

council

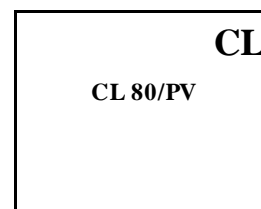
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Eightieth Session

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80° período de sesiones

Rome, 3-5 November 1981

**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 80/PV/1

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA**

(3 November 1981)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

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

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.10 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION
I. INTRODUCTION
I. INTRODUCCION

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. Mr. Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to welcome you all to the 80th Session of the Council. I am happy, as usual, to have the Director-General with us. I realise that he will not be able to stay with us all the time when he is so heavily involved with the preparation of the Conference, and of course, this time there is not going to be a statement from the Director-General as we usually have, unless it becomes necessary for him to address us or intervene on any item.

No new members of the Council have joined us at this Session. However, 16 members will vacate their seats in the Council at the end of this Session. We may say 17 because I am going to vacate my seat at the end of this Session as well.

I am pleased to inform the Council that in addition to Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Tonga and Zimbabwe, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have now also applied for membership in the Organization and this fifth application will also be submitted to the Conference next week.

Traditionally, the Session of the Council which immediately precedes the Conference is short and merely devoted to the preparation of the Conference. This Session is no exception. We shall meet for only three days, but as you will have noticed, our agenda is quite heavy and includes a number of important items. In view of the little time at our disposal, I would ask all of you to limit the length of your interventions so that we can conclude our business in the short time available.

Now I would like us to go straight into the Order of the Day, which has been circulated.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier
1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

You will note that the Provisional Timetable CL 80/INF/1 now shows three sub-items under Item 17, "Any Other Business". The first of these is scheduled for the end of this afternoon and concerns the Draft Conference Resolution on the World Food Programme Pledging Target for 1983/84.

As was explained in a circular letter from the Director-General early in October, this was the accepted outcome of the Twelfth CFA Session of last October under the statutory item.

In addition, you will note under item 9 two of the Joint Inspection Unit Reports are not yet available for consideration by the Council, and have thus been deleted.

Lastly, you will also note that the third sub-item of item 16 which is for information only should now read: "Changes in the representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees."

It will be further noted that a number of documents listed are Conference documents. In this connexion, I would ask you to keep them for the forthcoming Conference in order to avoid duplication of distribution. The Provisional Council Agenda as amended, as well as the proposed timetable are now open for discussion.

Are there any comments on this? If not, then these documents are adopted.

Because of the very short time available to us, I suggest that we meet daily from 9.00 until 12.30 hours, and from 14.30 to 17.30 hours. If these hours are agreed upon, I would appeal to you to be punctual and keep to these hours rigidly so as to avoid night sessions, because if we do not finish in the three days available we will have to go into night sessions because of the approaching Conference. As you may know, the Friday just before the Conference is usually reserved for meetings of the Nomination Committee for the Conference, and that day is therefore not available to us, even though we may want to meet on that day.

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee
2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction
2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y Miembros del Comité de Redacción.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Me complace muy de veras presentar como candidato para una de las vicepresidencias al colega y amigo Embajador Pedro Morales Carballo, Representante Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO. Hago esta propuesta a nombre de los nueve miembros que representamos a América Latina y el Caribe en este Consejo, seguros de que será acogida generalmente por todos ustedes, dada la amplia experiencia y profundos conocimientos, así como la inteligencia que distingue a nuestro colega.

Estoy seguro de que en el Embajador de Cuba como Vicepresidente, tendrá usted, señor Presidente, un válido colaborador en el período de sesiones que hoy se inicia.

CHAIRMAN: I now have a proposal from Colombia nominating Ambassador Carballo of Cuba to be one of our Vice-Chairmen.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): On behalf of the African group, I wish to support the nomination of the Ambassador of Cuba and Permanent representative to FAO as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council,

M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Es también para mi' motivo de placer el ratificar el apoyo a la candidatura del Embajador de Cuba, representante ante la FAO, Pedro Morales Carballo, para ocupar una de las vicepresidencias del Consejo en este período de sesiones.

A.J.M. ISSA (México): Ratifico la adhesión de México a la candidatura del Embajador de Cuba, representante permanente ante la FAO, señor Pedro Morales, quien estoy seguro será de gran ayuda para las tareas que usted, señor Presidente, tiene enfrente como Presidente de este Consejo.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): Ma délégation propose et soutient le délégué de Cuba au poste de Vice-Président.

CHAIRMAN: We have now got nominations and support of the Ambassador of Cuba to FAO as one of our Vice-Chairmen.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): The Indian delegation has great pleasure in supporting the election as Vice-Chairman of His Excellency the Ambassador of Cuba.

CHAIRMAN: I take it the Ambassador of Cuba is unanimously elected.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

DATOSERI RADIN SOENARNO bin RADIN SOENARIO (Malaysia): The Malaysian Delegation would like to propose the leader of the Australian Delegation, Mr. T. Kelly, be made Vice-Chairman of this Council. He has been associated with the work of this Council for a number of years. I am sure with his vast experience he can contribute to the successful conclusions of this Council.

CHAIRMAN: We now have a proposal for Mr. Kelly, the Representative of Australia, to the position of Vice-Chairman.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): My delegation takes great pleasure in supporting the proposal that Mr. Kelly be elected as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the 80th Session of the Council. He is very well acquainted with FAO affairs, and will, without any doubt, assist you, Mr. Chairman, in your responsible task.

H. MENDS (Ghana): I am very willing to support the nomination of Mr. Kelly, who is very well versed in our affairs, for the position of Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Kelly, the Representative of Australia, has been nominated and supported. I now put Mr. Kelly's candidature to you. He is elected unanimously.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I hope I have not anticipated you, Mr. Chairman, because I believe we have the responsibility to elect another Vice-Chairman, and on behalf of the European Region and with great pleasure I would like to propose as one of the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Stefan de Mare, the Secretary-General of the Swedish National FAO Committee and the representative of Sweden at this 80th Session of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I have now got Mr. de Mare of Sweden who is proposed as one of the Vice-Chairmen by the United Kingdom. Are there any seconds?

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation has the pleasure of supporting the candidature of Mr. de Mare as a Vice-Chairman of this Council.

TCHICAYA (Congo): Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais simplement dire que la délégation de mon pays appuie la proposition faite pour élire le représentant de la Suède comme vice-président du Conseil.

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Para asociarme muy calurosamente a la elección del señor De Mare, de Suecia, como vicepresidente de este Consejo.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): My delegation supports very strongly the nomination of the Swedish delegate, Mr. de Mare.

N. CARRASCO SAULNIER (France): Nous voulons joindre notre voix à ceux qui se sont exprimés avant nous pour soutenir également la candidature de M. de Mare à la vice-présidence du Conseil.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. de Mare of Sweden has been proposed and seconded to the position of Vice-Chairman, and he has been unanimously elected.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRMAN: Now we are also to designate the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee. As you know, normally it takes some consultation, and I understand consultations are still going on, but this, of course, will not stop us from getting on with the rest of our agenda items. When nominations for the Drafting Committee are ready, we will announce it so that it will be done with your approval.

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO

- 6. Report of the Fifty-third Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome, 14-18 September 1981)
- 6. Rapport de la cinquante-troisième session du Comité des produits (Rome, 14-18 septembre 1981)
- 6. Informe del 53 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (Roma, 14-18 de septiembre de 1981)

A.M. de FREITAS (Chairman, Committee on Commodity Problems): As Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems I am pleased to introduce the report, document CL 80/6, of the 53rd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which held its session from 14-18 September, 1981. The Session was well attended: 60 members of the Committee and 6 observers from other Member Nations participated, and 8 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were also represented. The meeting provided a very good opportunity for governments to review and reach conclusions on several problems of serious concern to both developed and developing countries. In its customary review of the world commodity situation and outlook, the Committee noted that world agricultural trade continued to rise substantially, but pointed out that in real terms trade values had stagnated. It expressed concern that many commodities faced depressed market conditions, mainly because of the worldwide economic recession.

The CCP paid special attention to the three principal problems: the limited market growth for many commodities; the widespread decline and high volatility of prices and the lack of growth in export earnings of developing countries. Recognizing the complexity of these issues the Committee has requested the Secretariat to continue its study of commodity problems including causes and possible solutions.

On specific commodity matters the CCP reviewed the work of 7 of its intergovernmental groups on jute, oil seeds, meat, bananas, hard fibres, grain and rice, as well as of the working party on statistical intelligence for hides and skins, and endorsed their recommendations. An important policy issue which arose from the review of the reports of the intergovernmental group on oil seeds and fats concerned the possibility that the EEC might impose a tax on imported and domestic vegetable oils. The Committee noted that no proposal had so far been made by the Commission of the EEC but that such a tax was being considered as well as several options to several problems of the olive oil sector within the EEC, particularly in the context of the enlargement of the community to include Spain and Portugal. Delegates of exporting and a number of other countries reiterated their view that such a tax would be a protectionist move and contrary to international agreements and commitments. They regretted that the EEC was not yet in a position to state categorically that the matter had been finally dropped and appealed to the EEC to abandon all ideas of imposing any such tax. I may add that since the Committee met it has been reported in the press that the EEC Commission has further discussed the matter and that it has decided not to make a proposal for a tax on vegetable oil. The Commission has apparently established a six-point strategy of other action and negotiations aimed to solve the problems of olive oil in the enlarged Community. However, press reports suggest that the strategy still includes the possibility of a tax on vegetable oil being prepared towards the end of the transitional period following Spain's entry, depending on the results of the other action and negotiations.

The Committee also reviewed the work of its sub-committee on Surplus Disposal Tax (CSD). During the discussion several delegates pointed out that the monitoring of food aid transactions now more than 1 000 millions a year should not obscure attention to the wider aspects of the CSD's original mandate as new competitive trade measures are being adopted. The delegate of Canada suggested that the CSD should examine all practices that could have harmful effects on trade and it should consider whether in that context the FAO principles of surplus disposal and consultative procedures required any revision. Most delegates favoured this proposal but EEC member countries reserved their position. The Committee therefore decided to bring this question to the attention of the Council for its consideration, together with the views expressed by the delegates. Discussion on this issue is reported in paragraphs 58-60 of the report of the Committee. The Council's decision and/or guidance on this matter will be forwarded to the Washington sub-committee for further action.

The CCP also reviewed international action relating to agricultural commodities in other fora, especially in UNCTAD and the Common Fund. In discussing the role of FAO it gave its full support to collaboration between FAO and UNCTAD in the implementation of the integrated programme for commodities. It also stressed that pending the conclusion of the protracted negotiations under the integrated programme it would be desirable for FAO commodity groups to continue their useful work of reviewing the market situation and outlook, analysing commodity trade problems and examining possible solutions. The Committee was unanimous in its desire that full use be made of the technical expertise of FAO and the intergovernmental groups in future operations of the new common fund. In this context it welcomed the technical assistance already provided by FAO in advance identification of priorities and projects for selected commodities for possible financing by the second account of the Common Fund as also the provision made in the 1982 biennium for collaboration with the Common Fund.

The Committee also considered the Secretariat report on the follow-up action to the Conference Resolution 2/79 on commodity trade protectionism and agricultural adjustment. It recommended that, to the maximum extent possible, all countries should avoid erecting new barriers and new types of restrictions to trade and should minimize existing barriers as far as and as quickly as possible. It asked the Secretariat to prepare for its next session a further review of the follow-up action to Resolution 2/79 and it encouraged the intergovernmental groups which had not already done so, to carry out as quickly as possible, the work entrusted to them under this resolution.

The Committee also reviewed progress under the existing international agricultural adjustment guidelines. The purpose was to assist the Conference discussion of this item. The Committee agreed that while there had been some positive developments in the directions indicated by the policy guidelines of international agricultural adjustment, progress had been uneven, unbalanced and had been seriously inadequate. It also agreed with the need to improve the paucity of data if the monitoring exercise was to be worthwhile.

Finally, the CCP discussed the Organization's commodities Programme of Work for 1982 for 1982/83. It valued and supported FAO's objectives, commodities intelligence work, welcomed the proposed resumption of the per caput fibres consumption survey and appreciated the assistance given to developing countries in formulating commodity policy at the country level. It agreed, however, with the economies proposed to release resources into higher priority activities.

To sum up, this was the 53rd Session of this old-established Committee dealing with the world's commodity problems. It was in my opinion a useful session. It enabled FAO Member Nations to consult together on a wide range of complex issues affecting world agricultural trade which is so very important for so many countries, both developing and developed, especially those heavily dependent on commodity exports for their foreign exchange earnings and development. I hope that the Council will endorse the CCP's report and provide guidance on the future work of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The report is now open for discussion.

Sra. D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Al intervenir sobre el tema 6, la delegación de Colombia desea señalar los elementos principales que, a nuestro juicio debe destacar sobre el documento CL 80/6. Pensamos que en el documento que se presentó al Comité, el Director General hizo un buen trabajo sobre la aplicación de la Resolución 2/79 de la pasada Conferencia. Estamos de acuerdo con el Comité en que es necesario continuar examinando sistemáticamente las novedades en materia de proteccionismo, y por ello, apoyamos la solicitud a la Secretaría de preparar otro estudio al respecto, teniendo en cuenta las novedades que se produzcan en el GATT, la UNCTAD, otros foros internacionales y las conclusiones de los grupos intergubernamentales.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que debemos lamentar la situación preocupante de la reducción de los excedentes agrícolas en los países en desarrollo, y deplorar que sigan prevaleciendo los principales factores que impidieron, particularmente el año pasado, las exportaciones agrícolas de los Estados del Tercer Mundo.

Será necesario insistir ante todos los gobiernos para que resistan seria y positivamente a las presiones en favor del incremento del proteccionismo y que hagan todos los esfuerzos para reducir las actuales pesadas barreras comerciales.

Sobre el párrafo 77, donde aparecen explicaciones de algunos gobiernos, esperamos que ojalá superen las dificultades que representan los factores sociales y políticos actuales para que esos Estados puedan convertir en realidad el compromiso que adquirieron en la Cumbre de Ottawa, a cuya declaración se hace referencia en el párrafo 73.

El Consejo podría transmitir a la Conferencia la esperanza de que el pronto funcionamiento del Fondo Común contribuiría a estabilizar los precios de los productos agrícolas; solo los precios remunerativos y estables así como acceso garantizado a los mercados, podrán contribuir al mayor aumento de la producción que todos deseamos.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la preparación del estudio detallado sobre los principales problemas de productos básicos solicitado en el párrafo 87 del documento 6. En relación con el párrafo 58 sobre la violación de las reglas del GATT por parte de la Comunidad Económica Europea, declaramos que la misión de Colombia ante el GATT nos ha confirmado que dos paneles que estudiaron sendas quejas de Australia y Brasil, se ocuparon de la posible violación de las reglas del GATT, al otorgar la Comunidad Económica Europea enormes subsidios a la producción de azúcar, lo cual ha constituido un factor de perturbación e inestabilidad en el mercado, párrafo 75 del documento 6, con grave perjuicio para países que, como Colombia, somos productores y venimos respetando las disposiciones del comercio del Convenio sobre el Azúcar.

Los nuevos elementos que se han introducido en la política azucarera de la Comunidad Económica Europea, a los cuales se hace referencia en el párrafo 76, parece que serán igualmente negativos o aún peores que los anteriores. Mientras se cultivan las remolachas en mayor o menor cantidad. De todos modos aceptamos la explicación de que se está en una fase experimental y abrimos un compás de espera hasta conocer las conclusiones del Grupo de Trabajo designado en el seno del GATT para estudiar el asunto, conclusiones que se conocerán en marzo del año próximo.

Proponemos que el Consejo ratifique la Resolución 30/80 del 16 período de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y tantas otras solicitudes en el mismo sentido sobre la necesidad de que la Comunidad Económica Europea adhiera al Convenio Internacional sobre el Azúcar, o en cualquier otra forma positiva racionalice su política azucarera para evitar la prolongación de la deplorable situación actual del mercado del azúcar.

Hace dos semanas, una misión colombiana de alto nivel visitó la Comunidad Económica Europea en Bruselas, para gestionar el acuerdo técnico planteado entre el Grupo Andino y la Comunidad. Esperamos que ese acuerdo se firme antes de finalizar 1981, y que signifique un primer cambio de la política de la CEE, política que en su forma actual excluye de sus beneficios a la gran mayoría de los países de América Latina.

Nuestra adhesión a la posición unánime de los países latinoamericanos y del Caribe, asumida en la pasada Conferencia Regional de La Habana. La actuación franca y decisiva de la misión de Colombia ante el GATT y la respuesta que nuestra misión ante la CEE en Bruselas, obtuvo del Encargado de la Comunidad para Asuntos de América Latina, confirman que la posición de Colombia en la FAO es plenamente coherente. Sobre las Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales estamos de acuerdo en que los resultados globales para el comercio agrícola han sido muy limitados. Las negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales no han contribuido a eliminar las barreras no arancelarias ni han aumentado el flujo de divisas para los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la elaboración de un programa de acción para liberalizar el comercio de los productos agrícolas con base en la Resolución 2/79, y apoya la decisión de que los Grupos Intergubernamentales continúen examinando todas las formas de proteccionismo y sus repercusiones en el comercio internacional.

Apoyamos la propuesta de Canadá contenida en el párrafo 59. Este Consejo debe lamentar que no haya existido consenso para reanudar las negociaciones acerca de un Convenio sobre el Comercio del Trigo y hace un llamado urgente a la comunidad internacional a fin de que realice un esfuerzo conjunto para que se superen las dificultades y se logre cuanto antes ese convenio.

En relación con el programa de trabajo de la FAO en el campo de productos básicos, apoyamos la necesidad y conveniencia de que esta Organización continúe e intensifique el apoyo técnico que viene ofreciendo a la Organización Internacional del Café, al Consejo Internacional del Azúcar, al Consejo Internacional del Trigo y a las demás organizaciones que se ocupan de problemas que interesan a los países en desarrollo particularmente. Consideramos acertado que las actividades de la FAO en esta materia se adelanten en plena y estrecha cooperación con la UNCTAD, el GATT y los demás Organismos Internacionales competentes.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): First of all I would like to point out that we participated in the work of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and my delegation is pleased to support and endorse this report.

Briefly I would like to make just a few comments, that the discussion during the Committee's session revealed an unfortunate fact, that agriculture exports from developing countries declined in real terms by 3 percent, though they increased by 6 percent in nominal terms; that the Committee noted lack of growth in export earnings of developing countries and further deterioration of the economic condition and deterioration in the terms of trade, particularly when we take into account that the agricultural input of developing countries rose by 23 percent. We are convinced that persisting recession in developing countries is one of the serious reasons for this unfortunate and unfavourable situation of developing countries but also we must not only mention but underline the fact that protectionism on the side of developing countries is one of the main reasons for the deterioration in the terms of trade and the situation with export earnings of developing countries. Also that was in our view insufficient progress in implementation of the agreements reached in the multilateral trade negotiations.

My delegation supports the Canadian proposal contained in paragraph 59 and also we endorse the future Programme of Work of the Committee.

A. J.M. ISSA (Mexico): Hemos tomado nota con preocupación de las condiciones adversas que privan en los mercados de exportaciones agrícolas de los países en desarrollo; la persistencia de los bajos precios y la debilidad de la demanda afectan gravemente la situación de los productos mismos que se acentúa como consecuencia de las prácticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados. La situación que se describe por el documento del Comité amplia y detalladamente, que nos ocupa, refleja plenamente la distancia que tenemos todavía que cubrir para alcanzar los objetivos del reajuste agrícola.

