comité du Programme n'est pas à la disposition du Conseil, bien qu'on y fasse référence, et je ne vois pas comment le Conseil peut suivre la Recommandation qui fait l'objet du paragraphe 1.146, c'est-à-dire la Recommandation faite au Conseil d'adopter les propositions du Directeur général, mais je présume que ces propositions du Directeur général sont dans ce document que le Comité du Programme a eu sous les yeux mais qui ne nous est pas soumis.

- un deuxième point auquel je voudrais m'arrêter est celui de l'examen des organes statutaires régionaux de la FAO. Je puis me rallier à la proposition qui est faite au paragraphe 1.158 b), c'est-à-dire l'amendement qui est proposé aux textes fondamentaux tendant à insérer dans ces textes une disposition suivant laquelle le Directeur général sera prié de préparer et de soumettre aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation un document qui expose les objectifs de tout organe dont la création est proposée, ainsi que la manière dont cet organe pourra s'acquitter de ses fonctions, des effets que sa création pourrait avoir sur les programmes futurs ainsi que les incidences financières de la création de cet organe pour l'exercice en cours et pour les exercices suivants.

- enfin le dernier point dont je voudrais dire un mot est celui de la création du SISRAN c'est-à-dire du Service international de soutien à la recherche agricole nationale.

La Belgique a fait, à ce propos, lors de la réunion qui s'est tenue à Washington et où la création de ce service semble avoir été décidée, les plus sérieuses réserves et je voudrais me joindre à l'appel qui vient d'être lancé par la délégation française en vue de la recherche d'une plus étroite coordination entre ce service au cas où effectivement il est créé et les services compétents de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I am sure your comments and the issue which you have raised will be answered when the Chairman of the Programme Committee has the chance to take the floor again.

LI CHEN-HUAN (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to say a few words concerning the language policy of FAO. To make rational arrangements in the use of the Organization's languages is significantly to enable more people from Member Nations to participate in the Organization's activities, to further and increase mutual understanding and the exchange of experience to help the Organization to exercise its functions more effectively. Therefore, in view of the changing situation and the Organization's expanding activities it is necessary to make adjustments in the use of languages so that a better balance can be achieved step by step. Needless to say, in the process of such adjustment the principle of statutory parity of FAO's languages should be implemented in conformity with document CL 74/3, while the actual application of language arrangements should be made in accordance with the specific requirements of each case, so as to enable people from all Member Nations to participate with the utmost efficiency in the meetings and activities of FAO. With such a view in mind the Chinese delegation concurs that appropriate adjustments be made through consultations on the subject of language distribution for Category III meetings and group training activities of the Organization.

H. MAURIA (Finland): We would like to comment briefly on one of the items now under discussion. As was quite rightly expressed by the delegate of Brazil just recently, the format of the medium-term objectives has always previously been rather a difficult matter. Therefore we welcome the proposals adopted by the Programme Committee in document CL 74/5. In particular, we support the proposal that the document on medium-term objectives should be separated from the Programme of Work and Budget. In this way these two documents could be more clearly studied by the Member Countries.

We also support the proposal that steps towards quantification of the sources in the medium-term objectives should not be borne in mind but that information on relative priorities would be useful.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for a lucid exposition of the various issues. We have a few brief comments. On the format of medium-term objectives we welcome and support the proposals of the Director-General of a new format for the documents on medium-term objectives, which appears to be a considerable improvement over the earlier format. We would however like to stress the need to make the document on medium-term objectives as succinct and brief as possible. At the same time, it should complement other related conference documents, such as the Programme of Work and Budget.

We agree to the proposal that the section on overall review of the world food situation and the role of FAO be discontinued, but would strongly oppose the proposal for discontinuation of regional presentations in the document, since these help to distil regional requirements and contribute towards identifying priorities to be followed by FAO in the medium-term. We would like also to caution against the proposed ranking of relative priorities which we feel would lead to endless debate in the Conference.

Finally on this subject, we would support the proposal that the new format should follow the same framework for major programmes as in the chapters of the Programme of Work and Budget. This is essentially in order to facilitate a meaningful comparison of medium-term objectives with the short-term Programme of Work and Budget.

On the subject of review of FAO's language policy and practice, the purpose of the review by the Programme Committee was to correct the imbalance in the use of FAO languages and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by this Council Session.

We support the proposal to have a new category - that is, Category IV - to cover group training activities. We would here like to sound a note of caution by saying that linguistic balance should not be sought for its own sake, the objective should be to determine the real growth of training needs of developing countries in specific regions at the initial planning stage when the Programme of Work for the biennium was being prepared by the Organization and that these specific regional needs should determine the final language distribution for such activities. We would also suggest that language balance to the extent it was desirable should be sought over a series of biennia rather than on each individual biennium.

On future cooperation with industry, we would like to congratulate the Director-General on the steps that he has taken in compliance with the Conference Resolution.

As regards the future, I have one brief suggestion: we feel that while cooperation by FAO should continue such cooperation should consist not only of assistance in an advisory capacity through working groups and panels but also by direct technical assistance in industry, particularly for training activities in line with FAO's policies and programmes.

On the subject of statutory regional bodies, we welcome the proposal of the Programme Committee to request regional conferences to review the functioning of the regional bodies in their respective regions. We would however like some elaboration on part (b) of this proposal outlined on page 23 of document CL 74/5. The resolution, while providing for the need to scrutinize all proposals for creation of new bodies, does not go further. It is possible that a new body may be created to meet a specific problem or need but there is no provision to keep this body under review so as to assess its utility from time to time. Agricultural research is of paramount importance to the developing countries. Unfortunately, after reading the report of the Programme Committee on this subject, page 24 of document CL 74/5, we have come away with the impression that all is not well in the state of research, with apologies to Shakespeare. We share some of the concerns expressed by the Programme Committee and we hope that proliferation of research bodies will not generate needless rivalries which may harm the overall research effort to the detriment of the developing countries.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to congratulate our Chairman of the Programme Committee for his very useful introduction of the various issues that we considered in the Programme Committee and that are now being examined under this item.

I should like to refer first to an aspect of the Programme Committee Report in paragraph 1.137 where we note the importance of improved information being made available to the Programme Committee and hence, of course, to this Council, regarding extra-budgetary resources and the project and/or subject matter to which they are related. Also, we would like to note the idea of clearer identification of objectives, priorities and shifts of resources in the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization. Both these suggestions were supported in the course of our discussions in the Programme Committee and I think we felt that while the Secretariat had made some notably positive advances in their presentation of documentation to the Organization, and particularly in the Programme on Work and Budget, there was room for still further improvement; and that it was our job to encourage it not only on our behalf but on behalf of the membership of this Council and of the Organization.

The question of precise formulation of objectives and priorities also relates to the medium-term objectives document. In the Programme Committee we felt - as I think the Chairman has indicated - that the Secretariat had made a very concise and useful review of that problem in the document it gave us which, if it is not available to the Council, certainly should be, because I think it is a helpful document. The United States believes that the medium-term objectives document, if properly structured - and this report to us by the Organization suggests a good structuring - will enhance the ability of the FAO to meet its responsibilities. It will also help Member States, as part of their FAO Government's function, to make clear assessments of the objectives of the FAO Programme of Work. We believe that the medium-term objective document should follow the general outline of the Programme of Work and Budget. In so doing, it would provide a linkage between the desired objectives and the actual ongoing programmes described in the Programme document.

We support the recommendations of the Programme Committee and would like particularly to endorse the idea of trying to identify the intermediate indicators of programme performance in relation to appropriate sectors to the medium-term objectives. In short, we should like to be able to have some benchmark by which we can judge the progress that the programmes being projected into the future are expected to make.

One reason for our concern with the proposals, such as those I have just discussed, is that we are continually searching in our own Government - not always with 100 percent success, I might add - for ways to subject the programmes of large agencies to examination and judgement. We believe this is necessary for reasons both of efficiency and for relating limited resources to programme priorities. As Members of this Council are aware, the United States has found it necessary for its own economic health and also for the economic wellbeing of many other countries in this very inter-dependent world, to undertake a stringent and painful austerity programme, including such measures as higher interest rates, intervention in international money markets to maintain the value of the dollar, and hard-headed cutting of United States Government expenditure. The President, speaking of the budget he will soon submit to the United States Congress for fiscal year 1980, said it would be very, very tight and that it would, without starving useful programmes, provide little money for new initiatives.

This is why we are obliged, in the international as well as in our national context, to give careful examination to objectives and priorities, to new initiatives and to the choice of which programmes we should give priority to.

Our delegation was therefore most appreciative of the Director-General's remarks in his opening address to the Council which indicated his awareness of the concerns with respect to the growing budget of international organizations which are held by countries facing domestic economic situations of some difficulty and austerity.

Since others have done so, I should like to briefly address the Joint Inspection Unit Report on FAO's language policy, especially as regards Category 3 Meetings. We should like to record our support for the report's recommendations and we commend the Director-General for his positive response to these recommendations. As in many other areas of FAO activities, we urge the utmost efficiency so as to avoid any real increase in expenditures for language services.

Finally, regarding the establishment of ISNAR, described very well to us by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, my Government has had, and has expressed, some serious reservations about launching it. Finally, given the support it has, from major funding institutions, from donor countries whose views we respect, and from developing countries who desire it, we are now considering support to it. We would strongly endorse the recommendation made here today by our French colleague, and supported by our Belgian colleague, that FAO and ISNAR work closely together in this area which is of high importance and of obvious common interest to both of them.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): We wish to offer a brief comment on one specific point: the report of the task force on international assistance for strengthening national agricultural research. My delegation has already advanced its views at the level of the Programme Committee and I must say that we continue to have some misgivings about a development that might result, in our view, in a possible duplication of activities. We attach very high priority to agricultural research. In fact, both in our Federal budget and the State budgets of the different units of the Federation, we see rather large sums already devoted to agricultural research; there is thus no doubt about this priority.

However, we feel that - and here we concur with views presented by FAO on the subject - that basically FAO is equipped and prepared to provide the services required. That was my first point.

My second point is that we feel that normally agricultural research should be much more developed and planned in the light of and in conjunction with actual sectorial activities developed by the Organization. We therefore feel that normally we would have preferred to avoid a new proliferation of institutions. Since, however, it seems that this organization is taking shape and is soon coming into existence, or we can see at this stage is the obvious: let us hope for the best, in the sense of expecting that full coordination and utilization of FAO capabilities will be made so that we do not have a waste of scarce resources.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): I should like to confine myself to only one point: the format of medium-term objectives. The report of the Programme Committee has given us a proper background by reiterating the resolution of the 19th Session of the Conference. My delegation last autumn voiced its conviction that the medium-term objective should be a separate part in the documents to be submitted to the Conference. We are of the opinion that the medium-term objectives may serve as a major link to help FAO in pursuing its activities in a carefully planned way. There are a good number of issues which cannot be envisaged in one budgetary period, such as hunger and malnutrition, integrated rural development, etc.

My delegation therefore very much welcomes the views of the Programme Committee when stating that a separate document on medium-term objectives would, inter alia, facilitate the linkage between decisions on medium-term objectives and priorities to be dealt with in the biennial Programme of Work and Budget. We might even concur with the idea that the medium-term objectives be considered together with the State of Food and Agriculture and with the Programme of Work and Budget in the future, being the most important documents the FAO Conference is requested to deal with.

I conclude by saying that I very much agree with the proposal submitted by the delegate of Pakistan and seconded by the United States delegate, to the effect that this document should follow that of the Programme of Work and Budget, but stating at the same time that the medium-term objectives should be in a position to tackle some problems which are only lightly touched upon in the Programme of Work and Budget, since resources available to FAO do not always allow each Conference sufficient time to deal properly with the subject which may be elaborated upon in the medium-term objectives.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): We like to listen to the views of other delegates and to take these into account; but I think on research I should like to make two very brief comments. The position of the United Kingdom Government is known. My Government had previously taken the view that we could not commit ourselves on the ISNAR proposals before hearing the views of others, and notably FAO's. We are, however, now satisfied that the proposals have a measure of support of the majority of those concerned and we accordingly support the view that ISNAR would be a helpful addition to the CGIAR network.

Secondly, in view of the comments of some other speakers, I should like to say that we continue to regard it as important that there should be close cooperation between FAO and ISNAR, and understand that CGIAR will be examining ways in which this may be achieved. Thus we are encouraged by the mention made earlier that misunderstandings in the past have been resolved.

While we understand the reservations which FAO has hitherto had about the creation of a new organization we trust that they will be able to find ways of cooperating to the mutual benefit of both organizations.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): Just a few points on the medium-term objectives subject. The FAO Secretariat has made an effort to accommodate the views of countries such as Canada which feel that the medium-term objective document should be more than a general outline of world agricultural needs. Canada has consistently taken the position that a medium-term paper should be, an outline of the objectives and priorities of FAO for the medium-term and that the format of the document should include resource projections. We appreciate that it is difficult to, qualify resource allocations for the medium-term, but we still believe that this should be provided where possible. We also recognize that this is a continuing, experimental process with narratives clearly describing those activities to be financed from regular budgetary funds as distinct from extra-budgetary items. In discussing the medium-term objectives we need to consider the general question of what resources may be available over the next four years.

The Director-General in his opening address stated that he could not indicate the budget level for 1980-1981 and we accept his decision and we will have the opportunity of discussing this Programme and Budget next year. The Director-General also made reference to the concerns expressed over the current economic situation and the fact that some donor countries have indicated difficulties in maintaining current or slightly increased budget levels. Our delegation considers that while we are not now discussing the 1980-81 budget level it would be helpful to the Director-General to get some indication of the economic problems facing many countries.

The Canadian concern is a two-fold one, the first is to ensure no decline in the activities of FAO and the second is to how we can overcome current Canadian economic problems without adversely affecting either Canadians or the programmes for development and this is not easy of course. Our Government has adopted stringent economic measures at home to reduce Government expenditure.

Similarly whether we want to or not, international agencies must also seek economies. We are therefore grateful to the Director-General who stated in his opening address that in planning his Programme of Work and Budget he would keep this problem in mind.

S. MADEMBA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): Permettez-moi d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de la présente session du Conseil et, en tant que représentant d'un pays ami, permettez-moi aussi de vous exprimer toute ma fierté.

Je voudrais revenir très brièvement sur l'intervention du délégué de la France concernant la recherche agricole. Comme il est indiqué dans le document, vous savez qu'il y a deux, nouveaux représentants de la région d'Afrique qui viennent d'être élus à la dernière conférence d'Ashura à savoir, le Kenya et le Sénégal, et, à cet égard, je puis vous assurer que ces représentants seront désormais présents à toutes les réunions du groupe consultatif sur la recherche agricole internationale.

Pour le moment, je ne veux pas préciser quel est notre point de vue à l'égard de la réunion d'une nouvelle structure internationale en matière de recherche agricole, mais ce que je puis d'ores et déjà vous dire, c'est que nous sommes intéressés par la recherche, non pas la recherche pure, mais la recherche appliquée et ce, au niveau national même et, dans cette optique, toutes les structures, qu'elles soient nouvelles ou déjà existantes, qui pourraient nous aider à renforcer la recherche nationale au niveau même de nos pays, seront les bienvenues. Ceci a toujours été une position constante de mon gouvernement et je crois que M. Bommer, le Directeur, général chargé du Département de l'agriculture, est au courant de cette position et reste en relations étroites avec notre délégation chargée de la recherche scientifique et technique. Voilà ce que j'avais à dire et à porter à la connaissance des membres du Conseil.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): First of all I think that I can now speak on behalf of the Programme Committee and express our Words of thanks to the Members of the Council for having by and large supported the views of the Committee on various issues. Then I owe a vote of thanks to the delegate of France who reminded me that I failed to mention Programme Reviewing as a continual exercise of the Committee. It was certainly not my ambition to go through all the programme reviews that we have reviewed in two sessions, but, of course, the Programme Committee would certainly welcome any comments and I am particularly grateful to him for his comment on some programme reviewing.

I will very briefly reflect the point made by the representative for Belgium. I think he is quite right in saying that it was perhaps a failure of the Programme Committee, because the Committee had not really given a full scope of information in the document prepared for the medium-term item. It was a document prepared for the Programme and Finance Committees, and I would like only to add that the Director-General in his document in fact dealt with Regular Programme Format and Medium-Term.

Since after all, we are all certainly agreed that there is a very close inter-linkage between the two. What I can do, of course, is to promise that in the future we will try to present in annexes all essential information in all the places, if the document is not prepared to the Council.

With regard to the medium-term objectives format, this is an issue, if it is desirable to have quantification of resources in medium-term, or not. What I can say is that the Conference itself was very divided on that issue, as it clearly stems from paragraph 2.13 of the Report of the Conference, but the Programme Committee, after a very long debate, reached an agreement that in the light of all past experiences it would not be really desirable to attempt to quantify resources over medium-term»

The last point is that the delegate of Pakistan asked for some more elaboration about the proposed text of the resolution and I would ask Dr. Phillips, who was charged with that task on behalf of the Director-General, to deal with that. He certainly knows all details about the criteria proposed in B. I would ask Dr. Phillips to say a few words on the formal text that was proposed.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL : The delegate of Pakistan made a very valid point, I think, when he, along with a number of other delegations, supported the proposal for a resolution for the Conference that might sharpen up the guidelines under which new bodies were established when he pointed out that there was nothing said there about the problem of getting rid of bodies once they had proved that they were no longer useful for one reason or another. This is a very valid point. It is relatively easy in international affairs to set up a structure, it is very difficult to dispose of it. I would suggest that we might include in the report a note for the guidance of the CCLM, because you will recall that the Programme Committee's proposal was that the CCLM should take the text and sharpen it up for use as a formal resolution, that the CCLM might also then consider the related question of making provision in the rules for the abolition of bodies when they no longer serve their purpose. This can be a very complicated legal matter, because various bodies, various officials, have the authority to set up bodies and it has to be sorted out quite clearly from a legal standpoint.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'aurai très peu de choses à dire en ce qui concerne la politique appliquée par le Directeur général sur les langues. Je vais simplement remercier, comme je l'ai fait ce matin, toutes les délégations qui ont pris la parole à ce sujet et qui ont apprécié les efforts faits par le Directeur général pour améliorer progressivement la répartition linguistique entre les réunions au titre du Programme ordinaire, aussi bien dans la catégorie 3 que dans celles qui entreraient dans la nouvelle catégorie 4, Nous tiendrons également compte de toutes les observations qui ont été formulées ici à ce sujet.

Pour apporter une réponse à la question posée par le représentant de la France, à savoir davantage d'information sur la décentralisation en ce qui concerne le programme CARIS, je voudrais lui dire qu'en plus de nombreux pays qui ont exprimé le désir de participer à ce programme nous avons trois régions ou groupes de pays qui ont déjà fait part de leur intérêt à mettre en place des réseaux régionaux de CARIS: - il s'agit, en Amérique latine, de l'institut interaméricain de sciences agricoles; en Asie, de la Banque d'informations agricoles pour l'Asie; il y a également un certain nombre de pays arabes qui ont formulé le même désir.

Les pays ou régions intéressés ont organisé des centres de CARIS nationaux ou régionaux et pourront choisir entre deux méthodologies qui sont d'ailleurs compatibles et qui sont mises au point par les centres de coordination CARIS, ici au Siège.

1. La méthodologie complète utilisée par le projet CARIS actuel;
2. Une méthodologie simplifiée, très voisine de celle utilisée pour le système AGRIS; ce qui faciliterait une participation rapide pour un très grand nombre de pays dont les documentalistes ont déjà été formés pour le système CARIS.

C'étaient les précisions que je voulais donner au distingué délégué de la France.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Simply on the format and the medium-term objectives document, it would seem that the Council has endorsed the recommendations of the Programme Committee, and I confirm the Director-General will follow those recommendations especially concerning the retention of a section dealing with regional medium-term objectives.

In this connexion I would like to clarify a point made by the United States and partly by Canada. The remarks made by the United States referred to paragraphs 1.137 to 1.139. Those paragraphs are about information to be provided to the Programme Committee when carrying out its review of programmes, which is not directly concerned with either the Programme of Work and Budget as such or with the medium-term objectives. Both, though, are key documents providing information for the discussion. There is no difference on the substance, we will certainly try and do what is set out there, but we cannot try and do the same thing on the medium-term objectives paper as was indicated in 1.139 without getting into deep waters again about quantification of resources, particularly about attempting to quantify the extra-budgetary resources which might be available four to six years from now. This is just a clarification, it is not a difference of opinion. I will not follow some delegates into the dangerous paths of relative priorities. We are not discussing those subjects at the moment.

I do want to make a comment, however, to illustrate how difficult it would be in relation to medium-term objectives because of another item which has been discussed, and that is ISNAR. The substance will be dealt with by Mr. Bommer in a moment. From the point of view of medium-term objectives and relative priorities in particular, on which Pakistan had some very wise observations to make, I would like to comment that it seems strange indeed to me that a proposal which was viewed with such misgiving by a number of delegations, including those which now apparently support it, should suddenly have become a major priority for FAO - or has it? What is the relative priority of something which previously was a matter of grave doubt and suddenly becomes something in which FAO must cooperate. FAO cannot cooperate without providing resources. These resources must apparently be provided not by the decision of the Director-General but at the dictate of an outside body. Is this top priority in the next medium-term objectives paper or is it a low priority? I am not suggesting we try and answer this today; I am just using it as an example of the problems you get into, as indicated by Pakistan, when you try to set out relative priorities in a too ambitious manner.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think I can be very brief because there were no real questions raised about the procedures which brought ISNAR into being, but I think some points probably need clarification.

First of all, I think the concern expressed by France is completely correct because in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research only two developing countries participated in the discussion and supported this new service. Contrary to the expectation of the Director-General, very few of the developing countries participated here in the discussion in spite of the deep concern the Conference has expressed as it was informed that such activity was under development. The Director-General certainly is prepared to cooperate with any organization which is benefiting the developing countries, and our whole hope is that through this organization which will be further developed really additional resources and additional services can be provided to the developing countries, and this certainly the Director-General is prepared to cooperate on.

I do not wish to repeat what Mr. West said. Certainly something is left for us or some controversy in thinking about financial support which apparently is easy on the one side and difficult on the other.

I further want to refer to my German colleague - the conditions in which he has hoped that this new service will be created are not as clear as he has stated because the terms of reference have still to be defined and there was even among those supporting the new organization conflicting views if the service should restrict itself only to activities from the International Research Centres being transferred and transmitted to national programmes in developing countries or if the task should be much wider and maybe even cover fields which are outside agriculture in the strongest sense in the whole field of FAO's sphere. This still has to be defined. The same is that with science, 20 people have been mentioned only as a beginning, you can be sure that the number will be increased, and other points still need clarification.

I think these are the points that I can provide and I can conclude only that certainly the Director-General respects deeply decisions by its member nations and certainly is prepared to see collaboration to the benefit of the developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: In less than two hours, by using the mixed salad approach we have been able to dispose of five very important issues. We would like to declare this part now closed, and if you will permit us, since it has worked so well, we would like to try again the mixed salad approach and try to dispose of the other issues.

Headquarters Accommodation

Locaux au Siège

Locales de la Sede

Actuarial Review of Separation Payments Scheme

Examen actuariel du regime d'indemnités de départ

Examen Actuarial del Plan de Indemnizaciones por Separación del Servicio

FAO Advisory Committee on Investment

Comité consultatif FAO de l'investissement

Comité Asesor de la FAO sobre Inversiones

Format of medium term objectives (continued)

Présentation des objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

Formato del documento objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We now ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee to introduce those subjects.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je vais essayer d'être très bref, surtout que je pars du principe que le Conseil est toujours sensible aux questions financières et qu'il ne manque jamais de faire du rapport du Comité des finances son livre de chevet. Je ne veux pas par là, bien sur, rendre jaloux mon ami et collègue. Je voudrais soumettre au Conseil quatre questions, deux pour décision et deux pour information. 1. Il s'agit d'abord du rapport de situation sur les locaux; 2. de l'étude actuarielle du régime d'indemnités de départ; 3. ensuite, le Comité consultatif de la FAO pour le placement et la présentation des objectifs à moyen terme; 4. pour ce qui est du règlement intérieur du Comité, je crois que cette question sera mieux examinée lorsque le Conseil abordera les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Le rapport de situation sur les locaux - cette question est reflétée dans nos deux rapports, à savoir le CL 74/4 par. 74, 81 et le document CL 74/5 par. 69 et 2.81.. En examinant cette question dont l'importance pour l'Organisation n'a pas échappé au Comité financier, le Comité a considéré trois aspects principaux:

- d'abord l'achèvement du bâtiment D, - ensuite le projet d'édification d'un nouvel ensemble de bureaux, - enfin la situation des bâtiments F et G.

Pour le premier point, le Conseil trouvera l'évolution de la situation au document CL 74/4 paragraphes 75 et 78, ainsi qu'un document CL 74/5 paragraphes 2.72 à 2.73. Le Conseil voudra bien prendre note des vives inquiétudes du Comité devant la perspective des retards dans les travaux de réaménagement du bâtiment D, ainsi que l'incertitude persistante sur la date à laquelle il pourra être remis à l'Organisation.

Le Comité est d'avis que le Gouvernement italien devra adopter des procédures extraordinaires permettant d'accélérer les travaux. Le Comité convient également que le Gouvernement italien devra supporter tout supplément de loyer résultant de retard dans l'achèvement des travaux en septembre 79.

Concernant le deuxième point, à savoir le projet d'édification d'un nouvel ensemble de bureaux, ce point est reflété aux paragraphes 79 et 81 du document 74/4 paragraphes 2.70 et 2.71 du document 74/5.

Le Comité est d'accord avec le Directeur général sur la nécessité de résoudre de manière durable le problème des locaux de l'Organisation et a accueilli avec satisfaction l'idée de ce projet. Le Comité a relevé les conditions extrêmement avantageuses offertes par d'autres gouvernements aux institutions des Nations Unies, et invite le Directeur général à tenir compte de ce fait dans la poursuite de ses négociations avec le Gouvernement italien.

Pour ce qui est de la situation des bâtiments F et G, elle est reflétée dans les paragraphes 2.77 à 2.81 du document 74/5. Il s'agit d'une amélioration éventuelle du loyer. Le Comité financier a été mis au courant avec force détails des faits caractérisant cette situation et s'est montré fort inquiet à l'idée que l'Organisation devra supporter les augmentations substantielles de loyer, alors que les ressources financières de l'Organisation doivent être consacrées à ces programmes.

Aussi, estime-t-il que les services centraux de l'Organisation doivent être logés gratuitement et que le Gouvernement italien doit être invité à prendre entièrement à sa charge le loyer des bâtiments F et G.

Pour conclure ce point, je dois mentionner que le Comité financier ne sous-estime guère les efforts louables déployés par la représentation diplomatique italienne permanente auprès de l'Organisation pour aider le Directeur général à résoudre le problème épineux des locaux de l'Organisation et convaincre les autorités concernées à lui trouver une solution durable.

Je passe à présent au deuxième point qui concerne l'étude actuarielle du régime d'indemnités de départ. Ce point figure au document CL 74/5 paragraphes 2.46 à 2.51.

Madame la Présidente, le Conseil n'est pas sans savoir que ce régime consiste à accorder aux fonctionnaires des services généraux une indemnité de départ équivalant à un mois de traitement par année de service, ce mois étant calculé sur la base de traitement du dernier mois de service. Le Comité rappelle, au paragraphe 2.46, l'historique, bref certes, de l'institution de ce régime. Un Fonds a été constitué pour mettre l'Organisation à même de faire face aux obligations de ce régime, mais sur une base provisoire.

A la lumière de l'expérience acquise durant les quatre années écoulées, il a été décidé le réexamen de cette situation et la possibilité d'envisager une autre manière d'alimenter ce Fonds.

Prenant en considération les incidences budgétaires des diverses solutions suggérées par l'actuaire et qui figurent au paragraphe 2.47, le Comité financier reconnaît, au paragraphe 2.49, qu'il est souhaitable d'améliorer la couverture financière des obligations que les indemnités de départ constituent pour la FAO et recommande ce qui suit :

- l'adoption d'un taux de capitalisation de 9 pour cent - au lieu de 8 pour cent - à compter du 1er janvier 1979 pour les fonds extrabudgétaires, - l'adoption d'un taux de capitalisation de 30 pour cent à compter du 1er janvier 1980 correspondant à 3 pour cent des traitements nets - au lieu de 1,6 pour cent que nous avons actuellement.

Vous trouverez les conséquences financières au paragraphe 2.50.

Enfin, le Comité estime qu'il faut continuer à examiner la situation tous les quatre ans afin de garantir le bon fonctionnement du Fonds. Le Comité souhaite que le Conseil appuie sa recommandation.

Le troisième point concerne le Comité consultatif de la FAO pour les placements. Ce point est soumis au Conseil pour information.

Le Comité a pris note de l'institution par le Directeur général d'un Comité consultatif des placements en vue de garantir l'utilisation optimale des avoirs liquides de l'Organisation jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient dépensés.

Le point de vue du Comité figure aux paragraphes 2.62 et 2.63 du document CL 74/5.

Enfin, uniquement pour information, concernant la présentation des objectifs à moyen terme, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur le fait que le Comité n'a pas eu à considérer en profondeur cette question, étant donné qu'elle relève beaucoup plus du Comité du programme que du Comité financier. Cependant, en se penchant sur cette question, le Comité a estimé que le document est pertinent, concis et constructif. Toutefois, il a demandé qu'on lui indique, dans la mesure du possible, combien de temps et d'argent sont consacrés à la planification à moyen terme, à la FAO et dans les autres institutions. Ces deux points figurent aux paragraphes 2.91 et 2.92 du document CL 74/5.

Je me tiens à la disposition du Conseil pour tout éclaircissement éventuel.

G. de MICHELIS (Italy): I am glad the discussions which are now taking place during the Council are giving me the opportunity, on behalf of the host country, of examining some aspects of the Headquarters Agreement and therefore the question of the buildings of FAO in Rome. At the same time such an argument gives me an opportunity to express our satisfaction for the manner which has characterized the way of handling the problem both by the Finance Committee and by the responsible staff of the Organization - mainly Mr. Georgiadis. However, if I may say so, there should be no more problems, but there are some possible solutions which ought to be discussed, as they are at present. Thus, on both sides we are underlining our common aim: the necessary economies that we, as the Italian Administration, are forced to carry out; and on the other hand, the principle that the Organization's financial resources should not be diverted in principle from its programmes.

There is no doubt that the Italian Government, according to the Headquarters' Agreement of 1951, had to give to FAO the well known building D in order to maintain the international engagement undertaken at that time and, what is important, in order to give the practical possibility to FAO of being better organized with the other existing buildings known as Building A, B and C.

A single complex, for which the Organization is paying a symbolic amount, will solve, a great part if not all of the actual problems that the Director-General and his staff are certainly facing, and we are maintaining our commitment.

As the last report of the Finance Committee has pointed out, there was a problem as far as the execution of the works was concerned. The network developed by the Organization included the services for which the Organization is responsible, and indicated, as a matter of fact, that the works had to be accelerated, as well as possible modifications of the original plans which were elaborated in 1976. Approval of these modifications through the channel of the Permanent Italian Mission has been given recently, I am glad to announce, and works are therefore progressing on the assumption that the building has and will be delivered to FAO in time, before the end of next year.

The Permanent Italian Mission is also working on the problem of the new lines for telecommunication which have been requested.

As the Finance Committee has rightly pointed out, for the Organization and for the Government, the buildings are presenting a matter of cost, and consequently a matter of economic equilibrium in terms of budget. We would like you to know just as a short note, distinguished delegates, that the restructuring of Building D is costing us at present more than 5 billion lire, which means roughly US\$ 6--1/2 million, which is 3 per cent of the entire budget of the Organization, if I am not wrong; and that some other facilities, such as an amount of money which is roughly US\$ 350,000 every year, is paid as a friendly basis of collaboration to the Organization.

In the light of such mutual cooperation, I am sure, Madam Chairman and distinguished delegates, you will understand that the Government will not consider itself responsible for a delay as far as the present works are concerned which would be practically impossible to control - for instance if strikes take place or if some more modifications are requested.

In the report of the Finance Committee the long procedure for each modification is mentioned. Let me explain briefly now what the reasons are: mainly a double procedure, according to our new so-called Bucalossi Law in connexion with the Ministry of Public Works and finally also the Region separately. This is also to give an explanation if works in the recent past are thought to have been carried out rather slowly.

As new expenses or increases of budget have to be approved by the Parliament, we are afraid we cannot accept, unfortunately - and I underline the word "unfortunately" - any additional costs in the meantime for the rents of building F and building G. Our engagement as far as the Agreement is concerned does not go so far, and even if we wish to take into due account all the requests of the Organization, we are not in a position, at least at present, to face more expenses. The Government has, as you all know, to follow a very strict line of conduct as far as austerity and the limits of the public Italian budget are concerned. Anyhow, the question has now been submitted to the Prime Minister, and while the decision is pending, a reply has still to be given to the Italian Permanent Mission.

I can assure you, on the contrary, that the Permanent Italian Mission will do its best in order to facilitate a possible compromise for the rents of the other buildings if necessary, and if so desired, on which the landlords are claiming an increase of rents. This will be done, as the Director-General Mr. Saouma has rightly pointed out during his official visit to the President of the Republic and to the Prime Minister, - "in the frame of those particular links and friendly relations existing between FAO and Italy since 1951".

Finally, and I will briefly conclude, I would like to mention Mr. Saouma's proposal for the creation of a United Nations Centre in Rome which will group all the present FAO buildings in a single modern complex with the other existing Agencies or United Nations Organizations in Rome. As you perhaps know, the Director-General has also expressed his original ideas and views on the matter during his last meetings at the Palazzo Chigi and at the Quirinale.

An official decision has not yet been given, but the Prime Minister has already expressed his personal interest in the initiative.

In this respect, as I have said before, on the question of refraining from more expenses, it is only apparently contradictory; as a matter of fact, and without entering at this stage into details, a programme of this kind would necessarily mean that a financial effort would have to be supported by several budgets during at least a triennium.