Los países subdesarrollados debemos reorientar nuestros esfuerzos. No podemos continuar vendiendo cada vez más barato nuestros productos para importar alimentos cada vez a precios más caros. Debemos, siempre que sea posible, diversificar nuestros productos y aumentar nuestra suficiencia alimentaria. Para lograrlo, tendremos que proteger a nuestros sectores agrícolas, subvencionando a nuestros productores. Este curso de acción podrá coadyuvar a mejorar la situación de los países en desarrollo más afortunados en cuanto a climas y tierras. Otros, sin embargo, tendrán que mantenerse especializados en la producción y exportación de un pequeño número de materias primas y productos agrícolas. Para estos países es urgente encontrar garantías de acceso de sus productos a los mercados de los países desarrollados, mecanismos que permitan estabilizar, aumentar los ingresos que obtienen de las exportaciones. Debemos recordar que estos ingresos son vitales porque permiten comprar los alimentos que no pueden producir.

Nuestra delegación lamenta los escasos logros que en materia de comercio resultan del esfuerzo común. Es de gran importancia para todos el pronto funcionamiento del Fondo Común de la UNCTAD. Es también imprescindible superar el estancamiento del Convenio Internacional del Trigo, pero quizás lo fundamental resida en que el compromiso para resistir las presiones proteccionistas, conduzcan a los países desarrollados a aplicar medidas prácticas que significativamente sean adversas en esta materia. Apoyamos plenamente lo contenido en el párrafo 27 referente a la necesidad de que el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos cuente con un análisis profundo de las causas que determinan los fenómenos que estudia.

A esa sugerencia deseamos añadir otra de que el Comité cuente con una serie de sugerencias prácticas que podrían coadyuvar a resolver los problemas de los productos básicos, las mismas sugerencias que solicitaría adoptar a las instancias que corresponden. Consideramos que un análisis a fondo sobre las causas de los problemas y una serie de medidas sugeridas para corregir los dichos efectos, podrían hacer más útil el trabajo del Comité.

Sra.M. IVANKOVICH de AROSEMENA (Panamá): Pasaremos en seguida a referirnos al tema 6 del Programa sobre el Informe del 53 período de sesiones del Comité de Productos Básicos formulando algunas consideraciones.

El Capítulo II del documento 80/6 nos habla de las principales cuestiones relativas a la situación y a las perspectivas mundiales de los productos básicos. A este respecto expresamos nuestra marcada preocupación por la negativa y persistente baja de los precios de productos, como el azúcar, café, cacao y otros productos de origen tropical, aparejadas estas bajas a aumentos en los precios de productos como el trigo y cereales secundarios exportados, principalmente por países desarrollados, tal como ocurrió en 1980 y como se expresa en los párrafos 13 y 17 del documento 80/6.

Tenemos que señalar que en el caso del banano, el alza de precios del presente año como consecuencia de una brusca disminución de la oferta, obedece fundamentalmente a catástrofes naturales. A este señalamiento debemos agregar las consideraciones que sobre las barreras comerciales se formulan en el párrafo 21, y más adelante en los párrafos 74 y 75, en el sentido de que el alto nivel de los precios de sustentación de algunos países desarrollados, estimula la producción nacional a un alto costo, tanto para los

consumidores y contribuyentes de los países con políticas proteccionistas, con las funestas consecuencias para los países exportadores, que ven así disminuida su producción y sus ingresos en divisas; de aquí que nuestra delegación considere que no está de más insistir en que aquellos países que tienen alto nivel de protección examinen su política teniendo presente la necesidad de ajustes estructurales y requisitos de eficiencia, así como los objetivos de la Estrategia Internacional para el Desarrollo y de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

Por otra parte, dada la coincidencia a que se llega tanto en los debates nacionales como internacionales donde se analizan los problemas agropecuarios en general y, muy particularmente, el de la producción alimentaria en lo referente al deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio de muchos productos básicos unido al significativo aumento de los costos de producción, a los altos tipos de interés y a los incrementos de los costos de transporte, consideramos válido lo expuesto al final del párrafo 23, en el sentido de que deben señalarse en forma cada vez más exhaustiva las dimensiones, causas y efectos de estos productos.

Por último, queremos referirnos en forma muy especial al banano. Lo hacemos por la importancia que este producto tiene en el conjunto de las exportaciones agrícolas, no sólo de nuestro país, sino de otros países de la región latinoamericana y en otras regiones. Al respecto, queremos manifestar, conviene que mientras se logran las adecuadas perspectivas para los elementos de un acuerdo internacional sobre el banano, el Comité de Productos Básicos reanude su examen de los hechos relacionados con la economía mundial del banano, con análisis detallados de las perspectivas a corto y mediano plazo para la oferta, la demanda y los precios. Este examen es de vital importancia para los países productores exportadores de bananos.

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Permítame, señor Presidente, que en primer lugar felicite al Presidente del Comité por su Informe y por la claridad con que nos ha presentado las dificultades que afectan a la temática de los productos básicos. Es por eso importante respaldar la continuación de los estudios en la búsqueda de soluciones en especial de aquellas que afectan a los productos básicos especiales. En igual contexto, resulta de suma importancia, destacar otra vez el efecto negativo de las prácticas proteccionistas sobre el comercio de productos básicos. En cierto modo, parece alentadora la información que nos transmitiera acerca de las gestiones en la CEE respecto de los aceites. Resulta, pues, evidente que la cuestión de las prácticas proteccionistas debe ser mantenida dentro de los temas fundamentales del Comité.

En tal sentido la filosofía imprimida por la FAO en documentos y declaraciones oficiales deberían servirnos de inspiración fundamental.

Las gestiones de las que nos ha informado hace pocos momentos la delegación de Colombia, nos indican que debemos acentuar nuestra diligencia individual para alcanzar los objetivos fijados, particularmente los que interesan a América Latina.

Antes de concluir deseo respaldar el contenido del Informe que tenemos a nuestra consideración, así como el plan de tareas futuro del Comité.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Since we participated in the deliberations of the Committee, I would like only to endorse the main points and highlight the main issues.

My delegation regrets that the main factors which constrained and hampered the growth of the trade of developing countries in 1980 still prevail. The prices of major commodities continue to fall and they remained low in 1981.

We would strongly like to voice our concern about the protectionism measures, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and we endorse most of the findings and the recommendations of the Committee, particularly those contained in paragraphs 27 and 74.

I strongly urge that our governments should resist pressures for increased protectionist measures and make all efforts to reduce existing trade barriers, particularly those affecting the exports of the developing countries.

We strongly support the need for continued and systematic review of developments in protectionism, particularly in the agricultural trade.

DATO'SERI RADIN SOENARNO bin RADIN SOENARIO (Malaysia): My delegation would like to compliment the Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems for his summary of the deliberations of the Fifty-Third Session of the Committee.

I would like to refer this meeting to paragraph 43 of the Report. We have been closely following the proposal by the European Economic Commission to impose tax on vegetable oils. In line with this conclusion in paragraph 43 I would appreciate if the Secretariat could inform this meeting of the latest developments. It is understood that the EEC discussed this matter at this meeting on 8 September 1981. Could we be informed of the conclusions or decisions taken regarding this matter ?

Malaysia would like also to support the proposal of Argentina that protectionism be kept as an item during this Session.

P.S. MCLEAN (United Kingdom): The Chairman of the Committee mentioned in his introductory statement paragraphs 58 and 60 of the Report concerning the European Economic Community's position on the Canadian proposal in paragraph 29 and as we undertook to do, this matter has been reviewed. I think it might be helpful to the Council to hear a short statement on this point by the representative of the European Economic Community on behalf of its ten Member States. I would ask, Mr. Chairman, if you would agree to give him the floor.

B. SÜSSMILCH (EEC): I would like to speak to two positive developments in the Community. First I would like to repeat what we have said about our sugar policy in the CCP. That means that we have introduced the so-called correspondability which asks the producers for a fee of about 39.5 percent if they do not follow the discipline of the regulations.

Second, on 26 October, there was a decision of the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg that the Community should take up discussions with the representatives of the International Council to review the possibility of the eventual accession of the Community to an improved International Sugar-Agreement .

So far as the Committee on Surplus Disposal is concerned we had a coordination meeting in Brussels and we came to the following conclusion: first, that the Community is of the opinion that the CSD has fulfilled its role to mutual satisfaction; and second, therefore, there is no need to enlarge the present mandate.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I just want to make three brief comments with respect to the report, which we find very helpful and quite a laudable document.

With respect to the Canadian proposal that has been mentioned several times this morning we do not favour Council endorsement of this proposal or the need for revision. We believe that the FAO principles have served the international community well for over twenty-five years and therefore do not believe that an exercise looking towards revision or renegotiation is desirable.

Regarding the question of the adoption of this report the delegates will have noted the reservation at the bottom of page 11 which we introduced with respect to paragraph 70 on the Wheat Trade Convention. It is our assumption that when we adopt the report the United States reservation will continue to be reflected on this matter.

Finally, on the subject of protectionism we share this concern that many delegations have expressed this morning regarding protectionist measures and perhaps lack of significant developments during the MTN in the agricultural sector. On the other hand, I think that no delegation here is immune from criticism on this point. I have noted that there have been significant developments in agricultural production in a number of developing countries. Some of these were highlighted at the Cancún Conference. I think what has evolved is a recognition that in several key sectors trade barriers even in the developing countries themselves are serving as an impediment to the expansion of trade among developing countries. So I think this is indeed a subject which we all want to be quite alert to, continuing the activities towards reducing protectionism. I think this is a global problem and one which is not confined only to the developed countries markets.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela se asocia complacida a la satisfacción con que ha sido acogida por este Consejo la presentación sencilla y clara del Informe sobre el 53° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos y desea felicitar al señor representante del Brasil por las explicaciones que nos ha extendido sobre las acciones de dicho Comité.

Una revisión de las intervenciones sobre este tema en esta mañana, da la medida de cómo específicamente la región latinoamericana es sensible al grave problema del proteccionismo y al problema de los subsidios que continúan afectando tan seriamente el comercio internacional y, especialmente, las relaciones comerciales latinoamericanas.

La delegación de Venezuela hace suyas estas observaciones, e invita a este Consejo a que eleve una vez más sus acciones en el sentido de que se limiten sus dañosas acciones. Al mismo tiempo, apoyamos la proposición de Canadá, contenida en el párrafo 59 de este Informe y extendemos igualmente esta aprobación a la materia contenida en el Informe de este Comité.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I just wish to make a very brief intervention on this matter. My delegation would like to endorse the Report of the 53rd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We would like particularly to underline the concern expressed by the Committee that many commodities of export interest to us in developing countries are faced with depressed market conditions which restrict the growth of our exports.

We also endorse the Committee's view on protectionism and hope that their slower trend to reduce the tariff and tariff barriers will be increased. We wish to particularly endorse the Committee's concern at the slower pace at which negotiations were proceeding on commodities covered by the UNCTAD Integrated Programme and hope that these negotiations would be expedited.

Finally, we endorse the FAO Commodity Programme of Work for 1982/83.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Solamente quiero expresar la satisfacción por haber sido elegido vicepresidente de este Consejo.

Nuestra delegación quiere sumar su voz a la de los numerosos delegados de países que han expresado su preocupación por el constante deterioro del comercio de los productos agropecuarios de los países en desarrollo, que son, como bien se sabe, la base de sus respectivas economías.

Subrayamos igualmente nuestra preocupación por la constante tendencia de las medidas proteccionistas, que afectan gravemente las economías de los países subdesarrollados.

Deseamos también reiterar nuestro apoyo a la Resolución 2/79, e insistimos en que se continúen los esfuerzos para ponerla en práctica.

Igualmente consideramos que el tema del proteccionismo debe ser el tema constante dentro de los del Comité de Productos Básicos.

CHAIRMAN: Any more speakers? Now, then, this subject has been discussed; the Report of the CCP has been well received. The debates, although brief, are very helpful both to the Committee and to the FAO Secretariat. The reservation raised by the United States on the Wheat Trade Convention is already reflected in the Report.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): There is a question regarding the latest situation on tax on domestic and imported vegetable oils by the EEC, whether the Secretariat has any latest information. The latest situation regarding the possibility that the EEC might impose a tax on domestic and imported vegetable oils was summarized in the introduction by the Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems earlier this morning. However, the request was made by Malaysia that the Secretariat can give a somewhat more detailed account, although the Committee will note that this is based mainly on press reports and not on official information published by the EEC Commission. After discussion of the matter, the Commission has apparently decided not to propose a tax on imported and domestic vegetable oils as one of the solutions to the problems which would result from the enlargement of the Committee to include Spain. The Commission has elaborated an overall

strategy to safeguard provisions, to maintain the balance between supply and demand for olive oil within the EEC, to limit the increase in budgetary expenditure while taking into account the interest of supplying countries of other vegetable oils.

This overall strategy is based on the following elements: introducing provisions to ensure that the ratio between the consumer price of olive oil and the competing seed oil is reduced and does not exceed the ratio of two to one, exploring with the other countries concerned all possible means to ensure maintaining the current balance between the consumption of olive oil and other oils and fats, introducing methods to promote the conversion of olive oil areas to other crops, making the transitional period for adjusting the Spanish import regime as long as possible.

When Spain enters the EEC, negotiating within Article 24.6 of the GATT, changes in the EEC import regime for oils and oil seeds, the need for the introduction of a tax on vegetable oils will be decided depending upon the results of the various other actions envisaged when the full financial effects of the Spanish entry emerge.

The Secretariat is proposing to prepare a paper for the Inter-Governmental Group on Oil Seeds on this subject later.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think it needs any more comment. In thanking Mr. de Freitas for his valuable assistance we adopt this report.

7. Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment
7. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne l'ajustement agricole international
7. Progresos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The Third Progress Report on monitoring the progress of international agricultural adjustment in the light of eleven policy guidelines, document C 81/24, will be discussed by the Conference under Agenda item 7.1.

As you have seen from the CCP Report which has been before you, the Committee discussed progress in agricultural adjustment so as to help Conference discussions. The Committee's discussion, however, was based on a short summary of the Conference paper. Nevertheless, the views of the Committee, as expressed in paragraphs 89-91 of its Report do give some guidance to the Conference. I assume the Council may wish the Secretariat to table in Commission I the relevant section of the CCP as a paper in the Conference Room sessions. I do not know whether at this stage the Council wishes to undertake a substantive discussion of this document C 81/24. The highlights were discussed by the CCP, and the full paper will be examined by Commission I of Conference later this month.

The structure of the paper is straight forward, guideline by guideline monitoring plus an overview. The first three guidelines are concerned with production, outputs, inputs and incentives. Progress has been mixed, the four percent target still eluding countries where some 60 percent of developing country populations live. While the evidence is rather weak, it does seem as if pricing policies which result in insufficient incentives and lack of sufficient investment are two of the underlying causes of the overall relatively low growth of production. There has been progress, but it is patchy. There are considerable regional differences. The African situation is of particular concern. Developing countries have become more dependent on imports as a source of food calories. The self-sufficiency ratio for cereals for developing countries as a whole has gone down. In fact, it has gone down from 96 percent in 1977 to 93 percent in 1980. The fall has been much steeper for the middle income countries because they can afford imports. FAO has been active in what is in practice a new phase, introducing nutritional considerations in agriculture and rural development projects. Guidelines 7, 8 and 9 refer to trade and trade-related aspects. From the viewpoint of international agricultural adjustment, progress in trade is inadequate. For developing countries the basic picture is one of fast imports and slow exports. The evident need for improvement in world food security remains. There have been a number of achievements at the international level which are well known to the Council. The Common Fund for Commodities, the extension of the International Monetary Fund, Compensatory Facility are two major examples, but overall, much more remains to be done.

In production, there is little indication as yet of any significant opening-up of markets of agricultural exports, including processed products of developing countries.

As regards assistance, the subject of Guidelines 10 and 11, the position is that the level of transfer of resources and technology referred to in Guideline 10 has not been reached. The shortfall in 1979 was over 40 percent. There has been a small increase in the share of the agricultural sector in total official external assistance.

As is well known, the target of 10 million tons of cereals as food aid has never been reached. A share of imports of cereals of the lower-income countries which are covered by food aid has steadily declined since 1976/77. The essence of any overview must be that whilst there have been some positive development indicated by the Guideline, it has been both uneven and seriously inadequate.

CHAIRMAN: We now have this item to discuss. As Mr. Islam said, it is going to the Conference, and there will be another opportunity to discuss there as well, but the subject is now open. Does anyone wish to speak?

D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Trataré de ser mas breve esta vez.

Para una intervención tan breve como ésta, ya a las puertas de la Conferencia, este tercer informe, después de que en 1975 se aprobaran las orientaciones para el reajuste agrícola internacional, la opinion de la delegación de Colombia podría sintetizarse en parte de la afirmación que se hace en el resumen del documento C 81/24.

Durante los dos últimos años los progresos encaminados a alcanzar los objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional fueron limitados y poco uniformes; además, es indudable que los temas contenidos en las once orientaciones se relacionan muy directamente con los de otros asuntos que vamos a tratar en la próxima Conferencia; de allí, que nos vayamos a limitar a hacer algunas breves consideraciones sobre ciertas orientaciones.

Orientación numero uno: Aumento de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo en un 4 por ciento. Ese mismo 4 por ciento fue fijado en Estrategia para el Segundo Decenio; es el mismo objetivo incluido en la Resolución I de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en el lejano 1974; y es el mismo 4 por ciento que de nuevo encontramos ahora en la Estrategia Internacional para el Tercer Decenio.

En el cuadro 1.1 del documento C/81/24 aparece el aumento limitado al 2, 4 por ciento entre 1978 y 1980 para la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo. Es decir, poco mas de la mitad del 4 por ciento previsto.

El amplio contenido de la orientación 3 pone de manifiesto la necesaria interdependencia en la agricultura mundial. Desafortunadamente, los países desarrollados, en muchos casos, no han disminuido, sino aumentado los incentivos a sus productores, lo cual ha creado factores de perturbación e inestabilidad en el mercado. En cuanto a los países en desarrollo, en esas condiciones resulta evidente que no están en situación muy favorable para dar incentivos adecuados a los agricultores a fin de aumentar la producción, porque sin precios remunerativos ni estables, ni acceso garantizado a los mercados los productores de países en desarrollo carecen de todo estímulo.

Orientaciones 10 y 11. Las orientaciones 10 y 11 siguen estancadas. Aún continuamos hablando de cifras correspondientes a 1974. No se han alcanzado las metas fijadas hace tantos años; se han hecho progresos muy limitados en el aumento de la producción de la agricultura; en el total de los compromisos oficiales exteriores en términos reales los compromisos multilaterales de asistencia a la agricultura aumentaron muy poco en los últimos años.

J. SCHERER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the detailed and informative Third Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustments. It supplements the Secretariat's Report C 81/2 in an excellent way. Because of the connection between the individual subject matters, there are many overlappings with the discussion of agenda item 6 of the 21st Session

of the Conference. We agree that a substantive discussion on the subject before us should take place at the 21st Conference. I would like to make some remarks, nevertheless.

When the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment were adopted, we were fully aware of the fact that the objectives and measures envisaged are ambitious reference points and do not claim absoluteness. Under this aspect, my delegation is of the opinion that agricultural adjustment is on the whole proceeding in a positive way.

This already applies, for example, to the implementation of Guideline 1, the increase in production by 3.3 percent in developing countries in the 1970s, is an important performance which of course can be evaluated if two meagre years are picked out.

In its comment on Guideline 2, the FAO Secretariat points out that a higher agricultural production requires above all an expansion of investment. I would place the accent otherwise. First, the agricultural policy conditions must be favourable, then investment can also be made properly. Unfortunately, there is a great number of countries where increased investment fizzles out because of an inadequate agricultural policy.

The recent World Bank Report on World Development points out clearly: "Many developing countries pursue a policy which neglects farmers." This thesis is then specified on the basis of a price policy which impedes performance. This leads me to a few remarks about Guideline 3.

I would have appreciated it if the Secretariat had pointed out more clearly to what extent developing countries have used price policy as an incentive, or not.

The comments of the Secretariat on Guideline 4 quite rightly point out the problem of food losses. The estimated loss for cereals alone amounting to 250 million tons points to action to improve the food situation of developing countries.

Allow me still a few remarks about Guidelines 7 - 11. My country considers agricultural trade a normal case of partnership cooperation with developing countries in the agricultural sector. In my comments on the results of Guideline 7, I do not want to deal with the market organization of the EEC. This is within the competence of the Community institutions. This trade system, which was commented on in point 6 which is allowing the Federal Republic of Germany to be a big importer of agricultural commodities from developing countries in 1980/81, cannot be considered a protectionist one. In 1980/81 we imported food commodities DM. 9.7 billion from developing countries which means 45 percent out of all our food imports from so-called third countries.

In its assessment of the results of implementing Guideline 8, the Secretariat quite rightly points to the stagnation of negotiations on an International Wheat Trade Agreement. Almost ten-year-efforts were unfortunately not successful to conclude a new effective agreement which would contribute, apart from its stabilization function, also to an improvement in world food security.

To conclude, let me say a few words about Guideline 10, Agricultural Development Aid. As a positive factor it should be outlined that the official development assistance has increased since 1975 in favour of the agricultural sector. The underlying priorities for this development are part of our cooperation with developing countries. We will explain further details about this policy at the forthcoming Conference.

KONG CAN DONG (China) (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its report on the progress in the international agricultural adjustment in the past two years. The document provides the governments with an important clue for their discussion of problems in the development of world agriculture as it comments briefly on every item in accordance with the eleven guidelines, and in the light of the long-term development trends of international agriculture.

However, the document also indicates that for a long period of time only limited and sporadic progress has been made in the international agricultural adjustment. This is cause enough for concern.

We endorse the submission of the report to the Conference for consideration, and will be presenting our views then.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Nos referiremos en esta oportunidad al tema 7 de propósitos del reajuste agrícola internacional, recogido en el documento CL 81/24 consecuente con lo que esta delegación ha expresado, tanto en este Consejo como en otros debates sobre el tema. Tenemos que expresar nuestro desaliento y preocupación por el hecho de que los progresos del reajuste agrícola hayan sido desiguales y en conjunto gravemente deficientes. Mi delegación está muy de acuerdo con el razonamiento de que la clave para lograr de manera más satisfactoria los objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional, reside principalmente en un incremento más rápido de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo. En esto influyen tanto factores externos como internos.

Sobre los factores externos, nos hemos referido en nuestra anterior intervención. Con relación a los factores internos, estamos muy de acuerdo en que es esencial incentivar a los productores para incrementar la producción conforme a la orientación 3 del reajuste agrícola internacional, que señala además aspectos que tienen que ver con un adecuado uso de tecnología, con una concepción de equidad social, una plena integración de la población rural, un adecuado uso de los recursos naturales, teniendo en cuenta los particulares intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Nosotros queremos destacar la relación existente entre los objetivos de esta Orientación y el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional y lo aprobado en la Declaración de Principios y Programas de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, celebrada en esta sede en junio de 1979. De acuerdo con esta Orientación, podemos expresar a este Consejo, que Panamá se empeña actualmente en una incentivación a la producción, tanto agropecuaria como agroindustrial y forestal, mediante el establecimiento de tasas preferenciales de interés, el establecimiento de mecanismos nacionales de captación de recursos financieros. Estos acuerdos con las ventajas que nos da nuestro principal recurso natural que es nuestra posición geográfica. Los incentivos a que hacemos referencia, cubren aspectos tales como el de exoneración a los gravámenes de importación sobre insumos agropecuarios, así como exoneraciones de la renta gravable generada por la producción agropecuaria dentro de estos márgenes, los mismos que las tarifas preferenciales en la instalación y consumo de energía eléctrica a utilizar en actividades productivas agropecuarias, y básicamente en aquellos dirigidos a la producción de alimentos, sin excluir los asuntos reglamentarios afines a la utilización y uso adecuado de las tierras.

Con relación al contenido y objetivos de las restantes diez Orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, esta delegación ha expresado en etapas anteriores, la aceptación de las mismas en términos generales. Igualmente, a la luz de los progresos alcanzados en estas directrices, subrayamos e insistimos en los insatisfactorios logros alcanzados sobre todo en el marco internacional con relación a los adelantos de la orientación 7. Sobresale el hecho del lento crecimiento de los mercados para productos tropicales así como la competencia de las exportaciones procedentes de los países en desarrollo, a menudo ayudadas por subsidios y continuas restricciones a la importación en los principales mercados de los países desarrollados, así como en otros países en desarrollo. Así lo expresa el párrafo 60 del documento C 81/24.

Por otra parte, refiriéndonos a la orientación 8 sobre Seguridad Alimentaria sobresale igualmente el hecho de que al término de los años agrícolas nacionales 1980/1981, los remanentes de cereales descenderán probablemente a 220 millones de toneladas, lo que equivale a aproximadamente el 14 por ciento del consumo anual. Cuando la secretaría de esta Organización lo estima en un 17-18 por ciento, como queda expresado claramente en el párrafo 69.

Es frente a estos indicadores negativos que mi delegación destaca con satisfacción la adopción del Convenio constituyente del Fondo Común, el cual tiene como uno de sus objetivos básicos el logro de precios remunerativos para los productos, y justos para los consumidores; esto a través de su primera y segunda cuenta. Esperamos por tanto el feliz inicio de las operaciones de este Fondo.

Finalmente, tal y como se señala en el informe final de la Consulta Gubernamental sobre la Revisión y actualización de orientaciones para el reajuste agrícola internacional, nuestra delegación realmente cree que estas directrices constituyen un marco normativo de carácter global que, en un mundo obligatoriamente interdependiente, deben tener en cuenta con países al decidir sus propias políticas nacionales. De aquí que nuestro Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario tendrá muy en cuenta el contenido y objetivo de estas orientaciones como referencia en su declaración-informe que hará en la 21 Conferencia de esta Organización.

M. DE LOS SANTOS (Mexico): Debemos reiterar el agradecimiento al excelente análisis presentado por la Secretaría. Como es necesario, se ha buscado identificar las causas de los fenómenos facilitando a las delegaciones la comprensión y situación que prevalece en relación a la aplicación de las directrices del reajuste agrícola. Nuestra delegación sólo desea hacer un comentario especial con relación a los últimos indicadores que se refieren a la cooperación internacional.

Un fenómeno que sigue preocupando es el que se presenta en relación a la Orientación 7, el lento crecimiento de las exportaciones agrícolas de los países subdesarrollados, si se le compara con el de sus importaciones de alimentos. A nuestro entender, esto refleja una compleja situación que es necesario modificar en la medida de lo posible aumentando la diversificación de la producción en los países pobres, y dando pasos efectivos para garantizar el acceso de los productos de estos; países a los grandes mercados, y así estabilizar e incrementar los ingresos que obtienen de la exportación.

La situación comercial de los países subdesarrollados ha venido empeorando, según se nos informa en los comentarios a la Orientación 9. La erosión del valor adquisitivo del excedente comercial pone a los países pobres en una de las situaciones más difíciles de los últimos años. Preocupa aún más el que se trate en este caso de una tendencia que se viene acentuando año con año. Es difícil hacer un balance equilibrado de la aplicación de las orientaciones, si bien hay que reconocer progresos en algunos campos. Nos parece que la situación general aún deja mucho que desear. Esto queda confirmado por el rezago de los países menos desarrollados y por la persistencia del hambre. Las orientaciones mismas no establecen compromisos que sean imposibles de cumplir, pero si en estos años no logramos aplicarlos, seguramente en el futuro deberemos revisar las orientaciones elevando las metas porque no habremos logrado vencer el rezago.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): My comments will be addressed mainly to Guideline I where it appears that reports from various sources have indicated that there is a steady increase in food imports, there is a decline in local food production and we find that one of the difficulties which some developing countries face with respect to international agricultural advancement has to do with prices of imported food versus the price of locally produced foods. We find that foods which are produced at highly subsidized rates in developed countries are exported to developing countries at fairly low prices and thus present problems for local producers who find themselves unable to sell their locally produced foods at the imported price. While this may be a short-term advantage to urban dwellers who may have access to cheap foods, it is in the long run a serious disincentive to local production.

I therefore think it is necessary for a means to be devised by which developed countries work closely together with developing countries to ensure that foods locally produced, as well as imported, are adjusted, to the extent that locally produced foods do not face any serious disabilities as a result of importation of food from advanced countries.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Again, we would like to compliment the Secretariat on the useful analysis contained in document C81/24 and I presume that it will be possible to go into this problem in much greater detail during the Conference.

There are several points we would like to make regarding the document at this time. One in particular is that we think it is unfortunate that the analysis does not cover the centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe. It is well known that the grain import requirements of this region have, in particular since 1973 and 1974, continued to have a major impact on trade and on world stock requirements; and it seems to us that any attempt to analyse policies of international agricultural adjustments must take into account the import requirements of the major region. In a similar fashion we do not think that the data adequately cover the changes in the higher-income developing countries. National economic development here has emphasized exports of non-agricultural commodities, which in turn facilitates the purchase of foodstuffs. I recognize that there are concerns that have been expressed here this morning regarding import levels as compared to exports. I am reminded of a recent report by the Secretary General of UNCTAD in which, in one part of the report, he praised the fact that the relative share of manufactures in LDC exports had increased significantly, and in another part lamented the fact that the relative share of agriculture went down. You cannot get both, so one has to go up at the expense of the other reality.

I think that there are good economic cases in which, in developing countries, the food self-sufficiency per se would not make for good policy. I am not saying that we do not appreciate the concerns that have been expressed for many countries here, but I do not think one can generalize too much about the situation for all of the developing countries, and I think that is highlighted particularly in the report where the issue of the world food problem is identified as one that is particularly a serious situation for the less developed countries of Africa. The recent Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris appropriately focussed attention on these countries and the requirements for national and international action to improve the situation in this region.

We would like to note that that part of the analysis which compares the given performance with multilateral institutions of funding agricultural projects with the lagging bilateral activities in this sector as a principal contributor to the multilateral institutions. My government has been very much in the forefront and particularly in the last several years, in urging that these institutions give much higher priority to the food and agricultural projects and in our own Aid Programmes we now allocate almost 50 percent of our resources to food, nutrition and agriculture in rural development projects.

On the question of stocks of grain and their adequacy, I would like to point out that we have urged other countries to build and carry reserve stocks as called for by the FAO 5-Point Plan of Action. The United States now has adequate carry-over stock level with about 12 million tonnes in the farmer owned reserve and we consider these as important reserves for commercial transactions and as bulwark against wide swings in prices. The government owned wheat reserves amount to about 4 million tonnes. These are used to back up our Food Aid commitments.

With respect to the observations of some of the guidelines; I did not know that this item would be on the agenda this morning and I do not have my documents with me and the notations I made on it. One general observation I do recall is that there are many aspects of this report which point to the inadequacy of data and yet an attempt is made to draw conclusions based on this data and I think it is a very shaky analysis upon which to base conclusions and I would be much more reserved in some of the conclusions that have been drawn in this report, particularly with respect to national nutritional levels and so forth where it is quite clear that the data are simply too weak to support conclusions and I think this similar conclusion can be drawn with respect to the adequacy of investment.

Finally, let me just endorse the comments which were made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany in his opening point in which he pointed out that the guidelines must be seen as reference points rather than taken as absolutes.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Mon intervention sera brève sur ce point car, effectivement, les points de l'ordre du jour 6 et 7 de la Conférence vont nous absorber longuement. Simplement, les remarques que j'aimerais faire au sujet des progrès sur l'ajustement agricole international c'est que tout d'abord nous n'avons pas de surprise particulière en lisant le document C 81/24, nous en avons déjà largement parlé il y a un peu plus d'un mois au Comité des produits et la situation, évidemment, n'a pas changé depuis lors.

La seule remarque que je ferai touche un peu au fond et concerne les lignes d'orientation elles-mêmes; c'est que, lorsque ces lignes d'orientation avaient été adoptées en 1975, si je me souviens bien, on pensait qu'elles seraient en quelque sorte un guide pour les pays pour développer et mettre en oeuvre leur politique agricole en particulier et leur politique alimentaire également. En fait, au fil des années, on s'aperçoit que ces lignes d'orientation ont moins servi en quelque sorte de lignes directrices pour définir les politiques des uns et des autres pays développés ou pays en développement, mais que leur principal intérêt maintenant est en quelque sorte de permettre d'essayer de dégager des indicateurs pour mesurer les progrès établis d'une conférence à l'autre et, comme le disait déjà le Secrétariat lui-même dans le document qui nous avait été soumis lors du Comité des produits, l'évaluation des résultats est handicapée (c'était dans le paragraphe 3 du document du Comité des produits) par la pénurie de données dans nombre de domaines sur lesquels sont axés les lignes d'orientation, en particulier pour la nutrition, pour les groupes vulnérables, pour la consommation, pour les investissements et il apparaissait qu'en fait les données sont tellement floues que les conclusions qu'on pouvait tirer sur ces points ne pouvaient être qu'approximatives et n'avaient donc qu'une valeur toute relative.

Je me souviens qu'au Comité des produits une délégation - je ne sais plus laquelle - avait été amenée à exprimer des doutes sur l'utilité de consacrer des ressources à la surveillance des progrès si, comme l'indiquait le Secrétariat, il était si difficile et même impossible, de voir, pour certaines lignes, de réunir les données de base à partir desquelles des conclusions pourront être dégagées. Cette remarque était peut-être un peu excessive mais je vous la rappelle pour vous mettre en garde contre une confiance absolue dans ce qui a pu être essayé d'être mesuré.

Mais il y a aussi une chose qui était importante et qui avait été dégagée par le Comité des produits en ce qui concerne son jugement sur l'ajustement agricole international comme moyen du développement agricole, c'est que le point essentiel était une croissance plus rapide de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement pour permettre de mieux réaliser les objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international. Tant que l'on n'aura pas commencé par développer véritablement la croissance de la production alimentaire, les résultats sur les autres points de l'ajustement agricole international seront difficiles à réaliser et à partir de là, bien évidemment, il y aurait certaines conséquences, peut-être pénibles, il prendre pour les pays en développement eux-mêmes.

Nous reviendrons en détail lors de la Conférence sur le document lui-même. En effet, ce document sur l'ajustement et sur l'examen de ses progrès a servi en définitive à préparer toute l'analyse de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation inscrite au point 6 et il inspire une grande partie de ce qui sera discuté au point 7: "Stratégie internationale du développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture". Nous en reparlerons donc à ce moment-là.

S. MURTAZA (Pakistan): We join the other delegates who have already expressed their appreciation of the document C 81/24 which reflects the progress on agricultural adjustment.

A careful study of the document brings out the fact that in spite of a lot of effort in the past at national and international levels to improve the food and nutrition situation there are still areas where almost no improvement has been recorded, while in other areas the same has not been up to the mark.

The 11 guidelines adopted by the FAO Conference for 1975 still seem to be far from having been fully implemented or achieved. We consider it appropriate that the progress as indicated by the documents should be discussed in detail by the 21st Conference. We are certainly of the view that the monitoring which has resulted in the production of this document should continue. In whichever context such documents are utilized in future may not be important, the most important fact which we can assess at present is that production of such documents shall certainly be in the interest of us all, by providing important information.

S. AIDARA (Senegal): Ma délégation a eu l'occasion d'étudier ce document, ce troisième rapport sur l'ajustement agricole international. Nous voudrions d'ailleurs à cet égard remercier le Secrétariat. Comme nous le savons, le problème est très important, notamment pour les pays en développement, singulièrement en Afrique au moment où la plus haute priorité est accordée à l'agriculture et ceci d'ailleurs depuis déjà quelques années, au moment où également tous les efforts dans les pays en développement tendent vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale, comme collective du reste, sur la base de réserves nationales et de réserves régionales. Je voudrais tout simplement donner à cet égard l'exemple du CILS.

Mais mon intention n'est pas ici d'entrer dans les détails, ma délégation aura l'occasion d'examiner toutes ces lignes d'orientation au cours des débats en Commission lors de la Conférence générale. Je voudrais tout simplement remercier le Professeur N. Islam qui a introduit cette question et je pense que le texte de sa déclaration pourrait constituer une bonne base de référence pour les futures discussions en Commission au cours de la Conférence générale. C'est pour cela que je proposerai que le texte de son introduction soit distribué.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): We greatly appreciate the effort of the FAO Secretariat, particularly Professor Nurul Islam, to give us an idea of the progress in regard to this important subject of international agricultural adjustment. The Indian delegation in the FAO Conference will like to go into details and here, due to the time constraint, I will highlight only two or three points in this regard.

As regards this call for a faster and more stable rate of growth in world agricultural production, I must say that India, which started its struggle for self-sufficiency in food, right from the beginning of the 1950's, has achieved a considerable degree of progress in this direction. Our food grains production around 1950 was 55 million tonnes. It increased to about 90 million tonnes in 1965 and now we have it around 130 million tonnes. The highest achievement on record has been 132 million tonnes per year. Particularly in the case of wheat it may be worth mentioning that whereas in 1950 we had less than 7 million tonnes and in 1965 slightly below 12 million tonnes, the latest production in the year 1980/81 has

been of the order of 36.46 million tonnes. I do not want to burden this meeting with figures but in the case of rice the level of production has risen by almost 2½ times over the 30 years, and by and large India is self-sufficient in foodgrains. At the same time for raising nutritional levels and to cope with the rising demand, efforts for raising production are being continuously stepped up.

It will be worth mentioning that in our sixth five-year plan for 1980/85 agricultural and allied sectors are being provided with over 12 500 crores of rupees of outlay, and irrigation another 12 160 crores of rupees. In irrigation our target is to achieve an additional irrigated area of 2.8 million hectares per year or 14 million hectares over five years.

I join some fellow delegates who have mentioned some of the worries in regard to prices of fertilizers, energy, and so on. Those constraints are there and I think that in the later detailed discussions these will be brought out.

On the item incentives, I just want to mention that price policy has been a positive input in our agricultural policy with effect from the mid-sixties. The whole framework of price policy, marketing support and new production strategy was taken up simultaneously in the mid-sixties and this policy has generally produced good results. In more recent years we have particularly seen to it that in the face of rising costs of inputs the producer is not put to loss and he must be able to recover his cost of production and slightly more in order to keep up the incentive for the adoption of new technology.

In the case of paddy, for example, the price per quintal was rupees 74 in 1976/77 and it is rupees 115 per quintal in the current year. Similarly, in the case of wheat the price was rupees 110 per quintal in 1976/77 and it was rupees 130 last year. For the current years crop the price has still to be fixed.