So as far as the Centre is concerned the Prime Minister has also expressed himself in favour of the creation of an internal group of work, and therefore the Government is actually exploring the necessary effort for our Administration before taking any engagement or making any proposal. As I am personally very fond of the project I am expressing the hope that a favourable reply will be given as soon as possible. Thus, there is no doubt that the Centre would certainly meet the definite solution of the various problems I have drawn to your kind attention.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to refer to upgrading and double-grading of posts contained in paragraphs 68-71 of document CL 74/4. The Finance Committee at its Forty-First Session dealt with the Director-General's decision to apply the principle of double-grading of posts to certain posts at the G.1 and G.2 grade levels. It is pointed out that at the same time the same principle will be applied to a limited extent also to other grade levels of the professional and general service category. We have certain doubts about such double-grading because it allows an indirect improvement of the grade system and opens up promotion opportunities without a change in qualitative terms of the work performed. I do not know of a similar practice in other organizations of the UN system. An upgrading of individual posts is in our opinion only justified if it is due to the performance of a duty which has to be rated more highly. The secretariat could perhaps give us some further information. In the view of my Government the practice used so far should be retained, that for each post only the grade level is shown in the budget which corresponds to the objective post-evaluation.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): My question is of a somewhat similar nature to that raised by the delegate of Germany. It is regarding paragraphs 28 and 29 of document CL 74/4. It deals with the Programme Budget and Management Information System. A plain reading of these two paragraphs indicates that the Finance Committee was not very satisfied with the progress made. Therefore we would like to have some more information as to what is actually happening. For instance, paragraph 28 states: "It observed that while it was estimated that there had been cost savings, this was not the main objective". So obviously the main objective of this exercise has not been achieved. Therefore we would like to have some more information. Similarly, on paragraphs 58-61. These are the Progress Reports on Matters Raised by the External Auditor and I have gone through this. Apparently some other money has been spent on the Personnel and Payroll System and the results have so far not been satisfactory. I would be grateful if the Chairman of the Finance Committee could give us some more information on this subject also.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): My delegation would like to make a brief comment regarding the Report of the Finance Committee, also to take note of the good report of progress made thus far in connexion with buildings made by the delegate of Italy. My delegation would like to underscore the importance which we attach to a speedy completion of Building D and strongly to encourage these efforts of the Italian Government along the lines that it has commented on, working towards the completion by the end of 1979. This should make a real contribution towards increasing operating information as well as perhaps more pleasant surroundings for a number of FAO employees, and I suppose also it should permit some reduction in expenditure for rental of headquarters space in the 1980/81 biennium. We also hope that the Italian Government will use its very best skills to contain and limit the growth in rental cost and space for FAO headquarters, especially of course the relatively

costly space that will apparently be necessary to continue rentals now under way through completion of the work on Building D, 1979.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne a exprimé certains doutes sur l'efficacité du double reclassement. Je pense que le Secrétariat - puisqu'il a demandé des éclaircissements au Secrétariat - se fera un plaisir de préciser cette pratique.

Pour ce qui est de la question soulevée par le représentant du Pakistan, je voudrais attirer son attention sur le document CL 74/5, paragraphes 2.52 à 2.56, où l'on parle de l'évolution de cette situation et où il est dit que le Comité sera saisi d'un rapport définitif en mars 1979 (paragraphe 2.54). C'est une question qui est encore en développement et je crois qu'il faudra attendre notre prochaine session pour que l'on puisse se prononcer définitivement. J'espère que cette réponse satisfait le délégué du Pakistan.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Reference was made to paragraph 28 of the Finance Committee Report, document CL 74/4 of May 1978. I am not sure what the problem is. This was a progress report on the introduction of a computerized Management Information System. The object of the system is to provide managers, all of them up to the Director-General, with information about the implementation of the programme, and that is what it is doing. It was never intended that it would be a system which would substitute for staff, that is not the point of the exercise. The point of the exercise is to provide readily available management information on a systematic basis. This is what it is doing, especially since we have now completed the introduction of the system and it is working and providing print-outs to all managers.

As regards the other questions, as a matter of convenience and to save time I will deal with them on behalf of my colleagues. The question of Personnel and Payroll System and Field Project Management Information System was raised in connexion with paragraphs 58-61 of the same report. Since this report was made the Director-General decided to employ the same consultants to make recommendations about user requirements and to try to reconcile these with the existing systems that we had and with needs in the area of field staff and field project management, not merely in relation to the normal personnel payroll requirements. This work is under way and I cannot give any further information at the moment on the probable results. It is an important area and it is complicated because of simultaneous attempts by the UNDP using consultants to introduce new information systems. So it is not a matter which can be rushed. It is a matter which needs very careful study and reconciliation of various requirements, including budgetary requirements, and it cannot be expected that a solution will be found tomorrow but we will not delay it longer than necessary.

On double-grading, I think there must be some misunderstanding of the situation. The principle of double-grading has, as stated in the report, existed for many years. For example, for many years at the request even of the Council we have had a system of P.1/P.2. It is not intended that a system of double-grading should be adopted at all levels, either for the general service or for the professional staff. This is a very limited application of some flexibility at the lowest level. The problem we are dealing with here is that hitherto it was sadly the case that someone could be brought in as a machine operator or a labourer and remain a G.1 for 30 years whereas in the course of his work he would be not only developing experience but also acquiring additional skills as new technology came along and yet it was not possible to recognize this. Under the new system it will be possible to recognize it by moving him up to the G.2 grade but this will not necessarily result in an increase in the number of G.2s. In fact, it is envisaged that a balance will be kept between the people we move up and the new entrants, so that at any one time it is unlikely that there will be more G.2s under the present system than there were before, in fact there might even be less from time to time. So I do not think there is any need for the concern expressed on this matter.

If I say nothing on the question of buildings it is because no particular questions have been asked and the statement made by the delegate of Italy which was very constructive and warm in tone has, I think, brought us up to date.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I am responding to a question by Mr. West. He has inquired: what is the problem with regard to paragraph 28 and 29? The problem is that the main objective of this exercise, according to this report, has not been achieved so far. It states quite clearly: "It is observed that while it was estimated there had been costs savings, this was not the main objective." It then goes on to narrate the main objective without stating whether it had been achieved or not. That is the question I should like to be answered at this stage.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I thought I had made it clear in my reply; if not, I apologize and I will repeat that the main objective is quoted in the last two sentences of paragraph 28, and that is being achieved.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I just wanted to know whether it is being achieved in the view of the Organization or in the view of the Finance Committee also; and I think that should be answered by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

M. BEL UADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Pour une fois que l'on essaie d'être économe, on risque peut-être de créer un certain brouillard, ce qui n'est pas du tout notre intention. Si le délégué du Pakistan le désire, je peux lui donner le détail de tout ce dont le Comité a discuté. C'est une question qui a été largement discutée au sein du Comité. Nous avons posé des questions, nous avons aussi obtenu des réponses, mais cela prend énormément de temps de retracer ici, au niveau du Conseil, tout le processus. Je crois que s'il y a un Comité financier c'est pour déblayer le terrain et soumettre les résultats au Conseil. Si le Comité a jugé bon de présenter ce paragraphe dans son rapport, cela signifie que ledit Comité a été satisfait des réponses qui lui ont été données. Je tiens à préciser au délégué du Pakistan que les questions qu'il a posées l'ont été également par les membres du Comité et je crois que c'est pour cela que nous avons accepté d'un commun accord, au Comité, d'introduire la phrase "le principal avantage du Comité est la possibilité d'obtenir rapidement des informations introuvables". On nous avait donné des exemples à ce sujet; je peux assurer le délégué du Pakistan que ce que le Comité a mentionné dans son rapport sont des choses dont il est parfaitement convaincu. Je pense que ma réponse satisfait le délégué du Pakistan.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I have great confidence in the Chairman of the Finance Committee, not only in his ability but also in his experience and knowledge of FAO affairs. I therefore think I will discuss it with him at a later stage.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je voudrais démontrer au délégué du Pakistan que je ne viens pas devant le Conseil en étant désarmé. J'ai avec moi toutes les notes que j'ai prises moi-même, je les ai ici et je peux les lui fournir quand il le voudra.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): My comment is in relation to one or two remarks which were made during the course of the discussion. During the discussion of this item, while a number of delegates have made a number of general comments, I have not done so. However, before we pass this particular subject I do wish to speak on this item if it is in order to do so at this time. It contains much material which has implications for the Organization's Programme and Budget. Of course, what matters at the end of the day is what it all costs. I would therefore like to touch very briefly on the preparations which are being made and to which the Director-General has referred for the 1980/81 Programme of Work and Budget. Like other members who have spoken, we have noted the Director-General's reference in his opening statement to the concern of a number of governments with regard to budgetary increases, given the difficult economic circumstances of many countries.

We therefore welcome the information which the Director-General gave to the Programme and Finance Committees, that he had issued firm guidelines for the 1980/81 Programme of Work and Budget aimed at eliminating areas of wastage and establishing areas of priority in FAO's Programme. We have no wish at this particular time to press the Director-General on his budget proposals. We appreciate that the process of collating and analysing the Organizations's requirements is a complex and lengthy one. We shall, of course, form a judgement upon the budget as a whole when we see the proposals.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is, indeed, true that some other delegates speaking on this item made references to the Programme of Work and Budget. I think the Director-General appreciates the attitude of the whole Council in not pressing him to make a statement on the level of budget on this occasion. It is true that he did make statements to which some delegates have alluded concerning the economic situation in various countries. However, that was not the sum total of his remarks. He also made other remarks reflecting the pressures upon him for increases in the Programme of Work and Budget which in some cases developed countries themselves have been pressing for, including for example one I mentioned in the debate earlier this afternoon. However, this is not in order to introduce a debate on the subject but simply to note again the Director-General's position to which reference has just been made.

CHAIRMAN: This item is now closed.

18. Report on Unscheduled Sessions of FAQ Bodies in 1973

18. Rapport sur les reunions non prévues d'organes de la FAO en 1978

18. Informe sobre las reuniones no previstas de los órganos de la FAO en 1978

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I just wanted to notify some corrigenda which should have been made but there was not time to issue them in view of the pressure for other documentation. On page 5 of the English version, the reference to Session ESD 801, should be "to review the draft report before completion and submission to the FAO Conference". Under Council Sessions on page 6 of the English document, AGP 714-4, the reason for cancellation is "postponed to" not "postponed in", AGE 701 and AGE 953, the reasons for cancellation were "budgetary restrictions within the IAEA" not "with the IAEA".

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La seance est levee à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 74/PV/13

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(5 December 1978)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la
présidence de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la
presidencia de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

9. Preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

9. Préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural

9. Preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural

CHAIRMAN: As you will note, there is no document on this. This is an item put on for information. I would like to call on Mr. Santa Cruz, who is dealing with this matter.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General - Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural): Conozco bien el gran interés demostrado por el Consejo respecto a la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural convocada para julio de 1979. Fue el Consejo el que ya en 1974 y 1975 tomó la iniciativa para que ella se realizara y después en sus periodos de sesiones 69°, 70° y 71°, trazo orientaciones para la Conferencia, tanto en sus aspectos procesales como sustantivos. No creo, sin embargo, prudente repetir ante esta sesión del Consejo tan recargada de tareas - lo que exige intervenciones cortas - todas las informaciones detalladas sobre los trabajos preparatorios de la Conferencia Mundial, que los gobiernos miembros de FAO ya han recibido: a través de las exposiciones ante las Conferencias regionales del Director General y de su Representante Especial; de cuatro informes sobre el estado de las actividades preparatorias que han sido publicados a intervalos de dos meses; de exposiciones ante el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas; del material entregado a las representaciones permanentes; y, finalmente, por medio de una carta circular pormenorizada enviada hace pocas semanas a todos los gobiernos que participaran en la Conferencia.

En esas exposiciones y documentos hay amplia información sobre los ajustes internos en FAO para preparar la Conferencia; las reuniones del Comité Consultivo de alto nivel; la cooperación de las organizaciones y organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, como resultado del carácter multidisciplinario de la Conferencia; la contribución de los gobiernos en la etapa preparatoria, particularmente a través de 67 estudios por países que nos han sido enviados y que serán puestos a disposición de los gobiernos participantes en la Conferencia, en varias copias, en idioma original. Contienen también el estado de la documentación y la orientación de la Conferencia de acuerdo con las directivas del Consejo y de la 19ª Conferencia de FAO.

Estas razones me determinan a referirme solamente a las actividades y hechos más recientes y a los programas futuros, pero haciendo presente que estoy a disposición de los señores miembros del Consejo para proporcionar las informaciones adicionales que tengan a bien demandar.

Debo comenzar destacando los resultados de las cinco Conferencias regionales de la FAO, celebradas durante el presente año y que examinaron los aspectos regionales y subregionales de las materias que tratará la Conferencia Mundial. Todas ellas confirmaron el gran interés de los países por dicho, torneo y su intención de participar activamente en ella y, además, de dar prioridad en sus programas a las políticas de desarrollo rural.

Hubo consenso en que la erradicación de la pobreza rural, el aumento de la producción, la participación efectiva de la población en el proceso de desarrollo, especialmente la de la mujer, y el fomento del empleo agrícola y no agrícola, deben ser los objetivos principales de la Conferencia. Todas las Conferencias regionales han subrayado, igualmente, que la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural no deben limitarse a modificar los sistemas de la tenencia de la tierra, sino que deben comprender una serie de medidas tendientes a acelerar el desarrollo económico, social, tecnológico y ecológico de las áreas rurales. Coincidieron, asimismo, en que las políticas y estrategias para alcanzar tales objetivos debían ser decididas soberanamente por cada país. Por otra parte, los países en desarrollo, todas las Conferencias de los países en desarrollo destacaron que las actividades nacionales en esta materia no darán los resultados apetecidos, a menos que se establezca y se ponga en marcha un orden económico internacional diferente del actual: uno más justo y más humano. La Conferencia dispondrá de un documento donde se analizan los resultados de las Conferencias Regionales en estas materias.

La documentación ha sido ya redactada y está en proceso de reproducción en seis idiomas y será distribuida en los plazos reglamentarios. El documento principal se intitula "Examen y Análisis de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural en los países en desarrollo desde mediados de los años 60". Se pondrá a disposición del Comité Preparatorio como base de su examen del Programa provisional de la Conferencia. Este documento estudia las condiciones sociales y económicas generales que prevalecen

en los países en desarrollo, incluido un examen de las tendencias y características fundamentales de las situaciones que se han planteado durante los últimos diez años. Se ha elaborado tomando en cuenta las informaciones de los estudios por países que estuvieron disponibles al prepararse aquél, así como las contribuciones de las organizaciones y organismos de las Naciones Unidas que han prestado directamente y a través del Comité de Interorganismos, una contribución muy valiosa.

El Comité Preparatorio, que se reunirá del 12 al 16 de marzo de 1979 tendrá, además de las tareas de examinar el Programa de la Conferencia y el resultado de las Conferencias Regionales, las de aprobar el Reglamento interior de ésta y proponer las autoridades. Esperamos una participación amplia de los Gobiernos, pues el Comité Preparatorio tendrá una importancia decisiva.

Creo oportuno señalar que el Comité Consultivo de expertos de alto nivel, que ya han contribuido valiosamente a nuestros trabajos en dos reuniones, tendrá una tercera en el mes de enero próximo.

El Director General ha aprobado el Programa provisional para la Conferencia que será presentado al Comité Preparatorio para su consideración y aprobación.

Los temas que contendrá este Programa serán los siguientes:

En materia de políticas nacionales:

- Políticas y estrategias para la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural en los años 80;
- Acceso y mejor aprovechamiento de tierras, aguas y otros recursos naturales;
- Participación de la población en el desarrollo;
- Acceso a los insumos, mercados y servicios;
- Desarrollo de actividades rurales no agrícolas;
- Educación, capacitación y extensión.

Las cuestiones internacionales serán:

- La reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural en el contexto del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional;
- Comercio internacional;
- Cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo;
- Inversiones externas del sector privado;
- Asistencia oficial y préstamos comerciales para el desarrollo;

Función del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos interesados;

El Director General propondrá también que la Conferencia organice su labor en sesiones plenarias y en dos comisiones. Una de éstas se ocupará de políticas nacionales y la otra de políticas internacionales.

Inspirados por el mandato de la 19ª Conferencia de que las deliberaciones del torneo mundial debieran resultar en programas bien definidos orientados hacia la acción, estamos preparando breves documentos de explicación y apoyo de cada uno de los temas del Orden del Día de la Conferencia, con el objetivo de hacer posible que un programa de acción adecuado, tanto respecto a políticas nacionales como internacionales, sea considerado por la Conferencia.

En lo que toca a la participación en la Conferencia de representantes no miembros de la FAO, pero que lo que son de las Naciones Unidas u otras organizaciones del sistema, recomendada por la 19 Conferencia y el Consejo Económico y Social, puedo informar que la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas y la República Democrática Alemana, han aceptado la invitación que les formuló nuestro Director General.

Consciente del interés directo de los pueblos en las materias que debatirá la Conferencia Mundial, la FAO ha invitado a concurrir a la Conferencia más de 70 organizaciones no gubernamentales, a las que la FAO u otros miembros del sistema de las Naciones Unidas han dado algún tipo de reconocimiento internacional.

tiernos podido realizar actividades de información y publicidad, que no tienen fin en sí mismas en el presupuesto, gracias al generoso aporte de Suecia, Noruega y Dinamarca. Se ha distribuido extensamente un folleto de antecedentes sobre la Conferencia en varios idiomas, los informes sobre el estado de las actividades preparatorias a que ya me referí y dos números de la publicación mensual "Pueblo, pan y tierra". Asimismo estamos organizando un coloquio de periodistas para antes de la Conferencia.

Señor Presidente, el Director General me ha honrado con la responsabilidad de ser su Representante Especial para la organización, promoción y dirección de la Conferencia Mundial. En esa calidad he podido visitar numerosos Estados Miembros y las organizaciones internacionales que cooperan con nosotros, con el objetivo de informarlos y estimular su cooperación para el éxito de la Conferencia. En el futuro continuará en esta grata tarea.

El Consejo ha podido aquilatar en estos días que en la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo la producción agropecuaria per capita está estancada o ha disminuido y los niveles son alarmantemente bajos. Por tal razón sigue vigente lo declarado por la Resolución 13/77 de la Conferencia en el sentido de que "los progresos globales que se han realizado no han repercutido realmente en la eliminación de la miseria de las masas rurales que continúan padeciendo desempleo, subempleo, hambre y desnutrición a causa de la inadecuación de las estructuras socioeconómicas vigentes", y que por ello es urgente "determinar que cambios institucionales hacen falta" para transformar esa situación.

Una Conferencia que produzca recomendaciones concretas orientadas hacia la acción dará un impulso decisivo a las importantes y novedosas medidas que el Consejo ha estado acordando en los últimos días, a propuesta del Director General. Ellas, para dar resultados duraderos y plenamente eficaces, necesitan insertarse en programas de desarrollo económico-social integrales de las áreas rurales, que satisfagan la trilogía de necesidades básicas: las necesidades del individuo rural, las necesidades de la comunidad internacional; es esta la única manera de superar las múltiples crisis de carácter estructural que caracterizan nuestra época y que repercuten, sobre todo, en la población rural del mundo postergado.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Santa Cruz, for the account of what has been done so far in preparation for this important Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hemos oído una buena declaración, lúcida y clara que revela el dominio y conocimiento del tema presentado en forma adecuada. Somos conscientes de que este asunto se presenta al Consejo para información. Sin embargo, la delegación de Colombia considera que podría ser conveniente expresar algunos conceptos de orden general sobre lo que se ha dicho, evitando entrar en controversias que den lugar a debate que no está previsto en nuestro Orden del Día.

Decimos esto porque si bien en el pasado nuestro Consejo se ocupó de la idea de la Conferencia, es ésta la primera vez que nos vamos a ocupar de los preparativos de esa importante reunión, después de que la Conferencia de la FAO de noviembre pasado, mediante la Resolución 13/77 autorizó la realización de esa Conferencia. Además es ésta la última ocasión que tiene el Consejo para tratar esta cuestión, pues el Comité Preparatorio se reunirá a partir del 12 de marzo próximo, y nuestra reunión del Consejo de verano de 1979 está prevista del 11 al 22 de junio, o sea, inmediatamente antes de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que se iniciará el 12 de julio.

Por eso decimos que tal vez algunos conceptos que incluyéramos en nuestro informe podrían representar el aporte del Consejo de la FAO a la reunión del Comité Preparatorio. Con su venia, en forma muy breve, la delegación de Colombia destacará algunos de los asuntos esenciales tratados por el señor Representante Especial, a quien luego le dirigiremos algunas preguntas, pues él con acierto ha manifestado que permanece a disposición de los miembros del Consejo para suministrar informaciones adicionales.

Creo que en primer lugar podríamos decir que el Consejo insta a los gobiernos a que se hagan representar en esa Conferencia a alto nivel político y técnico ya que de esa participación dependerá el buen éxito de esa reunión y de la implementación de sus Recomendaciones. Así lo había ya recomendado el último párrafo dispositivo de la Disposición 13/77. Estaríamos de acuerdo en que las políticas y estrategias para alcanzar los objetivos que persigue esa reunión deben

ser decididos soberanamente por cada país. Mahifestaríamos nuestra satisfacción por la cooperación que a la FAO vienen ofreciendo otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, porque los problemas del desarrollo rural y de la reforma agraria van más allá del campo específico que corresponde a nuestra Organización. Y podríamos agradecer a los países nórdicos citados las contribuciones extra que han estado haciendo en favor del adelanto de estos preparativos.

Finalmente, quisiéramos preguntarle al señor Representante Especial si en el adelanto de esos preparativos se han tenido en cuenta, por ejemplo, las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria celebrada en 1976 y que fue presidida exitosamente por el mismo señor Embajador Santa Cruz.

Quisiéramos saber también si la FAO ha tenido en cuenta el llamado marco conceptual juzgado excelente en aquella oportunidad, aprobado por la Conferencia Regional Latinoamericana celebrada en Caracas en 1970. Igualmente, nos parece que hubiera sido de interés que en esos preparativos se tuvieran en cuenta los principios fundamentales del Informe que aprobó nuestra Conferencia General de la FAO en 1971, basados en el Informe que presentó un Comité a muy alto nivel que fue dirigido por el ex-Presidente de Colombia, Dr. Carlos Lleras Restrepo.

También hubiera podido ser interesante evaluar, como supongo lo habrá hecho el señor Representante Especial y sus colaboradores, los 67 informes, por países recibidos, para determinar en qué medida los gobiernos han implementado esas recomendaciones y cuáles han sido los obstáculos fundamentales que se han presentado en este campo. Consideramos que sería importante utilizar este material, pues los problemas de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural generalmente son los mismos, y al utilizar la experiencia y conocimientos que ya tiene nuestra Organización, evitaríamos duplicación de actividades.

Finalmente, queremos recordar que el párrafo 2.6.7 de la pasada Conferencia de la FAO que se ocupó de esta cuestión, dice textualmente: "Es esencial que los preparativos se hagan con cuidado y que se eviten discusiones teóricas". Y sigo citando: "La documentación debe orientarse expresamente a las cuestiones claves que se debatan". Fiel a esas posiciones que ya definió nuestra Conferencia, la delegación de Colombia desearía que las actividades restantes de los preparativos y la celebración de la propia Conferencia se llevaran a cabo en forma ordenada, sin demagogia, sin alardes, a fin de obtener el más positivo resultado de esa importante reunión.

En general, nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con los preparativos que se vienen adelantando y desea al Embajador, señor Santa Cruz, Representante Especial, muy buen éxito en la importante labor que en buena hora se le ha confiado.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation would like to compliment Mr. Santa Cruz on his very illuminating introduction. We know that the information that he has given is only for the information of the Council, but I think my delegation would be failing in our duty if we did not register our satisfaction at the manner in which the preparation for the Conference has been going on.

My delegation feels that this Conference is of a unique character, though reference has been made by the delegate of Colombia to the conference held in 1966. But I had occasion to glance through the report of the 1966 Conference and as I see the subjects to be discussed in the forthcoming Conference I find that this forthcoming Conference is of a completely different complexion. It encompasses the very widest spectrum of subjects and for the first time we feel that while the problems of development and progress are not going to percolate to the poorest segment of the society, this basic problem of development is going to be discussed at the highest political level. With this background we feel that the Conference is very timely and unique and we are sure, keeping in view the elaborate preparations, that the Conference will result in very well defined action-oriented programmes.

We are looking forward very keenly to the document which Mr. Santa Cruz has just mentioned, the Review and Analysis of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Developing Countries since the mid-1960s. We feel that this document will be very valuable because it will provide a synthesis of the experiences of many developing countries on this basic issue of development.

In conclusion, my delegation would again like to emphasize that we are very much satisfied and encouraged by the manner in which the preparation for the Conference is going on and we are sure that the Conference will result in very fruitful recommendations.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Hemos oído con atención la clara exposición hecha por el Sr. Embajador Santa Cruz, representante especial del Director General para la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Nos satisface mucho saber la buena marcha que llevan los preparativos de la próxima Conferencia Mundial y vemos que no se escatiman esfuerzos por lograr su éxito, éxito que es esperado por todos.

Nuestra delegación quiere aprovechar la ocasión para reiterar nuestro apoyo más decidido a los trabajos que se realizan con vistas a la próxima Conferencia, apoyo que también fue expresado durante la reciente Conferencia Regional para América Latina, y que fue refrendado sin excepción por todas las conferencias regionales. Nosotros deseamos expresar, igualmente, que nuestro Gobierno, consciente de la importancia de este evento, hará el máximo esfuerzo por hacerse representar en el mismo con un alto nivel político y técnico.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, deseamos proponer que la intervención que nos ha hecho el Sr. Santa Cruz sea distribuida como documento de información para este Consejo.

P.L. SALES (United States of America): My delegation would like to compliment Ambassador Santa Cruz for a most helpful presentation. We also wish to compliment the Secretariat for its comprehensive enlightening documents on agrarian reform and rural development prepared for regional conferences. We found them remarkably useful. The Secretariat was admirably forthright in its position on the importance of secure land tenure and land reform as essential, though insufficient conditions for development in many developing countries.

The United States believes that there are other critically important linkages between food production, distribution and consumption. In many developing countries if increased employment and income are not generated for the poor effective demand for basic foods will not increase sufficiently. Production incentives will remain weak and food production itself will not meet national goals.

The United States continues to hope that the World Conference potential for increasing international consciousness and concern about the problem of agrarian reform and rural development and for stimulating action programmes in developing countries with appropriate support for the international community will be realized. To realize that potential we continue to believe that a carefully designed programme of work, including documentation and preparatory meetings, is required to help resolve a complex of related leading issues.

We wish to commend the Director-General and Ambassador Santa Cruz for the organization of work now under way.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): This might be the third or fourth time that we listen to His Excellency Ambassador Santa Cruz, in which he gives an account of the preparatory activities for the coming World Conference. I felt that his measures are becoming more concrete all the time, and he is more confident, and this is evidence that the great effort exerted for the preparations is a sound one; and this is a good occasion to commend His Excellency the Ambassador once more for his efforts and his great attention in the preparation of this Conference, in order to reach the desired objectives.

It is our duty also to reiterate our congratulations to the Director-General on his good choice for his special representative for the preparation of this World Conference. Despite the fact that what has been given to us today is for the information of the Council, it is yet timely and appropriate to stress here the satisfaction of the Council for the steps taken in preparation of this important World Conference, and that this satisfaction has been expressed more than once and in more than one forum, especially in FAO Regional Conferences.

Although the sound preparation of the Conference is very important, yet its real success will depend greatly on those who will participate in the actual sessions. We therefore find it necessary to reiterate that it is important to stress the quality of representation. This might not appear important in the first place, but the quality of this representation is what counts. Representation for any institution or non-governmental organizations directly interested in agrarian reform and rural development should play an important role in this Conference, We stress this aspect especially as it is related to the effective and direct participation in development and in rural development, shouldered by the masses who are concerned in development in various countries.

We have said more than once that we attach great interest to this Conference which will serve the declared objectives, especially in the acceleration of development, and particularly rural development in developing countries. My country was in the vanguard of countries submitting their country reports in the review of the programmes of agrarian reform. We should like to say that these country reports - there were more than 64 reports - should be submitted and fully studied and analysed appropriately, not with a view to historical information but in a manner that would reflect completely the various attempts and trends and the different efforts exerted in this respect.

Once more, I should like to express my satisfaction with what has been submitted by His Excellency Ambassador Santa Cruz and I wish him every success in his forthcoming efforts for the preparation of the Conference.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): El informe que ha presentado a nuestra consideración el Sr. Embajador Santa Cruz como representante del Director General para la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural confirma, en el criterio de mi delegación, la excelente designación hecha por el propio Director General al depositar en la persona del Embajador Santa Cruz toda su confianza.

Para México el tema de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural por obvias razones, resulta de gran importancia. El país entero está poniendo su atención en los preparativos que la FAO está realizando para la Conferencia Mundial en el año entrante, y estamos seguros que las personas que vendrán a representar a mi país serán del más alto nivel ejecutivo y técnico. Los preparativos se están haciendo con gran entusiasmo y hay algunos programas que se han empezado a implementar con el fin de poder venir a esta Conferencia con informes precisos sobre lo que se está haciendo para el desarrollo rural en México y qué resultados se han logrado. Pero todo esto no sería de utilidad para el país si no fuera complementado con los informes y con los modelos de desarrollo que esperamos sean presentados por otros países que, como México, se encuentran en vías de desarrollo y que nos servirán para tomar experiencia y corregir los errores que hayamos cometido, o que se cometan, en este proceso de mejoramiento de las condiciones de la producción agrícola de México. México es un país, como lo hemos indicado con anterioridad, que se encuentra ahora en crisis de producción agrícola y necesitamos el apoyo de quienes saben más de estos temas que nosotros. La experiencia internacional que vamos a tener la oportunidad de comparar en el desarrollo de la Conferencia, va a ser de indudable beneficio para mi país, además de que los técnicos que asistan a la Conferencia en calidad de delegados, estoy segura de que también podrán aportar para otros países sus propias experiencias que en algunos casos han sido de verdadero éxito.

Desearía en este momento agradecer al Sr. Santa Cruz las luces que ha puesto en nuestros trabajos, la metodología que utilizó y, en este sentido, apoyo la propuesta que presentó el delegado de Cuba para que el documento que nos ha sido leído por el propio Sr. Santa Cruz nos sea distribuido como documento de informe a todos los miembros del Consejo. Este documento nos servirá de guía adecuada para realizar nuestras tareas, enviarlo a nuestros países, y trabajar sobre las aportaciones que haremos en la Conferencia preparatoria y en el curso de la Conferencia misma.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We have heard with great interest the statement of Señor Santa Cruz which is very clear and precise. We are aware of the steps the Director-General has taken to make this Conference a success. Besides his high level advisory committee, he has also constituted an inter-developmental committee presided over by the Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Policy Department, Professor Nouri Islam, who will be responsible for preparing substantive inputs for the Conference. We feel that the way the preparation is going will take the situation to a climax by the time we meet in the preparatory meeting. We are sure the combination of the Professor and the diplomat - one producing the intellectual inputs and the other going on with his diplomacy to the Member Countries for the highest level attendance and highest level participation - will produce very good results.

For the developing countries in 1978 the most important event was the Conference on TCDC held in the country of my good friend, the great country of Argentina, and in 1979 the most important event will be the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to which we had been looking forward for the last three years now, since the resolution in the Eighteenth FAO Conference and the resolution in the ECOSOC.

Another important input for the Conference will be the country review papers. The response by as many as 67 countries to produce country review papers showed the interest that Señor Santa Cruz has succeeded in arousing in the Member Countries. As regards this important input, I feel that it may be necessary to synthesize the inputs in the country papers and produce them in a form showing the similarities and dissimilarities in the country review papers in different countries, and then breaking up under sub-items. This is a suggestion I am making for better understanding of the country review papers which are as many as 67, so that at the time of intervention and participation of the Conference, Member Countries may make best use of these country review papers. We are sure that the main document review and analysis will be an excellent one. We assure you, Mr. Chairman, that from Bangladesh we are looking forward to this Conference and that attendance will be at the highest possible level.

CHAIRMAN: I should like to thank the Minister of Liberia for withdrawing from the list of interventions on this item.

M. MESSAOUI (Algérie): Notre délégation s'excuse du retard indépendant de sa volonté. Nous tenons toutefois à démontrer combien l'Algérie accorde d'importance à cette honorable Organisation. Nous tenons aussi à remercier et à féliciter le Secrétariat pour les documents précis et concis qui nous ont permis d'appréhender clairement les différents sujets.

La question qui nous est soumise aujourd'hui revêt une importance primordiale. Elle est importante par le fait qu'elle permettra, par nos différentes institutions, de remédier à cette disparité qui existe entre les citoyens des villes et les citoyens des campagnes. Nous n'allons pas revenir sur les débats qui ont eu lieu à Arusha sur cette question. Néanmoins certains points nous tiennent à cœur que nous voudrions reprendre. Certaines délégations ont exprimé le souhait, autour de cette réunion d'Arusha, que les politiques générales devraient fondamentalement s'étayer sur les ressources et l'autonomie nationales pour permettre de parvenir à un haut degré d'autosuffisance, notamment en matière de productions alimentaires.

Cette conférence a fait état aussi de la nécessité de l'amélioration de l'infrastructure, de l'octroi de ressources financières, de l'instauration de services de recherches, de développement et de vulgarisation et de la formation des agriculteurs. Ce sont autant de points importants qui nécessitent toute notre attention. En effet, la Conférence mondiale sur le développement rural et la réforme agraire, au-delà des espoirs qu'elle porte pour les pays du tiers monde, n'en demeure pas moins une forme d'échanges d'expériences enrichissantes.

C'est pourquoi nous devons nous féliciter des mesures prises par le Directeur général en vue de la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. La Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural pourra être un apport au nouvel ordre économique international.

K. ITANO (Japan): My delegation also compliments Ambassador Santa Cruz for his excellent introductory statement. The issue is only for information so I shall be as brief as possible.

My Government very much welcomes the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and it is timely to have the Conference at this juncture, so that we can exchange experiences and views thereon and discuss action plans to be pursued in the future.

Having said this I should like to make two points which are, in our opinion, to be taken into consideration in discussing the issue. Firstly, attention should be given not only to agricultural production in a narrow sense but also to a wider range of issues, including the creation for development of agro-industries in rural areas, the labour-intensified farming methods and the improvement of the economic and social infrastructure as a whole in rural areas. Secondly, the possible institutional reforms of urgent need should be sought through the analysis of various problems faced by small farmers, that is the marketing of agricultural products, the attaining of input for agricultural production, transfer of techniques, the introduction and utilization of irrigation facilities and so on.