I may also add that there is a continuous monitoring over the cost of production in India and every season when this procurement or minimum support price is fixed, we do take into account the rise in the cost of inputs so that the farmer is assured of a certain minimum price for the increased production which he is trying to achieve.

An important item in this IAA strategy is the rising share for developing countries in a general expansion of agricultural trade. Many of our friends from South America have already spoken in the context of the previous item on the need for expansion of agricultural exports. I would like to join them in saying that the world community must give adequate attention to this matter.

Aid and trade are the two means which enable the developing countries to earn foreign exchange or to be able to have the resources to import their needs. These needs include energy, fertilizers, machinery and many other things today.

Unfortunately it so happens that when the climate is difficult for aid it is also difficult for trade. But it is an occasion when one has to think that if aid cannot be stepped up, particularly in real terms, then trade must fill the gap. The efforts of UNCTAD, the Commodities Fund, etc. have given hope to developing countries. I wish to stress that the problems of the trade of agricultural commodities should not only receive attention, as they are receiving, but quick attention, so that the developing countries are in a better position to have exchange earnings and to accelerate their own development and gradually come to a level at which they do not need aid and are able to help each other better.

CHAIRMAN: That exhausts the list of speakers. We will come back to this item in Conference; therefore, those of you who have anything more to add will have an opportunity to do so.

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 80/PV/2

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA**

(3 November 1981)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la
présidence de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la
presidencia de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. I would like to remind the different groups that the election of the Drafting Committee and Chairman has not been done yet, and we would like to have this finished today so that they can start their work tomorrow, so when agreement has been reached among the groups please pass the information on to the Secretary General.

IV. INTER-AGENCY RELATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

IV. RELATIONS ET CONSULTATIONS INTERINSTITUTIONS SUR LES QUESTIONS D'INTERET COMMUN

IV. RELACIONES Y CONSULTAS CON OTROS ORGANISMOS SOBRE ASUNTOS DE INTERÉS COMUN

8. Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

8. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies, qui intéressent la FAO

8. Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Comme vous venez de l'indiquer, pour traiter de ce point de l'ordre du jour, le Conseil dispose en ordre principal du document C/81/19 qui reproduit le matériel à disposition déjà du Conseil en juin dernier, le document C 81/19 supplément 1 qui met à jour les informations disponibles à octobre de cette année et le rapport du Comité du Programme et des Finances. Comme vous le voyez, ces deux documents portent la cote des documents de la Conférence.

En effet, ces documents feront l'objet d'une discussion approfondie à la Conférence de la semaine prochaine. Aussi, je crois qu'il n'est pas nécessaire pour moi de m'étendre sur leur contenu dans la présentation. Je crois au contraire pouvoir me borner à épingler seulement les événements majeurs intervenus dans le système des Nations Unies depuis votre dernière réunion en juin et je souhaite en particulier mentionner les points suivants:

Premièrement, la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables tenue à Nairobi en août 1981; un document spécifique pour la Conférence (C/81/25 supplément 1) fait rapport en détail à ce sujet. Comme vous le savez, la FAO a été très active dans la préparation de cette conférence et sa contribution a été très appréciée.

Le Programme d'action approuvé à Nairobi a d'ailleurs retenu comme prioritaires des domaines d'importance capitale pour la FAO et où celle-ci est déjà très active comme (et je cite seulement quelques-uns d'entre eux) le bois de feu et le charbon de bois, la revalorisation de la biomasse ou la traction animale.

Le deuxième événement important depuis votre Conseil, auquel je voudrais m'adresser pour un très court moment, est la Conférence de Paris sur les pays les moins avancés tenue en septembre dernier. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence a adopté un nouveau programme substantiel d'action pour les années 1980 où l'importance du secteur agricole est nettement mise en relief. L'accent a été mis sur l'augmentation de la production agricole et le Programme se réfère en particulier au programme d'action adopté par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Une grande importance a aussi été attachée à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et mention est faite à cet égard en particulier du plan d'action de la FAO sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. En fait, le nouveau programme reprend d'une manière ou d'une autre nombre des lignes principales du Programme global minimum pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture que le Directeur général avait présenté à Paris durant son intervention en séance plénière.

Je voudrais maintenant très brièvement mentionner un dernier événement fort important qui s'est tenu en dehors du système des Nations Unies mais qui aura son influence sur le système, je veux dire la réunion à Cancun du sommet des 22 chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements qui a eu lieu les 22 et 23 octobre dernier. Comme vous le savez, il n'y a pas eu de conclusions officielles de cette réunion, mais, sur la base de ce que l'on sait, je voudrais mentionner deux points seulement:

Le premier point est l'accord de principe intervenu pour rechercher au sein du système des Nations Unies un consensus pour lancer des négociations globales sur une base mutuelle acceptable. La procédure de mise en route n'a cependant pas été définie et cette tâche reviendra donc maintenant à l'Assemblée générale qui, au cours de sa session actuelle, devra en discuter.

Le deuxième point que je souhaite mentionner est qu'au cours de cette réunion au sommet une importance majeure a été accordée au secteur agricole et l'on peut donc supposer et espérer que cette question sera un des sujets principaux des négociations globales si celles-ci, comme nous l'espérons tous, démarrent d'ici peu.

Je ne voudrais pas allonger mon intervention avec des éléments dont vous retrouvez l'essentiel dans le document disponible. Je crois que ces quelques mots suffisent en guise d'introduction à un sujet dont la Conférence, de toute façon, débattrà dès la semaine prochaine plus en détail.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Regnier, for this brief but complete introduction. As pointed out, this matter is going to Conference, it is a Conference document, and you will have the opportunity to discuss it in greater detail and depth than you can do during this very brief session of the Council. Now the subject is open for discussion.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El documento CL 81/19 fue publicado hace 8 meses. Nos ocupamos ya de él en la pasada sesión del Consejo, de manera que ahora vamos a limitar nuestras observaciones al suplemento 1. Ya en junio pasado habíamos manifestado el apoyo que ahora deseamos reiterar, a la participación de la FAO en los preparativos sobre conferencias y reuniones en general, porque todas son de beneficio a la comunidad internacional; en orden de tiempo la última de esas conferencias y sin duda la más importante fue la de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Países Menos Adelantados celebrada en septiembre pasado, en París. Creo que en nuestro informe debemos destacar la participación de la FAO, la asistencia que nuestra Organización ofreció a los países para que prepararan documentos y participaran en esa reunión, así como la presentación del programa global mínimo, que fue hecho por el Director General de la FAO.

En resumen, creemos que la FAO debe seguir haciendo todo cuanto pueda en favor de esos países menos adelantados con los cuales el Gobierno de Colombia es plenamente solidario.

Sobre el párrafo 2 del Suplemento 1, Negociaciones Globales, deberíamos lamentar que no se haya podido alcanzar aún ningún acuerdo sobre los procedimientos para las negociaciones, ni para el programa de esas negociaciones. Está muy bien que en el párrafo 3, como ya lo dijo el amigo Regnier, se mencionen las reuniones cumbres de Ottawa y Cancún, porque si bien esas dos cumbres no se realizaron en el marco de las Naciones Unidas, es evidente que la implementación de sus importantes recomendaciones tendrán impacto en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y en sus agencias. Esperamos que la Declaración de Ottawa por los siete países más industrializados del mundo, sobre estar listos a participar en las negociaciones globales se haga pronto una realidad. Igualmente celebramos otras partes de la Declaración de Ottawa, especialmente la relativa a la necesidad que tienen los países en desarrollo de lograr unas políticas agrícolas y alimentarias coherentes y la promesa de examinar los recursos para ese fin.

Ha venido siendo muy positiva la acción del Gobierno italiano en la Conferencia de los Países Menos Adelantados, en el seno de la Comunidad Económica Europea y también como actitud nacional italiana. Hemos tomado nota con satisfacción del anuncio que ha hecho el Sr. Emilio Colombo, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Italia sobre las reuniones en Roma, junto con los otros países miembros de la CEE y algunos donantes, y en estrecha relación con la FAO, lo cual nos complace; reunión en la cual se tratarían propuestas relativas a la producción de alimentos y a la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Como el Gobierno italiano ha manifestado que esa reunión se llevará a cabo lo antes posible, así se expresa en el párrafo 6, muy respetuosamente podríamos preguntar a los distinguidos colegas representantes de Italia en este Consejo, si bien ahora o más tarde en la Conferencia pudieran hacernos las primeras indicaciones acerca del programa, las características o los objetivos, la forma como ellos han concebido esa importante reunión. Naturalmente sabemos que todo ello requiere tiempo para una adecuada preparación. De manera que rogamos a los distinguidos representantes de Italia que tomen esta parte de la intervención sólo como una inquietud, muy respetuosamente hecha por la importancia que atribuimos a esa reunión.

Creemos que de todas maneras, el hecho importante que debemos registrar en nuestro informe es que, tanto en Ottawa como en Cancún se ha concedido importancia fundamental a la alimentación y a la agricultura.

Sobre la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo nos ocuparemos a fondo en la próxima Conferencia. En cuanto a la FAO, a la activa participación de nuestra Organización en la elaboración de esa estrategia, se ha asegurado ya el hecho conveniente de que los objetivos de la FAO se adecuen a los principios contenidos en la EID. Sin embargo, podríamos afirmar que la acción de la FAO deberá ser flexible para ir adaptándose a nuevos hechos si éstos se presentasen en el curso del decenio. En el párrafo 11 se habla del tema de los recursos, que fue tratado en la reunión conjunta del CPC y del CAC. En realidad los recursos son importantes. En ese párrafo se dice que con recursos suficientes se espera que el Tercer Decenio tenga más éxito que el Segundo Decenio. Yo diría que el Tercer Decenio sea menor fracaso que el Segundo. Creemos también que otra declaración importante que debemos recoger en nuestro Informe, fue la que se produjo en el ECOSOC cuando el ECOSOC estudió el informe conjunto del EID; reitero la necesidad de reforzar la cooperación económica internacional para el desarrollo dentro del marco multilateral del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En los párrafos 26 a 33 se habla de la Reunión Ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, de la Séptima sesión Ministerial. Nos parece que fue interesante. Esperamos que se implementen las recomendaciones, las principales conclusiones que aparecen en el Apéndice B del documento. Sin embargo, la delegación de Colombia considera que en el seno del CMA es igualmente o aún más importante el futuro del CMA. Dentro de este tema queremos destacar el hecho de que el Presidente del CMA, Ingeniero Francisco Merino Rábago, Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Naturales de México ha iniciado actividades y gestiones que el Gobierno de Colombia considera muy valiosas. Bajo ese enfoque realista, esperamos que el CMA vaya encontrando su verdadero cauce de mecanismo de coordinación, tal como se le definió en la Resolución de la Conferencia Mundial de Alimentación, que recomendó la creación del CMA. La semana pasada, Colombia fue reelegida en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas como Miembro del CMA y estamos ahora en las afortunadas condiciones de ofrecer el más pleno apoyo, el Gobierno colombiano, al Presidente y a los demás miembros de ese importante órgano con el propósito de fortalecer el carácter único de nivel ministerial que tiene el CMA en el seno de las Naciones Unidas. Esperamos que el Director Ejecutivo del CMA y sus colaboradores, en forma realista y seria, se adecuarán a estos cambios benéficos.

Y finalmente, sabemos todos que el FIDA es una agencia de las Naciones Unidas. Nada aparece sobre el FIDA en este documento. Nos interesa mucho más lo que ocurre en el FIDA que la Asamblea Mundial sobre el Envejecimiento que tendrá lugar en 1982, o el Año Internacional de los Impedidos, 1981. A quienes actuamos en el seno de la FAO, debe interesarnos el FIDA, al menos por tres razones. Primero porque el FIDA es el único organismo internacional de crédito dedicado exclusivamente a la agricultura. Segundo, porque el Centro de Inversiones de la FAO ha participado en la identificación y preparación de más de la mitad de los proyectos aprobados hasta ahora por el FIDA. Y tercero, porque son preocupantes las tendencias negativas de los recursos para la agricultura en el futuro, principalmente en el PNUD y en el Banco Mundial, dos de las principales fuentes multinacionales de financiación. Esperamos que en los próximos documentos sobre este tema de lo que está pasando en Naciones Unidas en relación con FAO, se incluya el FIDA. Tenemos sólo esporádicos contactos con los mandos medios del FIDA, ninguno a nivel político, ningún contacto a alto nivel; los amigos que actúan en la Junta Ejecutiva nos han informado que van mal las cosas en el FIDA; no se avanza hacia la reposición de los recursos; la EID ha pedido que se produzca esa reposición a fines del ochenta. Estamos ya a fines del 81 y no hay nada concreto sobre el particular. Algo más; las informaciones que tenemos parecerían indicar que si se logra esa reposición, sólo alcanzaría el nivel de 1 050 millones de dólares; 1 050 millones de dólares en términos reales serían 1 000 menos de la mitad de los 1 000 millones de dólares con que el FIDA inició sus actividades hace cuatro años; y si siguiéramos a ese mismo paso, nuestros recursos del FIDA desaparecerían por inanición. Cordial y respetuosamente pedimos a usted, que solicite al Representante del FIDA, a quien nos parece haber visto sentado en su sitio, al fondo a la derecha de la sala, para que diga cómo va ese proceso de reposición de los fondos del FIDA, que informe a este Consejo si siempre se llevó a cabo en Washington, en septiembre pasado, la reunión prevista entre el Presidente del FIDA y seis Ministros de Finanzas de las Categorías I y II, qué resultados hubo en esa reunión, cuál es el estado actual de esas negociaciones, cuáles son las posibilidades que vamos a tener en el seno del FIDA. Naturalmente que si no fuera posible que lo hiciera hoy el Representante del FIDA, lo hiciera mañana, o particularmente cuando discutamos el tema 30: "Examen de las actividades de campo referidas a la ayuda alimentaria y desarrollo agrícola".

Mme G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italie): Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie de ses expressions d'estime pour l'initiative que l'Italie a prise dans le domaine de la lutte contre la faim qui a été annoncée à Ottawa, et qui a été reprise à Paris au mois de septembre.

Je voudrais le rassurer. Nous sommes actuellement dans une phase avancée, également dans le domaine de la collaboration avec la Communauté.

Nous espérons vivement pouvoir donner plus de détails lors de la Conférence générale de la FAO au cours des prochaines semaines.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more speakers? If not, I take it that you are saving your comments for the Conference, and that this concludes the discussion on the activities of UN bodies of interest to FAO. I think there is nothing for Mr. Regnier to reply to and we will now close the discussion and go on to the next item.

9. UN Joint Inspection Unit Reports, including:
 9. Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies, notamment:
 9. Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas, en particular:
- Assistance by the United Nations System to Regional Inter-Country Technical Cooperation Institutions
 - Assistance fournie par le système des Nations Unies aux institutions multinationales régionales de coopération technique
 - Asistencia del sistema de las Naciones Unidas a las instituciones multinacionales regionales de cooperación técnica

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): The Joint Inspection Unit, of course, needs no introduction but the report does. It is a report which is reproduced and available to the members of the Council under the code number CL 80/9 and it is entitled Assistance by the United Nations System to Regional Inter-country Technical Cooperation Institutions. Both the Programme and Finance Committees have considered this report and their conclusions on it are reported in the report to these Committees.

Now as the title says, the report deals with institutions which are established at the initiative of a group of governments with part of their resources contributed temporarily by at least one organization of the United Nations system. Regional and global institutions which are the entire responsibility of the United Nations system are not covered in this report. As a general comment I should say that the report provides overall policy guidelines on how the United Nations systems assistance to such institutions should be conceived. The background information was gathered by the Joint Inspection Unit through questionnaires, in interviews, as well as by researching previous reports which wholly or partially dealt with this subject.

Now, as far as the conclusions are concerned, they can be summarized as follows: No. 1, the effectiveness of inter-regional country technical cooperation should be increased through full government management of projects. Regional technical cooperation activities are striking examples of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries provided they are, in fact, managed by the participating countries. No. 2, United Nations assistance to regional inter-country institutions should be formulated with Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries in mind. No. 3, to qualify for assistance from the United Nations system, regional inter-country institutions should meet the test of self-reliance, and in being created and managed by the governments concerned, which should provide adequate resources for their operation. No. 4, a network structure linking national institutions with common interests appears to offer the most effective way of disseminating the benefits of a regional centre and of promoting TCDC. Finally, a large number of regional institutions set up in the past have been totally dependent on the United Nations system for resources. The original expectation that these contributions would just represent "seed money" and these institutions would eventually become self-sustaining has not been borne out by experience. This situation is at variance with the purposes of the United Nations system of Technical Cooperation for Development and also drains resources away from support of new regional institutions.

So far as the conclusions of the Joint Inspection Unit, the ACC has provided its comments on these conclusions. They are summarized in the paper which I have cited in the beginning under a number of headings such as the Scope of Regional Technical Cooperation Institutions, the Legal Framework, the Source of Financing, the Management and Staffing of these Institutions and Regional Networks. I am not going to read out all of these comments by the ACC but I would like to say that in general they do agree with the conclusions of the Joint Inspection Unit but at the same time they raise a word of caution about these conclusions in the sense that one has to be flexible in their application. In other words, if while it is true that certain regional institutions have to prove that they have the full support of their Member Governments in that region, it is also admitted throughout the ACC comments that particularly in the initial phases and for some period of time, support by the system, is indeed required. FAO itself, of course, supports a large number of regional institutions which fall under the classification used in this report. I could give examples, a few examples of these which are supported by FAO. Of course the largest number of them are in Africa, such as ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States; WARDA, West African Rice Development Association; CILSS, the Interstate Permanent Committee for Drought Control in the Sahelian Zone; OCLALAV, the Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Avian Organization. Also in the Pacific, in Latin America and in the Near East and North Africa, there are a number of sub-institutions which FAO through its resources at its disposal supports directly or indirectly.

CHAIRMAN: Both the Programme and Finance Committees have dealt with this, as mentioned by Mr. Beringer but I do not think I will call on the Chairmen of these two Committees to say anything unless points are raised which concern the comments of their Committees. The subject is therefore open for discussion.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I think at least one point of the JIU reports really requires a certain comment. I will wish to draw the attention of the Council to the view of the Programme Committee with regard to para. 133 of the JIU report. On page 26 of the English text, under the general heading of "Evaluation", the last paragraph of that portion expresses a personal view of the inspector that "early and close attention should be given to the questions of strengthening UNDP field offices, to enable them to play a more active and creative central role" and so on and so forth. Well, the Programme Committee made only this one reservation, which is, in my mind, quite a serious one, as we were actually unable to see any clear connexion between the previous text and the very personal conclusion of the inspector. Now, speaking on behalf of my delegation I would merely say that we fully share that concern and the reservation of the Programme Committee and we feel that it needs to be recorded in the Council report as well.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Just by way of an enquiry, since there seems to be some confusion on this point; was the concern of the Committee that this statement did not appear to be substantiated by the preceding discussion or did it disagree with the conclusion? I gather that the problem was the former and not the latter, that the Committee did not take a substantive position on the role of UNDP field offices. It only felt that this conclusion in paragraph 133, so to speak, appeared out of the blue, and did not have enough supporting evidence preceding it. I would just like to have that clarified.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): I think it becomes quite clear from our report that we were concerned with both, the fact that it was not enough substantiated and secondly, that in this particular moment we said it was at least inadvisable to add to the overhead costs issue. We considered the whole matter at our previous session. I will not take too much of your precious time. I am just trying to say that we were concerned with the way in which the idea of strengthening was presented and we are even more concerned with the particular point in time, and we think that having in mind the overall problem of overhead costs and more or less having completed the exercise of restructuring at country level, that it would not be advisable to expect to go along with the suggestion of JIU, of the inspector. That was our view.