S. A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We have heard with interest the address of the Director-General's special representative to the WCARRD. We are grateful to Mr. Santa Cruz for his elaboration and feel satisfied that the preparations for the Conference are in competent hands. The field of rural development is of special significance to us in Pakistan, as indeed it is to all developing countries, as the major portion of their populations reside in rural areas. We look forward, therefore, to this Conference and hope that it will achieve the importance and vital purpose for which it is being convened, that is to involve all governments of the world in new and consistent efforts to improve conditions and the quality of life for rural people and to stimulate self-reliant growth with equity within the context of a new international economic order.

We agree with the view expressed that this Conference is both unique and timely. We would also like to mention that the FAO Conference conferred on the World Conference a clear mandate to take up the key economic issues on agrarian reform and rural development.

Finally, we compliment Ambassador Santa Cruz and the FAO Secretariat for the efforts and preparations they are making to make the World Conference both conspicuous as well as successful.

CHAIRMAN: I have received the notes of Thailand in writing, which will be taken care of in the usual way.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like first of all to thank Ambassador Santa Cruz for this very lucid information. We are very grateful for it, as well as for the information that is to be sent regularly to the governments.

We congratulate the Director-General for the organization of this Conference and particularly for the excellent choice he made to select Ambassador Santa Cruz as his special representative and Mr. Nehemiah who is the head of the Secretariat. We are particularly satisfied that this Conference will be vital and most stress will be made on rural development.

For a small country like Malta there are some particular problems which are prominent and since this is how to increase the cultivated land, how to increase agricultural land and how to create from the rocky soils, with the addition of a sub soil and cover that with soil, how to make that really productive land, this Conference will be of great interest to us. Another problem which I would like to mention is the proportion of full-time farmers and part-time farmers. In a country in which it is in the interest of development, more and more people are leaving the land, or not completely leaving the land but are becoming part-time farmers and this, of course, has its repercussions on agricultural production. If we are discussing rural development in the Conference in general I hope these two points, which I mentioned also at the last session of COAG, will be also taken into account.

CHAIRMAN: The French delegation will also submit their comments in writing.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Aunque el tema nos ha sido sometido para nuestra información, la ocasión es propicia para reiterar en nombre del Gobierno de Venezuela nuestro total apoyo al Representante Especial del Director General, Sr. Hernán Santa Cruz, por los continuos e invaluables esfuerzos que viene realizando en la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Estamos convencidos de que estos esfuerzos, conjuntamente con una adecuada participación de nuestros países al más alto nivel, nos permitirá obtener resultados en el marco del nuevo orden económico internacional dirigidos hacia la acción y en beneficio directo de las ingentes masas rurales de nuestros países.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Mi delegación quiere agradecer muy especialmente al Sr. Hernán Santa Cruz su información, la cual nos es sumamente útil y revela la aplicación, capacidad y seriedad con que se están efectuando las tareas de preparación de esta Conferencia.

La Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural será un acontecimiento de gran importancia para la comunidad internacional si se logran los objetivos básicos enunciados, esto es: procurar el mejoramiento de la capacidad de producir alimentos y la posibilidad de que una explotación más racional y humana de los recursos agropecuarios de un país pueda tender a mejorar la situación del medio rural a través de una mayor capacidad de producción y realización dentro del marco de la voluntad soberana de su pueblo y de acuerdo con la características propias de cada región.

En este espíritu entendemos el esfuerzo de la FAO y la aplicación personal y generosa del Sr. Santa Cruz en los trabajos preparatorios de esta Conferencia. Le deseamos mucho éxito.

Muchos países en desarrollo que han seguido su propio camino en la promoción del desarrollo rural y la distribución de la tierra y que lo han hecho en función de sus intereses nacionales y la voluntad soberana de sus pueblos, tendrán seguramente una participación activa y constructiva en esta reunión con miras a lograr los objetivos que inspiraron la convocatoria.

Apoyamos sin reserva la moción presentada por el representante de Cuba en el sentido de que la presentación efectuada por el Sr. Santa Cruz sea circulada como documento de trabajo de esta reunión.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, no doubt captured the great attention of all countries, in particular the developing countries.

As land reform and rural development still remain the major problems of all the developing countries - and Thailand is no exception in this regard - my delegation would like to pay tribute to the Director-General who underlined the essential role of this World Conference and chose very appropriately Mr, Santa Cruz as his special representative dealing with this Conference.

My delegation would like to assure you our keen interest in this Conference. We have already submitted our country review paper and look forward to hear about the knowledge and experience of other countries. 1/

P. HALIMI (France): La perspective de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural ne saurait laisser la France indifférente (mon pays a d'ailleurs fourni un des 67 rapports) car cette rencontre internationale devrait être l'occasion de synthétiser des efforts épars dans une vision globale permettant une meilleure contribution de l'agriculture à la croissance économique.

Ce n'est certes pas la première fois que les problèmes agraires font l'objet d'une confrontation internationale et cette Conférence mondiale n'est pas la première consacrée à la réforme agraire mais ce qu'il y a de nouveau c'est l'association explicite de la réforme agraire et du développement rural et c'est en cela qu'on peut dire qu'il y a une situation porteuse d'espérances nouvelles.

Du fait de ce rapprochement, la réforme agraire n'est plus un objectif en soi, elle devient une condition parmi d'autres, essentielle certes du développement rural, celle qui doit permettre par une transformation de la structure agraire l'expansion de la production agricole qui est le but ultime.

En donnant à la notion de structure agraire une signification centrale, la Conférence réalise une conjonction d'intérêt au niveau de la compréhension du développement rural qui devrait trouver son prolongement dans une coopération internationale mieux adaptée aux besoins des pays les moins développés.

Mon pays, comme tous les pays européens, a déjà exprimé à Lisbonne son appui à cette Conférence mondiale, ses félicitations au Directeur général et à M. Santa Cruz du soin apporté à sa préparation, et la résolution votée à la Conférence, régionale de Lisbonne traduit le vif intérêt porté à cette importante réunion internationale et notre désir d'y participer activement au niveau approprié.

Pour terminer, je voudrais me réjouir à nouveau des responsabilités éminentes confiées à M. l'Ambassadeur Santa Cruz qui est, à notre avis, la personnalité la plus remarquable que le Directeur pouvait choisir pour la préparation de cette Conférence mondiale et l'assurer de toute notre confiante collaboration. 1/

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.
Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): En primer lugar, quiero agradecer las numerosas manifestaciones de apoyo a los trabajos de preparación de la Conferencia y a los elogios que se han dirigido a mi persona, que encuentro muy injustificados en gran medida, porque si bien el Secretariado que dirijo ha trabajado con sentido de responsabilidad y haciendo muchos esfuerzos, la preparación de la Conferencia ha sido obra de la FAO en general comenzando por su Director General. Todas las grandes decisiones sobre documentación, sobre otros aspectos de la preparación han sido tomadas por el Director General previo estudio del Comité Interdepartamental al cual se refirió el Sr. Representante de Bangladesh y que está formado por los Directores Generales Adjuntos de la Organización que tienen departamentos sustantivos a su cargo y que a su vez formaron un Grupo de Trabajo. De otra manera con el magro presupuesto que aprobó la Conferencia no habríamos podido de ninguna manera realizar lo que se ha hecho hasta ahora.

Quiero decir también que el señor delegado de Colombia se refirió a la necesidad posiblemente de que este Consejo considerara en su informe un agradecimiento a los países nórdicos que han contribuido a la preparación de la Conferencia de una manera especial, y quisiera decir que yo nombré esos países en relación al financiamiento de actividades de información, pero hay otros países, como el Reino Unido, que para otras actividades también nos han ofrecido una contribución especial y tengo también algunas indicaciones de que otros países, particularmente Holanda, están pensando en realizar contribuciones de este tipo.

El señor representante de Colombia me hizo varias preguntas que creo puedo contestarle inmediatamente.

Desde luego las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Conferencia del año 1966, como el marco conceptual que contiene la Conferencia Regional de Caracas de 1970 y que fue recogida por la Conferencia Regional de Montevideo, así como los principios del Comité que presidió con tanto acierto el ex-Presidente de Colombia, Sr. Carlos Lleras, han sido tomados en cuenta en los trabajos preparatorios de la Conferencia y la documentación que se ha preparado.

Desde luego uno de los documentos básicos de la Conferencia será una exposición de las resoluciones y decisiones tomadas no sólo por la FAO, sino por las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en cuanto a reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

Por otra parte, todos estos aspectos han sido tomados en cuenta en el estudio sobre examen y análisis de la situación actual y del desarrollo de los acontecimientos desde mediados de los años sesenta.

Por otra parte, los documentos por países, de los cuales, como dije, hemos recibido 67, la mitad de ellos más o menos llegaron a tiempo y pudieron ser tomados en cuenta en la elaboración del documento de examen y análisis; y quiero agregar, además, que como muchos países complementaron ese estudio con recomendaciones para la Conferencia, esas recomendaciones han sido incluidas también en un documento especial que será presentado a la Conferencia General.

Lo mismo puedo decir respecto a la sugerencia del delegado de Colombia de una evaluación de los cambios; la verdad es que lo que se ha hecho no es estrictamente una evaluación, lo cual es muy difícil, pero se han analizado estos estudios al hacer el examen y análisis de la actual situación y del desarrollo de los acontecimientos desde mediados de los años sesenta.

También puedo decirle que el párrafo 2.67 del informe de la 19 Conferencia ha estado siempre presente en nuestra mente y en la exposición que hice en un comienzo me referí a que estamos trabajando para que la Conferencia pueda resultar en programas orientados hacia la acción y en programas concretos.

Nosotros pensamos que los documentos de apoyo para cada ítem de la agenda deben ir precisamente orientados hacia la acción para evitar las discusiones teóricas, que no tendrían objeto, sino precisamente para llegar a un programa de acción que fuera realmente positivo y que ayudara a los países a transformar la actual situación de las áreas rurales.

El Sr. delegado de Bangladesh se refirió también a estos estudios por países, expresando que podríamos hacer una síntesis de ellos. Es prácticamente imposible hacerlo. El documento "Examen y Análisis" ha hecho lo posible precisamente para tomar en cuenta, y creo que lo ha tomado así, ha tomado en cuenta cuáles son las experiencias válidas, cuáles son los obstáculos que han tenido los países: pero realizar una síntesis de 67 documentos, con un término medio de unas 70 u 80 páginas, que tiene que ser traducidos a 6 idiomas, es práctica y materialmente imposible, no hay tiempo ni recursos para hacerlo.

Yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que he contestado la mayoría de las observaciones. Me complace enormemente ver que este Consejo se ha mostrado en la misma línea de las Conferencias Regionales en el sentido de que están dispuestos a participar activamente en la Conferencia delegaciones de alto nivel, y así como ha propuesto el Sr. delegado de Colombia, sería para nosotros muy satisfactorio que esta aspiración fuera reiterada por el Consejo en su informe final.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Santa Cruz, The importance of the work you are doing is greatly appreciated, and the keen interest shown by Council Members I am sure will be transmitted to the governments and the Conference will be a great success,

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

20. Financial Matters, including:

20. Questions financières, notamment:

20. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

20.1 Special Account for the Prevention of Food Losses

20.1 Compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires

20.1 Cuenta Especial para la Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos

20.2 Financial Position of the Organization

20.2 Situation financière de l'Organisation

20.2 Situación financiera de la Organización

20.3 Audited Accounts

20.3 Comptes vérifiés

20.3 Cuentas Comprobadas

(a) Regular Programme, 1976-77

(a) Programme ordinaire, 1976-77

(a) Programa Ordinario, 1976-77

(b) UNDP, 1977 (b) PNUD, 1977

(b) PNUD, 1977

(c) World Food Programme, 1977

(c) Programme alimentaire mondial- 1977

(c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos, 1977

CHAIRMAN: The Members will note that this item has many sub-items. These sub-items are clearly listed. Most of these documents are statements of accounts of past funds spent and so on, and they are here mainly for information, although some debate may be necessary on some of them.

I would therefore, if you agree, follow the procedure we followed yesterday of taking the whole of item 20 and then those members who wish to speak to any particular sub-item can mention the sub-item they want to speak on, so that the various members of the Secretariat who are here and also the Chairman of the Finance Committee can respond to Members' comments. The only new document we have is CL 74/INF/II/Corr. 1.

M. BEL HAD J MOR (Président du Comité financier): Comme vous le savez, ce point concerne le compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires. Il est soumis à notre Conseil pour information.

Cependant, il a été longuement discuté par le Comité des finances et je voudrais attirer l'attention de notre Conseil sur deux ou trois des observations formulées à la fin du débat du Comité financier.

En examinant cette question, le Comité a pris note de la liste des pays qui ont demandé la restitution de leur part des 10 millions de dollars réservés au virement au compte spécial, pour donner suite à la Résolution 3/77 de la Conférence.

Mais le Comité a également pris en compte les contributions volontaires qui ont été promises ou versées à ce compte.

En général, il a exprimé sa satisfaction devant l'appui financier que connaît ce compte spécial auprès de donateurs, ainsi que devant l'importance que les gouvernements bénéficiaires accordent au programme institué par la FAO tendant à réduire les pertes des produits alimentaires. Cette importance d'ailleurs est soulignée par le nombre de projets, déjà reçus et dont la liste a été communiquée au Comité.

Néanmoins, le Comité a souligné la nécessité de verser les contributions volontaires directement au compte spécial, afin que le programme puisse fonctionner avec plus de souplesse et plus d'efficacité. Le Comité espère que le Conseil appuiera cette nécessité.

En outre, le Comité des finances, tout en prenant en compte le nombre de demandes reçues et l'exiguïté des ressources prévues qui sont engagées d'ici le début de 1979, prie instamment le Conseil d'exhorter les Etats Membres à fournir de nouvelles contributions au fonds spécial, en vue d'atteindre, le plus rapidement possible, l'objectif de 20 millions de dollars fixé par la Conférence.

C'est tout ce que j'ai à dire à propos de ce point, à moins que le Conseil ne demande d'autres éclaircissements.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I will restrict my remarks to document CL 74/INF/11, which is the Annual Report on Operations of the Special Account for the Prevention of Food Losses. We have read this document with interest and note with satisfaction the Report of the Forty-Second Session of the Finance Committee. We would like to compliment the Director-General for the vigour and ability with which he has pursued the Conference Resolution on the subject. We are confident that his untiring efforts will be rewarded with even greater success.

My country has, in view of the importance of preventing food losses, always attached the greatest importance to FAO's efforts in this direction. We therefore fully subscribe and support the appeal to Member Nations to make further contributions to the Special Account with the objective of reaching as soon as possible the target of US\$ 20 million fixed by the Conference. We also fully support the proposal that contributions should be paid directly into the Special Account in order to provide the Director-General with greater flexibility and effectiveness in operating the programme.

P.L. SALES (United States of America): I am pleased to announce that the American Congress has passed, and that the President of the United States has signed into law, a voluntary contribution of \$3 million for this very special effort. This contribution is being made through the UNDP, and we are informed that the contribution to the FAO will be made within the next few days.

CHAIRMAN: This is very good news because, as can be seen from the Programme Committee's discussions, this question of food losses is very important and any contribution to it will help developing countries to save food already harvested.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): My delegation has perused the special document on the annual prevention of food losses, and wishes to express its satisfaction with the immediate measures taken by FAO for the implementation of the Resolution of the recent conference. From the number of proposals submitted, the interest of countries in this subject is clear.

We wish to express our thanks to all countries that have contributed to making this programme a success, either by not withdrawing their share from the cash contribution. We also appeal to all countries who are considering contributing to this programme to do so.

I mention Canada in particular here, who has always been generous in contributing to such programmes for the support of food security, and their contribution is the best witness of their attitude.

The Egyptian Delegation wishes to see this programme continued, for food losses lead to crises in Egypt on certain occasions. If we do not lose the whole crop, the losses can amount to 25 percent, because of the warehousing and transportation facilities. We hope everybody will help us to overcome this problem.

P. VÁNDOR (Hungary): I should like to make only a brief comment on CL 74/LIM/1 concerning the financial position of the Organization. On a page of the document those Member Nations are listed from which a part or the total amount of the contributions have been received during the period 1-28 November 1978. Hungary is listed here among other Member Nations.

Appendix A of this document is a statement showing the contributions outstanding at 31 October 1978. From this Appendix it seems that the outstanding contribution of Hungary for the current year is 100 percent of our total contribution. I would like to inform the Council that our Government took the necessary actions last August for transmitting the total amount of the Hungarian contribution to FAO. An administrative failure must have caused Hungary to be put on this list.

D.R. BHUMBLA (India): I will confine my remarks to CL 74/LIM/1. In Appendix A, a list has been shown of the amounts that are outstanding, and India has been listed as one such country where dues are outstanding for 1978. I have information that this amount has been paid, and FAO has acknowledged it. This is for information.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je n'ai pas voulu exposer en même temps la question du compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires et la situation financière de l'organisation, d'autant plus que cette situation comporte plusieurs volets, et je crois que l'intervention du délégué de la Hongrie est motivée par le fait qu'il n'a pas eu de précision concernant ce qui s'est passé pour ce qui est des contributions à partir du 31 octobre. Si j'avais fait mon exposé auparavant, il aurait certainement obtenu des éclaircissements avant son intervention.

Aussi je me permettrai, Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, d'attirer l'attention du Conseil sur quelques-uns des aspects importants de la situation financière de l'Organisation. Cette situation apparaît d'abord au document CL 74/4, paragraphes 31-49, complété par le rapport du Comité, document CL 74/5, paragraphes 2.5 - 2.26. Ces documents ont été complétés à leur tour par le document CL 74/LIM/1, et un tout dernier document en date du 5 décembre qui n'a pas été distribué au Conseil puisque moi-même je ne l'ai eu que ce matin.

La situation se présente comme suit:

D'abord, pour ce qui est des contributions courantes, on peut dire que la situation reste satisfaisante, et le chiffre que vous avez au document CL 74/LIM/1, paragraphe 3, doit être complété. Il ne s'agit plus de 83 millions de dollars mais il faudrait ajouter à peu près 7 millions de dollars qui ont été perçus à partir du 28 novembre, ce qui fait que normalement nous devons avoir recouvré 90 millions de dollars. Cela représente un pourcentage assez satisfaisant évalué à 91,30 pour cent.

En général, ce mouvement de recouvrement favorable est dû au fait que bon nombre d'Etats Membres ont rempli leurs obligations financières dans des délais raisonnables, et cela le Comité le relève, malgré pour certains d'entre eux de graves difficultés économiques intérieures. En général, le Comité s'est déclaré satisfait de cette tendance et n'a pas manqué de relever certains cas précis, tels que ceux mentionnés dans le document CL 74/5, paragraphes 2.8 à 2.10. Ces cas précis, de l'avis du Comité, doivent servir d'exemple pour le reste des Etats Membres, car ce faisant nous éviterons qu'une injustice ne subsiste en faveur des payeurs tardifs. Cela en ce qui concerne les contributions courantes.

Malheureusement, le Comité a accueilli avec beaucoup moins de plaisir la situation des arriérés qui figure dans le document CL 74/5, paragraphes de 2.12 à 2.16. A ce propos, le Comité a exprimé de très vives inquiétudes, tout en estimant que les Etats Membres doivent faire preuve de discipline en matière de paiement de leurs contributions.

Aussi, le Comité recommande-t-il au Conseil de souligner cette exigence dans son rapport à la Conférence et d'inviter le Directeur général à utiliser tous les moyens en son pouvoir pour assurer le recouvrement des arriérés. J'espère que le Conseil appuiera la recommandation du Comité.

A propos de la situation du budget et des dépenses de 1978/1979, le chiffre indiqué au paragraphe 2.17, et qui a certainement évolué étant donné que c'est un chiffre qui est arrêté après les comptes du 31 août 1978, reste conforme aux prévisions.

Paragraphe 2.18 et 2.19: Nous avons la situation du programme de coopération technique. Je n'ai pas de commentaires à ajouter aux chiffres qui sont indiqués, sauf que le Comité a relevé avec satisfaction que des mesures tendant à accélérer l'approbation des projets sont en voie d'adoption.

Un autre aspect de la situation financière concerne les mouvements de trésorerie. Là également, le Comité remarque que la situation se manifeste convenablement puisque les recettes au 31 août 1978 excédaient les dépenses.

Pour ce qui est du compte spécial de réserve et le rapport sur les fluctuations de change de 1978, là je dois dire que le Comité a exprimé certaines inquiétudes en constatant que si le change demeurait - et je parle de la question du change dollar/liras italiennes - compris entre 824 liras, taux de septembre 1978, et le taux actuel de 816 liras, les dépenses de personnel pourraient se trouver majorées de 4 millions à 4 millions et demi de dollars. Cela est une situation qui remonte au mois de septembre. Entre septembre et maintenant, nous constatons qu'il y a une certaine évolution, le dollar ayant repris une certaine cote. Toujours est-il que je sais que le Comité a décidé de suivre cette question de très près, étant donné le montant qui se trouve dans ce compte spécial de réserve et qui est très réduit.

Fonds de roulement: Là nous constatons que le Directeur général a autorisé un prélèvement d'un montant de 350 000 dollars pour financer des interventions anti-acridiennes d'urgence dans la région de la Mer rouge. Je tiens à préciser que le Directeur général a eu auparavant des consultations avec le Comité des finances. Il appartiendra à la Conférence de déterminer les méthodes de remboursement de ces prélèvements, ce qui fait que le compte du Fonds de roulement, pour le moment se trouve réduit de la somme de 350 000 dollars.

Pour les recettes accessoires, la situation reste satisfaisante étant donné que les sommes recouvrées ou exigibles ou échues dépassaient les prévisions du budget pour tout l'exercice 1978-1979.

Pour le moment, je n'ai pas d'autres commentaires à ajouter concernant la situation financière et, s'il n'y a pas de remarques, je passerai aux comptes vérifiés, mais je préfère d'abord donner la parole aux membres du Conseil.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Finance Committee has asked if you have any questions. If not, I will take it that this subject has been satisfactorily dealt with and we will move on to the next item.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Il s'agit du dernier volet du point 20 concernant les questions financières. Ce sont les comptes vérifiés. Je dois avouer que je n'ai pas beaucoup de commentaires à ajouter à ce qui figure dans le rapport, à savoir le CL 74/5. Entre le paragraphe 2.33 et le paragraphe 2.45, le seul point sur lequel je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil, c'est que le Comité recommande que le Conseil, compte tenu des observations qu'il lui adresse, propose à l'adoption de la Conférence les comptes vérifiés du programme ordinaire pour 1976-77, ainsi que ceux du PNUD et du PAM pour 1977. D'ailleurs, un projet de résolution unique relatif à l'adoption par la Conférence des comptes vérifiés précités, ainsi que de ceux que le Conseil examinera en 1979, sera soumis au Conseil à la session qui se tiendra en novembre 1979.

Je me tiens à la disposition du Conseil pour tous les éclaircissements concernant les paragraphes du rapport.

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the discussion on Item 20.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

22. Report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters - Rome, 25-27 September 1978
22. Rapport de la trente-sixième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques Rome, 25-27 septembre 1978
22. Informe del 36° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos - Roma, 25-27 septiembre 1978

T. GLASER (Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): The report of the CCLM, document CL 74/9, contains only one substantive item. This item relates to amendments to the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South-West Pacific.

The Commission, commonly known as the APHCA, adopted these amendments as its Second Session in 1977. The proposed amendments are set out in Appendix A to document CL 74/9.

In accordance with the Agreement, amendments require the approval of the Council.

The amendments were considered by the CCLM at its Thirty-sixth session last September. As noted by the CCLM, these amendments are designed to give effect to two Conference Resolutions (relating to the participation of non-member States in FAO bodies and meetings and to the approval of the Rules of Procedure of such bodies). These amendments are the same *mutatis mutandis* as amendments to other agreements establishing Article XIV bodies previously approved by the Council at its Seventy-Second Session in November 1977.

In addition, the amendment to Article XIV of the APHC Agreement is designed to make express reference to the adoption of financial regulations by the Commission. In accordance with paragraph 33 (iii) of part R of the Basic Texts, Article XIV bodies may adopt financial regulations, which must be in conformity with the financial regulations of the Organization and are subject to approval by the Director-General and confirmation by the Council. Of course, endorsement by the Council of such an amendment does not imply that the Director-General would necessarily approve such financial regulations if circumstances did not warrant their introduction.

In its report the CCLM recommends that the Council approve the proposed amendments. If the Council concurs it may wish to adopt the draft Resolution prepared by the CCLM, that is reproduced in paragraph 10 (on page 2 of the English text) of document CL 74/9.

CHAIRMAN: The document is now open for discussion by those Members who wish to take the floor.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): This is a question relating to Appendix A, Article IX, in which there is a reference to "Nations", which is placed in square brackets, and then it goes on to read, "States which, while not Members". Also I note that in paragraph 9 there is an explanation of why this has been done, why the word "States" has been used instead of "Nations", but then it goes on to say, "The use of the word 'nations' was, however, appropriate in the last phrase of the English text of Article IX.3". I wonder whether this could be elaborated for our information.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As the delegate of Pakistan rightly pointed out, the question of "States" versus "Nations" is explained in paragraph 9 of the Report of the CCLM. The same question was raised in the CCLM and that is why it appears in paragraph 9. The Conference found, when it introduced the amendments to the Constitution and to the General Rules of the Organization, on which the present amendments are based, that FAO was probably the only Organization which used the term "Member Nations" for its Members. This is reflected throughout the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization and it would not be easy to change this terminology. However, it also found that, when referring to States that are not Members of the Organization it would be preferable to use the term "States", namely, non-member States. This is now also reflected in amendments to conventions or agreements establishing Article XIV bodies.

As regards the question whether paragraph 3 of Article IX of the APHCA Agreement is available, it is in fact reproduced in Appendix A, to the Council document.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more queries? If not, the Council is required to adopt the Resolution recommended by the CCLM in paragraph 10 in order to give effect to the amendments proposed. If there is no disagreement I will announce that this Resolution has been adopted unanimously.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRMAN: That concludes Item 22.

The meeting was suspended from 11.30 to 11.45 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 30 à 11 h 45

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.30 a 11.45 horas

23. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

23. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

23. Otros asuntos constitucionales y

CHAIRMAN: We will go on to item 23 which you will notice also consists of some sub-items, some of these sub-items are for information and some are for decision. I intend to ask the members of the Secretariat to introduce the sub-item for which they are responsible, then it will be open to members, for the items on which a decision is necessary, to make their interventions one after another so that you can mention which sub-section you are dealing with to enable the appropriate member of the Secretariat to respond to you. I would now like to call upon Mr. Sylla to introduce his part of item 23.

23.1 Membership of the Programme and Finance Committees

23.1 Composition du Comité du programme et du Comité financier

23.1 Composición de los Comités del programa y de Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL.- Le point 23.1 concernant la représentation des pays membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier est un document d'information au Conseil pour la représentation à l'un ou à l'autre de ces deux comités. Il s'agit de membres de ces comités qui, pour des raisons diverses, n'ont pas pu continuer leur participation à ces deux comités et dont les pays ont proposé pour leur remplacement les noms de nouveaux candidats. Cette information vous est donc donnée dans ces documents CL 74/INF/10 et CL 74/INF/8.

S'il y avait à leur sujet des questions, naturellement le Président du Comité du Programme, celui du Comité financier et moi-même serions disposés à y répondre.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Sylla, Are there any comments? If none, we pass on to the following item.

23.2 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions

23.2 Invitations adressées à des Etats non membres à assister aux réunions de la FAO

23.2 Invitaciones a los Estados no miembros para asistir a las reuniones de la FAO

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le point 23.2 est simplement un point d'information. Il s'agit d'informer Conseil que des pays qui ne sont pas membres de la FAO, ni membres d'organisations du système des Nations Unies, ont été invités par le Directeur général à assister à certaines réunions de l'Organisation. La liste de ces pays est contenue dans le document CL 74/LIM/2. S'il y avait des questions ce sujet, nous serions disposés à y répondre.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now we pass on to the following item.

23.3 Amendments to the Statutes of FAO Bodies

23.3 Amendements aux statuts d'organes de la FAO

23.3 Enmiendas a los Estatutos de los Organos de la FAO

23.4 Amendment to Staff Regulations

23.4 Amendement du statut du personnel

23.4 Enmiendas al Estatuto del Personal

LEGAL COUNSEL: The first paper before you is document CL 74/20. By resolution 42/63, the Twelfth Session of the Conference authorized the Director-General to establish an Advisory Committee on Forestry Education under Article VI paragraph 2 of the Constitution. The terms of reference of this body were to advise the Director-General on the evolution and implementation of the FAO programmes in the field of forestry education. Under the terms of the Conference resolution, which is reproduced in Appendix A in the paper before you, the Director-General was authorized to select Member Nations, inviting them to appoint members of the Committee on the basis of their technical competence, such selection by the Director-General being made in the light of the desirability that the Committee membership should be not less than twelve and not more than twenty and that its composition should be representative of the different regions of the world and of countries with long established institutions for training forestry personnel at professional and technical levels.

The current membership of the Committee and the dates of its sessions from 1964 to 1978 are given in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Council document CL 74/20. In view of the increase of the number of forestry and research institutions and considering that Member Nations now require advice on more diversified programmes, including training for forest industry, wildlife and national parks management, watershed and range management, extension of forestry for local community development at the professional, technical and vocational levels, the Director-General deemed it appropriate to broaden the composition of the Committee to a maximum of thirty members. To this end, the Council is invited to examine the proposal put forward by the Director-General for the increase in the membership of the Committee to not more than thirty members. If the Council concurs with this proposal it is invited to adopt the draft resolution set forth in paragraph 5 of the document.

The second paper referred to under this agenda item is document CL 74/27. The object of the document before you is to invite the Council to approve two amendments to the Statutes of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission established by this Council in 1973. These amendments are submitted to the Council at the request of the Commission.

In the first place, the Commission considered that its terms of reference should be broadened so as to encompass certain resource management functions. As explained in the document before you, the Commission reached the conclusion unanimously that the migration patterns of fish stocks and the geographic conditions in the area made it necessary for the countries sharing these stocks to cooperate in their rational management. That is why the Commission suggested that it should be in a position to provide advice on this matter to the governments concerned, at their request. Incidentally, other fishery bodies established within the framework of FAO already have authority to deal with fishery management and development.

Secondly, on the basis of scientific studies it has become apparent that the southern boundary of the Commission's area of competence - now at 5°00' N latitude - cuts across important fishery resources. The Commission therefore decided to request that the boundary be extended southwards to 10°00'S latitude.

If the Council concurs with the recommendations, it may wish to consider, with a view to adoption, the draft resolution which incorporates the amendments I have just referred to.

I have a minor point to add. While the French text is entirely correct, one phrase was dropped, due to a typing error, from the operative paragraph 1, that is paragraph 1 of the Statutes, in the underlined part, which appears on page 2 of the English text in the draft Council resolution. The underlined part reads "Thence due east along this parallel to 30°00'W longitude: thence due south along this meridian to the equator" and here it should read "thence due east along the equator" and the text runs on "to 20°00' along this parallel" etc.

A very minor error occurred also in the Spanish text. The Spanish text in the third line that is underlined in the same provision it should not read "Allí hacia el Oeste" but "allí hacia el Este".

In the document for item 23.4 of the agenda, that is, document CL 74/30, your approval is sought for two amendments to Staff Regulation 301.111 relating to the FAO Appeals Committee. As you know, this Committee advises the Director-General on appeals by staff members against administrative decisions. It is a joint body with two members nominated by the Director-General, two members elected by the staff and an independent chairman.

The main amendment proposed in the document before you would introduce flexibility into the present application of staff regulation 301.111, which clearly implies that the Director-General cannot take a final decision on any appeal until the advice of the Appeal Committee has been received. Consequently, if staff members are to preserve their right subsequently to appeal to the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation, they must always have recourse to the Appeals Committee, even when such recourse is considered unnecessary by all parties concerned.

In most cases, recourse to the Appeals Committee is very desirable since it facilitates the settlement of disputes at a relatively early stage, or if such disputes are not settled, then at least the issues are clarified. However, cases do occur in which the issues are already clear, and the dispute is essentially centred on a question of legal interpretation, or where issues have already been considered in depth by another body, such as the Organization's Advisory Committee on Compensation Claims. Further consideration by the Appeals Committee normally involves an unnecessary expenditure of time and work by the staff member and the Organization and, of course, the Appeals Committee.

The practical effect of the amendment would be to allow the staff member to appeal directly to the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation without prior recourse to the Appeals Committee, provided that the Director-General agreed. This is in fact already the case in other organizations such as the United Nations and Unesco as well as WHO and, subject to certain modifications, the ILO.

The other amendment proposed would merely reflect existing practice based on the Staff Rules, under which a member of the Appeals Committee who is unavailable may temporarily be replaced by an alternate member nominated or elected in the same way as the member. There are at present six alternate members. They will be increased to ten, - five nominated by the Director-General, five elected by the staff, - with a view to ensuring that the disposition of appeals cases will not be delayed on account of absences of members. Staff Regulation 301,111 to which I have referred only mentions the Chairman, the alternate Chairman and the members. The proposed inclusion of a reference to alternate members would complete the Regulation with respect to the composition of the Appeals Committee. The proposed new text of the Staff Regulation is set out in paragraph 7 of document CL 74/30.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Sans doute vous souvenez-vous qu'hier j'avais annoncé qu'une question concernant le règlement intérieur du Comité devait être soumise au Conseil.

Vous savez que le Comité a considéré la question de son règlement intérieur après la modification de la composition du Comité. Certains amendements ont été introduits au règlement intérieur. Ces amendements figurent à l'Annexe D du document CL 74/4, Je voudrais me référer en particulier au paragraphe 113 du document que je viens de mentionner.

Le Comité, pour les raisons qu'il a exposées dans ce paragraphe, souhaiterait voir le Conseil reconsidérer l'article 27.9 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, en vue de proposer un amendement autorisant le remboursement des frais de voyage effectivement exposés par les membres du Comité qui ne résident pas à Rome, que le représentant ait voyagé à partir de son lieu d'affectation ou à partir de la capitale de son pays.