CHAIRMAN: Any more comments? If not, I think I will ask Mr. Beringer if perhaps he can add anything to what was said.

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): I would only like to confirm what the delegate of Yugoslavia has said about his own Committee's report. It is indeed worded in this way and we will have it reflected in the report. In general, I should say that the sentiment in the Finance Committee also was that the report to be useful is perhaps a good starting point for further analysis and its recommendations are very broad and general, two surveys, a direct tool for implementation.

CHAIRMAN: The next item that you can see in the Order of the Day is item 17.

VII. OTHER MATTERS
VII. AUTRES QUESTIONS
VII. OTROS ASUNTOS

17. Any Other Business:
17. Questions diverses:
17. Otros asuntos:

- World Food Programme: Proposed Pledging Target for 1983-84
- Programme alimentaire mondial: objectifs de contributions pour la période 1983-84
- Programa Mundial de Alimentos: Objetivos de promesas para 1983-84

The meeting was suspended from 15.25 to 15.35 hours

La seance est suspendue de 15 h 25 à 15 h 35

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.25 a 15.35 horas

CHAIRMAN: We resume the meeting now. I call on Mr. Brito to introduce the subject.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (WFP): I am particularly happy and honoured to have this opportunity to present to the Council the pledging target of \$1.2 billion for the World Food Programme in the biennium 1983-84. This pledging target, which I very much hope the Council will endorse and recommend for adoption by the FAO Conference, has just been approved by consensus, after extensive and careful deliberation, by the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which finished its work just last week in Rome. Seldom in the past has the setting of a pledging target for contributions to the World Food Programme raised so much interest, with such careful analysis of the facts and figures. Seldom in the past also has it been possible to ensure in the end such a convergence of views. The sense of give-and-take reflected very well the strong support that the Programme enjoys both from those who benefit from its humanitarian and development assistance and from those who make such assistance possible through their generous contributions.

Perhaps before I continue I should inform the Council that yesterday by midday the Economic and Social Council already took action on this pledging target approving from the side of the United Nations, our other parent body.

I could provide you, Mr. Chairman, with many facts which would substantiate the fast increasing requirements for project food aid which the Programme must meet, and many figures which would confirm why - given WFP's resources position - it is critically important that the target of contributions of \$1.2 billion for the biennium 1983-84 be approved and achieved if those requirements, which relate to the most basic and urgent needs of some of the poorest people of the world, are to be met. It should suffice, however, to say that the proposed target represents the absolute minimum needed, if current levels of WFP food deliveries and projects are to be maintained after 1983. In all frankness I must say also that the target the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes is recommending for your endorsement, on my proposal, represents at the same time the maximum which could be reasonably considered in the hard reality of present economic circumstances. I firmly believe, therefore, that the new target of \$1.2 billion is essentially a balanced one. It has been carefully determined with regard to the needs of those the Programme is expected to assist, and with regard also to the need to be realistic in our pledging goal.

Mr. Chairman, a draft resolution on the proposed pledging target for the biennium 1983-84 has been prepared by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for your approval. That draft resolution is now before the Council, together with the relevant extract from the report of the Twelfth Session of the CFA. I would be most happy to give you any additional clarification you might require on the detailed calculations and facts which guided the CFA's decision. Consistent with its broad policy perspective, however, the Council might well find it more useful to assess the validity and justification of the proposed target on the basis of a more general picture of the current status of the Programme, and an indication of policies and priorities which illustrate the direction in which the Programme is moving.

Last year, beyond supplies channelled through WFP by bilateral donors, the Programmes delivered close to 1.3 million tons of food supplies - approximately 66 percent for development projects, and about 34 percent for emergency operations. Of the total deliveries, some 300, 000 tons came from the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), while the balance - close to 1 million tons - was supplied from the Programme's own resources, composed of the regular pledges plus additional FAO contributions, as you all know.

The target which is being proposed for your approval does not include the IEFR, however, either in terms of resources or deliveries. Taking into account inflation - and the inflation factor, as you know, has been calculated on the basis of roughly 10 percent - and also a minimum level of 300 000 tons of grain to be channelled through WFP under the Food Aid Convention, the target of \$1.2 billion is expected to permit us to continue to deliver approximately the same level of food supplies WFP is presently providing out of its own resources. It is a modest target, therefore, which makes it all the more important to have the proposed figure not only approved, but also fully reached and, if possible, surpassed.

There are other aspects, however, which are equally important for your decision. I am sure you will be interested to know that in the current year new commitments for development projects in the priority group of low-income, food-deficit countries have reached approximately 85 percent. Equally interesting is that the proportion of resources to projects in support of agricultural production and rural development is increasing rapidly.

In the current year, '81 we are setting a record by channelling to such projects of agricultural and rural development about 80 percent of total new commitments for development projects. This is a record, I might say we are proud of that record, because we firmly believe food aid should be used to help the developing countries become self-sufficient in their food supplies. More is being provided, therefore, to the poorest of the poor, and, equally important, more is being provided to ensure self-sufficiency in food supplies in the future.

The target for the current biennium 1981-82, was set at the \$1 billion level. By the end of October 1981, contributions reached approximately 75 percent of the target. More resources are expected to come in, however, since we are still not halfway through the biennium. The new target represents an increase of 20 percent in dollar terms, and additional efforts will certainly be needed by all those whose generosity has made WFP's activities throughout the world a model of inspired international cooperation to help accelerate development and to help alleviate human suffering. Of equal importance is the need for new donors to come forward, and here I would like also members of the CFA to know, but I think the Council will also register it, the fact that roughly two weeks ago we got the first contribution from the OPEC Fund for Development, a contribution which is extremely important for our future and represents precisely the kind of support we need so much at this point in developing our activities.

With the resources at our disposal we are constantly trying to ensure greater impact. We are engaged in a continuous search for new project designs, improved delivery systems and more accurate monitoring and evaluation arrangements. We are applying, in full measure, our past encouraging experiences in the search for innovative application of our resources. We are making every effort to ensure that our assistance has the greatest development impact. We are concentrating on development for food production in the poorest rural areas. We have intensified our effort to associate food aid with other types of assistance wherever possible, and particularly where a multiplier effect is anticipated.

We are increasing our emphasis on Africa. In 1981 approximately 45 percent of the Programme's new commitments for development projects will go to the African countries south of the Sahara. We are increasing our purchases in developing countries, to stimulate development where such purchases are made, to foster cooperation among developing countries, and to save on transportation costs. WFP purchases of Zimbabwean maize is a case in point. I am quite sure that many if not all of you are fully familiar with this particular operation. In many other ways we are diversifying our project designs to ensure greater compatibility with the specific conditions of countries and regions. In these various ways, we are making strong efforts to ensure that WFP food aid for development responds to the requirements of today's world.

We take equal pride in the fact that the proportion of our administrative costs, including reimbursement for the technical services provided by the cooperating agencies, is presently barely over 5 percent of the value of our deliveries. This compares very well with other development agencies. We seek more resources but the Council can also be assured that no effort is being spared to get the greatest possible "mileage" from what is put in our hands.

Last June I reported in more detail on the activities of the Programme to the Council. The few issues I have dealt with in this brief presentation were for the sole purpose of setting a proper framework for your decision on the proposed target of \$1.2 billion for the biennium 1983-84. I strongly urge the Council to consider favourably the recommended new target. Your endorsement of the target as proposed in the draft resolution prepared by the CFA will be a gesture of solidarity with those millions of people the Programme is helping, a gesture of confidence in the activities WFP is developing in favour of the poorest of the poor, and a gesture of faith in the validity of international cooperation for a better world.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Brito, for this very full introduction. We know you have just arrived from New York and are suffering from jet-lag and sleepless nights and so on, but I am sure that your subject will be discussed fully and you will reply to any questions that might be raised.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al discutir este tema, nuestro Consejo se apresta a incurrir en el rito tradicional que celebramos cada dos años, y que como se nos informó, fue cumplido ayer por el ECOSOC al apoyar la meta propuesta de 1 200 millones de dólares para 1983/84. Como es natural, la delegación de Colombia va a apoyar esa meta, y lo hacemos con una mezcla de sentimientos encontrados y opuestos. Lo hacemos con simpatía, con sinceridad y con convicciones, pero al mismo tiempo con mucho desaliento, con profundo desconcierto; porque para 1979/80 sólo se logró el 85 por ciento del objetivo previsto. Para 1981/82 solo se obtuvo el 73 por ciento de los objetivos previstos. Conviene preguntarnos ¿va a seguir cumpliéndose esa disminución progresiva?

Por eso, yo creo que el Consejo, al apoyar este objetivo, debe reiterar la solicitud que ha hecho el Sr. Director Ejecutivo ad interim en el sentido de hacer un llamado firme y serio a los donantes para que contribuyan a alcanzar este objetivo, para que este rito, esta tradición de nuestro Consejo no sea vana como en anteriores oportunidades.

Y sin duda, puede contribuir a que se obtenga el alcance de ese objetivo el hecho que propone nuestra delegación de destacar en nuestro informe el aporte constructivo, por ejemplo, del Fondo de la OPEP que ha contribuido con 25 millones de dólares, lo cual es un buen ejemplo. El dinero va a dedicarse a reforzar la reserva de emergencia y también a proyectos de desarrollo urgentes.

Debemos igualmente reconocer los últimos aportes de países como España, Austria, Italia bien sea al presupuesto ordinario del PMA o a la reserva de emergencia, y Francia, país que según se nos ha informado, en 1982 va a duplicar sus contribuciones al Programa ordinario del PMA y a la reserva de emergencia, y ojalá que en 1983 Francia triplique esas contribuciones a la marcha del avance progresista del Gobierno francés.

Igualmente debemos registrar con complacencia el hecho de la Comunidad Económica Europea que va a contribuir con 100 000 toneladas más de cereales para la ayuda alimentaria. Pero igualmente, debiéramos hacer constar en nuestro informe que confiamos en que todas esas contribuciones sean sin condiciones, que sean a través del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, como dicen las reglas vigentes. Y decimos esto porque es lamentable que cerca del 50 por ciento de las contribuciones que en 1981 se han hecho a la RAIE han sido destinadas por los donantes a proyectos concretos. Esto desvirtúa el carácter multilateral de la ayuda, y tiende a perpetuar la asistencia bilateral condicionada que nosotros rechazamos, porque generalmente persigue dividendos políticos.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia apoya el objetivo propuesto y pide al Consejo que envíe a la Conferencia para su aprobación, el proyecto de Resolución. Tomamos esta actitud porque seguimos considerando que el PMA es un válido instrumento para el desarrollo. La reciente reunión del PMA demostró la eficacia del Programa y también la capacidad y la seriedad con que el Sr. de Brito y sus colaboradores lo están dirigiendo. Aprovechamos esta ocasión para reiterar la esperanza y el deseo del Gobierno colombiano en el sentido de que ojalá muy pronto, el Sr. Bernardo de Azevedo Brito sea confirmado en propiedad, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, posición que comparten todos los países de América Latina y del Caribe, y creo que muchísimos otros países de todo el mundo.

KONG CAN. DONG (China): (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation first of all would like to express its appreciation of Mr. Brito's presentation of this subject.

The World Food Programme, through its activities in the past, has been making valuable contributions towards helping developing countries, particularly low-income, food-deficit countries, tide over their food difficulties caused by various disasters in the development of their food production.

In the current situation where the World Food Security is still precarious this active role of the World Food Programme becomes ever more important. It is evident that the WFP resources should be got onto an appropriate level, therefore the Chinese delegation supports the proposal which has been made on the results of the matter put forward at the 12th Session of the CFA, and endorses the present target of \$ 1.2 billion for the current biennium 1983.-34.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): May I first convey my delegation's appreciation to the Executive Director and Mr. Brito for the very articulate and eloquent introduction he made to the subject before us.

May I also convey the appreciation of our country again to Mr. Brito for the untiring work he did during the recent CFA and achieving a consensus on the present target of \$1.2 million, which we think was a great achievement.

I also wish here to convey my country's appreciation to all major donors who in spirit of cooperation and helpfulness agreed to the pledging target of \$1.2 million, although they started with reservations to begin with.

My country is a member of the CFA, and during the recent CFA deliberations strongly supported this pledging target, as all along we have been of the opinion that the WFP is of vital and crucial interest to the developing countries.

We have a tradition as contributors of a small magnitude to the Programme, but we have been greatly benefited from the Programme only recently through development projects - and more recently now through its emergency operations and looking after the 2.5 million Afghan refugees we have in our country. I also wish to record my delegation's appreciation to FAO and WFP for all the aid and sustenance we have been receiving in our efforts which are purely humanitarian to look after these 2.5 million refugees.

We also wish to record our appreciation to all the other major donors who have helped us in looking after these Afghan refugees.

My delegation is of the opinion that the pledging target is the minimum required, and we hope and urge all the major donors to exceed the target as soon as possible and also to contribute, as is contained in the document, one-third of the pledges in cash resources so that the WFP can continue with its activities in assisting the millions of hungry in the world.

Mile F. JAIDI (Maroc): Il est toujours très difficile de parler après les délégations de la Colombie et du Pakistan parce qu'on ne nous laisse rien à dire, mais comme c'est la première fois que notre délégation prend la parole, je voudrais compenser par des félicitations pour les délégués de Cuba, de l'Australie et de la Suède pour leur élection en tant que vice-présidents et des félicitations également pour l'introduction brillante et détaillée de M. de Brito. Nous avons eu l'occasion, lors des deux dernières semaines de discuter en long et en large de ce Programme de travail et budget et ma délégation voudrait renouveler ce qu'elle avait dit alors, à savoir l'appui total qu'elle accordait à ce budget et nous sommes satisfaits que sur ce point le consensus ait pu être atteint et que le budget ait été approuvé par tous.

Nous sommes également satisfaits d'apprendre que l'ECOSOC ait approuvé cet objectif de 1, 2 milliard de dollars et nous recommandons ce projet à l'approbation de la Conférence.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): It is very difficult to talk after the delegates of Colombia and Pakistan as they said everything there is to say, but first of all I would like to point out that the Italian Government strongly supports the target of 1.2 million over the next biennium.

This is connected with the information that WFP has accomplished the best possibilities in trying to reach this goal. That is why the Italian Government has given in the last year a multiplication of each contribution, which has risen from more than Lit. 300 million in 1978 to Lit. 13.1 billion in 1981. I think this is a record amount.

My government recognizes the keenness and capacity for work shown by the late Dr. Vogel and by Mr. Bernardo Azevedo de Brito.

The very positive position of my government is also due to the fact Italy hopes to follow the same constructive attitude of other countries in either making efforts to increase their participation or by joining as a new donor, as has recently been decided by other colleagues of mine, and as the Colombian representative has already underlined.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Tout d'abord, je tiens à remercier M. de Brito, Directeur exécutif ad interim du PAM pour la présentation brillante qu'il nous a faite du document que nous discutons actuellement. L'objectif de contributions pour le biennium 1983-84, qui représente une assistance volontaire de la part des pays membres est une proposition logique, équilibrée si on la compare au niveau de 1981-82. Par ailleurs, l'augmentation prévue est un minimum car en valeur réelle les ressources du PAM ne seront pas accrues.

Nous souhaitons également appuyer la décision du CPA tendant à adopter ou recommandant l'adoption de cet objectif de contributions car nous pensons que le PAM est l'un des programmes de la famille des Nations Unies qui obtient le plus grand succès dans les opérations en faveur des pays en développement en particulier.

Mon pays, dans les crises qu'il a traversées, a pu apprécier son action.

Par conséquent, nous voudrions demander instamment aux donateurs actuels et potentiels qu'ils remplissent leur devoir et qu'ils soient un exemple digne d'être suivi par d'autres pays.

Nous appuyons donc totalement le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis afin que le Directeur général général de la FAO et le Secrétaire des NU puissent convoquer une Conférence de contributions pour l'année prochaine.

E. TIZOL MARTINEZ (Cuba): Permítame ante todo señor Presidente, agradecer las palabras del Sr. Brito que, como siempre, han servido para ilustrar de forma objetiva los intereses de nuestros pueblos en materia de ayuda alimentaria. Nuestra delegación ya ha manifestado en ocasiones anteriores su apoyo a la meta de 1 200 millones y desearía ratificarla en el contexto de esta reunión.

Consideramos que esta meta de 1 200 millones es el objetivo mínimo necesario para hacer frente a las crecientes necesidades de los países en vías de desarrollo. Cuba es un país en vías de desarrollo que sufre las consecuencias de la inflación mundial y que depende de las fluctuaciones de los precios del mercado mundial, las cuales afectan negativamente, y de modo considerable, la comercialización de nuestros productos de exportación, el azúcar de caña, que constituye parte de nuestra economía. No obstante señor Presidente, podemos ratificarle que nuestro país mantendrá su compromiso de contribución al PMA como lo ha hecho hasta ahora. Por lo tanto, y para finalizar, queremos reiterar nuestro total apoyo a la meta establecida de 1 200 millones como contribución voluntaria al Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Antes de nada quisiera agradecer sinceramente al Sr. Brito por el celo que ha demostrado en estar presente hoy con nosotros para presentar este tema tan importante y tan caro a nuestro país. El PMA es un instrumento de Naciones Unidas, es un programa al cual Venezuela ha concedido un especial cariño y una muy directa simpatía. A lo largo de su historia hemos contribuido a él siempre con verdadera amplitud en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, qué no son ciertamente las de un país rico, aunque tiene recursos naturales, pero no por ello calificado, con justicia, como un país rico.

Estamos totalmente satisfechos de nuestra contribución al PMA tanto directa, como aquellas otras que en actuales circunstancias viene concediendo a través del Fondo Especial.

Vemos con simpatía la presentación que el Sr. Brito ha hecho del tema y que nos ha hecho llegar en la tarde de hoy. Sus razones las consideramos nuestras, son válidas y apoyamos la promesa de 1 200 millones para el bienio 1983-84, en el entendido de que nuestra delegación comparte en este sentido el juicio expresado por el mismo Director Ejecutivo. La propuesta que se presenta nos parece equilibrada y es el mejor compromiso entre aquello que se puede desear y aquello que es posible alcanzar. Somos testigos de la buena administración con que vienen desarrollándose los negocios del PMA en los últimos años; por ello, felicitamos al PMA y nos felicitamos nosotros mismos por dejar en tan buenas manos la administración del PMA en estos últimos tiempos.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation supports the CFA proposal for WFP pledging targets of \$1.2 billion for the biennium 1983/84, and we support it as a real minimum required. Besides, we speak about an increase; it may happen that this will be an increase only in a nominal way, but not in real terms. We also note with satisfaction that this decision of the CFA, this proposal for an increase in the World Food Programme target, was adopted by consensus and in a spirit of understanding and

cooperation. We appreciate the substantial new pledges from the OPEC fund, from Australia and from Italy. We hope that other donors will do their best to ensure that this target is fully met or surpassed. We also hope that this new target will not be met by simple reallocation of resources and by decreasing resources in other forms of aid.

We support the draft resolution submitted for adoption by the Council and also the draft resolution for the FAO Conference.

Sra. Dña. M. IVANKOVICH de AROSEMENA (Panama): Mi delegación desea felicitar al Sr. Brito por la brillante y completa exposición que acaba de hacer sobre este tema.