Je soumetts cette recommandation au Conseil et j'espère qu'elle sera appuée.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, but I do not know how members will react to what you have just said. There does not seem to be any preparation for them to think about the proposal you have just made. Any how, what I intend to do now is let us go on with what we have on our agenda, and when we finish we can come back to the proposal made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

As you heard, two of the sub-items are for information, that is on item 23. Mr. Sylla told us 23.1 and 23.2 are for information, but Mr. Dobbert's introduction needs Council decision on certain amendments which are clearly put and I suggest that members speak to those documents which have been dealt with by Mr. Dobbert unless you also have some comments on what Mr. Sylla has told us.

The floor is open for discussion.

H. MAURIA (Finland): I want briefly to deal with item 23.3. I can say that our delegation is strongly in favour of expanding the FAO Advisory Committee on Forestry Education, as proposed by the Draft Resolution which appears in CL 74/20, Expanding the membership of the Committee from maximum 20 to maximum 30 would enable the Committee to cope effectively with the widened subject matter areas on the different levels on which the advice of the Committee is requested. The motivation for the expansion of membership is in our view outlined clearly in paragraph 4 of the document I just mentioned and we concur with what has been said in this regard.

Before concluding to support the Draft Resolution we have carefully studied the pros and cons involved, since in our view every enlargement of existing bodies or creation of new ones has to be given due attention. In this case we are assured that the proposed modest enlargement of membership is justified in view of the benefit involved and taking into account the obvious strengthening of capacity it would bring about in the work of the Committee. Moreover, we believe that expanding the membership would in this case mean only a minor increase in Secretariat costs, as the cost for interpretation and documentation would apparently be more or less at the same level, and the travel costs to the meeting of this Committee are provided by the Governments. On these grounds my delegation is ready to support the Draft Resolution for adoption,

P. VÁNDOR (Hungary): I want only to make some remarks on the documents CL 74/INF/8 and 74/INF/10, in which the Council was informed about the designation of the substitute representatives on the Finance and Programme Committees. There is no doubt that the substitute representatives mentioned in these documents have the best qualifications, and it was a wise decision of the Government to designate them to these important Committees. But Rule XXVI of the General Rules of the Organization, as amended by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session by Resolution 15/77, states among others that "The Council shall be informed of the qualifications and experience of the substitute representative", and these documents inform us only about the experience but not the qualifications. My delegation thinks that in the future it would be useful if the Director-General, according to the above-mentioned rule, would request the member nation to provide more detailed information also on the qualification of the designated substitute representative to these Committees.

CHAIRMAN: Any more members wishing to take the floor? If not, then I will put the resolutions one by one so that you can give your approval.

The first resolution is the one in document CL 74/20 concerning the Membership of the FAO Advisory Committee on Forestry Education. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

The next resolution is the one in document CL 74/27 concerning the Proposed Amendments to the Statutes of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

The next action is on document CL 74/30, where we are seeking Amendment of Staff Regulation on Internal Appeals Procedure. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

I will now give the House a chance to talk on and consider the point made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee concerning some regulations which he mentioned, and for which there is no separate document as such. May I ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee to refresh Members' minds about what he wants a decision on.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Il s'agit en particulier du paragraphe 113 du rapport du Comité des finances (CL 74/4) et je lis le paragraphe en question. En discutant du règlement intérieur du Comité, "le Comité note que les dispositions de l'Article XXVII.9 du RGO ont pour effet de placer les représentants de ses membres sur le même pied que ceux des membres du Conseil en ce qui concerne le remboursement des frais de voyage. Il a néanmoins le sentiment que l'application dudit article risque d'être inéquitable dans le cas d'un représentant en poste dans une ville plus éloignée du lieu de la session que ne l'est la capitale du membre considéré, car le Comité est un organe de nature technique et les représentants des membres sont désignés compte tenu de leur compétence et de leur expérience".

C'est pour éviter disons toute injustice que "le Comité recommande au Conseil de reconsidérer l'Article XXVII. 9 du RGO en vue de proposer un amendement autorisant le remboursement des frais de voyage effectivement exposés, que le représentant ait voyagé à partir de son lieu d'affectation ou à partir de la capitale de son pays".

Je crois que le paragraphe est très clair et nous souhaitons avoir l'opinion du Conseil sur ce point.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of the Finance Committee as outlined by the Chairman a moment ago. Are there any objections to the proposal?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Perdón por tomar la palabra acerca de un asunto que realmente por el momento no ofrece ninguna dificultad. Es solamente con un deseo de coherencia en los textos relativos a este aspecto de los gastos de viaje en relación con los que eventualmente se ofrecerán a los miembros del Comité del Programa; si hubiese una fórmula diferente, no creo que fuera muy justo, pues ambos incurren en los mismos gastos. Nosotros desearíamos que hubiera coherencia en los dos textos y que se actuara en el mismo sentido con el Comité del Programa.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je crois qu'il n'y a aucun doute là-dessus; normalement, ce qui s'applique pour le Comité des finances sera discuté et s'appliquera également aux membres du Comité du Programme. Maintenant, si la question a été soulevée uniquement au Comité des finances, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une question d'argent et je pense que si le Conseil prend une décision, il la prendra pour les deux Comités, étant donné qu'il n'y a aucune différence entre les membres des deux Comités.

LE CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE: A la suite de ce que vient de dire le président du Comité financier, on peut conclure que ce Comité n'était habilité qu'à proposer un amendement à l'Article du Règlement général qui le concerne. Il est également souhaitable, du point de vue de l'Organisation, de traiter les membres des deux Comités de la même façon. Comme vous le savez, le Règlement général de l'Organisation et tout amendement à tel Règlement doivent être adoptés par la Conférence. Si donc le Conseil est d'accord avec la proposition qui lui a été faite par le Comité financier, et s'il entend l'étendre également au Comité du Programme, il serait souhaitable, selon la coutume habituelle, de demander au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de rédiger des textes qu'il soumettra au Conseil lors de sa prochaine session, c'est-à-dire en été 1979.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The Legal Counsel in fact answered the question I was going to ask and he anticipated me. I was going to ask the same point, since no action can be taken to meet the increased cost of travel until the Conference meets. There is no hurry for this Council to take a decision, and therefore we will anyway have to wait till November 1979. I would therefore like to propose that the decision be postponed until the June Session of the Council, at which time we will also have the views of the Legal Constitution Committee, and the Chairman of the Programme Committee can speak on behalf of the whole Committee rather than on his own behalf.

So I suggest we postpone the decision until June 1979 unless it affects someone's welfare. No-one has told us how much additional money they will require, and I would always think the Finance Committee's Chairman would want to know how much it would cost. Has he any idea how much it is going to cost the Organization? However, there is no problem in leaving the whole thing until June, 1979 - everything will have to be left until then when people will have a piece of paper in front of them and cannot complain about not having the text.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente para hacer una pregunta: Estoy leyendo el artículo noveno del Reglamento General de la Organización y de acuerdo con su texto no me parece que pudieran surgir inconvenientes para abonar el pasaje de los miembros del Comité de Finanzas. La pregunta es si ha sucedido en algún caso que haya habido dificultades institucionales para abonar este pago a algún miembro del Comité de Finanzas.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je dois quand même donner quelques éclaircissements, surtout sur deux points soulevés par le délégué du Canada.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne l'amendement que le Comité des finances a suggéré au Conseil, il ne s'agit pas d'amender maintenant le texte, parce que nous savons pertinemment qu'il y a une procédure à suivre, et ce que nous avons demandé, c'est que le Comité recommande au Conseil que celui-ci veuille bien reconsidérer le texte actuel en vue de proposer un amendement. Il s'agit donc seulement d'une proposition. Je sais fort bien qu'il faudrait que le CQCJ nous présente un papier qui sera soumis au Conseil de juin et probablement adopté par elle. C'est la première réponse.

Sur le deuxième point, en ce qui concerne les coûts, on aurait pu les calculer cette fois-ci, mais, étant donné que c'est un texte qui ne s'appliquera pas aux membres du Comité actuel, il m'est impossible, en tant que représentant du Comité des finances, de donner une idée des coûts, étant donné que ce n'est qu'une fois les membres élus que nous saurons s'ils viennent de leur capitale respective ou de leur lieu d'affectation. Je crois que ce sera alors une opération très simple que de fournir non pas un chiffre approximatif, mais un chiffre précis de ce que cela coûtera à l'Organisation. C'est un supplément de frais. J'espère que le délégué du Canada est satisfait de ces réponses.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I still think the whole matter can be postponed, bearing in mind what the Chairman of the Finance Committee said - but I will not insist on that. As far as estimates are concerned, first of all there is a principle which should be looked at more carefully in the sense of whether you pay for the duty station or the capital - as this may affect the choice of people, as Member Governments may not want to pay the cost between the duty station and the capital itself. I feel a rough estimate should have been made on the assumption that the pattern could remain unchanged.

But satisfied as I am, I am still querulous!

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I think that the Chairman of the Finance Committee needs to be bailed out. This was discussed in the Finance Committee. I think there is a misunderstanding of the whole issue by both the delegates of Argentina and the delegate-of Canada. The Finance Committee are not suggesting an escalation of the cost right away. They are suggesting an amendment of a principle. You have been sitting on the Programme Committee for a long time, Mr. Chairman, and you know that previously the members of both committees were reimbursed their actual costs, wherever they were coming from. Under the present arrangement they are reimbursed to the extent of their capital. For instance, our Chairman of the Finance Committee, if tomorrow he is appointed his country's Permanent Representative from New York and comes from New York to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee, he would be reimbursed after Tunis, not after New York, which is four times the distance, and who pays the balance? The delegate of Canada is making the point that there should be an estimate. There cannot be an estimate. I think this is a misunderstanding of the whole issue. What the Finance Committee is recommending is only an amendment of a principle. I agree that we do not need to take a decision right away. The suggestion is that the CCLM should consider this and that it should be put before the next Council meeting concerning both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I believe this matter was discussed at great length and that the Programme Committee also has some views on this subject. I would like to hear the Chairman of the Programme Committee.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I would simply say that the Programme Committee have not yet faced such a problem, so I am not able to speak on behalf of the Committee at this moment.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): As the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee operate in similar circumstances, if the Programme Committee has not faced this problem we would like to know how the Finance Committee has all of a sudden come across this problem.

CHAIRMAN: We are now speaking on a matter of principle. Therefore, if Members agree, I will stop the discussion here and summarize it as follows, that the Finance Committee have put a proposal that the Rules concerning reimbursement of travel be looked at by the CCLM and that a proposal for an amendment be put to Council at the next meeting. Some Members felt that the Programme Committee should also be looked into, not just the Finance Committee, so that a general amendment can be made for both Committees. If this is a fair summing up, we will leave the matter here and we will be presented with a properly documented amendment at the next meeting.

This, then, concludes item 23.

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

24. Date and Place of Seventy-Fifth Session of the Council

24. Date et lieu de la soixante-quinzième session du Conseil

24. Fecha y lugar del 75° período de sesiones del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

19. 1978-79 Calendar of Sessions of the Council and of These Bodies which Report to the Council

19. Calendrier 1978-79 des sessions du Conseil et des organes qui doivent faire rapport au Conseil

19. Calendario para 1978-79 de los períodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le informan

CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments, I take it that Council approves the proposals on the meeting of our next session as well as the other sessions submitted in the documents before us.

Unless Members have other business, this brings our meeting to an end, the debate side of the whole of our Session. Instead of being one day late we are only five minutes late.

I would like to thank everybody for their tremendous cooperation. The two Vice-Chairmen and all of us have worked so hard that the Second Vice-Chairman, the delegate of Bangladesh, really has no work to do. I am sure he will understand. The arrangement was for him to take the Chair this afternoon.

The crisp and businesslike manner in which you have conducted the debates has increased the effectiveness of Council, and I am sure that this will be reflected in the Report, because there is no waffling and there are no long interventions which confuse everybody. I would like to thank everybody for the very businesslike manner in which our work has been done.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/14
FIRST DRAFT
PREMIER PROJECT
PRIMER BORRADOR
6 December 1978

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA
(6 December 1978)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures sous la
présidence de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la
presidencia de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN: We resume our meeting for the adoption of those parts of our report which are ready. I should like to welcome the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and to thank him and his colleagues for working so hard to produce the reports.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (President du Comité de rédaction): Je vous remercie, M. le Président, pour les bonnes paroles que vous avez bien voulu adresser à ma personne et aux autres membres du Comité pour le travail effectué.

Vous avez devant vous les projets de rapport, première, deuxième et troisième parties. Dans notre Comité de rédaction, nous avons essayé, dans la limite du possible, de relever les points qui ont été soulevés dans les débats en plénière. Plusieurs points chauds ont été discutés minutieusement, mais dans l'esprit constructif d'une coopération remarquable, avec, comme but commun, d'arriver à des formulations justes et équilibrées et surtout conformes à la réalité et à la substance des débats qui se sont déroulés dans cette salle.

Nous avons aussi demandé aux membres du Comité de rédaction de consulter si possible les membres de leur région, de sorte qu'à l'adoption de ces projets en plénière, nous ne devrions pas avoir beaucoup de changements quant aux corrections à faire. Je voudrais ajouter que sans doute les membres du Conseil relèveront les inévitables petites erreurs typographiques dans l'une ou l'autre langue et, afin de ne pas abuser inutilement du temps du Conseil, je leur serais reconnaissant de les signaler simplement au Secrétariat, lequel en prendra note. Je suis certain d'ailleurs qu'il s'agira là de petites exceptions.

M, le Président, c'est à vous et aux membres du Conseil de revoir maintenant le projet de rapport qui vous est présenté et, de toute façon, je suis à votre entière disposition pour vous donner les éclaircissements que vous voudriez bien me demander.

CHAIRMAN: We note that in line with the mood of the Council debates, the reports are very slim, effective and to the point; and I am sure that this will facilitate adoption of the various paragraphs without very much difficulty, as outlined by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The procedure we will follow is for me to call out each paragraph quickly and if there is no comment or amendment, we then move on from one paragraph to another. Then at the end we will adopt the whole part, Part I, Part 2, etc. This will save time and stop Members referring to various paragraphs at cross purposes and confusing the situation.

We will now take CL 74/REP/1, the introductory parts are paragraphs 1 to 6. These are merely introductory.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE I

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 6

PARAGRAPHE 6

PARRAFO 6

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 6 quisiéramos agregar lo siguiente: Después de donde dice "Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación" seguiría: "y manifiesto su satisfacción por los trabajos del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y su estrecha colaboración con la FAO".

Hacemos esta propuesta porque la intervención del Sr. Presidente del CMA no aparece como Anexo del Informe, esto está bien para que no sea tan voluminoso, y aunque en la nota 2 al pie de página indica que esa intervención está en las actas, tal vez no convendría hacer esa referencia de manera tan escueta.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I no doubt agree with the delegate of Colombia that the World Food Council should be appreciated but I was wondering whether this Council was competent to appreciate the work of the World Food Council, which is a United Nations body. I have no objection to the second part dealing with collaboration, but I am not so sure about the expression of appreciation or satisfaction.

CHAIRMAN: The Drafting Committee of course worked on the material available to them and perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee may wish to say something on this before we hear other views.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): M. le Président, je voulais tout simplement vous dire que la déclaration du Président du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation figure dans le procès-verbal. Si le délégué de la Colombie insiste pour que l'on mette une petite phrase concernant la collaboration entre la FAO et le Conseil de l'alimentation, nous pourrions la mettre, mais j'aimerais que l'on s'arrête là pour ne pas s'immiscer dans la question concernant la position de notre Conseil vis-à-vis des autres organisations des Nations Unies.

RAMADHAR (India): This morning in the Drafting Committee we discussed the relationship of FAO with the World Food Council, so I think if we want to we can include the concept of cooperation. I had hoped it was already there this morning and that it would come before the Plenary. At any rate, it should be there, not here.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The delegate of Colombia is correct in that we should not merely have a flat statement to the effect that Mr. Tanco gave a speech. It sounds as though the Council did not know what to do with it and said: Mr. Tanco gave a speech. The words "express satisfaction" do appear to the delegate of Bangladesh, though very often his satisfaction is not the same as my own. Then, the delegate of India referred interest in and support of the work of the WFC and its close cooperation with FAO, it makes more sense in that the Chairman of the Council spoke, and we showed an awareness.

So if the problems are with "satisfaction", then we can say "expressed an interest in and support of the work of the WFC and its close collaboration with FAO". There is nothing dangerous in that. This is one of the most innocuous statements we can make, so if the delegate of Colombia agrees to change "satisfaction" to "interest" to take care of the problems of the delegate of Bangladesh and use "support of the work", I would be very happy.

I appreciate the point made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, but chairmen of drafting committees always have to oppose any additions to their reports.

CHAIRMAN: My attention has been drawn to the fact that we have paragraphs dealing with cooperation with WFC and perhaps the point now being made can be taken care of there.

J. IÑURRIETA RIGORES (Cuba): Precisamente nos queríamos referir a que en la mañana de hoy el Comité de Redacción estuvo trabajando sobre el discurso pronunciado por el Dr. Arturo R. Tanco, y una parte de un párrafo precisamente señala lo que acaba de mencionar el delegado de Colombia; por ejemplo, nosotros lo podríamos leer muy brevemente; hay una parte del párrafo que dice: "rindió homenaje a la Dirección de la FAO y expreso su confianza en la contribución que la acción conjunta de la FAO y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación puede aportar en el próximo decenio a la solución de problemas de la alimentación".

Entendemos que todavía, naturalmente, no se tiene este documento porque no ha sido presentado aún al Consejo, ya que se discutió esta mañana y la Secretaría no lo ha podido presentar.

C. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En realidad, me satisface la aclaración que hizo el colega del Canadá; podría aceptar su redacción o también otra más simple que tal vez tenga cuidado de la preocupación del colega de Bangladesh. Podríamos decir simplemente: "... Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, y manifestó su satisfacción por la estrecha colaboración entre el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO." El resto de la idea originalmente expresada por mí la encontraremos más adelante, según ha indicado el colega de Cuba, cuando los miembros del Consejo dispongamos del REP. correspondiente.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would just like to suggest that as you said originally the first page is rather short. I wonder if in fact paragraph 6 might not be a little warmer by saying "the Council also heard with interest a statement by Mr. Tanco" and we leave the matter of value judgement until the paragraph in which we reach it but this would be a short way of making paragraph 6 a little warmer.

I think there is a spelling mistake in paragraph 5, it is "the text of this statement is given".

CHAIRMAN: In fact we did not debate Dr Tanco's speech at the time he made it. Therefore the introductory part of our draft report is all right except that, as Members have said, paragraph 6 might be expanded a little to make it a little warmer and both the Canadian delegate and the UK delegate can give a small draft to the Secretariat to that effect but that would not alter the fact that we did not debate the address by Dr Tanco at this stage and we will come on to it under Cooperation with the WFC.

Paragraph 6, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 6, ainsi amendé est approuvé

El párrafo 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: If this is agreed, we will go on to the next page, page 2 and start with the substantive items to the paragraph, starting with the State of Food and Agriculture.

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 18

PARAGRAPHES 7 á 18

PARRAFOS 7 a 18

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): A small correction before the last words "New International Economic Order", the "a" substituted by "the".

CHAIRMAN: Yes, this is the sort of correction which can be handed in. It is a matter of grammar, and so on. If there are no comments in paragraph 7, then we go to paragraph 8.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): In the sixth and seventh line of this paragraph, which reads "It felt that, although there had been a general easing of food supplies, and especially of cereals, there remained no grounds for complacency". The impression one gathers is that presently we are complacent and we should remain complacent for longer. I think it would be better if it were to read in the last few words "expecially on cereals, there were no grounds for complacency".

CHAIRMAN: Can you hand that in to the Secretariat. Paragraph 9.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Again, a very small point but I think in the last line of paragraph 9 there is a reference to African swine fever in some countries of the Mediterranean. I think if we could substitute the word "certain" for the word "some", which is slightly more restricted, it is not in all countries of the Mediterranean. I think that might be more permissible.

CHAIRMAN: That will be taken care of. Paragraph 10.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Page 3, third line from the top, in fact in Africa the production declined in 1977, that concept is not there. So could we say, "after developing countries" "and declined in 1977".

CHAIRMAN: Well, this can be checked from the document which was submitted by the Director-General, the document on State of Food and Agriculture.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (President du Comité de rédaction): Dans cette phrase, nous avons reproduit ce qui nous a été soumis dans le document du secrétariat; je crois que la phrase est assez correcte et correspond à l'image donnée dans ce document.

CHAIRMAN: Bangladesh, are you satisfied?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): If I have the correct figures I think the decline is in per caput production but not in overall production. Therefore, I think the amendment has to be drafted rather carefully. I think as Bangladesh suggested it would suggest that there is a real decline in total terms, which I do not think is the case. I think the decline is per caput. I stand to be corrected. I see Professor Islam is nodding.

CHAIRMAN: Should we ask Professor Islam, Bangladesh?

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I want it checked.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): This sentence refers to the recovery of production in 1978. It does not refer to 1977 and if you want to include another clause here for 1977 then what the delegate for Brazil has said is correct, that the per caput production in 1977 fell, but this does not refer to 1977. This refers to, although there was a recovery of production in Africa in 1978, compared to 1977. That is what it says here. If you want to include 1977 then you have to include it in the way the delegate from Brazil has just mentioned.

CHAIRMAN: I think if you agree, Bangladesh, the easiest thing to do is for the Secretariat to put in a correct reflection, because this is not a thing for real argument.

R. PERALTA (Panamá): Era en base a lo que plantearon los delegados de Brasil y Bangladesh. Aquí se hablaba de 1978 y no de 1977 y en 1977 había sucedido lo que ha presentado el delegado de Brasil.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My feeling is we are just missing one word here. If you would introduce a word after 1978, "nevertheless the rate of growth" then I think it would make sense, and then it would be in accordance with what we heard from the Director-General. We could also say "nevertheless the rate of growth of per caput production in that region". So my proposal would be, after 1978, to insert words "nevertheless the rate of growth" and so on.

CHAIRMAN: This may be a short solution.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): A small point, I think, paragraph 10, the next but last line "African countries were to achieve any improvement" may I suggest there "an improvement".

CHAIRMAN: That will be taken care of. As I suggested, paragraph 10, there is really nothing in dispute. If the suggestions which have come from various Members, including the Federal Republic of Germany, can be taken into account in the re-drafting, that will probably satisfy Bangladesh who started it in the first place.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I am satisfied with your observations and it may be left to the Secretariat but I just wanted to draw the attention of the Council to the CL 74/2, page 3, Food and Agricultural Production, where you have, "results were again disappointing in Africa, where production declined in 1977." It is a flat statement.

CHAIRMAN: You are very good at references so we trust you must have seen it somewhere! In any case the point you made will be taken care of.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): A very small point on drafting, on the last line it refers to "The situation in subsequent years is uncertain". That is a bit obscure, I suggest it reads "The situation in subsequent years remains precarious, despite increases in production". It is purely, I think, drafting.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think the Chairman of the Drafting Committee can accept this which improves the presentation.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je pense que l'on pourrait accepter cette formulation qui correspond plus à la réalité.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Would the delegate of the United Kingdom please have another look at what we have suggested. It now suggests there was a recovery in 1976, particularly in these countries, the situation in subsequent years, that is talking about the future remains precarious, and then you go somewhere else because you are not talking about the future when you say this remains precarious.

CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately the delegate has left so can you hand in your draft as well so we can take it into account if he is going to change anything.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I have a change, I said it remained uncertain, instead of remains precarious.

CHAIRMAN: We go on to paragraph 12 now.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Disculpe, pero tal vez por la rapidez en que se están examinando los párrafos, no señalé que deseaba hablar del párrafo 12. Es una cosa muy breve.

En el párrafo 12, en la tercera frase en español, quinto renglón, habla ahí de los países exportadores desarrollados en relación con la concentración de existencias, y habría que hacer un poco de justicia en cuanto a la información adicional de que uno sólo de esos países, el mayor exportador mundial conserva o viene manteniendo existencias que equivalen al 45 por ciento de las existencias totales. Es información que se encuentra en el documento sobre el estado mundial de la Agricultura y Alimentación en 1978. O sea, mi propuesta concreta es que después de: "países exportadores desarrollados" se dijera: "conservando uno solo de éstos el 45 por ciento de las existencias totales."

CHAIRMAN: It is a statement of fact. It can be included in the Report. Drafting Committee Chairman, do you have any objection?

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit d'ajouter un détail pour lequel je ne vois pas d'objection. Si vous croyez que cela est nécessaire, nous pourrions donc l'ajouter.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I have no trouble with the facts but I find myself sort of puzzled by what happened to the meaning. It says since one country has 45 per cent of all the stocks it could cause logistic problems in the event they were needed to meet a food emergency. Well, that may be true, it may be not true, because that country has a large shipping fleet, it has a lot of vessels floating over the ocean. That may be to the advantage rather than disadvantage.

I think the concept here was the concern among those countries that are the exporters. They are also the ones that are holding the stocks, and so the issue really is one which we have not discussed, that is how stocks should be divided. It does not really matter if one country has 45 per cent, because in the case of the 45 they are also the ones that have the boats and they also have money to distribute, whereas the others do not have the money to be so generous. If there are any comments from the U.S. delegation, which has not been mentioned by name, I have no problem.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Observaba que mi sugerencia se ceñía a los hechos; no se menciona ningún país por su nombre. Sin embargo, eso indica, realza la gravedad de una situación. Yo sólo quiero que se haga notar precisamente lo que eso puede traer como consecuencia. En lo que se ha referido, estoy de acuerdo, pero vamos, forma parte del problema que no se menciona aquí.

H. BAUYENS (Belgique): On pourrait peut-être rejoindre le point de vue de la délégation du Mexique en incorporant l'information sous forme d'une note en bas de page, ce qui aurait l'avantage de ne pas déséquilibrer la phrase.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I am sorry to belabour this sentence, but I have one small observation. On line 4, "developed exporting countries, which could cause", might we not put "which might cause"? When we say "could" that is synonymous in context with "would". I do not think it necessarily follows one would happen automatically after the first; "which might cause serious logistic problems", if that is agreeable.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you very much. If you can send in this language, then it can be looked at in context with all the other suggestions. We go on to paragraph 13 now.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Proponemos que la primera frase del párrafo 13 diga como sigue:

"El Consejo lamento que en 1977/78 la ayuda alimentaria tampoco había alcanzado etc."

Solamente cambiar las primeras palabras del párrafo 13 para darle un poco más de fuerza y hacerlo más claro.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): It is on no specific point, but I just want a clarification. You just now suggested that the United States of America would hand its amendment in and it would be seen whether it ties in with the rest and then proper action would be taken, so we are quite in the dark as to what has been decided. Therefore, I would be grateful if you would let us know whether the amendment has been accepted or not.

CHAIRMAN: May I remind Members of what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee suggested. Matters of language, matters of grammar and so on, spelling mistakes, should be handed in, but when there is substance, for example, Colombia said we should change the word "noted" to "regretted"; now this is a change and has to be agreed on. There is no change in anything by putting grammar right, so if you agree, we will proceed along the lines suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: A ce stade de nos travaux, je ne voudrais pas avoir à prendre de responsabilité dans la rédaction finale du rapport.

S'il y a des observations à faire sur le texte, que ce soit d'ordre grammatical ou sur la substance elle-même, il faudrait que le Conseil soit d'accord, parce que je ne voudrais pas qu'après le Conseil on vienne me voir et que l'on insiste pour insérer des textes. Je ne peux pas en prendre la responsabilité et je ne pourrai pas l'accepter.

R. PERALTA (Panamá): Con respecto a lo que acaba de decir el Secretario General, creo que es lo más justo definitivamente aunque haya aparentemente ciertas cosas que pueden parecer iguales en los idiomas, el hecho de hacer los cambios, como señala el representante de los Estados Unidos, o como señalaron, el cambio sugerido por la delegación de México, de poner a pie de página, y no de poner la frase explicativa; creo que como ha dicho el Secretario General, las cosas debieran quedar más claras en el Consejo y no notas enviadas a Secretaría General que posteriormente no se conocen y son pasadas por Secretaría General sin ser aprobadas dentro del Consejo.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): First, my delegation wishes to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Drafting Group for the good work that they have done for us. As far as we are concerned we see only a few cases where changes are perhaps needed to get a better clarification.

Having said that, my delegation, too, would prefer, as was said by Pakistan, that in these changes we agree here immediately and do not count on the Secretariat to check up and then when we go home at the end of the session, when we have taken all the notes, we can also pass the corrected version of the Draft Report to our different Agencies and then the Government, and once we go home we are asked to do so, so I would very much prefer that in all cases we could agree upon the wording here within the Council session.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to read out what has been suggested for paragraph 12 before we go on to 13, so that everybody can hear it.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I think that first we agreed to put a footnote to paragraph 12 concerning the suggestion made by Mexico, and then the United States of America suggested that instead of "which could cause serious logistic problems" in the fourth line of paragraph 12, we should write "which might cause serious logistic problems" something which is already done. I think in the French text. This is only to put it in the English text.

(Continues in French)

Si vous me le permettez, Monsieur le Président, nous devons être d'accord ici sur les corrections à apporter.

Je voudrais ajouter qu'il ne faut pas non plus entrer dans le détail. Nous avons discuté le détail dans le Comité et nous avons essayé de vous donner le résumé des délibérations. Je reconnais que l'on pourrait ajouter bien des points à beaucoup de paragraphes, mais nous n'en finirions jamais. Je fais donc appel aux délégations pour qu'elles présentent les modifications les plus importantes mais qu'elles n'entrent pas dans les détails, même s'ils ont quelquefois leur importance.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Quiero apoyar plenamente lo que acaba de expresar el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y someterme a lo que fue su rollo al comenzar sus deliberaciones. Creo que es absolutamente imposible ir por cuatro o cinco textos tratando de anotar precisamente los detalles que se acuerden. En este momento, tenemos una visión que se refiere a la sustancia del párrafo y lo que Ud. justicieramente ha dicho es que debemos aprobar o no, pero hay una serie de terminología y una serie de giros de frases que, evidentemente, pese a no querer entrar dentro de las responsabilidades de la Secretaría, ésta debe asumir.

Yo creo que debemos, según lo que usted ha dicho, limitarnos a las observaciones de sustancia; por ejemplo, si yo hubiera seguido las observaciones en detalle, hay una serie de intervenciones que hubiera de haber efectuado sobre el texto en español. Yo quiero que las tareas del Consejo se lleven analizadas, y procedamos a trabajar con inteligencia, esto es tratando de encarar los temas en su importancia.

CHAIRMAN: We do not want to start a debate on this. I think everybody is agreed on where it is going to be and what is not going to be, and we will have to take the decisions properly so there should be no fear about this.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La primera frase del párrafo 13 diría como sigue: "El Consejo lameó que en 1977/78 la ayuda alimentaria tampoco había alcanzado etc.", y el párrafo seguiría tal como está en el resto de su redacción actual.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I do not know whether my colleague from Argentina will consider this is a matter of substance or not. At the very end of the paragraph I just want to add some words, as the sentence does not balance: "... and the present balance was below 50,000 tons". This is very important, and it is factual.

A. J. PECKMAN (United Kingdom): I would hardly wish to dispute the facts, but it did occur to me that on the material point at the beginning when the suggestion was: "The Council regretted...." it might very well meet the interests of those who spoke to say "The Council noted with regret ..." etc

CHAIRMAN: It is better English, anyhow. If Members agree, we will stop there, and the facts as suggested by Bangladesh can be added. Paragraph 14 now.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I want to ask a question of substance dealing with the last sentence of paragraph 14 on page 4. I may be wrong in my interpretation so I turn to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for guidance. If I understand the sentence correctly, what is implied here is that as food aid is reduced it becomes very difficult for countries to import capital goods, fertilizers, etc. We must increase food aid more and more. What I am concerned about is there is a more important aspect of food aid. If we said "because of the difficulties of increasing agricultural production" and at the same time "because of the reduction in food aid" there is this problem - but to put the whole emphasis on food aid I do not think is the correct balance with capital goods, fertilizers, etc. I want to be clear about what it means. I think it is an unbalanced sentence as it stands.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call on the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to reply to the delegate of Canada.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I wonder if I have to give any clarification of this paragraph? I would like to know, first, what the delegate of Canada proposes instead of this formulation?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We are playing the game of "You first, no. you first". My problem here is this: I do not think it is a balanced sentence to imply a reduction of food aid, as such as this has ramifications on developing countries who import on capital goods, fertilizers, etc. If we had said we did not increase food aid rapidly - I do not think it sensible to say the food aid did not reach

CHAIRMAN: A point of order: Can you give us a precise suggestion?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): "... particularly because of the inability of developing countries to increase the agricultural production rapidly enough and ..." and then go on to the rest of the sentence.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (President du Comité de rédaction): Je n'ai rien à ajouter. Si le Conseil en est d'accord, nous pouvons accepter cette modification, qui est plutôt de forme, du délégué du Canada.

P. MASUT (Pakistan): I am sorry, but I am afraid I am not in agreement with what has just been stated. This paragraph relates entirely to food aid and the new establishment of increasing food aid production is being introduced. If Mr. Shefrin would read the second sentence on page 4 which starts: "Particularly because the role of food aid in meeting the rising import requirement had declined substantially since the mid-1960's, the increasing import of cereals...." the point is made quite clearly here that because food aid has declined, developing countries have to import more cereals. The concept of increasing food production is not included in this programme.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En principio estoy de acuerdo con lo que acaba de afirmar nuestro colega de Pakistán; pero en el caso de que el colega Shefrin, de Canadá, insista en su enmienda, agradecería que su texto sea leído lentamente ya que nos ha sido imposible captarlo en su totalidad.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): Just one brief item. Let me first address myself to this point: with due deference to my colleague from Pakistan this sentence does deal with food imports in general and not just food aid, and therefore I would be supportive of my colleague from Canada including the phrasing he suggested - though I think we are referring to 1975 here and not 1875.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I have a suggestion which I think at least has the support of Mr. Shefrin. "The decline in the role of food aid in meeting the rise in food import requirements since the mid-1960's has contributed to meeting the increased imports of cereals..." and then continue. That is one factor, but obviously not the only factor. There are other factors as well.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais vous faire part d'une légère inquiétude parce que j'ai l'impression qu'on s'écarte un peu de notre rôle qui est de voir s'il y a des erreurs dans le rapport dû Comité de rédaction. Or, ce rapport est excellent et je crois que nous sommes tous d'accord pour constater que son président et ses membres ont fait un excellent travail, mais j'ai l'impression que nous avons un peu tendance à refaire maintenant ce que nous avons déjà fait, c'est-à-dire à rentrer dans les débats du Conseil. Ce n'est pas notre rôle. Il est possible que nous désirions revenir sur ce que nous avons déjà dit en pensant: j'aurais dû dire cela, ce qui aurait été mieux que ce que j'ai dit pendant les débats du Conseil. C'est tout à fait possible, mais ce n'est pas notre rôle de le faire maintenant, sinon nous en avons pour jusqu'au milieu de la semaine prochaine. Je ne désire pas du tout contredire mon ami, le délégué de la Colombie, quand il estime qu'il faudrait dire "regrette" ou "observe avec regret" plutôt que "observe".