La delegación de Panamá apoya el objetivo de promesas con contribuciones voluntarias a los recursos ordinarios del Programa para el bienio 1983-84, en la cifra de 1 200 millones de dolares, como objetivo mínimo del Programa. Asimismo apoyamos el proyecto de resolución que se nos presenta en el Anexo del documento para su presentación a la Conferencia.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, deseamos manifestar al Sr. Brito el apoyo del Gobierno de Panamá alentándolo para que siga trabajando con ahínco con las masas más necesitadas.

H. L. CHAWLA (India): First of all, the Indian delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the brilliant exposition which Mr. Brito has given on the subject. The document itself has brought out that this target of 1.2 billion dollars is a compromise between what was desirable and what was possible. It has also brought out that in due time the proposed target would not permit any growth in WFP assistance and it would barely maintain, even after 1983, programme deliveries at their current level. I think this is something we have to accept because it looks as though much painstaking effort has been made to arrive at this figure under the present situation. We felt, among other things, that the original objective of the WFP was to put emphasis on development, although in recent years more and more funds had to be used for emergencies. Nobody can deny that the emergencies do have first claims and should get priority.

I hope the emphasis which Mr. Brito has now brought out, that development will get higher priority, will be fulfilled and there will be continuous monitoring in this direction.

As some of my friends from other countries have brought out, there should be a growing proportion of multilateral aid earmarked through WFP. That is something which many of the developing countries wish, and I hope this objective will be achieved.

Then, I endorse the suggestion made by one of the delegates here that since the target is admittedly modest, our objective should be not only to achieve it but to exceed it. In the explanation which Mr. Brito has given one can notice the transparent sincerity with which he is trying to approach this problem, and one would hope that this WFP aid will be put to maximum use, to the best advantage of those deserving help most.

With this I thank you and Mr. Brito once again.

M. SHAFI ZAFAR (Afghanistan): Je tiens tout d'abord à féliciter M. Brito pour l'excellent exposé qu'il nous a présenté tout à l'heure. Je ne voulais pas intervenir sur ce point 19, mais je tiens à répondre à notre ami pakistanais qui nous a exposé son point de vue.

Vous savez, Monsieur le Président, que l'Afghanistan est un pays en voie de développement qui, depuis la révolution d'avril, a connu des moments bien difficiles. Ces difficultés ont été créées par les éléments contrerévolutionnaires du pays, aidés par les régimes des pays voisins qui n'étaient pas en accord avec nous ...

CHAIRMAN: Would the delegate of Afghanistan please keep to the subject and not discuss politics.

M. SHAFI ZAFAR (Afghanistan): Je reviens au sujet qui vous intéresse. En Afghanistan, nous sommes 15 millions d'habitants, et sur ces 15 millions d'habitants il y a 3 millions de nomades. Ces nomades traditionnellement tournent autour du pays et traversent les frontières pour trouver un peu d'herbe pour leur bétail. C'est une tradition très ancienne que vous pouvez trouver dans les archives de notre pays.

Je voudrais simplement faire comprendre que si on demande de l'aide pour les réfugiés afghans - et je ne veux pas me placer sur le plan politique - c'est parce que ces 3 millions de paysans qui ont été entraînés dans des camps militaires doivent travailler sur leur propre sol. Je ne sais pas au juste s'il s'agit de 2 millions et demi ou de 3 millions, mais je sais qu'il y a un certain nombre de nomades qui doivent travailler sur le sol de leur pays, au lieu d'être entraînés dans des camps militaires.

Vous avez dit, Monsieur le Président, de ne pas mêler les problèmes politiques aux problèmes agricoles, mais quand ici certains d'entre nous au lieu de lire PAM - Programme alimentaire mondial, lisent: Programme armement mondial, je suis obligé de leur répondre.

M. DE LOS SANTOS (México): Como ya han hecho otras delegaciones, la nuestra desea felicitar a la Dirección del PMA a cargo del Sr. Brito, por la labor realizada y apoyar el objetivo de promesas de 1 200 millones para el bienio 83-84, y la correspondiente Resolución que ha de proponerse a la próxima Conferencia.

Consideramos que esta Resolución comporta una especial importancia en la actual situación alimentaria mundial caracterizada por crecientes dificultades para los países más pobres del planeta.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Tout d'abord, laissez-moi féliciter M. Brito pour l'exposé très clair qu'il nous a présenté tout à l'heure.

Je voudrais dire simplement quelques mots sur l'objectif des contributions. Ma délégation a précédemment, lors de la réunion du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, indiqué qu'elle était favorable à l'augmentation de l'objectif, car cela correspond non seulement aux besoins mais aussi à une réévaluation des coûts de l'objectif en fonction de l'inflation. Mais nous avons également, comme a bien voulu le souligner tout à l'heure notre collègue de la Colombie, annoncé que nous allions doubler notre contribution. Ce n'est pas parce que c'était en 1982, c'est tout simplement parce que nous devons le faire, car si j'ai bien compris l'appel du pied, si j'ose dire de notre collègue de Colombie, en 1983 nous devrions la tripler. Je lui dirais alors: qu'est-ce qui se passera les années se terminant par zéro? N'établissons pas trop de liens ...

Pour en revenir à des choses sérieuses, il y a, dans le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis, et auquel nous apportons tout notre appui, un appel: "... invite instamment les Etats Membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, ainsi que les Etats Membres associés de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, à prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour annoncer leur contribution à la dixième conférence." Autrement dit, ceci s'adresse à tous les pays sans exception, car je crois qu'il y en a fort peu qui ne soient pas encore; membre des Nations Unies.

L'appel que je voudrais lancer est le même, mais je voudrais qu'il soit entendu de tous, des pays développés à économie de marché, des pays développés à économie planifiée, et même des pays en développement, car j'ai eu la curiosité de reprendre le rapport sur l'état financier 1980 du Programme alimentaire mondial où on donne la liste par biennium des contributions des uns et des autres.

J'ai parcouru cette liste rapidement et je me suis aperçu qu'il y a certains grands pays à économie planifiée qui ne figurent pas dans ce document. Il y en a de moins grands qui y figurent, j'en ai noté deux pour l'Europe, mais il y en a d'autres en Europe qui sont sous ce système économique. Parmi les pays en développement eux-mêmes, j'ai vu qu'il y avait de petits pays qui contribuent faiblement, mais proportionnellement leurs ressources, et même des pays qui peuvent être amenés parfois à avoir besoin du Programme alimentaire mondial pour les aider. Sans faire de personnalisation, je voudrais dire par exemple que deux grands pays d'Amérique latine sont étrangement absents. Il y en a d'autres également en Afrique qui ne sont pas présents et qui pourraient avoir des possibilités de participation. Mon appel s'adresse donc à tout le monde: aux pays développés et aux pays en développement. Il ne faut pas se contenter de réclamer toujours de l'argent aux mêmes payeurs.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): This question was, of course, fully discussed at the CFA where my delegation joined the full consensus of members which agreed to send this new food programme pledging target forward for Council approval. At that meeting we exercised one point in particular and I have heard it mentioned with great eloquence several times this afternoon, it is the request for more countries to join the community of donors which now support this most successful of the United Nations voluntarily funded programmes. It is with these people in mind that we endorse the target for Council approval and we would encourage other potential donors or groups of countries to follow the recent example of the OPEC Development Fund whose recently announced contribution has been so widely welcome. In joining those who welcome the OPEC Fund to our ranks we note the already well established role of one OPEC country in particular as an independent WFP donor in that scarcest of all commodities, cash.

Finally, we think that the achievement of the broadest possible base of donors to the Programme would be the best assurance of maintaining the long tradition of complete universality of the Programme's activities and of the deliberations of its body, the CFA.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): Australia has always been and remains a strong and practical supporter of the World Food Programme. Consequently this delegation intervenes this afternoon for two reasons, first to support in the firmest possible way the target of \$1.2 billion for the 1983-84 biennium and second, to join with those who express the hope that this target can be achieved, not simply by an increase in contributions from those who are already donors, but to express the hope of those who have not so far felt able to join this particular area of support for the activity of those who wish to diminish world hunger will feel able to come forward now, not only to help reach the target for the 1983-84 biennium but also to make a contribution, if at all possible, during the current biennium so that those who hunger are not waiting for another 12 or 18 months before those with the capacity to help are able to weigh in with additional support.

Australia for itself has recently increased its own contribution for the current biennium by some 20 percent in the form of an untied cash grant, as well as providing an additional 10 000 tonnes of cereal under its Food Aid Convention, and that leads me to the final point in which Australia joins those members of the Council who have suggested that where possible there is much to be said for providing the contribution to the Programme in an untied fashion.

S. AIDARA (Senegal): Je voudrais tout d'abord rendre hommage à M. Brito, Directeur exécutif par intérim du PAM pour la clairvoyance et l'objectivité avec lesquelles il a introduit les discussions sur cette question.

Le Sénégal n'est pas actuellement membre du Comité de l'aide alimentaire où cette question a été débattue et où elle a obtenu le consensus général. Le Sénégal est un observateur attentif, comme j'aime à le dire, et à ce titre il a exprimé sa position en ce qui concerne l'objectif de contributions du PAM de 1, 2 milliard de dollars pour le biennium 1983-84.

Je disais tout-à-l'heure qu'il s'était dégagé au cours de la dernière session du CPA un consensus autour de cette question. Si je prends la parole c'est moins pour réitérer la position de ma délégation en faveur de l'objectif proposé que pour exhorter tous les pays donateurs tant traditionnels que potentiels pour que cet objectif du biennium 1983-84 soit atteint. Il ne faudrait pas que, bien que modeste mais à notre avis réaliste et réalisable, il reste un vœu pieux; il faudrait qu'un effort soutenu soit engagé pour le réaliser et effectivement il me plait ici de dire la satisfaction de ma délégation pour les initiatives louables et concrètes prises par certains pays comme la France, l'Espagne, l'Italie, l'Autriche et le Fonds spécial de l'OPEP. S'agissant de ces nouveaux contributeurs au PAM j'ose espérer que la coopération qui s'amorce ainsi entre le Programme alimentaire mondial et l'OPEP ira en se renforçant. Il est malheureux de constater que l'aide alimentaire, et notamment l'aide alimentaire d'urgence est encore nécessaire dans les pays en développement. Notre vœu le plus cher c'est que cette aide n'existe plus, car cela voudrait dire que l'autosuffisance alimentaire a été atteinte dans les pays en voie de développement, car cela voudrait dire que le cauchemar de la disette est fini dans notre pays et que des milliers d'enfants pourront enfin aller au lit rassasiés étant sûrs que le lendemain ils pourront manger à leur faim. Malheureusement, tel n'est pas le cas et force nous est de reconnaître qu'actuellement il existe 9 millions de réfugiés dans le monde. Les affamés et les mal nourris sont 60 millions dans le monde. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous lançons un appel à tous les donateurs pour que cet objectif soit atteint pour le biennium, non seulement pour les pays en développement mais surtout pour le bien de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): My delegation wishes to join in the appreciation expressed to Mr. Brito for his sound and moving presentation of this item. The delegation of the Barbados supports the target of \$1.2 billion for the biennium of 1983-84. We feel it is a minimum and we would support the resolution before us.

A. RACHMAN (Indonesia): Allow me first to use this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Brito for his comprehensive presentation. My delegation is very impressed by the kind of programmes carried out by WFP at present, especially looking at the well/balanced proportion between development projects as compared to emergency operations.

My delegation also shares the concern of previous speakers because of the low performance and the achievement of the present target. So in fact the problem faced by WFP in the past is not only getting the target approved and table out sound programmes but it also faces the problem of mobilizing contributions actually to reach the target. It is in this connexion that my delegation emphasizes the importance of all countries to work together and step up contributions to achieve the target as agreed upon.

With respect to the new target of U.S. \$1.2 billion for the coming biennium as discussed and recommended during the recent CFA meeting, and since my country is not a member of CFA I would like to use this opportunity also to support the target as proposed.

P. KANGA (Angola): Je serai très bref. Tout d'abord je saisis cette occasion pour féliciter M. Brito pour la présentation claire et brillante du document en discussion. Je voudrais exprimer, au nom de mon pays, la reconnaissance de mon gouvernement vis-à-vis du PAM et en particulier à M. Brito pour l'aide et pour l'appui qu'ils nous donnent en ce moment difficile. Je voudrais réitérer l'appui de ma délégation sur l'objectif de 1, 2 milliard de dollars, aide qui me semble indispensable. Nous appuyons le projet de résolution présenté à l'Annexe au sujet de l'objectif de contributions du PAM pour la période 1983-84.

D. NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): The Sri Lanka delegation, too, joins with the other delegates in congratulating the Executive Director, Mr. Brito, for the excellent manner in which his Programme has been managed. We also wish to recall with appreciation the contributions made by the former Director, Dr. Vogel in making this Programme very satisfactory.

We are fully aware that this Programme has been extremely beneficial to most of the developing countries, particularly to our country. We have had very good relations with the WFP and we will continue to have a cordial relationship with the present management. We urge that complete support from all Member Nations be given to this pledging target of \$1.2 billion and we hope that this resolution will receive complete support of the Conference.

J.J. PEREIRA REIS (Portugal): Premièrement j'aimerais, au nom de la délégation portugaise, présenter nos félicitations à M. Brito pour son brillant exposé et nous nous associons à M. Bula Hoyos en ce qui concerne sa nomination définitive en tant que Directeur exécutif du PAM. En ce qui concerne la proposition de contributions pour le biennium 1983-84, nous considérons que le PAM est digne de tous les appuis pour faire face à ses objectifs car l'action du programme du PAM est très importante.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): Ma délégation tient tout d'abord à féliciter M. Brito pour avoir présenté d'une façon complète et satisfaisante l'objectif du Programme. Elle voudrait aussi exprimer sa gratitude au PAM ainsi qu'aux donateurs traditionnels qui ont permis d'accorder une aide appréciable dans deux de nos projets de développement lors de la situation d'urgence consécutive à la sécheresse qui a frappé le sud du pays.

Ma délégation adresse aussi ses félicitations et ses encouragements aux nouveaux donateurs et aux pays qui ont annoncé des augmentations sensibles de leur contribution au Programme. Enfin, je terminerai en assurant le PAM de notre appui total à l'objectif de 1, 2 milliard de dollars pour le biennium 1983-84 bien que celui-ci nous apparaisse comme étant un minimum acceptable.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): I am grateful to have this opportunity of taking the floor considering that my country has been and is still among those who have always agreed to and supported the Programme either on an individual footing or more recently through the intervention of the OPEC Fund.

We are pleased to announce to Council that the government of my country formally fully approves the pledging target of the WFP for 1983/84. This we feel represents \$1.2 billion and as such is a target to be given our support. We wish to ask the WFP to keep a constant eye on the possibilities of obtaining additional contributions, additional pledges, from new donor countries or from other international regional institutions and agencies.

The success of the World Food Programme in arousing interest in the humanitarian objectives of the Programme has surely been the best possible proof. This does not mean that the traditional donor countries should freeze their contribution levels indefinitely. We wish to appeal to the food producing countries which so far have only made humble contributions, contributions which are not at the level that they ought to be in the interests of the countries of the Third World, we appeal to those countries in particular, we ask them to join the ranks of the other countries if they have not done so. We invite them to increase their contributions, increase their pledges, in order to arrive at a level which would enable the Programme to achieve the target of \$1.2 billion.

There is another very important issue as we see it. I refer to the possibility of the large donor countries, and others too, to arrange for their financial contributions to be not less than 30 and 40 percent. This will I am sure give a further boost to the Programme. This will enable aid to be given to needy impoverished countries. The cash contributions for internal transport or for maritime freight or storage possibilities, all these are of great importance. We wish to repeat our support for the pledging target as explained.

G. STREEB (United States of America): It has been over a year since I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Brito. I can see from today's presentation that he has not lost any of his capacity for succinct analysis in his command of the issues. We certainly welcome the report which he has given to us and the way in which he has been managing the Programme during the interim period.

I would like to endorse the comments that some other delegates have made regarding the broadening of support for the Programme. Some individual Member Nations of OPEC have already been making significant contributions. Nevertheless we still welcome very much the contribution by the OPEC Fund and would like to encourage, along with other delegations, the support that can be given to this Fund from other potential contributors.

I think the delegate of Senegal probably put his finger on the most important issue, however, which is that if we were doing our job right we could phase the fund out rather than expand it over time. I think it is worthwhile to bear in mind that our major emphasis needs to be on programmes of the kind which would help hopefully in the long run to make it unnecessary for us to have such a programme as the World Food Programme. In any case I did want to say as one of the major contributors to this Programme that we join in the consensus on this resolution and look forward to a significant level of contributions over the next two years and trust that indeed Mr. Brito's hopes for achieving this objective are attained.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Malaysia): First let me join the previous speakers in complimenting Dr. Brito for his convincing presentation of WFP efforts.

My delegation has followed with interest and satisfaction the activities of the WFP in making food available through various food aid programmes, especially to food-deficit countries.

We support a pledging target of \$1.2 billion for the 1983-84 biennium and at the same time we wish to render support to the draft resolutions to Council and Conference.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Brito, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour la présentation qu'il nous a faite du document soumis à notre examen et le féliciter de la manière dont il assure la gestion du Programme.

Ma délégation qui a suivi avec beaucoup d'attention les travaux du dernier Comité des politiques et programme d'aide alimentaire comme observateur, ne peut qu'apporter son appui au projet de résolution ainsi proposé. En effet, cet objectif, qui est un compromis entre ce qui est souhaitable et ce qui est possible, ne peut que rencontrer notre assentiment. Le souhait de ma délégation est de voir ce modeste objectif réellement atteint. C'est pourquoi en même temps que nous saluons les annonces de contributions accrues faites par l'Italie et la France et d'autres encore, comme les fonds de l'OPEP nous souhaitons que d'autres donateurs se joindront aux premiers pour contribuer à réaliser l'objectif réaliste de 1, 2 milliard de dollars. Nous exprimons l'espoir que cette contribution serve réellement à résoudre les difficultés du type rencontré par les pays en voie de développement.

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Deseo asociar a mi delegación con las manifestaciones formuladas respecto del Sr. Bernardo de Azevedo Brito por la manera brillante y emotiva con que presento su informe. Mi delegación respalda el proyecto de resolución que aparece en el documento bajo examen, así como el objetivo de promesas propuesto.

CHAIRMAN: This exhausts the list I have. Twenty-eight delegates have spoken and each one has supported the objective, the work and the targets of the WFP and paid tribute to Mr. Brito. This speaks volumes really for the usefulness of this particular programme. If there are no more speakers I will call on Mr. Brito to sum up if there is anything for him to reply to.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (WFP): As you mentioned before, Mr. Chairman, in the last 24 hours I have been moving between planes and airports. I will try to be as precise as I can be at this point without sleep.

I must say that the debate we just had right now is a strong encouragement for the Programme and a strong support for all those whom the Programme is trying to help all over the world, and indeed we are speaking about the poorest of the poor.

Roughly 20 years ago this Programme was established and I think that the debate we had simply confirms that the decision of twenty years ago was a right one. Project food aid has proved to be, which is the basic delivery which we have, apart from emergencies, has proved to be an effective development tool.

I myself indicated and I fully share that conviction that food self-sufficiency is the ultimate goal.

However, in the interim period, food aid is useful, and more than that, food aid can be particularly useful precisely to bring about that self-sufficiency in food which is the ultimate goal of all recipient countries of this Programme.

The past twenty years have also confirmed how important our work is in emergencies, and I might also say that this particular aspect of our operation at present is, as you in the Council know, under scrutiny, so that we can improve our effectiveness in deliveries on the emergency side.

The resource position of the Programme has been referred to, and I am happy to see that there is a full understanding of this target. It could not be more, it could not be less. This target, as I indicated in my statement, will permit the Programme to deliver out of its own resources the same level of deliveries which we do right now. However, the hope is that additional contributions will continue to come from the Food Aid Convention so that there will be an element of growth. This is our strong hope. It has happened in the past few years and I hope it is a trend that will continue. Therefore, while we are presenting a target which will permit us barely to continue at the same level, the hope for increased deliveries in real terms should be there, and I must say that it will depend essentially on additional contributions through the Food Aid Convention apart from new donors, of course.

Many references have been made to recent increased contributions. I must say that those additional contributions for the current biennium have been most encouraging. I mention one specifically, the contribution of the OPEC Food Fund for Development of \$25 million. Other donors have joined us.

Some traditional donors have found it possible to substantially increase their contribution. I do not want to mention all; I might miss one or two and that would not be too proper, but a number of additional contributions of very great importance have come in in the past few months, and that is an encouragement for us in the Programme.

Many of you refer to new donors. I fully agree that we should constantly search for additional contributions and new donors. This is our daily business, in fact, what we are trying to do every day, but may I tell you something also, Mr. Chairman, that I firmly believe that by improving our deliveries, by making our projects more effective, our projects designed better and attuned to the requirements of the recipient countries, we are doing the most to prove that we deserve the resources we are asking for, and therefore I am also very confident that the efforts of the Programme to bring food aid closer to the actual requirements of today's world should also be a very real incentive for new and additional contributions. This is a strong personal feeling I have, because I feel that in a world of scarce resources you have after all to prove that you are indeed using most effectively the resources at your disposal.

Reference was made by one or two speakers at least to the need for cash resources. I am very grateful that this point has been raised, because we are a food programme, but we need cash; we need cash to move food; we need cash to help the least developed countries with internal movements of food within their own territories according to our regulations; we need cash for purchases. In many cases, a judicious application of purchases can prove extremely effective not only as a development support but also extremely effective in terms of economy of cost, reducing costs of deliveries.

I made reference to our purchases of Zimbabwean maize. And there is much to say in favour of this approach, and I think this Council might well support this kind of approach. We are supporting developments both in the countries we are helping and the countries where purchases are made. We are supporting the developed complementarities in the regions, which is a very important aspect of development, and we are reducing and cutting costs.

Now the future: I very much hope that the decision of the Council and of the FAO Conference will be in support of the pledging target. I understand it will be. Now, in the months to come, my colleagues and I will surely not spare efforts to make this pledging target a successful one. Obviously we will need the help of all of you.

I would like to conclude by saying that the Programme you are supporting by the decision which I hope you will take in a few moments is a Programme which is really helping the poorest of the poor in the world. We recognize that we are not in easy times in many aspects of development assistance due to overall conditions in the world, but we also must recognize that we are here speaking of the people who really need to be assisted and that is why I placed emphasis in my statement on how we are trying to make sure that the greatest development impact is assured, and in the case of emergencies, that our operations are as effective as possible within the environment which prevails in those emergency situations.

To conclude, I would like to say once again how grateful I am for the strong support I heard in the debate which took place just now and how honoured I am to address this Council.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Brito. Now, I take it that the resolution at the end of document is unanimously adopted; so it is, and I hope we do the same thing tomorrow when we come to the level of the budget.

Now we still have some minutes, and Colombia has asked if the Observer from IFAD can answer some questions. I do not know if the Observer from IFAD is here and is willing to answer the questions. No, nobody there; maybe tomorrow.

Now, this brings us to the end of our deliberations today, but before we close I will give the microphone to the Secretary-General.

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee

2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y Miembros del Comité de Redacción

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous avons reçu la composition du Comité de rédaction. Des consultations sont toujours en cours pour la désignation du Président. Je voudrais cependant d'ores et déjà vous donner le nom des membres de ce Comité de rédaction:

- Pour le Groupe africain: le Sénégal et le Kenya
- Pour l'Asie: la Malaisie et le Sri Lanka
- Pour l'Europe: la République fédérale d'Allemagne et l'Italie
- Pour le Proche-Orient: le Liban
- Pour l'Amérique latine: le Venezuela, le Mexique
- Pour le Pacifique du sud-ouest: l'Australie
- Pour l'Amérique du Nord: les Etats-Unis d'Amérique

Le nom du Président, comme je l'ai dit, sera communiqué demain matin après consultation entre les différents groupes.

CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow we have a very heavy agenda and we will start at 9 o'clock promptly. The meeting is adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 17.10 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.10 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 80/PV/3

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

(4 November 1981)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.15 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 15 sous
la présidence de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Tercera Sesión Plenaria a las 9.15 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. We will continue our agenda. You have the Order of the Day in front of you and as you can see, the agenda is very heavy but I think it will be possible for us to go through it today, as we did with our programme yesterday. The first item which is Item 10, the Programme of Work and Budget, is of course the most important item for the whole of this meeting and for the Conference as well, next week.

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET
L'ADMINISTRATION
V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y
ADMINISTRATIVOS

10. Programme of Work and Budget, 1982-83

10. Programme de travail et budget, 1982-83

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1982-83

11. Medium-Term Objectives (Including Agricultural Research in Developing Countries)

11. Objectifs à moyen terme (notamment la recherche agricole dans les pays en développement)

11. Objetivos a medio plazo (incluida la investigación agrícola en los países en desarrollo)

As you know, this item, the Programme of Work and Budget, has been discussed in summary since March or even before, by various Committees of the Council, Technical Committees and so on. It culminated in our own discussion of the Summary in June and July when we met, and now, since then, the Programme and Finance Committees have considered the detailed Programme of Work and Budget in their meetings last September and October. I was at the meetings: there were very, very thorough discussions, chapter by chapter, item by item and we are going to listen to the Chairmen of the two Committees who will tell us and guide us in what their Committees have so far done.

There is no need for us to call on the Director-General or the Secretariat to introduce this item again because they have done it, but they are here to answer all questions that you may raise. In our discussions we have to keep in mind that next week Commission II is going to discuss this matter for many days and therefore it may not be productive for us to go into minute details here now. As I indicated yesterday, I hope that we will have a consensus on a Conference level of the Budget. Two weeks ago there was the Heads of State Meeting in Cancún and one of the most important things they discussed was food and agriculture. I think the spirit of Cancún should prevail here so that we start with a consensus which will be favourable to agricultural development, and that of course starts here in FAO which is the lead agency for food and agriculture in the United Nations system. I am sure that we will come up with the consensus which will be pleasing to all concerned.

I have been informed that Item 11, which is put for this afternoon, Medium-Term Objectives, will be taken along with Item 10. I am sure you have read the document and in any case, that too is going to be thoroughly discussed, but those aspects that are relevant to the Programme of Work and Budget will be taken together.

Then, I should like to draw your attention to a relevant document which has been circulated recently, or yesterday. It is C 81/INF/20, entitled Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83. There is some very important information in that document which you might like to read in conjunction with the Programme of Work and Budget itself.

I would now like to call on the Chairman of the Programme Committee to introduce the work of this Committee

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): I have again been asked by my friend and colleague, Mr. Bel Hadj Amor, to introduce the joint parts of the Report and, with your indulgence, I will do it very briefly indeed. Following the well-established tradition, the Committees confined their joint session to the most important general features of the Programme of Work and Budget including, quite naturally, the issue of the Programme and Budget level, an issue of obviously overwhelming importance to member governments. I would say that the Committees could not but start with the urgent need for more rapid growth in food and agriculture in developing countries. In that context we reiterated the unique role FAO had to play in assisting these countries and the international community in that regard. The Committee has again reached full unanimity in regard to the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General in both Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Objectives. The strategies and priorities as embodied in the Programmes and sub-Programmes in our view reflected faithfully the policy guidance established by the Council as confirmed by Conference in 1976 and 1977 respectively.

Naturally, again, the Committees did not confine themselves to Regular Programme resources only. Of course, taking into account the close inter-relationship between Regular and field programmes and the obvious needs for assisting resources based on its integrity, the Committees expressed concern at the likelihood of decreasing UNDP Fund activities in real terms in years to come. We were also concerned with trends now prevailing in the trust funds which could even lead to reduced support of FAO's Action Programmes.

Briefly, the Committees obviously felt that in considering the Regular Programme, sight could not be lost of the programmes based on extra-budgetary funds.

Coming now to the Budget level, I could not but keep closely to the positions that were carefully phrased out at the joint session. The majority, as we have said in our Report, taking into account the urgency, severity and magnitude of the problems and the reiterated priority given to food and agriculture by developing countries themselves, as well as by the international community, fully supported as a minimum the level of the budget proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget document. Four members - and you can see from the footnote attached to the relevant paragraph that those members were representing Australia, Canada, Sweden and the United States of America - while commending the relevance and efficiency of FAO and supporting the thrust of the Programme, were compelled to continue to reserve their positions at that time, on the level of the budget proposed. In addition, one member stated that his government had not yet taken a position on the budget level. In brief, the situation in the Committees has by and large remained the same as it was in April and May. Though the Committees, at the initiative of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Bel Hadj Amor, considered the problem of Headquarters accommodation in the Joint Session, I shall leave the whole subject to him, as I realise the detailed views of the Finance Committee on that subject will be presented to the Council later on.

Now, coming to the Programme Committee report, I am afraid I can do very little indeed to avoid repetition of what I referred to the Council last time. The reason is, I think, obvious: both the Programme of Work and views in the Committee have remained in essence the same as compared with the summary stage. What is to a certain degree new is related to the format of the Programme of Work and Budget document and indeed we unanimously concluded that the format was substantially improved as a result of the harmonious relationship between the Committees and the Council on the one side, and the Secretariat on the other. While the Programme Committee was in general agreement with the substance of the Director-General's observation on the world background, in particular with the aspects more or less directly relevant to the FAO Programme, of course full agreement on a broad spectrum of general issues was difficult to achieve. Some members felt that a different shade of emphasis could have been put on such issues as food imports and self-sufficiency, but one member made the point that less stress should have been put on external systems and more on greater self-reliance, including better incentives to farmers and increased orientation to market forces.

We agree, despite the differing views on some issues of a general nature, general agreement was reached in the Committee with regard to the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General, particularly to the high priority placed on all programmes for Africa, then emphasis on energy problems, the urgent need for improving international trade in agricultural commodities, the present need for further increase in priorities attached to agriculture in national development programmes of developing countries, etc.

The Committee also welcomed further harmonization between regular and field activities, reiterated its support to special action programmes and expressed again its concern at lack of resources for these programmes.

With regard to the food production growth in developing countries in the seventies of 3.2 percent or 3.3 percent, the Committee felt that it was a substantial improvement over the previous decade, especially taking into account the deteriorating external conditions for development of these countries. However, it was stressed that the growth was still far behind the internationally agreed minimum target of 4 percent.

The views in the Committee diverged to a certain degree with regard to the gravity of the present food situation but nevertheless the Committee agreed that the situation was sufficiently, as we said, serious to call for a broad spectrum of international action and especially calling for the need for more effective and efficient action by FAO.

The Committee welcomed very much the proposed programme increase being mainly allocated to technical and economic programmes. We are also pleased with the proposed continuation of the decentralization process in general which is intended to make the FAO action at the country level more efficient. Consequently we are satisfied with the restraints on the administrative costs and posts.

We again stressed the need for further use of consultants and national institutions. However, in the same context two members expressed the view that even further savings in administrative costs could be achieved. They specifically referred to FAO representatives and the regional offices.

I failed to mention another point, quite a traditional one, that we agreed fully with the proposed activities in support of ECDC and TCDC activities. It was a very strong point in the Committee.

Now again on the budget level, I have to refer to the majority and the minority unfortunately. As you can see from our report the majority welcomes and was positive the Director-General had fully taken into account the majority view expressed in the Programme and Finance Committees and in the Council and that he realistically reviewed the events subsequent to the last Council Session. With all this in mind the majority did not accept the concept of zero growth, least not as regards FAO. The majority strongly supported the budget level proposed by the Director-General. Two members, however, due to the reasons that they had explained at the Spring session of the Committee reserved the positions of their governments at the budget level. They wanted to underline that in joining in the comments on the major programmes, programmes and sub-programmes, they in no way prejudiced the positions of their governments on the level of the budget, and the voluntary nature, as they expressed themselves, of the character of the contribution to the special action programmes. One member in addition was not able to state the position of his government with regard to the budget level since the formal decision by the government had not yet been taken.

I do not think I could go into any further detail with regard to the programmes and sub-programmes. I would hope that the views of the Programme Committee were self-evident and more or less the same views that we referred to the Council the last time. I want to draw the attention of the Council to only two points, two reservations and one is at page 12 with regard to the FAO representatives and where two members expressed in a way reservation or differing views. They felt that perhaps having in mind the present difficult economic circumstances the proposed extension of the scheme could be stretched over more than one biennium; and another one, on the next page, with regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, where only one member expresses a view that the Programme could be at the same level in real terms though he fully appreciated the usefulness and efficiency of the programme.

That is all that I feel necessary to say. Of course, I am open to any question or qualification that the members of the Council may wish me to give.

CHAIRMAN: Can you also introduce the medium-term objectives so that we do not have to come back to it?

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): Perhaps I was not too explicit in saying that we considered medium-term objectives as it was decided after all by the Council in together with the Programme of Work and Budget and the references were made here and there on the medium-term objectives, though we did not really consider separately the document on medium-term objectives.

I may say perhaps that the Committee felt that the document, of a rather standardized form now, was very useful but with certain weaknesses that have always been recognized by the Committee and the Council. That means the document continues to be presented according to the wish of the Council in a narrative form without quantitative targets and with only a certain fairly loose list of priorities, but in general the Committee was in full agreement with the document and it felt that the document really served its purpose. So that is, very briefly, what I can say on behalf of the Committee with regard to the medium-term objectives document.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Les résultats de l'examen du programme de travail et budget par le Comité des finances qui sont soumis au Conseil dans les paragraphes 3.3 à 3.27 complètent en quelque sorte les commentaires du Comité financier présentés au Conseil dans son rapport de la 47^{ème} session du printemps dernier.

En premier lieu, je voudrais faire noter au Conseil que le Comité n'a pas manqué de relever l'amélioration de la présentation du document, qui, par les nombreux détails qui y sont contenus, répondent déjà aux multiples questions soulevées par le Comité à sa session de printemps.' A cet égard, le Comité a suggéré, par souci d'économie, qu'il serait peut-être indiqué de simplifier la présentation sans pour autant altérer la qualité de la substance.

En général, le Comité financier a réitéré son approbation pour les priorités retenues et qui sont justifiées, du moins à son avis, par la situation alimentaire mondiale.

A présent, je voudrais bien attirer l'attention du Conseil sur certains points spécifiques du rapport, et qui sont relatifs bien sûr aux questions présentées dans le document du Secrétariat. Je commence par la question la plus importante à savoir le niveau du budget. Le Conseil a certainement noté que le budget a été recalculé sur un nouveau taux de change, toujours provisoire bien sûr, mais qui tient compte davantage de la réalité des fluctuations actuelles. Au taux de 1 175 livres pour un dollar le niveau du budget devient ainsi 368 016 millions de dollars. D'ailleurs, le Conseil a certainement noté dans le document du Secrétariat qu'il y a d'autres taux de change possibles qui figurent au paragraphe 4.29 du document du Secrétariat et qui donnent une idée de leur effet sur ce niveau. Ce tableau a été jugé très utile par le Comité des finances. A cet égard, le Comité, à l'exception de deux membres qui réservent leur position, a exprimé de nouveau son appui pour le niveau du budget proposé.

Le second point spécifique qui doit attirer l'attention du Conseil concerne la question des frais de soutien. Le Conseil n'est pas sans savoir que ce sujet a toujours été au centre des préoccupations du Comité, eu égard à ses répercussions sur le budget du Programme ordinaire de l'organisation. Ces préoccupations risquent de devenir plus vives quand on considère la nouvelle politique du PNUD en matière de remboursement des frais de soutien, politique qui est reflétée dans le paragraphe 3.9 et qui a fait auparavant l'objet d'examen de la part du Comité et du Conseil.

La situation financière du PNUD ne semble pas particulièrement prospère et je vous renvoie à cet égard aux paragraphes 3.114 et 3.120 du rapport du Comité qui illustrent au Conseil cette situation.

Aussi peut-on assister à une diminution du taux d'exécution des projets FAO/PNUD avec un accroissement des frais de soutien. Néanmoins, le Comité estime que la qualité du soutien à l'ensemble des programmes et projets doit être maintenue sous tous les aspects. Il est également à souligner à l'attention du Conseil que la Conférence aura à considérer cette question et à prendre une décision.

Le troisième aspect qui intéresse le Conseil a trait aux augmentations des coûts. La méthodologie utilisée pour le calcul de ces augmentations de coûts a été illustrée au Comité ainsi qu'au Conseil à leurs précédentes sessions et elle a été étoffée par le document intégral du Programme de travail et budget par des nouveaux éléments qui la rendent encore plus claire.

C'est pourquoi, le Comité confirme son appréciation pour cette méthodologie et la considère toujours valable. Les estimations du coût de la vie du Comité se révèlent acceptables et ce à la lumière des éclaircissements supplémentaires qui ont été fournis par le Secrétariat en réponse aux nombreuses questions soulevées par le Comité.

Le Comité n'a pas manqué de reconnaître l'effort du Secrétariat pour contenir, sinon réduire, les coûts notamment dans le secteur administratif, le personnel, la documentation, les réunions et, à cet égard, il prodigue ses encouragements pour cette politique. Il a obtenu des précisions sur la situation des effectifs, situation qui vous est reflétée au paragraphe 3.16 ainsi que le nombre des reclassements, tout en notant que ces derniers ne concernent que 2, 8 pour cent environ du nombre total des postes au titre du Programme ordinaire.

Concernant la documentation, les réunions et la rubrique des consultants, le Comité estime que malgré les efforts du Directeur général les dépenses restent importantes. Néanmoins, dans le cas des consultants, le Comité reconnaît qu'un certain nombre de facteurs qui vous sont reportés au paragraphe 3.21 justifient l'augmentation en programmes et en coûts proposés.

Par ailleurs, le Comité s'est penché sur les chapitres 1, 5, 6, 7 et 8 conjointement avec les aspects pertinents du document "Objectifs à moyen terme". Des réponses satisfaisantes ont été fournies aux points de détail soulevés par le Comité à propos de divers programmes. En particulier le Comité a décidé d'examiner à ses sessions futures les moyens de réaliser des économies dans certains grands documents de la Conférence et a recommandé que les charges communes soient maintenues à un minimum.

Enfin, à propos des recettes accessoires, le Comité envisage d'examiner à un stade ultérieur les procédures des pratiques actuelles concernant l'utilisation de cette rubrique et éventuellement de les assouplir.

Enfin un dernier mot à propos du document "Objectifs à moyen terme": Un membre estime que, dans la forme actuelle de présentation de ce document, il doit formuler certains doutes quant à l'utilité du document tel qu'il nous est présenté actuellement. Je tiens à préciser que ce n'est pas la première fois que ce membre a présenté des commentaires et je tiens également à préciser qu'aucun des autres membres ne l'a suivi dans cette voie.