Si j'en crois mes notes personnelles, je pense que le mot exact aurait été "le Conseil constate qu'en 1977 - 1978". C'est évident qu'il le constate avec regret, mais si on ne l'a pas dit au bon moment, pourquoi le dirions-nous maintenant? Nous n'avons rien à ajouter aux débats, nous avons simplement à dire si le travail qu'a fait le Comité de rédaction est bien fait ou non. Voilà mon avis. Si nous sortons de ces limites, nous risquons d'avoir des débats extrêmement longs et compliqués.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): With due respect to the Secretariat and the delegate from the United States, I would like to state that from my point of view the figure in the second line should be 1985! That is my first point.

My second point is perhaps the delegate of Canada or the Secretariat would be kind enough to read the amendment proposed by the delegate of Canada. I have full sympathy with the delegate of Colombia when he wishes to hear that again.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to call on the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to say if he has anything to suggest in the light of all these comments.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): M. le Président, vous me mettez dans une position délicate. Si un des membres du Conseil fait une proposition, c'est au Conseil de décider s'il l'accepte ou pas. A mon avis, je peux tout simplement dire que la proposition du Canada, avec une formulation un peu plus légère, pourrait être acceptée. La proposition du Canada est... (continue en anglais) "Particularly because of the inability of developing countries to increase agricultural production rapidly enough..." and then: "... the rising import requirement had declined substantially..." etc. I should perhaps, if you permit, Mr. Chairman, say "Because of the difficulties of developing countries to increase agricultural production..." because the word "inability" sounds a little bit... but on the substance, it is for the Council to decide.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I think you have something there.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I thought you were discussing the amendment of Brazil and Canada, and I withdrew my request for the floor only because I supported the request of Brazil. I am surprised the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is still on the proposal of Canada. The amendment by Canada is still there. I drew the attention of the Council to the factual situation. You may recall the introduction of the statement by the Director-General, in which he said "80 percent of the aid..." I support the proposal made by Brazil.

CHAIRMAN: You support the Brazilian amendment - is it very different from the Canadian one?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): What I proposed in good faith was the following, to try to help you. "The decline in the role of food aid in meeting rising import requirements has contributed to increasing imports of cereals by developing countries, thereby reducing the ability of those countries..." and then it continues. I think that reads smoothly.

CHAIRMAN: Canada is next-door to you. The delegate of Canada wants to put a proposal first. Do you come to some compromise with this?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): There is no compromise in the proposal made by Brazil but the delegate of Canada feels that he is just being extinguished. I think there is a difference. I will quite frankly say that I do not intend to pursue this any further if it is going to cause difficulty. I think our point is a correct one in terms of balance. If the delegate of Pakistan finds it is giving him heartburn I am prepared to be extinguished.

CHAIRMAN: In that case we do not have any proposal.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Únicamente para insistir en la necesidad de que en el momento de hacer propuestas concretas, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta que tenemos intérpretes que traducen a los demás idiomas, estas propuestas se lean en forma lenta y correcta, indicándose donde se efectuarán determinadas correcciones, citando el párrafo y, si es posible, el renglón. Así ayudaremos a los intérpretes y evitaremos innecesarias intervenciones de los delegados.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): The suggestion from the delegate of Canada does not give me heartburn. It gives me heartache, because I feel so upset that a gentleman's country like Canada should be so reluctant to accept a paragraph which is in accordance with the existing situation. He is talking about increasing food production. You will find that in paragraph 16 increasing food production is also dealt with.

CHAIRMAN: Canada has withdrawn, so there is no need to go back to Canada anymore.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I just wanted to make sure that it remained withdrawn.

CHAIRMAN: If Brazil also agrees, we will leave the paragraph as it is and move on paragraph 15.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I have a little addition. In line 4 of paragraph 15, after "Seed Improvement and Development Programme" add "and to the IFS scheme".

CHAIRMAN: That is an omission that you want to correct.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (President du Comité de rédaction): Pas d'objection.

CHAIRMAN: There is no objection?

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): Could we have that repeated slowly? We did not get it in our draft.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Line 4, paragraph 15, after "Seed Improvement and Development Programme" add "and to the IFS scheme".

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I just wondered whether on the fifth line the word "expressed" is really appropriate. Would it not be better to say "The opinion was also advanced"? Concern was expressed properly at the beginning of the paragraph, but I think it would be better to say "advanced" in the fifth line.

CHAIRMAN: Right. It does not change the substance, it improves it. On paragraph 16?

K. ITANO (Japan): I would like to propose a minor amendment to the last part of the second sentence in the paragraph. My proposal is that instead of the clause "World Food Council target figure" we should have the following clause: "the estimate mentioned in the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council". The reason for my proposal is that this part is different from the figures mentioned in the Mexico Declaration and in the communique of the World Food Council. So I would prefer the word "estimate", because the figure mentioned in the Mexico Declaration is an estimate rather than a target.

CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting "estimate" rather than a firm figure.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): With regard to paragraph 16, instead of saying that the developed countries had a major role to play we should say "should play an important role in providing the necessary development aid".

With regard to the last sentence: "It also noted that donor countries..." we should say "It also noted that donor countries have reoriented part of their aid", because the donor countries have not shifted all their aid but only part of their aid, part of their commitments.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I also have a small suggestion for the last sentence. I would have preferred that the word "countries" in the second line from the bottom be replaced by "segments of the population" so that it would indicate "in favour of the poorest segments of the population and

small farmers". Then, in order to be clear, it would be necessary to add the words "aid in agriculture" in the same line. The sentence would then read: "It also noted that donor countries had been shifting their commitments for aid in agriculture in favour of the poorest segments of the population and small farmers, and recommended..." That would be the preference of my delegation.

CHAIRMAN: Before we get lost, let us hear the proposals made by the previous speakers. Japan has made a proposal which is without any problems. Then Iraq made a proposal. Nobody seemed to disagree with him. Perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee would like to speak,

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je suis d'accord avec vous: avant de passer à d'autres amendements il faut en finir avec la première proposition; cela faciliterait beaucoup notre travail.

Dans ce paragraphe, il faut nous mettre d'accord sur la proposition de la délégation du Japon. Je voudrais prier M. Sole-Leris de lire la proposition exacte de la délégation japonaise.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary of the Drafting Committee): The Japanese delegation have very kindly sent us up their proposal on this amendment. This is paragraph 16, the second sentence, which begins: "In this connexion, the Council noted with concern that although there was an increase", and towards the end you say "the total commitments of external assistance for agriculture were little more than half of the World Food Council target figure." This is what is there now. The proposal of the Japanese delegation is to delete the words "the World Food Council target figure" and to have instead "the estimate mentioned in the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council".

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Japanese proposal. There is no objection to that?

P. MASUD (Pakistan): We have some serious reservations regarding the amendment proposed by the delegate of Japan. It may be an estimate but it has not been mentioned in Mexico. It has only been mentioned since 1974 when the World Food Conference took place. At best we could agree to "more than half of the World Food Council's estimated target figure". That is the only amendment we could agree. We agree that it is an estimated figure. Therefore instead of making this long amendment we could amend it to read "the World Food Council's estimated target figure".

CHAIRMAN: Will that satisfy Japan?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Although I would like to be in agreement with my friend from Pakistan, I must say that in this case the World Food Council never estimated requirements. It was in Manila when the revised figure of the previous estimate made by FAO was presented to the World Food Council. There the World Food Council took note of that. The same thing happened in Mexico. So I feel that the wording proposed by the delegate of Japan reflects truly what is stated in the World Food Council's report about the Mexico session.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think this is difficult. We can always look back into the report and reflect exactly what is in the report. If members agree, then we do not come back to this. This is something factual which can be checked and put down. If that is agreed, we go on to the proposal of Iraq.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que nous n'aurons pas beaucoup à apprendre en regardant les documents, qui nous sont très connus. Personnellement, je ne vois pas beaucoup de différence entre la proposition du Japon et celle du Pakistan, je pense qu'il s'agit d'une question de formulation. Nous parlons de la même chose, il faut trouver la formulation appropriée; on parle d'un but estimé, estimated target, nous exprimons exactement ce que nous pensons. Ces chiffres ont été élaborés par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation à Manille et à Mexico; naturellement, nous pourrions ajouter beaucoup de mots si nous voulions être plus précis mais le fond est là: nous nous référons aux estimations faites pendant les sessions du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation à Manille et à Mexico et aux recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de 1974. Je fais appel au Conseil pour qu'il accepte une formulation parce que cela ne change rien au fond.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): In the interests of trying to find a quick solution, may I suggest that we use a phrase simply stating "the estimated target figure used by the World Food Council". It was an estimate which the Council used.

CHAIRMAN: Is this wording acceptable? Right, then we will go on to the suggestion made by the delegation of Iraq. Perhaps the delegate of Iraq would repeat his suggestion as we may have forgotten it by now.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): In the second line of paragraph 16, instead of saying "the developed countries had a major role to play in providing the necessary development assistance", I suggest that we say: "the developed countries should play a major role in providing the necessary development assistance", etc. At the end of paragraph 16, in the last sentence where it says "It also noted that donor countries had been shifting their commitments for agriculture in favour" etc., we would say: "It also noted that donor countries had been shifting part of their commitments" etc.

M.-A.PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je suis absolument d'accord avec la première modification proposée par la délégation de l'Irak.

En ce qui concerne la deuxième modification, il est un fait que toute l'aide n'est pas encore envoyée; en mettant "une part" cela correspond à la réalité.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I could not agree. I made a very firm statement about United Kingdom policy, and I believe we are not alone in believing that a number of institutions and other bodies are moving very much in this direction. It is only right that it should be reflected. While I entirely agree with the first amendment by the delegate of Iraq, on the second one I really favour the suggestion made by Mr. Brito and I would therefore be much happier if the last sentence read: "It also noted that donor countries had been shifting their commitments in respect of aid to agriculture" etc. That is what we have been doing, shifting our commitments in respect of aid for agriculture in favour of the poorer countries. This is where I disagree slightly with Mr. Brito: I do not like to talk about sectors. We are concerned with human beings and we should refer to poor people and to the small farmer.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): My problem with the delegate of Brazil is that since we sit side by side, we cannot see eye to eye. I agree with the United Kingdom delegate in part: if he had not tried to amend the last sentence it would have been a good proposal, but by amending it we weaken the proposal. Actually, countries are not shifting their commitments to the poor countries or to any segment, or to poor people. In making our contribution to poor countries it is up to governments to decide how the aid should be used. If they want to shift it to the poorest ones, it is their decision; if they want to shift it to the middle ones, it is their decision. But it is not our decision, so I think the sentence is correct and does reflect policies of many countries, including Canada, in their strategy for aid; and it is a full commitment we have made.

CHAIRMAN: There is some force in what the delegate of Canada has said: you deal with countries and if the delegates of Brazil and Iraq will agree, then I think the sentence should stand as it is.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I hope Mr. Shefrin will not be too surprised, but I agree with him: it is to the poorest countries, and to restrict it to the poorest segments, as proposed by the delegate of Brazil, would not be quite right because the poorest countries then go on to distribute what they get among their own society and the decision is ultimately their own. I would therefore agree with the last amendment of Brazil, and I also support the first amendment of Iraq.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): We will of course withdraw any suggestion that we depart from the original wording if there is a consensus on that. We talk about the poorest countries but I think it has to be made clear that there are commitments with regard to aid for agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: It is agreed, then, that we leave the wording in the paragraph as it is?

C. BATAULT (France): J'avais quelques observations à faire, notamment pour dire que j'étais d'accord avec l'amendement irakien et que je n'étais en revanche pas d'accord avec celui proposé par mon collègue et ami brésilien. En effet, c'est l'aide aux pays les plus pauvres qui est là plus importante; le reste est une question de souveraineté nationale; dans les pays en développement, les moins pauvres peuvent s'occuper eux-mêmes de distribuer l'aide aux secteurs les plus pauvres. C'est une question de souveraineté nationale.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je propose un nouvel amendement à ce paragraphe 16, tendant à supprimer la phrase qui fait un appel à augmenter les ressources du Fonds international pour le développement agricole. A ma connaissance, il n'y a pas en ce moment un appel pour le renouvellement du Fonds qui ait été lancé; il ne le sera probablement que vers 1980, et même si certains membres ont parlé dans ce sens je leur demande s'ils ne consentiraient pas à ne pas voir figurer cette mention dans ce texte.

CHAIRMAN: Can you give a specific correction or amendment so that the Drafting Committee Chairman can consider it?

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je propose de supprimer la phrase: "Plusieurs membres ont en outre souligné la nécessité d'augmenter les ressources du Fonds international pour le développement agricole."

P. MASUD (Pakistan): On this particular suggestion, I think it should remain because the appeals to replenish the IFAD have been made even at the first Governing Council of the IFAD and so unless we set the machinery in motion right now, if we wait until 1980 it may not be possible to secure the level of the replenishment that we seek. I therefore think this appeal should stand.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): In the report we are trying to reflect what was said in the debate. If the delegate of Belgium has particular difficulties, we can retain this sentence by replacing the word "increase" by "replenish" and at the end add "in good time". I think that would put the matter in proper perspective: "several members also stressed the need to replenish the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in good time."

CHAIRMAN: Does that satisfy the delegate of Belgium? (The delegate of Belgium nodded his assent.)

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Merci.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I shall not insist on my amendment in the last sentence but in our understanding the reason for the amendment was that the poorest people should be helped wherever they are.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Precisamente es el punto que a mí me preocupa, y se refiere a la última frase del párrafo 16. Es cierto que el Consejo escucho a algunas delegaciones que, efectivamente, decían que los países donantes estaban orientando sus asignaciones, etc. etc., pero también es cierto que esta canalización de asignaciones hacia los países más pobres y hacia los pequeños agricultores no está unánimemente aceptada por el Consejo. Por lo tanto, lo que yo creo que debería tratar de incluirse es alguna frase que expresara un poco la sanción del Consejo y me permito sugerir que después de las palabras "El Consejo tomo nota también" agregar: "de las declaraciones de varias delegaciones que los países donantes" y lo demás quedaría como está.

No sé si ha sido claro para la Secretaría; veo al Sr. Secretario que dice que sí, de modo que he terminado, Sr. Presidente.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): En effet, ce paragraphe reflète les déclarations qui ont été faites pendant le Conseil. D'après ces déclarations, on constate que les pays donateurs auraient orienté leur aide dans l'agriculture en faveur des pays les plus pauvres. Je ne vois aucun inconvénient à accepter la proposition de l'Argentine qui prend en considération le fait que cette réorientation a été annoncée et pratiquée par les pays qui les concernent.

CHAIRMAN: If it is agreed the various amendments which have been stated and properly recorded will be reflected.

We go on to paragraph 17.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): At the very end, the fullstop be replaced by a comma and add "and there was also need to assist them in improving absorptive capacity".

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): (interpretation from Arabic): My observation is: made in order to allay some confusion with regard to the Arabic text. We have an error in the enumeration of the paragraphs, paragraph 17 and 18 have been merged together and therefore when my colleague from Bangladesh referred to the end of the paragraph this could raise certain confusion because the Arabic paragraph 17 ends with the end of paragraph 18 in the English and therefore the last three lines of paragraph 17 in the Arabic text should become paragraph 18 and it will begin " the Council noted FAO's efforts". This is paragraph 18 in Arabic. Both have been merged and then we would change the following numbers.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL (Interprétation de l'arabe): Je voudrais remercier Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la Libye. Il a tout à fait raison. Il y a effectivement une erreur. Nous allons changer la numérotation de ces paragraphes. C'est la première fois que le rapport est produit en arabe, et cela explique peut-être que certaines erreurs aient pu s'y glisser.

CHAIRMAN: I will call on the Chairman of the Drafting Committee because on the English text anyhow, 17 and 18 stand aout separately.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Le numérotage des textes anglais, français et espagnol est correct. C'est une petite erreur qui s'est glisée seulement pour le texte arabe. Mon collègue de Libye m'a devancé, je voulais l'annoncer quand nous avons abordé le paragraph 17.

CHAIRMAN: The addition made by Bangladesh, is there any objection to it?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I also have a comment in the last sentence of paragraph 17. Perhaps I could give you that first before commenting on the proposal by Bangladesh.

I thought that the last sentence might read a little more effectively if it were as follows "it emphasized that the problem of absorptive capacity in the developing countries notwithstanding, there was an urgent need for a greatly enlarged flow of external resources". It is simply getting the point a little clearer and I have really taken out the word "dwarfed". That is simply my proposal.

I would appeal to Bangladesh to drop his suggestion that there be also "assistance in dealing with absorptive capacity". The force of this sentence is quite clear. It finishes as the Drafting Committee has it on a firm note, "directly enlarged flow of external resources" and if you then add to this you lose the effect entirely.

CHAIRMAN: Bangladesh, do you agree to withdrawing your suggestion?

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I agree that the need for external is emphasized but you mention also a shortcoming on the part of developing countries and the absorptive capacity, but there is still then a need to mention there is also need to improve the absorptive capacity in the developing countries to assist them in that regard. Even if we accept the amendment of the United Kingdom I feel it is necessary also to emphasize helping the developing countries to increase their absorptive capacity, even if they have the shortcomings of this absorptive capacity. Even if we accept the United Kingdom amendment it is necessary to have this.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wanted to apologise, I had intended to explain that in fact the first two sentences spell out I think what most of us realize is the problem of absorptive capacity. I think the term of absorptive capacity in the last sentence is used as a shortening of all these things. There is no difference of opinion between our friend here or myself, we all agree it should be done. Since in fact this is clearly stated in the first part of the paragraph I would simply reiterate what I have said before, that we keep to the force of the paragraph, the force of the conclusion as it stands and not add further to the paragraph.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I fully support the ideas stated by Bangladesh. I do not think that the place at which he has suggested it should be incorporated is quite the correct place and there I agree with Mr. Peckham, that if we were to include it at this stage the whole paragraph would lose its force, whereas presently it is quite forceful.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): There could be two alternatives. The first is before this sentence begins we must state that there is also need to assist the developing countries in improving absorptive capacity. The alternative is after the amendment by Mr. Peckham, put a fullstop and then say "there is also need to help the developing countries in helping to improve absorptive capacity". It would be better to have it before the sentence starts as a separate sentence.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Parece que el párrafo 17 va dirigido a señalar esta necesidad. Creo que se refiere a este objetivo de mejorar la capacidad de absorción, es decir, todo lo que habla la primera frase del párrafo 17, va dirigida a mejorar la capacidad de absorción. Nos parece que sería más lógico que lo que se ha sugerido respecto de ese aspecto en el párrafo 16, se incluya en el párrafo 17 y se deje el párrafo 16 ya como ha sido examinado.

Concretamente, nosotros sugeriríamos que en el párrafo 17, después de la tercera línea que dice, la parte del final: "y proyectos de inversión agrícola", introduciríamos entonces esta idea: "con objeto de mejorar su capacidad de absorción, para lo cual era necesario darles mayor ayuda." (Punto final).

No sé si esto contribuye a la solución o la complica, pero sí ha querido ser una contribución positiva.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee if this last proposal matches in with what we have already got. If it does then it seems to cover both the points made by Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and so on.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (President du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais prier le représentant du Mexique de nous relire sa proposition.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Fri el párrafo 17, después de decir, hablo de la tercera línea del párrafo 17, que termina diciendo: "y proyectos de inversiones agrícolas", allí poner una coma, y aquí entra mi sugerencia. Leo "con objeto de mejorar su capacidad de absorción, para lo cual sería necesario darles mayor ayuda."

Creemos que con esta sugerencia, saldría sobrando, porque además es un párrafo que no está bien redactado, la última frase de este mismo párrafo 17.

CHAIRMAN: We all heard what the suggestion made by the delegate of Mexico is. The United Kingdom did make an amendment to the last sentence which is now suggested to be deleted altogether, and also Bangladesh.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I would be happy if at the end of the first sentence, the third line, you have "and improving absorptive capacity". Then the amendment of Mr. Peckham is accepted.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, you are trying to help. Now the Bangladesh delegate has come up with a suggestion which seems to be acceptable to the United Kingdom finally. If this is acceptable to the Council, the we go on to paragraph 18, noting that the Arabic text will be amended properly.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brasil): I feel that paragraph 18, which refers to the supply of information, this improvement of information should cover not only domestic investment but also the external flow of resources. Therefore I would suggest the following, " the Council noted that FAO's efforts to improve the supply of information achieved on external aid to agriculture as well as", and then would continue as before.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to this?

Paragraphs 7 to 18, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 18, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 21
PARAGRAPHEs 19 à 21
PARRAFOS 19 a 21

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je ne veux pas intervenir sur le débat ni sur l'adoption du rapport. Je veux simplement me permettre de vous dire qu'il est 16 h 45, et que vous avez déjà passé une heure et quarante-cinq minutes pour approuver 18 paragraphes. Le nombre de paragraphes que vous approuverez, je l'espère, étant de 123, il faudrait 10 heures et demie de travail pour en finir avec l'adoption du rapport. Je crois que ce Conseil s'est transformé en comité de rédaction et je fais donc entièrement miennes les remarques de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France.

CHAIRMAN: I think this appeal has been made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and by myself and by the Secretariat so I would like again to appeal to Members to refrain from very minor details. We go on to paragraphs 19 and 20.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): On this paragraph unfortunately I need to bring an amendment because it is a very substantive paragraph for us.

Firstly, in the fourth line is a typographical error, it is "exports" instead of "export". The next paragraph a small change in the English text, the sixth line, instead of "which could only be exported with", "which could be disposed of with the assistance of export subsidies" and then add the following to make a better balance of the second part of the paragraph, "in such a way as seriously to disturb normal trade patterns".

Finally, right in the end, an observation was made by Professor Islam and by a couple of others during the debate on the export of sugar to the effect that there was a net increase, in fact a doubling of export between 1977 and 1978 by the community, and that is a very important fact. Perhaps we can add at the end of the paragraph, "it was noted that the EEC net sugar export has doubled between 1977 and 1978". I think that was the case. I repeat a new sentence right at the end, "it was noted that the EEC's net sugar export has doubled during 1977 and 1978". If my assertion is not correct I will withdraw but I think, the assertion was made and I think it is correct.

CHAIRMAN: The factual part of it can be checked. Members, is this on Brazil's suggestions?

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Je reconnais que les remarques ont été faites en séance, mais il me semble qu'il serait plus juste de mettre l'amendement du délégué du Brésil à peu près au milieu du texte, avant: "Certains autres membres ont toutefois fait observer" car tout ce qui suit est une réponse à ce que l'on a dit. Actuellement, on nous dit que les exportations de la Communauté ont doublé récemment. Or, dans la dernière phrase, nous lisons: "L'accroissement des exportations est dû à l'amélioration des rendements" ce qui est la réponse au fait qui a été signalé. Il vaut donc mieux que l'amendement brésilien ne soit pas à la fin du texte, mais qu'une nouvelle phrase soit ajoutée après: "...accroître leur production et leurs exportations agricoles," et avant la phrase qui commence par: "certains autres membres"

CHAIRMAN: Brazil, do you agree with the French delegate?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I am very happy to agree, M. Chairman.

W. A. F. GRABISH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wonder whether it would be possible to spell out again Brazil's first amendment and then to indicate where the second amendment is finally being inserted.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): In the second sentence, in the fifth line it should read as follows: "excess supplies which could only be disposed of with the assistance of export subsidies in such a way as to seriously disturb normal trade patterns". Then following the suggestion of France we could bring my second amendment as an additional sentence just before "Some other members", which could read precisely as follows: "It was noted that EEC's net sugar exports had doubled from 1977 to 1978", right before "Some other members".

CHAIRMAN: I think we have finished with Brazil's amendment. It has been accepted.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): A very small point: I think at the opening of the paragraph, we should refer to "international trade policies". I wrestled with these things over many years in my life and I think it is not just one "policy" in singular, I think it is "policies".

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina) : He seguido, con atención los debates en torno a este tema y creo que la cuarta frase del párrafo 20 cuando dice: "Algunos miembros, sin embargo, hicieron notar que sus importaciones de productos agrícolas", no coincide con la realidad. Según con lo que yo recuerdo solamente el Observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea hizo esta aseveración. Estoy tratando de recordar si otros miembros habían manifestado esto pero, recuerdo solamente al Observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Si ello es correcto debería dejarse perfectamente establecido a quién obedece esa observación.

CHAIRMAN: This can be taken care of by looking into the records.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Mine is just a small point of fact,. Mr. Chairman, in paragraph 20, sixth line: "which could only be exported with the assistance of export subsidies", and my concern is that I suspect there is more than one way of dealing with surpluses at a given time. The "only" seems to be unduly restrictive.

CHAIRMAN: Yes; Brazil suggested "disposed".

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): That does not help because it retains the restrictive nature of it. It also contains the concept of "disposing" rather than "exporting" which is in this line.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee the actual sense of this particular word "export", so that it may be clarified.

M. A. PAPAGEORCIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Le sens de cette phrase, à notre avis, c'était en effet que ces quantités excédentaires devaient être écoulées à l'aide de subventions. Je ne sais quelle autre formulation on pourrait employer pour ce terme. De toute façon, je ne crois pas que l'on ait mentionné quelque chose pendant les discussions, au Comité de rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If the USA has not really got some country proposal, then we can yes, United States of America.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): The word might be that it "may" rather than "could only". In other words, it is possible that this is what may happen but certainly is not the only procedure. As a matter of fact, that is all.

CHAIRMAN: Then you only want to put "may", if that is agreed.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wonder whether you wish me to give a reply to the question raised by Argentina. If it is the case that you wish me to do so right now, I will do so. Otherwise, I will wait until you have cleared up the other issues.

CHAIRMAN: Let us clear this particular issue. The proposal of Brazil is accepted with the amendment made by the USA just using the word "may". If that is agreed, then you can take the floor, Germany, on the Argentina point.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My friend from Argentina was correct in saying that the delegate of the European Economic Community has stated that the imports of the European Economic Community had been increasing. Now, as far my delegation is concerned, we stated under Agenda Item 4, State of Food and Agriculture, the following, and I repeat: "The Federal Republic of Germany as the largest importer of food commodities has increased her imports from the developing countries again substantially. Meanwhile, more than 50 per cent of our total agricultural imports from the countries outside the European Economic Community came from developing countries. My Government continues to pursue a liberal trade policy. It advocates this course in particular in multi-lateral trade transactions which are about to reach the final stage."

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Agradezco a mi gran amigo el representante de la República Federal de Alemania, GRABISCH, la aclaración que me formula y, en función de esa aclaración, creo que debería enmendarse el texto y en lugar de decir: "algunos miembros" poner: algún miembro hizo notar.

F. ELMANOVSKY (France): Je regrette beaucoup cette indication qui vient d'être donnée par le représentant de l'Argentine, parce que, lorsque le représentant de la Commission parle pour la CEE, il ne parle pas pour la Commission. La Commission en elle-même n'importe pas ou n'exporte pas, la Commission parle ici au nom de la CEE qui groupe neuf pays. Je veux bien qu'on dise éventuellement "le représentant de la Commission" ou "l'observateur de la Commission", mais s'exprimant au nom de neuf Etats membres et cela sera exact. Il ne faudrait tout de même pas oublier de reconnaître que lorsque la Communauté est critiquée, elle mérite parfois aussi d'être félicitée, lorsqu'elle a une politique constructive, par exemple lorsqu'elle met en vigueur le système des préférences. Ne disons pas simplement "l'observateur" en minimisant les choses, c'est vraiment la Communauté dans son ensemble.

CHAIRMAN: I think we will leave the text as it is if Argentina agrees, in the light of what we have heard.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq)(interpretation from Arabic): As regards paragraph 20, we all acknowledge that the Representative of the EEC referred to imports from developing countries, and this is the reason why I would suggest the following addition to the end of paragraph 20. We would say that "the Council expressed the hope that re-exporting" I would say - I think that some European countries re-export what they import from developing countries, so I go back to my suggested amendment: "The Council feels that the re-exporting of commodities should not be prejudicial to the commodities being imported from developing countries".

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Nous ne pourrions certainement pas accepter que ce soit le Conseil dans son ensemble qui dise ceci, car je vous ai rappelé, lorsque j'étais intervenu sur le sucre, que la Communauté de par sa production n'avait pas besoin de ce million 400 000 tonnes de sucre qu'elle importe des pays en voie de développement au titre de la Convention de Lomé; mais du fait même qu'elle le fait, et qu'elle le fait non pas au prix du marché mondial mais au prix intérieur commu-

nautaire très supérieur, puisqu'on nous a dit qu'il était très supérieur, au prix du marché mondial, c'est un bénéfice pour ces pays, et ce sucre il faut bien que l'on en fasse quelque chose. C'est l'objet d'ailleurs des conversations qui auront lieu à partir du 15 décembre à Londres avec le Conseil international du sucre où nous exposerons notre position. De toute façon je ne pourrai pas m'associer à une demande disant: "le Conseil demande que les quantités ainsi importées des pays en voie de développement ne donnent pas lieu, sous une forme ou une autre, à une réexportation".

CHAIRMAN: May I appeal to the delegate of Argentina not to press on this, so that we can leave this as it is. Can the Argentine delegate drop his objection to this?

CO. KF.LLEF SARMIENTO (Argentina): Para tratar de facilitar su tarea, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación no ha insistido en su enmienda; pero queda claramente establecido que la única delegación que se refirió al problema de que habían aumentado sus importaciones de productos agrícolas alimentarios, fue la delegación de la República Federal de Alemania. De modo que lo que dice nuestro texto no es exacto.

Con respecto a lo que ha formulado el representante de Francia sobre la Comunidad Económica Europea, quiero recordarle que nosotros estamos reconociendo la presencia de Estados como miembros del Consejo y el resto son observadores.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I thought I should appeal for getting on with this, as I said, they would otherwise raise such questions, very difficult questions about the re-exporting of enormous amounts of commodities. We are getting in very, very deep water. Surely we do not want a debate at this late hour on who are the members of the EEC, and whether the Herman Presidency speaks on this behalf. Let us please get on. The text we have seems as clear as possible. I would suggest we drop these new points.

CHAIRMAN: I have already appealed to Argentina to drop his point. Do you agree? Thank you very much.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Es una pequeña cuestión respecto al párrafo 21.

Quisiéramos estar seguros de que, por lo general, las traducciones reflejan fielmente el texto del idioma básico sobre el que se trabaja porque por casualidad, viendo el texto en inglés, en el párrafo 21 se habla de una palabra "longstanding" antes de "problemas" y esto puede tener importancia. En el caso concreto en español no se traduce la palabra "longstanding" y hay palabras a las que se puede dar una intención, se las puede calificar. Quisiéramos asegurarnos de que en general nuestros textos se corresponden.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, you could put in the corrected translation. I do not think the Secretariat would object to that. I have had it pointed out this is a typographical error, but could I ask in such cases that Members could send in the corrected version?

Paragraphs 19 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 22 to 31

PARAGRAPHERS 22 à 31

PARRAFOS 22 a 31

P. MASUD (Pakistan): The second sentence of paragraph 22 is not quite clear to me, and if someone could enlighten me on what exactly is being said I would be grateful. My problem is that the second

sentence is not quite clear to me. It talks about "increase in stocks, which continued the build-up which had occurred since 1975, was mainly concentrated in coarse grains in 1978." I am frankly not clear as to what the Drafting Committee wishes to state here.

CHAIRMAN: Have you any specific improvement or amendment to put here? If so, why do you not do it?

P. MASUD (Pakistan): "The build-up of stocks which commenced in 1975 continued but was mainly centred on coarse grains in 1978."

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection to this it will be put in. O.H. HAOUE (Bangladesh): On a different point: the first sentence. The last part of this is somewhat contradictory to the statement in the third sentence, so my suggestion is to put a period after "... 1977 and 1978 had improved ." Otherwise it is somewhat contradictory to the statement in the third sentence. So the first sentence would end after the word "improved".

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections - this is editing.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I am a bit confused about the first amendment proposed to the first sentence of that paragraph. We must realise that also the food security situation has improved to some extent. It is necessary, therefore, that this should be left in. I wonder what the final position or proposal is on the first sentence of paragraph 22?

C. BATAULT (France): Je serai très bref sur les questions de grammaire. "Le vieux problème" en français, cela ne veut pratiquement rien dire. Je vous proposerais, au moins dans la version française, de remplacer ces mots par "le problème traditionnel" La phrase se lirait ainsi: "Le Conseil note que l'on n'a guère à atténuer le problème traditionnel du commerce international des produits agricoles".

CHAIRMAN: That is no problem, delegate of France.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I will only announce that I had a specific amendment to the last line, but I pass it by in the interests of progress and will not make it.

CHAIRMAN: We will accept it in writing. I assure you of that. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has objected to the amendment made by Bangladesh.

O.H. HAOUE (Bangladesh): I suggested the amendment because it is somewhat contradictory to the statement you have in the third sentence. The Council stressed: "the food security would remain precarious." so to say the food situation would have improved to some extent would be contradictory. And the same in the next paragraph, the question of the International Undertaking, and that sort of thing. That is why I tried to give it a better meaning.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to put this to the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. This is the explanation; is it acceptable to you?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to agree with my good friend from Bangladesh, but I think if we want to express what is really happening we would have to leave in the first sentence, that food production and stocks had improved the world food security situation to some extent, and if my memory does not betray me I do think we are with stocks of about 19 percent of what is being traded, so that is an improvement to some extent, this would not contradict the statement in the next sentence: "The Council stressed that food security would remain precarious until real progress has been achieved, or made." Some progress has already been made, because the stocks increased, so to some extent the situation has improved; therefore, I still have a feeling it would be contradictory to take it out.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Brazil, I think the point made by the Federal Republic of Germany is valid, Pakistan, and if you do not mind we will leave it, it has improved it.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil)- I fully agree with Mr. Grabisch. I just think the last sentence could be made more clear if we indicated that what we are saying is "progress in food production in developing countries." If we say in a last sentence "The Council stressed world food security would remain precarious until real progress had been made towards strengthening the food production base of developing countries so as to help eradicate hunger and malnutrition ..." - we just need more food aid production in developing countries, and that is enough, Mr. Grabisch is correct.

CHAIRMAN: So I think we have paragraph 22 straight, and we go on to paragraph 23.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): En effet, nous ne savons pas où nous sommes en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 22. Pourrait-on nous dire ce qui a été accepté finalement?

CHAIRMAN (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I think Bangladesh made a point and the Federal Republic of Germany improved on it, and Brazil also came in. But if you wish the whole thing to be gone over again.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je crois que la dernière proposition du Brésil était d'enlever la phrase: "dans la voie de l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde" et maintenir le reste du paragraphe. Eh bien, est-ce que le Brésil voulait reformuler sa proposition?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil) : I will just try to make it clear there is no contradiction by rephrasing the last sentence: "The Council stressed that world food security would remain precarious until real progress had been made towards strengthening the production base of developing countries so as to help eradicate hunger and malnutrition."

CHAIRMAN: Is that clear for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Oui, Monsieur le Président et que fait-on pour la première phrase? On la laisse tout entière?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, we keep the whole sentence.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): To leave it as it is would not actually be correct, but for the sake of my friendship with Grabisch I will agree.

CHAIRMAN: That is excellent. Now, Paragraph 23? 24?

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): The third line from the bottom of the paragraph, our intention is not only to request a resumption but also a successful conclusion. So after "resume" add "and successfully conclude' '.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): If the delegate of Bangladesh could see the last words, it says, "in order to bring them to a fruitful conclusion".

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was going to make a proposal that there is one amendment only in paragraph 23, and that is the word in the fourth line from the end: instead of talking about "reserve stock" I think it should be "reserve stocks", and a similar point in the fourth line of paragraph 24 refers to "a coarse grain consultative arrangement", which I think should be "coarse grains".

CHAIRMAN: These are valid editorial points which can be sent in on a chit. Nobody can argue with those.

C. BATAULT (France) : A la cinquième ligne du paragraphe 23, je crois qu'il faudrait dire, pour refléter la réalité, qu'un accord international sur les céréales aboutisse rapidement pour que certains des objectifs de l'Engagement international Je crois que si l'on dit "les objectifs", c'est trop vaste; en fait, étant donné la nature de la négociation, il faut dire: "certains des objectifs".

Au paragraphe 24, troisième ligne, je crois qu'il faudrait dire "des progrès considérables ont déjà été réalisés".

CHAIRMAN: These corrections will be made. Paragraph 25?

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Would you consider using the phrase " external assistance" instead of "outside assistance"?

CHAIRMAN: This is just a matter of words.

F. REDA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): With regard to the Arabic text, we have an omission there. The last sentence does not figure in the Arabic text. We would ask the Secretariat to take this into due account.

CHAIRMAN: That will be done. Paragraphs 26, 27 and 28?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Tal vez mis observaciones son porque he leído precisamente esas partes acerca de los aspectos a los que se refiere; otros tal vez se me hayan escapado, pero en el párrafo 28 se habla asimismo de las políticas o prácticas de reducción de la producción de algunos países exportadores. De acuerdo con el informe del propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es muy específica la mención de ese país que es el principal exportador de granos. Entonces, para que se ajuste ese párrafo en base a lo que dice el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

CHAIRMAN: Could we hear your proposal?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Bueno, únicamente que se diga a partir del tercer renglón, donde dice "de la producción", "decretadas en el principal país exportador, el Consejo fue informado por el representante de dicho país de que, de conformidad" y el resto continúa igual que en el texto.

CHAIRMAN: Are these proposals acceptable?

Then the comments made by Mexico will be taken into account.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Could they be repeated, please?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Sí. En el texto expañol, en la tercera línea, después de "reducciones de la producción" agregar "decretadas en el principal país exportador de cereales alimenticios, el Consejo fue informado por el representante de dicho país de que," y el resto queda como está.

K. ITANO (Japan): I would like to propose an amendment to the second part of the first sentence in paragraph 29. I would like to propose the following words: "to establish the International Emergency Food Reserve on a continuing basis" instead of "a permanent element of world food security". My proposal comes from the wording used in the recommendation in the Mexico Declaration.

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection to that, then we agree to that paragraph.

I. MOSKOVITZ (Malta): I would like to propose that we cut the third sentence into two and add a few words to it: "Attention was drawn to the importance of regional food reserves at a strategic point of food deficiency areas". Then "The Council was informed..."

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this addition? If not, it is agreed.

Paragraphs 22 to 31, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 31, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 31, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 32 to 45

PARAGRAPHES 32 à 45

PARRAFOS 32 a 45

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think there needs to be the insertion of the word "second". Paragraph 32 refers to three matters. Paragraph 33 refers to the second proposal. Incidentally, paragraph 34 should start "With regard to the third question" so that it is clear what we are talking about. There is a small point at the end of page 8. I think it is "since these two countries".

CHAIRMAN: You are quite right. These corrections will be made. Paragraph 34?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would just make a minor point. In the fifth line of the English text I propose that instead of "might well require" we say "would require". If that proposal does not go, then I have a very substantive amendment to make to the whole paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: I hope members heard the proposal made by the delegate of Brazil. If there are no objections to that, then your extensive amendment may not be necessary.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think that is a matter of fact which would have to be established with legal advice. I do not think it is for the Council to express a legal opinion.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Mis observaciones son en lo que se refiere a la penultima frase. En el quinto reglón de abajo hacia arriba, en español, que dice que "el Consejo convino en que será necesario examinar atentamente esas propuestas". Si es ése el sentido del consenso no tendremos dificultad, pero no sé si en el resumen que usted hizo, Sr. Presidente, acerca de este tema, se mencionaba que había existido un acuerdo, un consenso del Consejo para que se examinaran atentamente esas propuestas. Se dijo sí, que la intención de la Comunidad Económica Europea era presentar unas propuestas al* Director General, pero no recordamos que hubiera habido una respuesta, una decisión respecto de esa sugerencia que haría la Comunidad.

Igualmente el texto en español de la siguiente frase pensamos que no corresponde a la realidad. No sé si usted quiere que yo haga una propuesta concreta a estas alturas, pero preferiría que se expresaran antes algunos otros colegas.

CHAIRMAN: Let us have concrete proposals, Mexico. Put your first proposal and then your second one.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Acerca de la misma línea quinta de abajo hacia arriba, yo sugeriría: "y el Consejo tomó nota de la intención de la Comunidad".

Después, "la mayoría de las delegaciones que intervinieron expresaron que miembros de la CEE ya participaban en forma individual en el seno de los órganos regionales de pesca".

Después, suprimir la última frase.

CHAIRMAN: A point of order is being raised, I believe, by the delegate of Cuba.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Como fui miembro o parte del Comité de Redacción, no habíamos querido intervenir, pero falta un "no" en la traducción española, que esperábamos que la Secretaría lo hubiese puesto, ya que es muy importante para que quede claro lo que se quiere expresar al final del párrafo. Por eso me parece que es importante antes de seguir los debates que por lo menos en español aparezca este "no" y así quede claro lo que estamos discutiendo.

CHAIRMAN: Does that explanation given by the delegate of Cuba - who is a member of the Drafting Committee - meet your requirements?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): En todo caso, debe de codificare la frase en español que refleje lo que había expresado yo antes de sugerir que se suprimiera esta ultima frase. Está confusa la redacción en español.

Yo sugeriría después una redacción a la Secretaría.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I have the text in English but not in Spanish. The last sentence in English says very clearly that there should be no change in the Basic Texts. That is very clear and it should stay.

CHAIRMAN: What I said was that, as requested by the delegate of Cuba, the text will be put right in the Spanish language.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): Let me indicate that I am speaking now on behalf of the Presidency of the European Economic Community, and let me also make clear that if the representative of the European Economic Community speaks in an observer capacity on certain issues such as trade, fisheries or food security, he does express

CHAIRMAN: You have the right to speak as delegate of Germany and then you can say that you speak for the rest, and that is what we will do in future because that would be intervention by proxy which has been pointed out to me as being wrong, not only in your case but in many other cases.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): May I continue?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, you may.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Thank you, Sir. It is the feeling of this delegation that all Member Countries of the Organization are interested in a full participation of all Member Countries of the European Economic Community, and therefore in certain areas where we have delegated competence to the Community, I think we are helping the proceedings of our Organization if we ask the Observer to speak on behalf of the Nine. Otherwise, all the Nine would have to say what they want to say. Therefore I cannot see any reason for objections being raised now because in the past there was agreement on these procedures and I wonder whether we could not continue in that way.

Having said this, I must say that we have the feeling that paragraph 34 as it now stands truly reflects the situation as it came out during the deliberations of this Council Session on the issue. As the matter now stands, it is up to the Community to make a concrete proposal. The Director-General will give careful consideration to that concrete proposal and in so doing whether he will ask the help of the CCLM or other standing committees; that is up to the Director-General. He will then give his view to the Council after which the final decisions will be taken.

I do not think we should prejudge these proceedings which are going to take place in future. My delegation would therefore very much hope that we could overcome this situation by simply accepting the text as it now stands.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think there are any objections to the text as it is. We have not heard any objection to it.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Monsieur le President, je voudrais simplement dire que si l'on conteste le droit à l'Etat qui exerce la présidence de parler au nom de la Communauté européenne, je demanderai que chacun des neuf Etats Membres de la Communauté lève successivement sa pancarte pour reprendre les phrases du Président du Conseil des communautés. Nous aurons neuf interventions au lieu d'une. Mais en tout cas, il est absolument indispensable de considérer que ce qui est dit au nom de la Communauté est dit par neuf Etats.

CHAIRMAN: We do not want to open a debate on this. The position is this: I have been given to understand - and I quite agree with the opinion - that here we have actually countries elected to be Members of the Council, and if groups of countries such as the European Group, the EEC, the Group of 77, wish to make a point, they can give their points to one person who is a Member Country. When the country is called upon, then he can say: I am speaking on behalf of the EEC countries, of the Group of 77; there is no harm. Then all the other countries do not have to repeat what that Member Country has said. This is a matter of procedure, otherwise the debates will be jammed and we will be talking about organizations instead of countries. That is the point being made.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Just to be helpful on this, in the past the practice has been that the current Chairman of the EEC is the spokesman on behalf of the EEC, but he takes along by his side a Member of the Community to assist him; but the spokesman is the current Chairman. The chair on the right-hand side of the German delegate can be vacated and a member, of the European Community can be there and assists; but the spokesman will be the current Chairman of the EEC.

CHAIRMAN: Can we go on? Paragraphs 35, 36, 37 and 38?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I think that we should qualify the first sentence by saying that this more active role should be set under the request of the countries concerned. We are asking for assistance in the conclusion of agreements. We could say: "should under the request of the countries concerned play a more active role" etc.

CHAIRMAN: Any disagreement ? I see there is not.

K. ITANO (Japan): I should like to propose a minor amendment in the third line of paragraph 38, to insert the words "in an objective manner" so that it will read as follows: "promoting in an objective manner the conclusion of" etc.

CHAIRMAN: Any objections?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I certainly object, Mr. Chairman, because whatever we do is done in an objective manner. I am sure that the honourable delegate of Japan does not intend to imply that we might not be objective in promoting cooperation between one group of countries and another.

CHAIRMAN: Will the delegate of Japan withdraw his proposal? Thank you. Paragraph 39?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Just a suggestion to try to clarify the first sentence which contains the words "or new dimensions". These are a little bit vague and I would suggest that in place of those three words we add to the end of the first sentence: "involving many coastal States in new commitments within their EEZs", or we can spell that out; but I think it does make it a little clearer that they have a commitment.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Preferiría que concluyera con esta enmienda. Entonces pediríamos a la Secretaría que, por favor, leyera el texto en inglés, - no sé si en francés estaría mejor - porque es que en español, en la tercera línea, no se ha interpretado claramente lo que quiere decir. No es una propuesta concreta sino una solicitud a la Secretaría de que trate de ver la idea clara que aparece en el resto de los textos.

CHAIRMAN: Can the Secretary of the Drafting Committee read that line?

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary of the Drafting Committee): I believe the difficulty arises in the middle of paragraph 39. It may be best if we read out the whole of that paragraph in English, slowly including the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom. Paragraph 39 would then read as follow:

"The Council recognized that many of the activities required to implement the Programme were not novel, but that they were given added urgency" --

and then delete the reference to new dimensions --

"by the emerging regime of the oceans, involving many coastal States in new commitments within their extended economic zones. Noting that fishery products are an important source of human nutrition and that the total fish production from the oceans might soon be levelling off, it stressed the need for the development of unconventional resources, as well as of aquaculture and inland fisheries."

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): This is again a minor point. I think the second sentence of paragraph 41 should read: "It agreed that any process of de-centralization"-etc. I think there has been a transposition there.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Y yo deseaba referirme al párrafo 40. En la tercera línea del párrafo en español, sugeriríamos que se incluyera: "cooperación intergubernamental a nivel bilateral", y luego: "subregional y regional" como está, o sea, añadir: "bilateral".

CHAIRMAN: That will be done. Paragraphs 42, 43.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Para proponer la siguiente enmienda. Después de "partes" debe agregarse la palabra "consultivas" porque es el título que reza "partes consultivas del Tratado Antártico", y al final de la frase agregar: "con el objeto de salvaguardar la necesaria coordinación de las futuras actividades en la región", fi: de la enmienda.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am afraid I did not quite follow that text. Perhaps the Secretariat could read it out in a moment but my suggestion was that instead of the word "useful" in the second line, the first sentence would read "the Council noted with satisfaction that the Director-General had taken steps to initiate cooperation with the parties". It is not quite so vague.

CHAIRMAN: Argentina, would that meet your demand also? Good.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente para decirle que acepto la enmienda del Reino Unido en la suposición de que fue aceptada la enmienda original que yo presenté.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, your original amendment was opposed. Paragraphs 44, 45.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not like to delay proceedings but could we just hear again the amendment put forward by Argentina.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): !Cómo no! En primer lugar se agrega: "consultivas" después de: "con las partes", y el segundo lugar, al final de la frase se agrega la siguiente: "con el objeto de salvaguardar la necesaria coordinación de las futuras actividades en la región".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Perhaps we could get that again at dictation speed.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, this can be done.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): It may be again more useful if I read the whole paragraph in Spanish as it has been amended, paragraph 43: (continues in Spanish)

"El consejo tomó nota con satisfacción de que el Director General había iniciado" - aquí hay una modificación propuesta por el delegado de Inglaterra - "había tomado medidas para iniciar cooperación con las partes consultivas del Tratado Antártico, que estaban formulando un régimen de conservación para los recursos marinos vivos del Antártico", y aquí se añade la otra parte de la enmienda argentina: "con el objeto de salvaguardar la necesaria coordinación de las futuras actividades en la región". Fin del párrafo.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Je crois qu'il faut faire attention à propos de l'amendement qui vient d'être donné par la délégation argentine à la fin de la dernière phrase.

En effet, le traité de l'Antarctique comprend des pays qui ne sont pas membres de la région en question. Mais ces parties au traité de l'Antarctique ont également des intérêts dans la région et il me semble que dans le texte, tel qu'il nous est proposé, on veuille sauvegarder seulement les intérêts des pays situés dans la région. Or, en fait, il faut sauvegarder des parties au traité de l'Antarctique.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Con todo respeto hacia el representante de Francia, lo que se trata de salvaguardar no son los intereses de una región o de una integrante del Tratado Antártico sino que se trata de salvaguardar la necesaria coordinación de las futuras actividades.

CHAIRMAN: I see the French delegate nodding.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was simply mystified by this amendment, but as a plain man I can understand that there is party to a treaty, I do not understand what a consultative party is to a treaty. I see Legal Counsel is here. I do not understand. If there is some purpose behind the amendment I would like it to be interpreted.

J.E. CARROZ (FAO Staff): There are in fact two types of parties to the Antarctic Treaty. There are parties which have ratified the treaty itself and those which have not ratified the treaty, in view of their direct participation in investigations in the Antarctic area, they are allowed to take part in simple consultative meetings which take place every so many years.

CHAIRMAN: I think that takes care of all. We have done 44.

Paragraphs 32 to 45, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 45, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 45, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 46 to 50 approved

Les paragraphes 46 à 50 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 46 a 50 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 51

PARAGRAPHE 51

PARRAFO 51

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): With very great respect, I think paragraph 51 should refer to Dr. Ralph W. Phillips.

CHAIRMAN: That correction will be made.

Paragraph 51, as amended approved

Le paragraphe 51, ainsi amendé est approuvé

El párrafo 51, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie I, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 17.55 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 74/PV/15

Seventy-Fourth Session

Soixante-quatorzième session

74° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

15a SESIóN PLENARIA

(7 December 1978)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de
Bukar Shaib, Président Indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de
Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II

CHAIRMAN: We now start adoption of the Draft Report - Part II.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 8

PARRAFOS 1 a 8

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): I think the delegates who raised the point which is touched upon in the last sentence of paragraph 3, had in mind that FAO should use all possible means to assist with investment project preparation and I wonder therefore whether the last few words would not duly restrict their activities. I suggest that instead of "through TCP" we include the words "including through TCP where appropriate".

CHAIRMAN: You heard the wording proposed by the United Kingdom delegate.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): "Including" might be acceptable, but I do not think "as appropriate" is necessary; "including through TCP". Since I have the floor perhaps we could make a change in the previous line and replace "could" by "would". That would be more correct.

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Can we now hear the final recommended version so that we may adopt it?

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): Could we hear your version, Mr. Brito?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): "Including through TCP" without the addition of "as appropriate" which is not necessary; and then replace "could" by "would" in the preceding line.

CHAIRMAN: If you agree we approve paragraph 3 as amended by the United Kingdom and Brazil and move on to paragraph 4.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Having spoken to the French delegation about this, we hope it will be amended with their support. We have some difficulty with the reference to surveillance in this paragraph. The last sentence says: "It considered it essential that FAO intensify its activities" "aimed at the development" - then carry on on the next line: "forest inventories", in plural, "at world, regional and, as appropriate, national levels, of tropical forests whose degradation and disappearance were a cause for concern", and delete the remainder of the sentence, so that the last sentence will read: "It considered essential that FAO intensify its activities aimed at the development of forest inventories at world, regional and as appropriate, national levels of tropical forests, whose degradation and disappearance were a cause for concern."

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The suggestions of the delegate of Brazil are beautifully put but unfortunately they change the whole meaning of the sentence and I think the Council should be aware that he has changed the meaning with his proposals and it is no longer a drafting change but a change of substance. I think there was some emphasis on environment and surveillance and in terms of national policies, certain countries do not like to have interference. I have difficulty in accepting these changes because they alter the meaning and substance of the paragraph and completely eliminate the reference to environment on which we do have a United Nations body; I have difficulty with that.

On the question of surveillance, I do not know why the elimination of that is being requested because the United Nations system, including FAO, is a surveillance agency and we accept FAO to do that.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): With regard to environment my delegation did make this point and I think it was accepted generally that forestry played a very important part in maintaining an ecological balance. We would therefore like to retain the present wording.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): In following your guidance, Mr. Chairman, I made a request for amendment without stating the reason for it. Of course it changes the meaning but the Council did not agree on surveillance. Surveillance is a much more serious matter and we are not prepared to accept the concept of surveillance by any international organization; that is quite clear. I am now prepared to bring in the concept of environment because I thought the reference to degradation was already clear, but we can say: "cause for concern on environmental and other grounds". Because to speak about the danger to world supply of forest products would go back to the question that we were discussing in Geneva in UNCTAD, that we do not find a market for our products. This is therefore out of order in terms of actual analysis. I am sorry if I addressed the substance but I was forced to do so.

I therefore suggest that my amendment should stand and that we add: "on environmental and other grounds". I cannot agree to surveillance; that was not agreed in the Council and it cannot be simply thrown into the Report.

MoA. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Just to make a clarification on the word surveillance, here, as mentioned by the delegate of Brazil; apparently this is very much of a technical word and does not have the grammar meaning as it would appear in the sense of forest inventories, surveillance with monitoring; in other words that it should keep an eye on the dynamics of forests as it is reduced by the influence of man, for example. In other words, it is a permanent up-dating; perhaps that would be a much better wording in this case; "permanent up-dating".

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): In the interests of moving forward, I agree with my colleague from Canada about the changing of the meaning and I should like to suggest, then, in place of the word "surveillance" that we simply use a phrase such as "data collection" and then leave the rest as it is. This would follow the intervention by the Assistant Director-General although he has a much more technical meaning than "data collection".

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Data collection is one part of the inventory. The meaning here is not just data collection, which is a static inventory; it is permanent up-dating of these inventories. It is a more dynamic situation.

CHAIRMAN: Have the delegates of Canada and Brazil agreed to these, so that we can have the final version and go ahead? Canada is all right.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I should like to hear a concrete counter-proposal. I have not heard exactly the wording of the counter-proposal.

CHAIRMAN: You heard what the word "surveillance" means and so on. Would you read out your final proposal slowly, please.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would have preferred my own proposal, I am going a little further than I would wish just for the sake of agreement. In such cases we should merely say that some delegations wished this or that, and that is all, without trying to impose the whole Council. However, in order to try to be helpful, I should like the following: "It considered it essential that FAO intensify its activities aimed at monitoring data and developing forest inventories at world, regional and, as appropriate, national levels of tropical forests, whose degradation and disappearance were a cause for concern on environmental and other grounds." I think something like that would be reasonable.

CHAIRMAN: Is this wording understood by all Council members? If the Secretariat has also got it, then we adopt this paragraph as amended by the delegate of Brazil. We now go on to paragraph 5. If there is no comment then the paragraph is approved. Paragraph 6.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): It concerns the Spanish text only. (Continues in Spanish) Sólo el texto en español. En el párrafo 6 del texto español, falta la última parte de la última oración. El texto que había sido acordado en el Comité de Redacción añadía lo siguiente: después de la última palabra "Cuencas hidrográficas de Montaña" es el fin de lo que tienen ustedes ahora, y ahí hay que añadir: "permitir la participación de países en desarrollo en su trabajo." Punto final. Esto ya está comprendido en los otros idiomas, pero se perdió la impresión del texto español.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): No se si se me escapó un aspecto que también falta en el mismo penúltimo renglón, donde dice "transformación". Falta allí "en un grupo de trabajo del Comité de Montes", porque si no en español no dice en qué se convertirá ese Grupo de Trabajo de la CFE. La posible transformación en un Grupo de Trabajo del Comité de Montes; no se si falta en otros idiomas, pero en español falta, y esa era la idea que está en el Informe del Comité de Montes.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretario del Comité de Redacción): No, señor delegado de México. El texto acordado es el que acabamos de leer y está igual en los tres idiomas. Es una cuestión de sentido; de lo que se trata es precisamente de transformar este grupo de trabajo de la CFE para permitir la participación de países en desarrollo; transformarla para permitirla. Esta es la construcción de la frase que así tiene sentido.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, are you satisfied?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): El párrafo 41 del Informe del cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes dice en su penúltima línea, la tercera línea de abajo a arriba: "y pidió que la Secretaría estudiara la posibilidad de su transformación en un Grupo de Trabajo del Comité de Montes". Habla obviamente puesto que así dice el epígrafe de ese párrafo, Grupo de Trabajo de la CFE sobre la Creación de Cuencas Hidrográficas de Montaña. La idea que se piensa es que este Grupo tenga una posible transformación en un grupo de trabajo del Comité de Montes: así no sé si estamos proponiendo algo nuevo o si es el Informe de la CFE lo que estamos dejando de lado.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, can you put a specific amendment or proposal of your own, if you have one.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Es únicamente en la línea penúltima del párrafo 6 después de "transformación", poner "en un Grupo de Trabajo del Comité de Montes". Perdón, eso es el final del párrafo, en lugar de un punto final, poner una coma, donde dice "y la posible transformación del Grupo de

Trabajo de la CFE" poner ahí una coma para que quede: "..., en un Grupo de Trabajo del Comité de Montes", con objeto de coincidir con el texto que completo el Secretario del Comité de Redacción para el texto español.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Con todo respeto a mi querido amigo, el distinguido representante de México, yo me inclinaría por mantener la frase como está. Yo he asistido a los trabajos del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Ordenación de Cuencas Hidrográficas de Montaña, y uno de los problemas que se encuentra en ese Grupo, en la manera de incorporar algunos países en desarrollo a sus actividades. Una frase amplia, como la que figura en nuestro texto que no especifique el sentido de la transformación de este Grupo, me parece que es mas útil para todos, por cuanto no hay consenso en todos los países en desarrollo en constituir este Grupo de Trabajo del Comité de Montes.

Repito que he asistido a las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Ordenación de Cuencas Hidrográficas de Montaña, y mi delegación preferiría que quedase la frase como está en el texto.

CHAIRMAN: Does Mexico agree with this? Mexico agrees. If there are no more comments we approve the paragraphs as amended. Is there any comment on paragraphs 7 and 8? If none, we also approve these 2 paragraphs and move on to the next section.

Paragraphs 1 to 8: as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8: así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 15

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 15

PARRAFOS 9 a 15

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to propose a very little amendment in paragraph 10, that is in the penultimate line which goes "international community, and of action". I would like to substitute that word "action" by the words "energetic leadership" because it is not true that the United Nations are not doing anything. We have lauded FAO for steps it has taken to implement the resolution that has been passed by the FAO Conference and the FAO Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies, but we meant a different thing here.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I am a little puzzled by the proposal put forward by the delegate of the Philippines because in my memory from time to time there has been energetic leadership. Our problem has been that it has not been consistent energetic leadership and that has been the real problem. There have been periods when there has been an action movement and action has been put into it and then it backs off. I am not sure what "energetic leadership" means at this point and therefore if we state that concerted action, for example, by the community, that would be better than saying "energetic leadership". From time to time there has been energetic leadership but in many cases the energetic leaders are like Horatio at the bridge, he found himself alone with nobody behind him so really it is a question of concerted action in the energetic leadership.

CHAIRMAN: Does Philippines agree with this?

H. CARANDANG: (Philippines): I think we are just trying to reflect here what has been said during the meeting and I think these were taken from the paper which has been cited during the interventions that were made and precisely these words were used, lack of effective leadership.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Philippines amendment and Canada has spoken against it but I do not think Canada would insist on the amendment being withdrawn.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): After listening this morning to your appeal for us to be very brief I certainly will be, but perhaps, if you will forgive me, I will take two minutes because your problem reminds me of a story I heard the other day from a very fine gentleman, it is not my story. The story of a young man who had been invited by a rather middle-aged party to spend the weekend at her wealthy home and when he got back after the weekend, on the Tuesday, he met a friend of his and his friend said "How did you enjoy the weekend?" and the young man said, "well, if the wine was as old as the chicken and the chicken was as tender as the maid, and the maid had been as willing as the hostess, it would have been an excellent weekend."

Now perhaps if the Council would be willing you could have a very good weekend:

CHAIRMAN: Well that means that Frank has withdrawn his objection: Is there any comment on paragraph 11? If non paragraph 11 is approved. I now ask for comments on paragraph 12.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secrétaire du Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit d'une correction qu'il faut apporter au texte français seulement, les autres textes étant corrects tels qu'ils sont sortis du Comité de rédaction.

A la dernière ligne de ce paragraphe 12, après les mots "Programme ordinaire" il faut rayer les mots "au moyen de" et les remplacer par les mots "et avec des", de façon que le dernier membre de phrase dise "et avec des fonds extra-budgétaires".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): On paragraph 12 I have a very little amendment to propose and it would be at the end of "extra-budgetary sources" and I would like to add the following words "and that FAO's capacity to respond to governments' requests be strengthened. The Council likewise encouraged FAO to develop the comprehensive plan of action called for by the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies." This is my proposal, if nobody would oppose it. During the night I went through all the verbatims and I found that this has been repeated by so many delegates and I was a little bit surprised as to why it did not find its way into the report.

D.F. SMITH (United Kingdom): I would like to propose the deletion of the first sentence of paragraph 13 and its replacement by "In this connexion, the delegate of the United Kingdom stated that his Government was prepared to consider the funding bilaterally of some projects identified by FAO".

CHAIRMAN: I do not think there can be any objection to that. If there are no more comments on paragraph 13, it is adopted as amended by United Kingdom.

H. MAURIA (Finland): I have an additional substance matter to paragraph 14, to the end of it. May T read it? After the last sentence, the words "Ad Hoc Committee", continue and instead of period you put comma, "at least until the relation on nutrition matters with regard to the Standing Committee's concern has been looked into", and then a short sentence after that: "It was also suggested that this would imply a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee after the next Conference". I think that this addition would better reflect the rather good and extensive discussion we had on nutrition matters.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The last suggestion that there should be a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee after the Conference? But if I recall from the Verbatim Records, only one country mentioned this particular business of the meeting of the Committee, so I wonder whether it would be appearing as a part of this sentence "others considered" implying that a large number of Members mentioned it.

H. MAURIA (Finland): It was mentioned yesterday and I believe that it was supported, but I do not insist on this last sentence, that the addition to the first sentence that the Ad Hoc Committee is suggested to continue its work already implies a meeting.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros simpatizamos con esta idea. No es que haya sido expresada por una sola delegación, sino por varias, al referirse a la propuesta finlandesa expresaban su apoyo a la misma y esa comprendía que, independientemente de la decisión que se tomara en el COAG, podría preverse ya una futura reunión del Comité Especial, precisamente después de la Conferencia puesto que se tendrían ya los resultados de organismos internacionales de alto nivel, tales como el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y de la propia Conferencia de la FAO. Sería conveniente que se pidiera una reunión de ese Comité sin prejuzgar los resultados a que llegue el COAG; pero teniendo en cuenta la importancia que tiene esta materia dentro de la FAO, nosotros expresamos nuestra simpatía con esa idea.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of Finland did say that it would not detract from the possibility of a meeting after the Conference, so since he has withdrawn this addition, would you like to go along and leave it like this? May I ask Finland now to repeat the first addition.

H. MAURIA (Finland): After "Ad Hoc Committee" continue, "at least until the relation of nutrition matters with regard to the Standing Committee's concern has been looked into".

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): If Finland agrees, let us remove "at least". Let us just say "Ad Hoc Committee until the relation", and leave out the phrase "at least".

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Just to put the record straight, we supported the Finnish proposal on this matter.

CHAIRMAN: Alright, the Finnish proposal is accepted.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): During the discussion on this agenda item, a point was raised by the Chairman which had found some support by other delegates saying that we should not overlook the importance of fisheries and fish in nutrition issues, so I wonder whether I could propose that the following sentence be inserted in the middle of the paragraph after "(COAG)", which would read as follows: "that it was also suggested that COFI look into the possibilities of improving nutrition through increase of human fish consumption".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to Hungary's addition? If not, then paragraph 14 is adopted with the amendments by Finland and Hungary. Any comments on paragraph 15?

PARAGRAPH 15

PARAGRAPHE 15

PARRAFO 15

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el párrafo 15 informé a la Secretaría acerca de un asunto que es más bien de precisión, pero me dijeron que era mejor que lo planteara aquí en el Consejo. A la mitad del párrafo 15 se dice: "decidió aceptar la recomendación del Comité del Programa de aplazar hasta su período de sesiones de 1979". Esta forma "su período de sesiones", parece indicar que el Consejo sólo tuviera un período de sesiones en 1979, en cambio, como todos sabemos, habrá dos períodos de sesiones, uno en el verano y otro en el otoño, inmediatamente antes de la Conferencia. Chequee el Comité del Programa y ellos utilizan esa misma fórmula vaga: "su período de sesiones".

Creo que deberíamos decir hasta uno de sus períodos de sesiones de 1979, aunque si bien entiendo que la intención del Comité del Programa y del Consejo fue que esto se volviera a tratar en el 75° período de sesiones. Esta fórmula propuesta tal vez sería un poco más amplia y exacta.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America) : We would just like to follow up that intervention by suggesting that it be in its Spring or June 1979 session, which would make it specific, and also it could come immediately then after the COAG meeting at that time, I believe, or at least would fix it as to the time.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia, do you agree to that?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, Sr. Presidente, entonces la redacción sería mucho más simple. Podríamos decir: decidió aceptar la recomendación del Comité del Programa de aplazar hasta su 75º período de sesiones. Sé suprimirían los términos de 1979.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I think something is not clear, that a decision has to be taken by the Council, not by the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee only recommends it. That is a decision to be taken by the Council.

CHAIRMAN: This is not a proposal, Malta. Do you want to amend this paragraph or do you disagree with the amendment just proposed by Colombia and supported by the United States?

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like to add "to accept a recommendation of the Programme Committee to the Council".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think it is rather appropriate that the Council finally decide on this, and therefore I support the delegate of Malta.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. Before I call on Colombia, I would like to give the floor to Mr. West.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I just wanted to point out if you refer to the Seventy-Fifth Session you are obviously referring to the Council, unless you are anticipating the Programme Committee is going to decide this about thirty years from now.

CHAIRMAN: Why do we not take what the United States delegate says? It is quite clear at the spring Session and then bring the Seventy-Fifth Session. Mr. West, can you put the correct session so there is no mistake?

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In order to avoid any misunderstanding whatsoever, the sentence could read as follows: "decided to accept the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Council should postpone a decision" etc. etc., "until its Seventy-Fifth Session".

CHAIRMAN: Malta wants to introduce some words? You are satisfied now?

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: All right, then paragraph 15 is adopted as amended.

Paragraphs 9 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 15, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 19

PARAGRAPHES 16 à 19

PARRAFOS 16 a 19

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil) : First I have one summary correction in the second sentence of paragraph 10, which is a question of grammar. I wonder if it was "was" instead of "were"? I think they amended one of the subjects and forgot to amend the word in the Drafting Committee.

Now in the last sentence, just before the Council underlined the need for strengthening food control, "The Council also agreed with the Programme Committee that, in principle, the Commission should continue to concentrate its work on the development of food standards for finished products rather than for raw materials". That should come before the last sentence.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The delegate of Brazil did stress this at the session, but I do not remember any agreement because we have grades and standards for wheat, but that is a raw product, and there are going to be discussions on that. Just to say "for processed products" limits the work being done by the Codex Commission. If he said "The Council stressed that more action or effort should be taken" it is fine, but to eliminate raw materials, we have problems, and I do not think it is a realistic approach.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): This was my reason for a previous observation I have made. "The Council agreed and decided...", well, when the debate went on, there was no decision or agreement at all, so it is true that you did not make that point, but none of these agreements you have seen here were taken formally during the debate. It emerged during the Drafting Committee, and therefore I gave my amendment. May I say the drafting is careful in saying the Council agreed with the Programme Committee that in principle - only in principle, the Commission should continue. That is the current practice. There is no food standard for grains; other standards yes, but not food standards in the Codex Commission context. That is undisputed, and that is why it went through the Programme Committee. I would insist it is not excluding standards for raw materials, it is agreeing with the Commission it should concentrate its work on the products of food standards for the finished product, what we eat, which is for the Codex standards.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think Canada was excluding food, I think he was objecting to excluding the other things. If you can re-phrase your amendment, slowly, taking into account what Canada said?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I wonder, in spite of being side by side with Mr. Shefrin, whether he has read my amendment? It is written, and I just quoted the Programme Committee. I did not want to change anything from the Programme Committee. "The Council also agreed with the Programme Committee that in principle the Commission should continue to concentrate...", that means it is not exclusive, "... its work on developing food standards for finished products." The Food Standards Statute clearly envisaged the possibility for standards for raw materials.

CHAIRMAN: Let us ask Canada now. Do you agree, Canada?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I simply want to say I still do not agree, but if Brazil insist on this point I shall not go on persisting.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation, too, spoke on this subject, and we underlined that the Commission has opened the way for the elaboration of standards which are of special interest to developing countries. Then we said it is in this sense that the establishment of a new Committee on cereals and cereal products should be judged. It would be good not to be too precise, because there might be some standards not for finished products - that means for raw materials - which might be of special interest to developing countries. Therefore we must be very careful if we say we agree with the special recommendation of the Programme Committee. Perhaps the wording could be put more smoothly so that at least we would have less difficulty.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): If our colleagues from Canada and Federal Republic of Germany prefer, we might say "...should continue to give priority in its work." It is OK with me.

CHAIRMAN: Would you read the final thing, so that we can adopt it, since both delegates seem to be coming closer to you.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): "The Council also agreed with the Programme Committee that in principle the Commission should continue to give priority in its' work to the development of food standards for finished products rather than for raw materials."

I would like to make one point for the record. The reason why we make this amendment is very simple, that we export raw materials. It is not of benefit to us, it is what we feel as exporters of raw materials.

CHAIRMAN: I see the delegate for Germany shaking his head.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not like to go into the issue as such. I can accept the amendment proposed by the delegate of Brazil, and I think once we go back to what was stated during the deliberations on this subject we know exactly what was said and how it has been meant.

CHAIRMAN: So paragraph 18 is adopted as amended. As there are no comments on paragraph 19, we can move to the following section.

Paragraphs 16 to 19, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 19, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 19, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 to 33

PARAGRAPHERS 20 à 33

PARRAFOS 20 a 33

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Perdón, Sr. Presidente, era una pequeña observación en relación con el párrafo 22.

En la tercera línea del texto en español, de abajo hacia arriba, dice que "el PCT no era meramente un símbolo". A mí esa frase particularmente no es mucho de mi agrado, eso de hablar de un símbolo no sé para quién puede constituir un símbolo; estamos hablando de un programa práctico, de eficacia, y que sirva como complemento de una política de descentralización. Mi sugerencia concreta sería que no se dijera que "no era meramente un símbolo". No sé de dónde se ha sacado eso de que no era meramente un símbolo. No sé porqué se ha hablado de símbolo, lo que es una acción directa, lo que es un programa, lo que es una iniciativa muy positiva que apoyamos. Ruego se me explique qué quieren decir con "símbolo".

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The words came from the Director-General's opening address to the Council, and he used them deliberately in order to stress the fact that the TCP was an action programme and was a corner-stone of the new FAO policy, and this paragraph does no more than quote his opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN: If Mexico does not amend this, we can go on.

C. BATAULT (France): Je suis tout a fait d'accord avec ce que vient de dire M. West. Je voudrais simplement proposer dans le texte français un tout petit additif grammatical. Il faudrait, pour que la phrase française soit correcte, dire au paragraphe 22, dans les trois dernières lignes, après "pour l'exécution du mandat constitutionnel de la FAO; ainsi le PCT n'est pas un simple symbole". On ne met pas de point dans une phrase française, il faut mettre un mot de liaison qui pourrait être "ainsi". Ceci est d'ordre purement grammatical.

CHAIRMAN: Do you agree? Paragraph 22, as amended, is approved.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I have a proposal on paragraph 30, because I feel paragraphs 30 - 33, including the Resolution, were already adopted by the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Then in that case, paragraphs 30 - 33, including the Resolution, are adopted.

Paragraphs 20 to 32, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 32, ainsi amendés sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 32, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 33, including Resolution, adopted
Le paragraphe 33, y compris la résolution, est adopté
El párrafo 33, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part II, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière - ja deuxième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte II así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE III
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHE 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): This is just to add a chronological qualification. In the last sentence of paragraph 3 where it says a certain sum had been put at the disposal of the Director-General for emergency operations, the words "for 1978" should be added there before the comma to specify the period. This concerns all languages.

CHAIRMAN: With that correction or clarification, paragraph 3 is approved. Are there any comments on paragraphs 4 and 5? Paragraphs 4 and 5 are approved. Any objection on paragraph 6?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dos pequeñas referencias al párrafo seis.

En la primera frase del párrafo 6 se dice "expuestas en el informe de los Directores Ejecutivos". Creo que debe ser "Director Ejecutivo", en singular.

Luego, la tercera frase de este mismo párrafo 6, proponemos que se redacte así: "A este respecto, el Consejo apoyo al Director Ejecutivo, quien señaló que existía una tercera posibilidad, etc.", el resto queda igual. Esto sería de mejor presentación en mi opinión.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France). Dans le texte tel qu'il est actuellement, "à ce propos, le Directeur executif, approuve par de nombreux délégués", ce point a donné lieu à discussion et justement c'est parce qu'on s'est aperçu qu'un consensus unanime ne pouvait pas se dégager au sein du Conseil que nous avons utilisé la formule "le Directeur exécutif, approuvé par de nombreux délégués". C'est pour cela que je demande le maintien de la phrase telle qu'elle est.

CHAIRMAN: But that should not have any effect on what Colombia said. So if the suggestion that we should leave it as it is is accepted and the suggestion of Colombia for the Spanish is accepted, then we can approve this paragraph.

P, ELMANOVSKY: Il semble difficile d'avoir sur certains textes "le Directeur exécutif, approuvé par de nombreux délégués" et dans le texte espagnol: "le Conseil a approuvé ou partagé les vues du Directeur exécutif"; cela me paraît assez difficile. J'ai peut-être mal compris.

CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of language, really. Could somebody put the language right?

C. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de la declaración del colega de Francia, quien fue miembro del Comité de Redacción, confirmado por mi vecino de Cuba, yo acepto que el texto de este párrafo quede tal como está en todos los idiomas.

CHAIRMAN: Then paragraph 6 is approved as it is without any amendment. Any objections on paragraph 7? Paragraph 7 approved. Paragraph 8.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Espero que esta vez mi colega de Francia y los demás miembros del Consejo puedan aceptar la propuesta sobre, la segunda frase del párrafo 8.

La segunda frase dice: "El Consejo tomo nota con satisfacción". Creo que en un asunto como éste no debería usarse este término, sino decir: "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que la solución a largo plazo", y continúa el texto del artículo.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this formulation? Then paragraph 8 is approved as amended by Colombia.

Paragraphs 1 to 10 amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 18

PARAGRAPHERS 11 à 18

PARRAFOS 11 à 18

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros estamos de acuerdo en general con el párrafo 11 ; es sólo que nos parece una reiteración y que ciertamente no fue una referencia que se hizo aquí por parte de todos los colegas cuando se habla, en la séptima línea del párrafo en español que dice: "ofrecía una nueva perspectiva y dimensión internacionales". Nosotros, particularmente, estuvimos atentos al debate y estamos de acuerdo en que se diga que sería una nueva perspectiva por que se dio realce a este aspecto, pero lo de dimensión internacionales preferiríamos que se suprimiera, o sea, mi propuesta es suprimir " y dimensión internacionales".

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My first amendment is similar. I am dropping in the English text the word "international" in the last sentence. I do not mind keeping "perspective", but "international" bothers me.

On the third line from the bottom after "youth" I would say "from the developing countries themselves". I think that would be the right wording. So it will say, "... revealed the great potential for the involvement of youth in the developing countries in these activities".

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): En este caso, rogaríamos a la Secretaría porque nos parece que en el Comité de Redacción se había hecho esta modificación, y no tenemos claro si se tomó nota de esto o no sabemos qué situación tendría en este caso.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Cuba has put a question to the Drafting Committee.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIU (Président du Comité de rédaction): Il avait été convenu, au Comité de rédaction, de mettre exactement cette phrase: "... une nouvelle dimension internationale". Le problème a été discuté et on a fait la correction à l'unanimité. Je porte ceci à l'attention du Conseil.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): With your concurrence, and I hope with that of my colleague from Brazil, I would like to suggest a slight modification of this amendment. It could read in this manner, "... it revealed the great potential for the involvement of youth..." - and here is the amendment - "...and small farmers, particularly from the developing countries" and then pick up "in these activities".

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Le agradecemos, en primer termino, la aplicación que nos hizo el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y estaremos dispuestos a aceptar que quedara el párrafo, como quedo redactado el concepto internacional. Lo que se debatió mucho fue el problema de dimensión, pero el concepto de internacional se incluyó precisamente porque el resultado de los debates en el seno del Consejo es que desde el punto de vista nacional, existían amplias experiencias en los países. Por eso, sólo se podía aceptar que sólo era en un marco internacional porque la perspectiva de dimensión era conocida por los países.

La segunda cuestión es rogar a los Estados Unidos que retiren su propuesta porque esto fue ampliamente debatido en el Comité de Redacción y la opinión de esto aparece en el 14 párrafo de este Informe, y creemos que no es necesario que se vuelva a debatir esto en el seno del Consejo.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): May I point out that here we are simply describing the report of the Director-General, we are not giving the views of the Council. I must say that I do not have difficulties with the United States amendment because I think the description of the report of the Director-General could cover to some extent, not too much, the United States amendment. But surely the international perspective is exactly what the report of the Director-General moved away from. He said that we need to give support to domestic schemes. That, in one single sentence, is what the report is all about. Therefore I feel that this indication that the report gave a new international perspective and dimension is essentially wrong. I would prefer it without the United States amendment. If the word "international" is dropped I will go along with the United States amendment not to have it, but "international" I think gives a wrong description of the report. I would ask Mr. West to see which interpretation of the report is more faithful.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): We entirely agree with what Brazil has just said. We would be happier without the use of the word "international". As regards the amendment proposed by the United States, there would have to be a subsequent drafting change also, because his amendment would read "... for the involvement of youth and small farmers, particularly from developing countries, in these activities", and it goes on "... particularly in those ...". I am sure the Secretariat will look at that, but I just wanted to point it out.

CHAIRMAN: While the United States delegate looks into this amendment and puts it into a form I will call on Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 11 en su texto original sin la enmienda de los Estados Unidos. Entendemos que es esa delegación la que ha hecho su observación al final del párrafo 14. Entonces, ¿para qué repetir este asunto?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I have not really addressed the debate about "international" and "dimension" and as far as I am concerned I am prepared to go along with what the majority of the Council wants as regards omitting the word "international" and the word "dimension". I understand the delegate of Brazil is willing to go along with my modification of his amendment and I appreciate that.

I think the quite relevant suggestion of Pakistan could be taken care of if we change the words "particularly in those which" to "especially in those which".

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I do not intend to get into a discussion about international or perspective and dimension. The Council should decide that, but there was *one* considerable controversy in the Drafting Committee over the question of small farmers and this opening paragraph does not purport to settle those issues. They arise in subsequent paragraphs, particularly paragraph 14 which was mentioned by the delegate of Cuba. And since you are discussing the Director-General's report in the first paragraph and not the conclusions of the Council, I would respectfully suggest that this not be changed at all.

I am not now speaking of "international"; that you must decide. But the second part, I would suggest that neither the Brazilian nor the United States amendment should be brought in because that would lead to complications about the substance of the Council's decisions later on.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I find a lot of wisdom in what Mr. West says. In fact, as the sentence now stands, "involvement of youth in these activities" I thought that this was the perspective in which we had the report from the Director-General and I would appeal to both Brazil and the United States not to bring at this stage the concept of the small farmer which comes in later; that is if the United States delegate agrees.

CHAIRMAN: The consensus seems to be that we should delete "international" and leave the paragraph as it is because the other points raised are covered in subsequent paragraphs. The word "international" will be deleted. Paragraph 11, as amended, is approved.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretario del Comité de Redacción): Es una enmienda de redacción al texto español del párrafo 12. En la sexta línea, en vez de decir: "la participación de los jóvenes y las jóvenes", decir: "la participación de jóvenes de ambos sexos", que es el texto que acordó el Comité de Redacción como versión mejor en castellano de las frases que hay en los textos inglés y francés y que no cambian en absoluto.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): On the same point in the English text, I thought in English if you say "young men and women" it would carry the same meaning, unless you want to emphasize the words "young women".

CHAIRMAN: This is merely a matter of words and I do not think it is going to make much difference to the meaning; the secretariat will put it right.

Paragraphs 11 to 18, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 18, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 26

PARAGRAPHERS 19 à 26

PARRAFOS 19 a 26

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to suggest a change in the third line of paragraph 23 where the word "endorsed" appears. I would like to suggest that we replace that with the words "took note of". This is not because I have any objection to the very well stated objectives that emerge from the FAO's assessment of the restructuring operation, but because there are many additional worthwhile objectives that emerge for that process.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I must say that I really would prefer to keep the endorsement because we feel that these three points are a summing up of the objectives as stated in the General Assembly Resolution on restructuring, as applied to food and agriculture. We therefore feel that as far as something can be done, it is absolutely perfect and therefore the Council should at this stage have the courage to endorse; it is the correct approach. I think this is too important merely to be taken note of and that is especially important that at this stage, when the General Assembly is finalizing to implement restructuring. I would very much like to have "endorsed" or something like it.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the delegate of the United States if he will withdraw his proposal, in the light of what the delegate of Brazil has said.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I do not insist on my particular amendment. X could make some other suggestions that would meet my point but I would like to hear from other members of the Council if they have a suggestion that could perhaps meet the problem.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): También deseamos recordar que en el seno del Comité de Redacción, esta frase también fue bastante debatida y precisamente la opinión definitiva que logro el consenso era que lo mejor que podía hacer el Consejo era manifestarse y hacer suya esta propuesta. En este caso, si

un nuevo elemento se quiere manifestar, se pueden añadir otras opiniones; consideramos que en su oportunidad el Consejo las contemplará y las incluirá si lo considera conveniente.

I. MOSKOVTTTS (Malta): We support the delegate of Brazil because we feel that at this stage the position of the Director-General should be strengthened.

O.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): While I agree in principle with the delegate of Brazil, X think that these matters arise out of a UN Resolution. Could we say "agreed with the views"? That might be more appropriate if the United States delegate agrees. "Agreed with the views".

P. MASUD (Pakistan): We have a distinct preference for the use of the word "endorsed" and we support Brazil.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I know that this is one of the very sensitive issues in the Council. Basically we are inclined to lean towards the United States proposal but I think it should be drawn to the attention of the Council that there are many United Nations specialized agencies and if every Governing Council says the same thing, what do you get? I would have been much happier if we said that out of this Council came the idea that we would endorse close cooperation between the United Nations and all the specialized agencies, which is the most important thing. This is not a question of, again, each agency strengthening its own Director-General against the other Directors-General.

So therefore this needs a little more clarification. We can live with paragraph 23 but in the way we are talking about here: how do we improve the family of the United Nation's agencies? And that is the most important concept to us. However, we do accept whatever comes out of it but I feel at this point that we should indicate that we do lean towards the United States position. But again, we are not going to insist that a change be made from "endorse" to some other phrase.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I think, on balance, I would be inclined to go along with the suggestion of Bangladesh but whatever verb the Council finally decides upon in that particular sentence, perhaps my problem could be slightly helped if we inserted the word "primarily" after the word "aim" in line 4 and that would suggest that indeed these are primary objectives, but they may not be the only objectives.

CHAIRMAN: Can the United States now read out the amended line connected to the rest of the text so that we can listen to it and get an idea of the whole?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): The third line would be: "international cooperation and development in an effective manner, agreed with the Director-General's views that this process should, as far as FAO is concerned, aim primarily at the achievement of the three following objectives" etc.

CHAIRMAN: Is this formulation acceptable now? Paragraph 23, as amended, is adopted.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would appreciate the reaction of other Members of the Council to the following slight amendment at the end of the second line of paragraph 25. It would read: "should be carried out primarily at the country level," and then insert "in a manner to be decided by the government concerned".

CHAIRMAN: Is this addition acceptable?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I am trying to keep up with the amendment but it seems to change very significantly because now what is said is that the coordinator is the government, now the government cites the manner only. That is not the question. The present sentence says very clearly that the coordination is a matter for the government. If I understand the United States amendment correctly, the implication would be the government would decide on the matter but ultimately, not necessarily, would be responsible for the coordination. It is a substantive change and I would prefer the existing text.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I hope my suggestion was not misinterpreted. There is no question in the mind of my delegation that the ultimate responsibility for coordination rests with the government concerned. I think that is a fact which is clear to all of us. The only purpose of my suggestion was that putting it that way suggests, that the government concerned may call upon other institutions to assist them in the coordination process. The sense of this language without my change is almost that the United Nations system and the FAO have no role to play in coordination, whereas some governments may wish to call upon the FAO in its sector or the United Nations in a private sector, to play a helpful role in coordination.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I would like to point out that the sentence we are discussing represents the view of the Director-General, so I do not think attempts should be made to modify in any way the view of the Director-General. If the Council has other views, then it could express them as the Council's views, but the Director-General definitely does not purport to intervene in the question of the manner in which a government decides to exercise its responsibility. He says very firmly, and he maintains very firmly, that it is the government's responsibility. He does not purport to tell them how to do it. So that I would say that the amendment, whether the substance is agreeable or not, is not part of the Director-General's view and should not be attributed to him.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): En el texto en español dice en la tercera línea: "encargarse de ellas los gobiernos interesados". Aquí hace referencia a las actividades operativas, y entiendo que la intención de la frase va dirigida a calificar la coordinación de las actividades operativas. En este sentido la enmienda que ha hecho el delegado de los Estados Unidos lo único que hace es enfatizar y yo no veo que esto dañe al texto, sino que aclara un poco la frase en español porque aquella se refiere a actividades operativas y no a la coordinación.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Con todo respeto por la opinión del Sr. West, yo creo que no se trata de que el Consejo simplemente retenga el texto de las palabras pronunciadas por el Director General. Pienso que si el Consejo ratifica plenamente puede precisar la manera con la cual ratifica los conceptos del Director General y creo que en ese sentido la enmienda de los Estados Unidos no perjudica el texto, sino que lo precisa más y, seguramente, no está lejos de lo que piensa el Director General. De cualquier manera, yo puedo seguir con este texto, no me molesta y creo que está bien como está; pero creo que no hay ninguna intención sino una precisión en esta enmienda de los Estados Unidos.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): It seems to me that if the Council feels that my amendment is a useful one we could respect and protect the Director-General's position, in view of Mr. West's comment, by simply stating "the Council endorsed the view that" and we could then omit the Director-General from that sentence, if Mr. West feels he would be uncomfortable being in that sentence.

B.de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I am working on the English text and not on the Spanish text. In the English text it is very clear. The present, first of all, is what the Director-General indicated. Now there are two important concepts. The first concept, who is responsible for the coordination, is the country. The second concept, in discharging its responsibility, the manner, etc., is, of course, for the country to decide. This sentence, as it is, it is full, absolutely clear and incorporates the thinking of the United States. Obviously if the country is responsible primarily for the coordination at country level it will decide, including the manner. I still feel that the United States amendment moves the responsibility to the manner and not of the real actual facts of the coordination. The Council agrees that the countries themselves, the governments themselves, are responsible ultimately for coordination and in doing so will decide, *inter alia*, the manner in which to proceed in that coordination, asking whoever they want to ask. That is another matter. There are two different concepts which must be absolutely clear. I do not mind you settling the manner but I want it to be very clear that the coordination is for the country.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am surprised by this proposal of the honourable delegate of the United States of America. The United States delegation is a member of the Drafting Committee and, as such, has accepted this text at that Committee. It is, of course, up to the Council to decide whether it would like to follow the delegate of the United States of America and, thus, leave it to sovereign countries to decide only on the manner in which technical assistance should be coordinated.

My responsibility, as Director-General, is to insist on the inclusion of a sentence, to the effect that, in my view, it is up to the countries themselves to ensure that coordination, instead of limiting themselves to deciding only on the manner in which it must be carried out. If certain countries wish to entrust this function to UNDP, it is, of course, up to them. We are part of the "Consensus" and we accept, therefore, the coordinating role of UNDP as far as UN Agencies are concerned but, in the final analysis, it is the Governments themselves which coordinate, at the country level, all assistance programmes, including UNDP.

I think, therefore, that the honourable delegates of Argentina and Mexico may have misunderstood the real meaning of this amendment, at this late stage.

CHAIRMAN: The United States of America, do you want to take the floor now or after you have heard the others, because this is your amendment.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to state my regret that the intervention we have just heard has not really taken account of the spirit of my amendment and I must say I cannot accept the implication that the United States membership in the Drafting Committee, which produces as close as it can to a consensus, precludes the United States delegation from participating in a discussion of the draft put before us.

C. BATAULT (France): J'ai un peu l'impression que nous sommes en train de tourner en rond et de discuter sur des questions d'interprétation. Je veux simplement dire qu'en ce qui concerne mon interprétation personnelle, je me rallie entièrement à celle de M. Brito.

E.D. BUSTABAD (Cuba): Quisiéramos referirnos solamente a que, como se ha mencionado de que el texto en español queda más claro de acuerdo con la propuesta, vamos a leerlo para ver si esto ayuda a los delegados de Argentina y México a comprender que son dos ideas diferentes.

La propuesta que se ha hecho de modificación quedaría en la forma en que decida el gobierno interesado, o sea solamente se refiere a la forma, y solamente como está escrito actualmente, o sea como ha propuesto el Comité de Redacción y que los gobiernos interesados tienen que decidir no solo la forma, sino que deben ocuparse de toda la labor que esto conlleve.

Por esta razón nosotros consideramos, al igual que expuso el distinguido delegado del Brasil, que el texto, para que recoja realmente esta idea, debe quedar tal como fue redactado y acordado por el Comité de Redacción.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Mi delegación ha recibido una ayuda muy positiva por parte de la Secretaría del Comité de Redacción, complementada con las observaciones que se han hecho en torno a la propuesta de los Estados Unidos. En primer lugar, mi declaración surgió de un error que en el texto español, y así lo referí en mi intervención, decía "y encargarse de ellas los gobiernos interesados"; y ese "ellas" en español hacía referencia a actividades operativas y no a la coordinación. Nosotros entendemos que la opinión del Director General es precisamente que esa coordinación esté dentro del marco de los propios países y que sean ellos los que se encarguen de la misma. En ese sentido, la frase como está, con la aclaración que se me ha hecho de que "ellas" debe ser "ella", refiriéndose a la coordinación, basta. La frase puede quedar así, si aún se desea agregar en la forma o según la decisión del propio gobierno interesado, y parecería redundante, porque obviamente cada gobierno podrá hacer propia y efectiva esa opinión.

No sé si me he explicado o no. Para nosotros el texto como está, con el cambio en español de la palabra "ella" en vez de "ellas", bastaría.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente para decir que mi delegación no tiene ninguna duda de que las tareas de coordinación corresponden a la responsabilidad exclusiva del gobierno interesado. En ese sentido es en el que se propuso tratar de interpretar la enmienda presentada por el representante de los Estados Unidos; pero quiero repetir que nosotros no tenemos ninguna duda sobre que es el Gobierno el encargado y responsable de la coordinación y en ese sentido coincide con cualquier texto que señale esa prioridad.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The more I listen to the discussions, we have a bit of a problem and we need some clarification. What I am having a little trouble trying to understand at the moment is this, where it says "fully endorsed", it is true that the government has to make their decision to coordinate the types of projects they want in their country. That is a responsibility of a government. They ask for the projects, they ask for the assistance. What I am trying to understand in this sentence is are we endorsing here, the government can decide which agency should coordinate all these activities and I know there are the present rules which have been worked out in the common consensus among the United Nations and its agencies as to how this should be done, so at the moment I am a little at a loss with the meaning of this text, after the discussion. Let us be clear. There is no question that governments must be fully responsible for the projects they want in their countries.

The second question is are we saying here that governments have the right to choose and determine which agencies shall coordinate these projects and thus this runs counter to the present consensus between FAO and all the other agencies. I am a little lost.

CHAIRMAN: Can we wind this up because we are going round and round on a matter which is not very substantive.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would just like to reply to the point made by some observation in the 1969 statement that coordination of operational activities is a primary responsibility of the governments themselves. This is a principle that was laid down ten years ago. I feel that the present wording is perfect. Of course, in carrying out coordination, the country does what it wants. I think that the present sentence is perfect and gives all latitude for the governments to do what they want, which is precisely the correct approach.

CHAIRMAN: May I call upon the United States to either put a specific formulation if he insists on an amendment or let the paragraph stand as it is.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I do not want to delay the work in the Council by putting a clarification of my amendment. I do want to say that I think the Members of the Council have understood that the sense of my amendment in no way challenged the 1969 statement to which Brazil has referred, and I think the comment by Argentina made it clear that he and I am sure others have understood that it does not.

I withdraw my suggestion, and I am sorry that it has been placed in a context which suggests a confrontation of any kind with other Members of this Council.

CHAIRMAN: There is no confrontation, I assure you. I have not noticed any. It is throwing words around, so thank you very much for withdrawing the amendment, and therefore the paragraph is adopted as it is.

Paragraphs 19 to 26, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 26, ainsi amendés . sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 26, así enmendados son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS. 27 to 32

PARAGRAPHERS 27 à 32

PARAFOS 27 a 32

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): On the third line of paragraph 27 before the word "sound", the addition of the word "generally"; "generally sound". on the third line.

CHAIRMAN: Any objections? There are none. Paragraph 27 is adopted as amended by Brazil.

Paragraphs 27 to 32, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 27 a 32, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 32, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 33 approved

Le paragraphe 33 est approuvé

El párrafo 33 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 34 to 36

PARAGRAPHERS 34 à 36

PARRAFOS 34 a 36

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have just got a slight amendment concerning the meaning of the second sentence in paragraph 36. I should like to propose that the first words "It approved" be replaced by the words "It noted", because I think this was the general feeling of the Council" that the Council at this meeting just takes note of the matters as they stand now.

CHAIRMAN: Is that supported?

N.M. MAPELA (Zaïre): J'étais au Comité de rédaction et j'ai demandé qu'au lieu d'un autre mot on mette vraiment que le Conseil "approuve". De quoi s'agit-il? Il s'agit de ce qui est dit et ma délégation est une de celles qui avaient approuvé la façon de voir ces choses, avaient appuyé le Directeur général. Je l'ai dit en plénière et cela n'a pas été contesté. "D'ailleurs je n'étais pas seul, plusieurs délégations l'ont fait et au Comité de rédaction j'ai bien insisté pour que l'on dise "le Conseil approuve".

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I think here I would also share the views of Zaire, and the reason is very simple. The Conference gave one direction to the Director-General to act in the ACC. He acted precisely in the line of the direction given by the Conference, and therefore if you read paragraph 35 it indicates precisely what is the issue in the Conference. Before changing anything we want to hear this and the Council and the Conference have to approve, and therefore the Director-General acted precisely in line with the very specific directions from the Conference. Therefore, I really cannot see how the Council cannot approve what he has done, especially since the draft came here from the Drafting Group with this wording. I think it strange that we change it.

Mrs F.A. CHENOWETH (Liberia): Very briefly I just want to agree with the two previous speakers and to say that Liberia did not only notice but it approved, and so we support the position that the word "approved" be used.

CHAIRMAN: Federal Republic of Germany, would you withdraw your suggestion for the changing of the wording? You do; thank you very much. Then paragraph 36 is adopted without amendment.

Paragraphs 34 to 36 approved

Les paragraphes 34 à 36 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 34 a 36 son aprobados

Paragraphs 37 and 38 approved

Les paragraphes 37 et 38 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 37 y 38 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de la plénière, adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 5 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 6 to 12

PARAGRAPHERS 6 à 12

PARRAFOS 6 a 12

B.. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): A question of facts: the second sentence reads in paragraph 11: "The Council generally felt, however, that as ISNAR was in the process of being established by the CGIAR". . If that is fact, all right, but I think that by sharing views during the debate of what is the actual situation, it would be more correct to say "as it was likely that ISNAR was in the process of being established". I do not think there is any final decision. If there is a final decision, "as ISNAR was in the process of being established" is perfect. If there is no final decision, I think "as it was likely" is slightly more correct and more to the point.

CHAIRMAN: We can ask for the facts. What are the facts?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Unfortunately, I must inform you that, despite the opposition of our Organization and certain Member Countries, such as France, it has been decided to go ahead and to establish this so-called International Service for Strengthening National Agricultural Research in Developing Countries. I have received a letter informing me of this decision.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voulais simplement vous signaler que les initiales françaises rie sont pas GCPAI mais GCRAI.

CHAIRMAN: That will be done. Thank you, Delegate of France.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Tal vez en beneficio de la brevedad. Aquí únicamente se hace mención de que el Consejo compartió la preocupación expresada por el Comité en su informe. Pensamos que sería conveniente, aunque fuese en una forma muy abreviada, expresar cuáles son los principales aspectos de la preocupación que muestra el Comité del Programa acerca de ese aspecto.

No tengo ninguna sugerencia concreta, Sr. Presidente; de cualquier manera, no me molesta que quede así.

CHAIRMAN: If there is no specific suggestion, I would like you to agree to keep the thing as it is, because otherwise there is going to be confusion if there is no specific amendment. Then we adopt 11 as it is.

Paragraphs 6 to 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 12 ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 á 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 13 to 25

PARAGRAPHES 13 à 25

PARRAFOS 13 a 25

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): This is to suggest an editorial change which would give greater clarity to paragraph 16, and that is that in the middle of the paragraph when we start with the sentence: "All Member Countries should", that sentence might fit better at the end of that paragraph, where we would then begin with "The Council felt that consideration should be given to difficulties inherent in the UNDP Country Programming" and so on, following with that other sentence

stating that "All Member Countries should ensure that food and agriculture was accorded a high priority in their development programmes". In other words, this would be a way of strengthening the idea of the problem inherent in country programming.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments? If not, then this paragraph is adopted, with the amendment recommended by the US delegation.

Paragraphs 13 to 25, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 a 25, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 25, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 26 to 34

PARAGRAPHERS 26 á 35

PARRAFOS 26 a 34

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina) : Sobre el párrafo 33 tengo entendido que cuando hicimos la propuesta de inclusión del tema de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y las labores en el Consejo y en la Conferencia, lo hicimos sin ningún condicionamiento. El apoyo dado por 9 ó 10 países a la inclusión del tema en el Consejo y la Conferencia fue sin ningún condicionamiento; por lo tanto, propongo la eliminación en la segunda frase de la oración final, que dice "cuando surgieran nuevas iniciativas y propuestas que hicieran necesarias su orientaciones", porque eso no fue lo que se dijo en el debate.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Should we accept this amendment, this would mean that this subject would be on the agenda of the Council and Conference for ever. I do not think that this is what this Council wants, and this is why I hope that the honourable delegate of Argentina can see his way to accepting the text as it stands. The present wording would not make it compulsory for the agenda of each Council and Conference-session always to include TCDC. Each session would decide whether this item should be included in the agenda of the next session, and it would be up to any delegation to suggest such inclusion. In summary, I think that the existing text is more appropriate, but it is, course, up to the honourable delegate of Argentina to decide on his stand.

CHAIRMAN: Would you reconsider, Argentina, in the light of this?

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina) : Le agradezco mucho al señor Director General por su explicación y es valido el argumento que no es la intención de la delegación de Argentina tratar por dos mil años la CTPD; pero me asusta un poco el sentido que la propuesta nuestra fuera de incluir por lo menos en un futuro inmediato la cuestión. Nosotros pensamos que limitarlo, condicionarlo a cuando surgieran nuevas iniciativas prodría ser un factor limitativo en la inclusión del tema. Si encontramos con el Director General, a posteriori, una frase que asegure la consideración del tema por lo menos en un futuro próximo, yo estaría de acuerdo en eliminar una frase que no la condicionara exclusivamente, como dice que cuando salgan nuevas iniciativas; alguna frase que sea un poco más clara con respecto a la intención de lo que se hizo en el debate, pero no tengo ningún inconveniente, tal vez el Director General me ayude, a redactar una frase que sea conveniente.

CHAIRMAN: While I call on the two delegates who want to speak, Argentina might like to draft something while the discussion is going on.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I quite appreciate the concern of the delegate from Argentina. Perhaps we might use the phrase we so often do: "as appropriate". So that what we would have is this : "...TCDC should be placed on its agenda and that of the Conference as appropriate".

Q.H. HAGUE (Bangladesh): I had also a similar method of finding a way out of this. Could we say "in the opinion of the Council"? You could say, when the Council says we do not include it, we do not include it, or you could say "as appropriate".

CHAIRMAN: The United States has put a solid proposal, to use "as appropriate".

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Nuestro ánimo de intervenir es solamente para ayudar. Si el delegado de Argentina no acepta la propuesta que señala la delegación de Estados Unidos, pudiera entonces, si su objetivo es el hecho en sí de que se consideren de inmediato por el Consejo, substituir como él plantea esta frase, pero haciendo un añadido que diría: "No obstante, el Consejo acordó que el CTPD figurara en su programa y en el de la Conferencia en su próximo período de sesiones y cuando surgieran nuevas iniciativas ...". O sea, sería un añadido si la intención del delegado de

Argentina es que se considere en él las próximas sesiones del Consejo, o de lo contrario, la otra propuesta que se ha hecho.

C. BATAIJLT (France) : Ce qu'a dit le Directeur général me paraissait tout à fait clair et me paraissait répondre à des nécessités pratiques. Cela dit, si le Conseil le souhaite, je ne verrais aucune objection à ce que l'on adopte la proposition du délégué de Cuba, si le Directeur général en est d'accord.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Agradezco a todas las delegaciones que han tenido la gentileza de colaborar en mi problema, pero tenía instrucción de tratar un poco este asunto tratando de que no se diluya. Estoy de acuerdo con el representante de Cuba siempre que, en lugar de decir, "en el próximo período de sesiones" precisemos un poquito menos y digamos: "en los próximos períodos de sesiones". Esto deja abierto a la sabiduría del Consejo de incluirlo más allá de uno o dos períodos de sesiones cuando ya no sea necesario.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): La propuesta nuestra, vamos a leerla tal como quedaría redactada: "No obstante, el Consejo acordó que la CTPD figurara en su programa y en el de la Conferencia en su próximo período de sesiones ..." y continuaría la frase: "Cuando surgieran nuevas iniciativas ... etc.".

A mí me parece que el delegado de Argentina quiere establecer en lugar de su próximo período establecer, él considera mejor o más recomendable: "en sus próximos períodos de sesiones" y me parece que si se hace este añadido de "sus próximos período de sesiones", estaríamos en la misma situación de que serían todos los períodos del Consejo. Me parece más recomendable si es que el deseo es de que se trate de inmediato por el Consejo de la Conferencia, éstos decidan cuando se trate en el próximo período de sesiones, cuándo debe tratarse este asunto.

Sería más recomendable que quedara tal como habíamos redactado en principio.

C. BATAULT (France): Il y a peut-être une autre version que nous pourrions adopter et qui donnerait peut-être satisfaction à toutes les parties.

Voici la phrase que je propose:

"Toutefois, le Conseil décide d'inscrire la CTPD à l'ordre du jour des prochaines sessions, dans la mesure où apparaîtront des faits nouveaux et des propositions appelant des instructions de leur part".

C'est une proposition qui me paraît logique.

CHAIRMAN: The French delegation had put a proposal. Now Delegate of Argentina, did you listen to it and agree with it?

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Prefiero la enmienda de la representación de Cuba con el debido respeto a la enmienda del delegado de Francia, porque con la enmienda de Francia tengo el mismo problema en el sentido de que condiciona la inclusión del tema al surgimiento de nuevas iniciativas y no creo que se dijo eso en el debate. Se pidió la inclusión como tema permanente del Consejo y eso fue lo que fue apoyado por las diez delegaciones. Ahora bien, no tengo ningún inconveniente en tratar de que vayamos rápido en este asunto, que quede fijado en el próximo período de sesiones y eventualmente en el próximo período de sesiones haremos lo mismo y lo fijaremos para el otro.

CHAIRMAN: He has agreed to the "next Session". This limits it to the next Session; and then a decision can be taken. Does the Delegate of Mexico want to say anything?

I. OROZCO GUSMAN (México): Es una amalgama de lo que se ha dicho. De acuerdo con lo que propuso el colega de Cuba de que figurara "en su próximo período de sesiones" y aquí quedaría: "y periódicamente según proceda".

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Estoy de acuerdo con la enmienda del delegado de México y le agradezco mucho la gentileza de haberla formulado de esa manera.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, je puis me rallier à l'amendement proposé, mais j'ai moi-même un autre amendement à présenter. Il affecte en même temps le paragraphe 33 et le paragraphe 34. Son but est d'incorporer le texte du paragraphe 34, tel qu'il est proposé, à l'intérieur du paragraphe 33. Il viendrait après la première phrase du paragraphe 33. En effet, le paragraphe 33 incorpore déjà la décision du Conseil sur la manière de traiter les questions de coopération technique entre pays en développement. Il me paraît donc assez illogique de rouvrir le débat après qu'une décision ait déjà été prise et de mentionner dans un seul dernier paragraphe la position d'un certain nombre de délégués. La décision du Conseil tient déjà compte de cette prise de position.

Le paragraphe 33 commencerait donc par la phrase qui existe déjà: "La CTPD a déjà fait l'objet de débats approfondis ... dans les consultations techniques". Ensuite, viendrait la phrase: "Un certain nombre de délégués ont proposé la création au sein de la FAO d'un Comité permanent du Conseil qui serait chargé de traiter les questions relatives à la CTPD".

On reprendrait ensuite la phrase qui se trouve déjà dans le texte du paragraphe 33: "Toutefois, le Conseil décide d'inscrire la CTPD à son ordre du jour etc...".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Delegate of Belgium. I think this improves the paragraph. Are there any objections to the Belgian proposal?

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Yo tengo algunas dificultades con la propuesta enmienda de Bélgica. Los párrafos 26 a 34 hablan cada uno de una cuestión diferente del tema de la CTPD. El párrafo 33 que acabamos de aprobar revela el consenso del Consejo en cuanto a un punto específico. El párrafo 34 trata de otro tema en el cual no hubo consenso pero fue un tema que se planteó.

De acuerdo con los procedimientos del Consejo, conferencia y comités, debe permanecer separado porque es una idea nueva, diferente, que sólo recogió algunos consensos, pero que revela la idea de unas delegaciones. No podemos reunir en un mismo párrafo lo que fue expresado y lo que fue acordado.

Felicito al Comité de Redacción por haber hecho una decisión tan acertada y oportuna respecto a separar el párrafo 34 del 33, que me parece una idea oportuna.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Solamente para apoyar la propuesta del delegado de Argentina porque realmente esto es lo que consideró el Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRMAN: Belgium, do you insist on your amendment of amalgamating the two paragraphs?

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je ne vais pas être trop difficile, mais je constate simplement que le résultat n'est pas très joli.

CHAIRMAN: Then paragraph 33 is approved, as amended by Mexico.

Paragraphs 26 to 34, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 34, ainsi amendes sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 34, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 35 approved

Le paragraphe 35 est approuvé

El párrafo 35 es aprobado

Paragraphs 36 and 37 approved

Les paragraphes 36 et 37 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 36 y 37 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 43

PARAGRAPHES 38 à 43

PARRAFOS 38 a 43

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): It is a small correction in paragraph 40 that concerns the French text only. (Continues in French)

Je lis le texte en français parce qu'il ne comprend pas une formule qui avait été adoptée par le Comité de rédaction et qui figure dans les autres langues. C'est tout à fait au début du paragraphe-il faut rayer le mot "on" et insérer le mot "Conseil". La phrase se lirait donc comme suit: "Dans l'ensemble, le Conseil a estimé..."

CHAIRMAN: Then we approve paragraph 40 with that amendment made by the Secretariat.

C. BATAULT (France): Concernant le paragraphe 42, je dois dire que je ne comprends pas très bien ce que veut dire cette phrase: "Dans ce travail, l'Organisation ne devra jamais oublier la nécessité impérieuse de veiller à ce que les experts et les connaissances que l'Organisation met à la disposition des pays en développement aient la qualification et la compétence voulues". Je ne vois pas très bien comment une connaissance peut avoir une qualification et une compétence. Pour faire une phrase compréhensible en français, il faudrait ou bien supprimer "les connaissances", si le Conseil le souhaite. On pourrait alors ajouter à la fin du paragraphe: "... et que les connaissances de l'Organisation aient la qualité voulue", mais je propose tout simplement que l'on supprime: "et les connaissances".

CHAIRMAN: Is that a drafting error?

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I sympathise with the amendment. There is obviously something wrong with the grammar of this sentence, the delegate of France is right in that respect. I think, if he would agree, the Secretariat should be asked to adjust the sentence grammatically without removing the last words, which have a particular significance in relation to certain of the JIU recommendations. I do not think there is any need to open a debate of substance if he will agree that we adjust the grammar to meet his point.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of France agrees. Then Paragraph 41 is approved.

Paragraphs 38 to 43; as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 38 à 43, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 38 a 43, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 44 to 48

PARAGRAPHES 44 a 48

PARRAFOS 44 a 48

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Could you possibly consider the inclusion of the concept of brevity towards the end of paragraph 46? It could read "The need for brevity was also stressed".

CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting that the words you have just mentioned should be added?

P, MASUD (Pakistan): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection, then paragraph 46 is approved with the amendments suggested by Pakistan.

Paragraphs 44 to 48, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 44 à 48, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 44 a 48, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - La IVème partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: May I point out, Mr. Chairman, that, should the Council continue to approve its report paragraph by paragraph, it will not finish this morning. May I suggest, therefore, to take the draft report page by page, or item by item, as was done so many times in the past.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat has explained that the pages do not correspond exactly in the different languages and we shall therefore take it by sections.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I would suggest that we do this as we have done before, paragraph by paragraph, because it is a matter in some instances of getting a chance to read it for the first time.

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection, then we will go ahead paragraph by paragraph, in deference to the United States delegate.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Much as we should like to defer to the views expressed by the United States of America yet in the interests of getting our work done I think we could go through certain parts item by item; and if there are any specific areas of interest for the United States, we could take those paragraph by paragraph.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Para adherirme a la idea de que se trate sección por sección en la consideración de que el Comité de Redacción ha hecho un buen trabajo. Si queremos terminar pienso que debemos ir sección por sección.

PARAGRAPHES 1 to 5

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 5

PARRAFOS 1 a 5

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Entiendo que estamos de acuerdo en comenzar por el tema 9. Si es así deseo proponer unas adiciones al párrafo 3. En la última frase del párrafo 3 se dice que: "se habían examinado y considerado las recomendaciones y resoluciones adoptadas en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria". Creo que debería agregarse: celebrada en 1966; luego, al final de esa misma frase del párrafo 3 se dice: "y en otras conferencias mundiales". Habría que agregar mundiales y regionales.

Tengo otra enmienda sobre el párrafo 4. ¿Prefiere usted, Sr. Presidente, que la presente en seguida o discutimos primero la propuesta sobre el párrafo 3?

CHAIRMAN: Let us take paragraph 3 first, in order to avoid confusion. Can you read out slowly your amendment to paragraph 3?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la última frase del párrafo 3, después de: "Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria" agregar las palabras: celebrada en 1966. Luego seguiría así: y en otras conferencias mundiales y regionales.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I think that this text is intended to cover all international conferences and not merely the 1966 World Conference. I therefore propose that this text also mention the different conferences held internationally without adding the year 1966 or mentioning regional conferences.

CHAIRMAN: Does the delegate of Colombia agree to that?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que la propuesta del colega de Egipto es perfectamente aceptable y podríamos decir recomendaciones y resoluciones adoptadas en otras conferencias mundiales y regionales.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think that the honourable delegate of Egypt is right: paragraph 4 mentions the FAO Regional Conferences. I do not think, therefore, that there is a need to add the words "and regional" to paragraph 3 after the words "World Conference", since regional conferences are mentioned in paragraph 4. I would suggest, therefore, that the only amendment which should be considered now is that proposed by the honourable delegate of Colombia, with a view to indicating the date of the World Conference in question. There cannot be any misunderstanding, since there was only one such conference, but it would still be useful to indicate the date by inserting the words "held in 1966". I hope that everyone will be in agreement and that this point will raise no controversy.

CHAIRMAN: Is this agreed? In that case the date will be inserted and, since Regional Conferences are mentioned in the next paragraph, those will not be inserted. Now we come to Colombia's amendment on paragraph 4.

G. BUIA HOYOS (Colombia): Si, Sr. Presidente, al- final del párrafo 4 se dice: "enviar delegaciones del máximo nivel técnico y administrativo". Lo que dijo el representante especial fue: alto nivel político y técnico. Sobre esto también intervino nuestra delegación.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that will be taken care of.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): In the second line of para 4 which reads: " discussions at the World Conference should avoid academic subjects and concentrate on", I think the idea was that it should avoid an academic approach to the various problems. It could be amended to read: "should avoid an academic approach and concentrate on specific action-oriented programmes". In this way the intent of what was said by the Special Representative would be met.

CHAIRMAN: Is this agreed?

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Only a minor amendment to the Colombian proposal: "the highest political" should be replaced by "high political" because highest means heads of governments, which we certainly do not expect.

CHAIRMAN: The whole of page 1 is adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 5, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 5, ainsi amendés sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 5, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 6 approved
Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé
El párrafo 6 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 9
PARAGRAPHES 7 à 9
PARRAFOS 7 a 9

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): This really concerns the next session, item 21, the part dealing with the Finance Committee. It is on page 10 in the English text and it is a question simply of re-arranging the layout. The paragraph that should be the opening paragraph of that section is now number 28, so please note that this will come before paragraph 22 since it is the general one that refers to the Chairman of the Committee introducing the report.

Paragraphs 7 to 9 approved
Les paragraphes 7 à 9 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 7 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 to 19 approved
Les paragraphes 10 à 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 10 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 and 21 approved
Les paragraphes 20 et 21 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 y 21 son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 30 approved
Les paragraphes 22 à 30 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 22 a 30 son aprobados

Paragraphs 31 and 32 approved

Les paragraphes 31 et 32 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 y 32 son aprobados

Paragraph 33, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 33, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 33, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 34 and 35 approved

Les paragraphes 34 et 35 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 34 y 35 son aprobados

Paragraph 36 est approuvé

Le paragraphe 36 est approuvé

El párrafo 36 es aprobado

Paragraph 37 approved

Le paragraphe 37 est approuvé

El párrafo 37 es aprobado

Paragraph 38, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 38, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 38, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 39 to 41 approved

Les paragraphes 39 à 41 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 39 a 41 son aprobados

Paragraph 42, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 42, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 42 incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 43 to 45 approved

Les paragraphes 43 à 45 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 43 a 45 son aprobados

Paragraphs 46 to 48 approved

Les paragraphes 46 à 48 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 46 a 48 son aprobados

Paragraph 49 approved

Le paragraphe 49 est approuvé

El párrafo 49 es aprobado

Paragraph 50 approved

Le paragraphe 50 est approuvé

El párrafo 50 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part V, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - La Vème-partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL (interprétation de l'arabe): Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de commencer cette allocution en exprimant ma conviction que tous les membres du Conseil conviendront avec moi que cette soixante-quatorzième session a été particulièrement utile et riche d'enseignements. Nous nous sommes, dans l'ensemble, trouvés d'accord dans notre évaluation des aspects, tant positifs que négatifs, de la situation agricole mondiale. Nous avons également convenu des grandes lignes d'action que notre Organisation doit continuer à suivre, pour faire face à cette situation et contribuer ainsi à la construction d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

Plus important encore, nous avons appris à mieux nous connaître et à surmonter nos différences d'opinions, dans le respect des convictions de chacun et en n'ayant d'autre but que la défense de l'intérêt général de nos pays membres et du prestige de notre organisation.

A ce propos, permettez-moi de réaffirmer une conviction que je proclame depuis longtemps et sur laquelle je suis revenu une fois de plus dans mon allocution d'ouverture. Le Conseil de la FAO n'est pas une tribune où l'on s'égarerait en vaine rhétorique et en affrontements. A la FAO, nous avons pour tradition de rechercher le consensus dans l'intérêt de tous les pays, en particulier ceux du Tiers Monde, au développement desquels tous nos membres consacrent leurs efforts. Cela ne signifie pas que nous soyons d'accord sur tous les points, mais cela ne veut pas dire non plus qu'une petite minorité puisse, quelle que soit son importance économique, agir au mépris des vues d'une grande majorité.

D'un autre côté, nul ne voudrait que la minorité ait le sentiment de ne pas avoir été entendue et que ses vues n'aient pas été notées. Au contraire, notre tradition ici veut que chaque pays, petit ou grand, ait droit à tout notre respect.

Bien sûr, dans certains cas - heureusement peu nombreux - nous nous enlisons dans la procédure et des malentendus surviennent. Ou bien, soucieux à juste titre de clore une discussion au plus vite, pour ne pas gaspiller les ressources de l'Organisation dans des débats vains et répétitifs, nous comprimons nos travaux à tel point que certains membres ont peut-être l'impression de n'avoir pas eu assez de temps pour faire connaître leur point de vue sur des sujets qui, à leur avis, sont importants. Il m'arrive parfois à moi-même, sans doute pas aussi souvent qu'aux membres, de sentir que je n'ai pas pu dire tout ce que je voulais exprimer.

Mais il ne faut pas exagérer l'importance de ces accidents peu fréquents; au contraire, il faut songer aux résultats dans l'ensemble constructifs d'une réunion et se féliciter de la bonne grâce avec laquelle les membres des différents groupes, après des discussions assez vives, se rapprochent les uns des autres au cours des débats ou à l'occasion de réunions avec moi, pour conclure notre session dans un esprit constructif et d'amitié.

Bien sûr, nous tirerons la leçon des difficultés qui ont pu être rencontrées et nous chercherons à mieux organiser les choses la prochaine fois, d'autant plus que de nombreux points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la session de juin appellent d'importantes décisions.

Le principal sera naturellement le sommaire de programmes de travail et budget. Je ne vais pas répéter maintenant ce que j'ai dit à l'ouverture de la session. Je remercie le Conseil d'avoir si bien compris pourquoi je ne voulais pas m'engager maintenant sur le niveau du budget. Je suis heureux que les membres qui avaient des observations à formuler sur la question aient trouvé l'occasion de le faire en toute conscience de leurs responsabilités et dans un esprit constructif. Je tiens à leur donner l'assurance que j'ai pris bonne note de leurs remarques ainsi que de celles des diverses délégations - parfois les mêmes - qui ont évoqué les très nombreuses priorités pour lesquelles elles souhaiteraient que je trouve place dans le prochain programme de travail et budget.

Il est un point qui, espérons-le, ne figurera pas à notre ordre du jour ou pour lequel nous pourrions nous contenter de manifester notre satisfaction. En bref, j'ai bon espoir de ne pas avoir à vous dire que nous nous trouvons dans une grave crise constitutionnelle et financière à la suite des décisions unilatérales d'un corps législatif.

Comme je l'ai dit dans mon discours d'ouverture et comme l'explique le communiqué du CAC qui vous a été distribué sous la cote CL 74/INF 13, je suis tenu par l'Acte constitutif de refuser toute condition que l'on voudrait attacher au versement ou à l'utilisation des contributions des Etats Membres.

Après avoir suivi vos débats, soit personnellement soit en m'en remettant à mes collaborateurs qui me représentaient ici, je vous félicite de vos sages décisions sur les points inscrits à votre ordre du jour. Sans revenir sur chaque sujet, je me contenterai donc de vous redire combien j'ai été sensible à l'appui que votre Assemblée m'a accordé, une fois encore. Et je puis vous assurer que mes collègues et moi-même avons particulièrement besoin de votre appui et de votre confiance, pour faire face aux très lourdes tâches qui nous attendent au cours des mois à venir!

Finalement, M. le Président, je ne saurais conclure sans vous adresser mes félicitations pour la compétence avec laquelle vous avez su diriger vos débats.

Je voudrais également exprimer ma gratitude aux deux Vice-Présidents qui ont contribué au succès de nos travaux: S.E. Madame Chenoweth, et, bien sûr, notre ami Frank Shefrin, dont les vastes connaissances et l'humour nous manqueront tant à l'avenir.

Je tiens à rendre un hommage particulier à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Papageorgiou et aux membres du Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent travail qu'ils ont accompli.

Certains membres de ce Comité, comme Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la Jaraarahiya libyenne, devaient participer toute la journée aux réunions du Conseil et prendre part, aussitôt après, aux longues sessions du Comité de rédaction. Je les remercie donc vivement pour leurs contributions très appréciées.

Je voudrais aussi exprimer ma gratitude aux présidents et aux coordinateurs de tous les groupes représentés ici qui, par leur haute conception du service public, ont fidèlement reflété la valeur de toutes les délégations.

Mes remerciements vont également aux honorables représentants des pays qui vont cesser de faire partie du Conseil, et je veux parler de l'Equateur, de la Finlande, de la Jamarahiya libyenne, du Malawi, de Maurice, de la Nouvelle-Zélande, du Niger et du Soudan. Leurs délégations n'ont cessé d'apporter d'excellentes contributions à nos travaux et, bien que je sois certain que leurs remplaçants sauront suivre l'exemple qu'ils ont donné, je ne puis m'empêcher de regretter leur départ et serais heureux de les revoir siéger comme observateurs à votre prochaine session.

Avec mes meilleurs vœux pour l'an nouveau, pour vous-mêmes et vos familles, je vous donne rendez-vous en juin, et je vous remercie, une fois encore, de votre attention et de votre confiance.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Before you close, please let me say a few words of thanks which might be shared by others round the table. Firstly, we wish to commend the Director-General for having strengthened FAO's cooperation with the European Community. We refer in this-context to the opening statement of the Director-General to this Council session in which he also indicated that he is seeking further cooperation in development activities with the European Community. This is in the interests of our whole Organization and in particular of developing countries. We should like to encourage the Director-General to continue this cooperation which is in line with the development policy of the Community and its nine member states.

I do not think I need to elaborate on the fruitful cooperation already existing between the World Food Programme and the Community in the vital area of Food Aid.

Secondly, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having presided over our deliberations in such a way that we terminated expeditiously our session, even being one day and a half ahead of schedule. You have made us work rather hard but we enjoyed it.

We should also like to give our thanks to the three Vice-Chairmen who assisted you in your responsible task and to the Chairman and to the Members of the Drafting Group. We enjoyed the collaboration with the Secretariat for whose preparations we wish to thank.

We are glad to have had first contacts and cooperation with the recently appointed Assistant Director-General, including our new Secretary-General of Council and Conference.

Finally I wish to thank all the members of the FAO Secretariat who worked behind the scenes and also the interpreters and the messengers who helped us communicate better amongst ourselves.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea expresar su agradecimiento a usted, Sr. Presidente, a los tres Vicepresidentes, al distinguido Embajador de Grecia, Relator, y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción, así como a todo el personal de la Secretaría.

Acompañaron a usted en su tarea de dirección los Presidentes de Liberia, Bangladesh y Canadá. La presencia de la distinguida señora Ministro de Liberia en la Presidencia no fue solo una nota de carácter atrayente, sino también de eficacia, lo cual nos complació muy de veras.

Permítame que diga unas pocas palabras a mi colega y amigo Frank Shefrin; tal vez soy yo uno de los miembros del Consejo que más continuamente he teni/?/ la ocasión de compartir mis actividades en este organismo con el distinguido colega del Canadá; ad más, fuimos compañeros cercanos cuando él ocupó la Presidencia del Comité de Finanzas y yo era Presidente del Comité del Programa. Por los conocimientos personales y directos que tengo de la intensa colaboración que el colega Shefrin ha ofrecido al Consejo, puedo asegurarle que le recordaremos siempre. Muchas veces no hemos estado de acuerdo con la posición que él ha asumido, pero siempre hemos reconocido su honestidad, su inteligencia y su deseo de servicio. Deseamos que tenga un retiro muy feliz y lleve siempre el testimonio de nuestra gratitud.

En noviembre pasado, Sr. Presidente, ya habíamos tenido ocasión de trabajar bajo sus ordenes; sin embargo, fue un período de sesiones muy breve; en realidad, éste ha sido su primer examen y usted lo ha pasado con plenos votos. Estamos satisfechos de la manera inteligente y eficaz como usted ha dirigido las sesiones del Consejo.

El Director General ha dicho ya que en plena cooperación, sin confrontación, todos los miembros del Consejo hemos cumplido el programa previsto y las conclusiones son sin duda un apoyo franco y entusiasta a la labor del Director General en favor de los objetivos de nuestra Organización para bien de todos los países y particularmente de las naciones del Tercer mundo.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia desea manifestar a todos que ha estado muy complacida en compartir este período de sesiones que hoy termina felizmente y a todos los que regresan a sus países les deseamos un feliz viaje, mucha prosperidad y hasta junio próximo.

M.S. ZEHNI (LIBYA) (interpretation from Arabic): Allow me, if I may, Mr. Chairman, to express my thanks and gratitude, which I express not only on behalf of my delegation but of other delegations who asked me to speak on their behalf. Mr. Chairman, I would first like to thank you for having chaired so objectively and effectively the work of the Council at this Session, whose results are a positive and constructive step forward. Allow me, as well, to thank the Vice-Chairpersons for their participation as Chairmen at our sessions or even for their work outside the sessions. I would like to thank them for the efforts that they have made and for their contribution to the success of our work.

I would also like to express our thanks to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and I think that this last thanks is a very personal thanks because I have participated directly in the work of this Drafting Committee under his chairmanship, and I would like to emphasize here the very excellent atmosphere which existed at the activities of the Working Party thanks to his humour and thanks to his leadership, I would also like to thank those who took part in the Drafting Committee for the good will, comprehension, and understanding that existed throughout the work of the Drafting Committee.

I must say that I was particularly touched by the statement made by the Director-General, and I would like to thank him for having chosen the Arabic language, for having spoken Arabic at this closing session of the Council, The Director-General's statement is an excellent one, and I am not simply paying tribute to the language but also to the ideas that he has expressed.

I would like to emphasize particularly the spirit of solidarity and the consensus which he mentioned which have been the principal characteristics of our work. We come here to discuss questions and problems which should be a means for us to work in the interest and wellbeing of the peoples whom we represent, so here I would like to thank the Director-General for having consolidated this spirit and perpetuating it. He has always been able to reconcile differences of opinion and make certain that the general interest of the Council and of all Member States should come first and foremost.

I would like to reaffirm once again at this time, and this may be my personal opinion now, that we at our last session of this Council and upon invitation of the Director-General who asked us to participate again as observers to the Council at this time when I personally am leaving my chair here at the Council, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, and express my deep gratitude and thanks for the excellent spirit existing throughout our work. I hope I will always be able to contribute in one way or another to the work of the Council in the most useful way for the wellbeing of our Organization.

I apologise for having been a bit long, but I also wanted to say - and this is something that I have seen myself in the work of the Drafting Committee - that the role of the Secretariat has been extremely effective without any exception. I would like to thank them all and express my best wishes for the New Year.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Séame permitido en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano, felicitar a usted, señor Presidente, por la manera magistral con que ha conducido nuestros debates. Quiero extender mi saludo y mi grato recuerdo a los tres Presidentes que en distintas oportunidades, siguiendo la tradición que usted imprimió a este Consejo, condujeron nuestras tareas con acierto, con diligencia, con prontitud y por decirlo especialmente, por la Señora Ministro de Agricultura de Liberia con tanta gracia y con tanta femineidad.

Quiero agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Redacción los esfuerzos que hizo por unir las tantas palabras que hemos desparramado por este Consejo. Gracias a sus esfuerzos hemos tenido un texto que ha sido rápidamente aprobado, y que ha contado con el consenso y la aprobación de este Consejo.

Quiero agradecer también a los Presidentes de las Comisiones del Programa y de Finanzas que tuvieron la tarea descolante e importante de iluminarnos en los diferentes aspectos de la Agenda que merecían una aclaración ulterior.

Por último, señor Presidente, quiero agradecer muy especialmente al Director General por la magnífica y excelente presentación de la documentación que ha hecho a este Consejo, por las disposiciones que ha dado en cuanto a nuevas iniciativas que hemos acordado y aprobado, y sobre todo por la manera ejemplar con la cual ha colaborado al resultado del debate, a tratar de iluminar en busca del consenso, en busca del acuerdo.

Mi felicitación no sería completa si no se extiende con un agradecimiento muy especial al personal de la Secretaría, que con una manera tan completa, generosa y tan agradable ha cumplimentado nuestras tareas. Esto se extiende a los traductores, mensajeros, personal de documentación, etc. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We have had a happy, objective and useful session. We would take this opportunity of joining other delegations in expressing our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, the Director-General, the Vice-Chairmen, and all the delegations, for this opportunity of meeting each other and working together, which will contribute even in its own humble way in making FAO more effective and work towards its noble and vital objectives which have been spelt out so clearly. This session has once again shown that in this Organization there are no fences. We all in our own way want to do the best we can to see how we can contribute towards increasing food production, bettering nutrition and eradicating hunger from our world.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I assure you that I ask for the floor for the last time in this session. Thanksgiving after every meeting is a ritual, but one has to ponder whether its is really a ritual for the sake of formality or a ritual out of sincerity. We sincerely feel that this ritual is out of sincerity.

We have heard the closing statement of the Director-General. This statement is once again a constructive one, constructive at the conclusion of this session, constructive for the guidance of future sessions. He has outlined the salient features of the manner and of the purposes in which this great Organization is moving forward. Some of us may recall this session as one of those which are not a milestone in FAO's Council sessions, but I would consider it as a milestone for the reason, as we all know and appreciate, that the Technical Cooperation Programme is a cornerstone of the new FAO, and this Council Session is a cornerstone in the programme of TCP to have given its full support in order to strengthen the Programme in the future.

I always admire, Mr. Chairman, your abilities of conducting meetings, preserving an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation while retaining your position of neutrality. We have had Chairmen of this Council since the birth of FAO. I have had the privilege of attending a session under your leadership, and I feel you are a great Chairman.

We have had the Drafting Committee with very difficult tasks. Friend Papageorgiou with the smiling face has done a wonderful job. I congratulate him and his Members for this excellent work.

We also appreciate the work of the Secretariat in the documentation, but I very sincerely feel that I had the occasion of seeing documentation of other organizations. By their standard the documentation in FAO is excellent. One other important element in FAO is that here prevails an atmosphere of cooperation, an atmosphere which is non-political, an atmosphere which is sincere to ensure for the hungry and malnourished a better future.

With these words I thank everybody.

Mrs. F.A. CHENOWETH (Liberia): I asked for the floor at this time just to say very briefly thanks to you as Chairman, to our Secretary-General, to the Rapporteur, to the members of the Drafting Committee,

to the Director-General himself with his very able staff. We have heard other members around this table say all of the nice things about them, but we would just like from the African Region to join in and to congratulate you for everything you have done, and say thank you again for everything you have done and wish for you a very happy and prosperous year.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We never talk to each other or agree on the positions to take, we just ad hoc ourselves into and out of difficulties; so I trust my colleagues from North America will allow me to speak on behalf of the Region.

I must say it is a great pleasure to work for you; I have known you for a long time, since you first arrived in this Organization. On behalf of the North-American Region, I want to say your Chairmanship has provided the balance which is essential in providing a point of consensus in most circumstances. From the point of view of our Region, we again appreciate the work of the Secretariat. We should mention the documents have arrived well in advance of the meeting, which is not often the case, but this has helped us, and none of us have the excuse of saying we have not seen the documents.

We have noted with interest the active participation of the Director-General in this Session of the Council. He could not claim that he has not been heard, he could not claim he has not had a chance to speak, and we have enjoyed this; and must say, I am going to miss that voice. I hope FAO will give me a tape recorder which I can play at home when I stop coming to these Sessions, just to remind me how active life can be. I will miss the excitement of this type of meeting.

The progress of this Organization has been a very interesting one. Director-Generals have to make their own mark on the Organization, and it would be unfair of them not to try to do it; I think our present Director-General is making his mark on this Organization, and we are interested and grateful in watching the way he does it.

I would also like to say no individual is greater than FAO, and no Agency is greater than the people we are trying to help. We must never forget that objective, that whatever we do here it is people we are working with, and for whom we are working, that is very important.

I would like to say a word about the interpreters.: They are, in a way, our voice. If they misinterpret, they cause problems for us; if they interpret better than we speak, they help us. Over the years, I have never had problems with the interpreters. Every so often, the interpreters will say "Will the delegate please move away from his microphone, or speak more slowly." In my case, they have had no trouble, they interpreted what they thought I said, and in some cases they have been better than I was, and I have been greteful for that.

I want to say to all my colleagues and all my friends, on behalf of myself at this point, not so much for the Region as a whole, my very best wishes in terms of future work. We will be watching and reading very carefully, and we hope one way or the other we will have some influence on the Organization from a different atmosphere. I am graduating now to a new way.of living, and I intend to be as active in my new way of living - and as difficult, maybe - as I have been in the past.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Frank, we will be very sorry not to hear your voice again as the delegate of Canada in this Council and FAO fora. I would like to say on behalf of all of us who have known you for a long time - and also those who have known you for a short time - that you have contributed very much with your wit and sense of humour, and really enlivened our jobs in the past; we will remember you in the future. I do hope you will have a very good and happy retired life. Maybe you will come back as a consultant - maybe as a Director-General! I hope we will see you around.

For me, this is my first real Council. I was a member of the Council before, and sitting here I felt that I had lost something. I had lost my freedom to join in and say the things I liked to say; but I think this loss of freedom is very well rewarded by your kindness and your understanding, and the way in which you have assisted me and the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Frank Shefrin and Her Excellency the Minister for Liberia; unfortunately the Vice-Minister of Bangladesh was not able to take the floor because you have been very good and we have finished before we got to his turn.

This for me is a great thing, because the Council is sovereign. You are elected here to represent your countries, to say the views of your countries, but you have said these with restraint, and I am sure next June when we will have, probably, a much more difficult Council, this spirit of cooperation and understanding will continue to prevail.

I would like to thank Dr. Saouma personally, as he has also made my work very easy. In being just part of us - he worked with us, he took part in decisions, he actually assisted us in our work, and I have had very close working relations with him, and that has assisted me, too, and for that I would like to thank Dr. Saouma personally.

Then, of course, there are the staff, especially Mr. Sylla and his staff who have worked with me every day, inside and outside; I have been working with the Drafting Committee day and night. I would like to thank them very much indeed for making the work of this Council the success it has been.

The ADGs and other officials who came to explain things to us and guide us and answer questions - I would like to thank them on behalf of all of you, I would like to thank all of the other staff who contributed to our work.

I would like to thank those members of the Council who are leaving us and I am sorry they will not be here in June, but I am sure some of them will be re-elected and come back to re-join us.

I would also like to thank the Director-General and his Secretariat for the very nice Reception and the cordial relationship we have had during this Council.

With this I close the 74th Session of our Council, which is now concluded.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 13.10 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10 horas