CHAIRMAN: The subject is now open for discussion. Could I also say that you can make your comments on the medium-term objectives as well. I do not have any speakers. Perhaps everybody agrees.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestra delegación vacila un poco al intervenir esta mañana porque como todos sabemos, este documento que es el más importante pasa inmediatamente a la consideración de la Conferencia, que iniciaremos el sábado proximo. Sin embargo, el Gobierno de Colombia desea reafirmar su más pleno apoyo a las estrategias de la FAO, a la acción de nuestra Organización, a las prioridades, a los nuevos métodos de trabajo y al nivel del Presupuesto. Creemos que lo que se propone es el mínimo con que debe contar la FAO en el proximo bienio. No deseamos ya insistir en las razones que nos han animado, desde junio pasado, para asumir esta actitud de la delegación de Colombia en franco y pleno apoyo a las propuestas del Director General; pero solo queremos reconocer el hecho de que estas propuestas son realistas, basadas en la eliminación de actividades ya superadas o de menor prioridad, y en el reforzamiento de aquellas actividades que requieren alta prioridad, con los cambios correspondientes en la distribución de los recursos; o sea que el Director General ha hecho el máximo esfuerzo para someter sus propuestas a las revisiones que se le han venido solicitando.

Hay algo que particularmente atrae la atención de nuestra delegación, y que fue reforzado por una intervención que tuvimos ocasión de escuchar en una reunion del Grupo de los 77, sobre los orígenes de la actitud, respetuosa desde luego, de quienes propugnan el crecimiento cero y se oponen a este mínimo aumento del programa de nuestra Organización.

Esos detalles que nos inquietan están muy bien reflejados en la introducción del Director General al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Decía que atraen nuestra atención porque parece, por lo menos curioso sino un poco paradójico, que mientras se felicita al Director General, se reconocen adecuadas las prioridades de las estrategias y la acción de la FAO, se destaca la gravedad de la situación alimentaria mundial, se hacen llamados para solucionar los graves problemas que padece la humanidad en este campo, por otro lado se nieguen los recursos, mínimos recursos, para que la FAO pueda cumplir las funciones esenciales que todos le reconocen en la solución de esos problemas.

Estos hechos nos han dado la impresión de que ahora se está conformando una nueva modalidad de colonialismo: el colonialismo alimentario, que seguiría al colonialismo político, que después de pasar al colonialismo económico ahora está degenerando en lo que podríamos llamar, repito, colonialismo alimentario.

En el párrafo 14 de la introducción del Director General se afirma que la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia es insuficiente, poco segura e imprevisible; en vez de ser auténticamente multilateral, como se ha recomendado, es en gran parte medida de un conjunto incierto de intereses y acuerdos bilaterales.

En el párrafo 17 se dice que la dependencia de muchos países de importaciones de alimentos cada vez mayores sigue siendo peligrosa y onerosa. En el párrafo 66 se afirma que si los países con déficits de alimentos continuaran dependiendo de las importaciones de cereales, su estabilidad política, económica y social estará cada vez más amenazada. Esto dice el Director General en su introducción al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y son estas afirmaciones las que conllevan a nuestra delegación a afirmar que estamos en presencia de una nueva forma de colonialismo: el colonialismo alimentario, que no permite que los países que pueden solucionar sus problemas de alimentación y de agricultura, logren mejoramientos porque así perderían la dependencia que se pretende asegurar de los países industrializados.

Unas breves palabras sobre los Objetivos a Plazo Medio. Ya que vamos a tratar conjuntamente también el documento C 81/9, es evidente que este documento, a través de los años, ha ido evolucionando de acuerdo con las directrices de los órganos rectores. En discusiones anteriores se han examinado las ventajas y los inconvenientes de suprimir este documento e irlo incorporando al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. La forma actual corresponde a la decisión adoptada en el sentido de que, por el momento, se mantenga como documento separado. Sin embargo al leer el documento C 81/9, tenemos la impresión de que por fuerza de los hechos hay redundancias que se pretendían evitar, sobre todo cuando como es recomendable, se lee ese documento junto con el Examen del Programa Ordinario, el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y Alimentación, y la Agricultura hacia el Año 2000.

Ya el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas hizo alguna referencia a la posición de un miembro que actuó en la reunión de los dos Comités. Nosotros no compartimos las críticas a la forma actual del documento, pero sí propondríamos que se suprima ese documento, que se suprima el documento de Objetivos a Plazo Medio y se incorporen esos objetivos en el texto mismo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. El hecho de que los dos Comités en su reunión conjunta y en forma separada lo hayan tratado conjuntamente, que conjuntamente vaya a ser tratado en la Comisión Segunda de la Conferencia, y que conjuntamente lo estemos tratando ahora, ya nos indica la posible conveniencia de que se suprima ese documento y se incorporen los Objetivos en el texto mismo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y ojalá que sobre esta propuesta haya reacción de los miembros del Consejo para que podamos transmitir algunas recomendaciones, en cualquier sentido, a la Conferencia.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): In his detailed introduction to this subject, the Director-General has very clearly highlighted the world background, the world food situation and food security and long-term goals on international policy. It is within this setting that the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1982-83 has been drawn up. The record of previous discussion shows that in regard to the priorities and programmes for 1982-83 there has been virtually complete unanimity from all countries. There could be indeed scope for differences in emphasis when the question of procedures for implementation of work content arises, but one notices unanimity on the objectives and the framework of the programme. Here we want to once again reiterate the stand taken by India in the last meeting of the Council as well as the last Session of the Programme Committee. We feel that FAO's record in regard to efficiency and economy has been outstanding. In fact, for most of the countries, the canvas of agriculture is nearly as wide as life. One cannot ignore the numerous issues which are arising in the context of the growth of knowledge and technology.

Since there will be detailed discussion on this item in Commission II of the Conference, I would not like to go into the details of the Programme of Work and Budget. This concept of zero growth somehow looks a little surprising in the present context. When the concern of the international community on the persistence of hunger and malnutrition on such a massive scale in various parts of world, more particularly recently in Africa, is so deep, it surely calls for acceleration of effort, and I think the concept of zero growth in relation to activities in this vital field does not seem to fit in with the almost universal feeling for improving the situation of hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world.

To sum up, my delegation would once again extend strong support to the Programme of Work and Budget as well as the level of the budget, which we consider the minimum necessary for fulfilling the task which we have set for the Organization.

F. PETRELLA (ARGENTINA): Voy a ser sumamente breve porque dentro de pocos días vamos a discutir este tema en el seno de la Conferencia.

Quisiera agradecer los informes que han presentado los Sres. Presidentes del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas y repetir aquí que la posición argentina está en favor del nivel de presupuesto que hemos tenido como proposición, dada la situación alimentaria existente en el mundo y, en consecuencia, por los esfuerzos que en tal sentido se van a requerir a nuestra Organización.

M. GHASSI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): I should first of all like to express my thanks to those who have prepared this document on the Programme of Work and Budget. This document clearly and sincerely expresses all the recommendations of our Council at the last Session. We think that the level suggested for the budget is indeed totally in line with the level laid down by the Council decision. This is a level which is a minimum and will enable the Organization to assume the different tasks entrusted to it during the 1982-83 budget year.

Looking at the details of the document, we note that the Programme and Finance Committees have both approved the level of the budget suggested, and thus we feel that the Council should recommend at its present Session that these proposals by the Director-General should be adopted and that any recommendations in this connexion should be further conveyed to the General Conference.

In this connexion, we should like to launch an appeal to the countries that have made reservations in this regard. We should appeal to them to look at their decision once again, particularly as they accepted the priorities and the strategy proposed, taking due account of the fact that the increase suggested does not go beyond \$ 11 million, and the Organization in 1980 on a budget of \$ 180 million was able to carry out agricultural projects within the limit of \$ 3 million. It has trained 7 000

people in the Member countries and organized approximately 100 conferences, and thus we must pay tribute to the wise policy of the five previous years in the field of savings made regionally, nationally, and also the concentration of efforts in the framework of the use of human activities in the field, and this with respect to the document we have before us, namely C 81 INF 20 on the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1982-83 period.

Annex C, comparison between the different posts created: in this connexion, my delegation would like to mention the recommendations and decisions of the Cancón Conference, where 22 developed and developing countries met, and they unanimously condemned the situation of poverty and malnutrition prevailing throughout the world and decided to afford priority to agriculture on the national and international levels.

We approve the idea that the budget be developed, because you cannot develop agriculture unless you have continuous support for it. It is our moral duty to give support to the Organization in order to enable it to carry out its task and fulfill its goals, and therefore we do not agree with the zero growth rate.

M.A. AZAMI (Afghanistan): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fully supports the Director-General's Programme of work and budget for 1982-83. The programmes and activities proposed by the Director-General are of high priority and most relevant to the needs and aspirations of the developing countries. The Director-General has asked for a minimum increase without which the Organization could not perform its obligations to the world community.

My delegation fully shares the views of many other members of the Council who have expressed their endorsement of the 1982-83 FAO budget as submitted by the Director-General.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation has studied the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1982-83 biennium and also the documents entitled: "Medium-Term Objectives". The medium-term objectives are in our view very relevant to the harsh realities of today with regard to the State of Food and Agriculture. The emphasis has been rightly placed on striving harder towards self-sufficiency in food in developing countries. The document considers the basic causes of the decline in food production which included frequent occurrence of drought in certain regions of the world, inadequacy of public investments, especially in rural infrastructures and farm inputs, inadequacy of incentives, particularly incentives to encourage farmers to invest in farming, inadequacy of programmes to control crop and animal diseases and pests, and reduction of food losses to a minimum. The medium-term objectives have prescribed solutions to these problems and went on further to deal with specific programmes of sub-sectors, taking into account new developments in the fisheries sub-sector with respect to the sovereignty of nations in their EEZ.

This document, if used as a basis for developing national as well as international programmes in agriculture and rural development, could help to keep in rightful focus the issues facing agriculture. I share the view of Colombia that the medium-term objectives should form part of the Programme of Work and Budget rather than keeping it as a separate document.

Coming to the Programme of Work and Budget itself, it is our view that no major new developments have taken place since the 79th meeting of Council, and therefore the Programme of Work and Budget has not changed radically and therefore does not call for extensive debate once again.

Since our last meeting, the high level meetings in Cancón, in Paris and elsewhere have amply justified the position taken by this Council that the least we can do in the present circumstance of widespread food shortage is to support the programme and budget of this Organization for the 1982 biennium. My delegation therefore supports the programme and the level of budget.

A.Z.M. OBAIDULLAH KHAN (Maroc): Ma delegation est d'accord sur l'ensemble du programme. Elle est tout à fait en opposition avec l'idée de la croissance zero et se rallie à la ligne prévue dans le programme présenté par le Directeur général,

J.M. SCOULAR (United Kingdom): I wondered initially if anyone was going to talk at all about this item of the Agenda.

Dealing first with medium-term objectives, we find this a useful document, but I take the delegate of Colombia's point that it does duplicate the work of the Programme of Work and Budget. However, we think that an overview in the longer term is still valuable, and I would like to speak in detail about this at the Conference.

About the Programme of Work and Budget, as we said at the June Council meeting, we remain strongly in favour of FAO's programmes and work, and we think the objectives of their programmes are well brought out and generally on the right lines. As Founder members, we are participating in the gradual changes in the direction of the developing countries, and we support the orientation of the programmes.

We will talk about this in detail at the Conference itself, but at this stage I would just like to record that we reserve our position about the level of the Budget.

A. EL KADIRI (Bangladesh): I shall be very brief. The Bangladesh delegation fully supports the Director-General's Programme of Work and the level of the budget.

The concept of the area of the work with regard to the FAO is not only inconsistent with the international development strategy or the consensus achieved at Cancun and Ottawa, but it is also against the aspirations of a member country like Bangladesh which is on the threshold of a breakthrough in food grains production, with the massive support of FAO's technical assistance and Technical Cooperation Programme.

Instead of going into a discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget which will be taken up in the Commission II, I would like to give specific examples of the support which FAO is providing and the need for this support to become wider and more intensive. For example, in the food grains production sector and in the medium-term programme which we have prepared with the help of FAO, seventy percent of the projects which are financed by World Bank or Asian Development Bank or IFAD have been prepared with the help of FAO's Investment Centre. I could go on giving other examples, but I am just giving a simple example by saying that if the first guideline of the IDS is true that each country should try to increase its food production, then the support of FAO is an essential prerequisite for that, and therefore any operation to the modest limits proposed would be really parsimonious to the south and not only to FAO.

J.A. HAMDI (Egypt): The delegation of my country is fully satisfied with the documents submitted to us with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget.

We would like first of all to praise the efforts deployed by the Secretariat, also the efforts made by the two Committees concerned with these problems. The delegation of my country had adopted a decision at the previous session of the Council, and my country continues to support this programme, and also it supports the budget.

We should like further to mention our faith in this Organization and the implementation of its work and programme. This is proven by the document which we have before us.

J.A. GUEVARA MORAN (El Salvador): La delegación de nuestro país apoya el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, así como las prioridades y estrategias propuestas por el Sr. Director General. Nuestra posición en este Consejo es la misma que mantuvimos en el 79º período de sesiones del Consejo y, por lo tanto, solidaria con todos los países que apoyan el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado con los ajustes que se le han hecho en base a todas las observaciones realizadas en el Consejo.

Comprendemos las dificultades financieras de algunos países que objetan el nivel del presupuesto, pero creemos que las justificaciones presentadas por el Director General son de sobra suficientes para solicitar a estos países que hagan de nuevo un esfuerzo y apoyen el Presupuesto, con lo cual se estará apoyando con los medios que necesita el Director General para llevar adelante el programa que todos los países hemos aceptado.

Consideramos también que resulta de nuevo oportuno señalar la conveniencia de que si van a realizarse disminuciones presupuestarias en toda la familia de las Naciones Unidas que a la FAO se la trate con un criterio más amplio de apoyo dada su alta calidad e eficacia demostradas en el campo de sus acciones.

La posición, por lo tanto, que va a mantener nuestro país en la Conferencia será esa: la de un rotundo y absoluto apoyo a la política, programa, presupuesto y estrategias presentadas por el Director General,

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Quiero expresar mi agradecimiento a los presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas por la clara explicación que nos han ofrecido.

Nuestra delegación también quiere expresar, una vez más, su apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 82-83 tal y como se nos ha presentado. Estamos satisfechos por las prioridades del Programa de Labores y por el nivel de recursos que se propone.

Creemos muy importante el apoyo que los Comités de Finanzas y de Programa han dado al presupuesto y a las prioridades establecidas, y vemos que el Director General ha seguido lo que le pidió y recomendó el Consejo de la FAO en su 79° período de sesiones de junio pasado y, en consecuencia, nos ha presentado este programa y presupuesto que, repetimos, apoyamos y desde luego lo consideramos como un mínimo para hacer frente a las crecientes necesidades.

D.H.J. ABEYGOONASEKRA (Sri Lanka): At the very outset let me say that my delegation was taking some time to ask for the floor, because from the very inception of FAO Sri Lanka has been and continues to be one of the most ardent supporters of this Organization. We have had the privilege of participating at the many regional conferences, as well as the Conferences held at Headquarters and the specialized committees.

We are now discussing two items - the medium-term objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. Hardly anyone has disagreed with the principles or the policies of FAO. It is sometimes quite surprising for somebody who comes from a developing country, who has confidence and endorses the programmes sponsored by this Organization to hear a discordant note of any kind. Given the conditions prevailing in the world today, particularly the distressing conditions in the part of the world I come from, or for that matter the sub-continent of Africa where my colleagues come from, it is a question of resolving the over-recurring situation of food shortages and difficulties facing communities. This is one problem on which a lasting solution will never be achieved unless there is a continuous effort by everybody in the world community to help in the programmes related to food and agriculture.

I have no doubt that my colleagues from both the developed and developing countries, like me, who have been present at various sessions, share the views of the Director-General and sympathize fully with what he has stated. I suppose it is only left to us to convince the powers that be in the world that unless we devote our efforts towards solving the food problem of the world there cannot ever be lasting peace. We know that in those parts of the world where food shortages take place, due to natural causes or other economic factors, ultimately there is discomfort and misery.

Now, coming to the subject of the medium-term objectives document, we have stated in the Finance Committee and meetings of Council that this gives the background to programmes of FAO.

It may be that not everyone sees as many documents as the officials who attend the Council meetings but to those delegates who attend the Conference every two years it gives a broad outline. In that sense it is a useful document and could be continued.

On the budget, I think this is the minimum the Director-General can do given the constraints. I said once in an earlier session that he is like a Minister of Finance or a Chancellor of the Exchequer, who comes with no secrets. He comes with proposals all of us would like to accept, but unfortunately while we have the heart and willingness to say we will do this, sometimes the purse is not willing. In that sense, perhaps he finds it difficult and he has sought the minimum level where he feels justice can be done to all sectors. I believe, and I am sure all members who have held different views would realize, that we should support the Budget when the time comes for us to pass this resolution in the Conference.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal): Nous sommes d'accord avec les principes que le Directeur général a suivis pour l'élaboration du programme de travail et budget 1982-83 et aussi avec les objectifs indiqués. Nous savons bien que l'efficacité de notre organisation ne dépend pas seulement des possibilités d'argent mais surtout de la qualité et de la quantité des techniciens et autres fonctionnaires de la FAO. Mais les disponibilités du budget sont fondamentales non seulement pour obtenir la collaboration des meilleurs techniciens mais aussi pour maintenir et augmenter l'efficacité des services.

Mon pays, comme vous le savez, traverse une situation économique difficile et pour cela nous sommes dans la nécessité de faire de grandes réductions au budget de notre pays. D'un autre côté, nous avons reçu de la part de la FAO une aide très importante. Dans cette perspective et avec la préoccupation de comprendre la situation d'autres pays qui ont des conditions très difficiles, notre position en ce qui concerne l'augmentation des contributions des pays membres demeure la même que nous avons prise lors du 79^{ème} Conseil.

Nous pensons qu'il nous sera difficile d'augmenter notre contribution mais, si cela est nécessaire, nous donnerons certainement une réponse positive et nous pensons que les pays ayant des conditions semblables donneront aussi une réponse positive. Nous espérons que ce Conseil donnera l'appui à cet égard d'autant plus que le Sommet de Cancún vient de déclarer la priorité absolue de l'agriculture dans les futures négociations Nord-Sud.

Nous ne manquerons pas de faire des commentaires techniques sur le document 81/3 lors de la session de la Commission II de la Conférence.

WANG SHOU RU (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, the Chinese Delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees for their introduction of this agenda item. We basically agree with the Programme of Work for the next biennium as proposed by the Director-General for we think it keeps in line with the discussion at the last session of the Council. We will not take time here to dwell on the specific comments on some of the projects in the Programme, as we will be presenting our views during the deliberations at the Conference.

We would like to say a few words about the budget for the next biennium. In order to enable the Organization to carry out activities that will help the developing countries improve their food and agricultural situation, the Chinese Government has decided to support the budget level as proposed by the Director-General in document C 81/3, though our country is in a period of readjustment of the national economy and has financial constraints. We believe that the Secretariat will continue to practise economy, better organize its work and make greater contributions towards the development of food and agriculture of member countries.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Nosostros nos limitaremos a ratificar el apoyo del Gobierno de Panamá al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto debido a que en la próxima reunión de la Conferencia podremos profundizar en el tema cuando se debata en la segunda Comisión.

En la reunión de junio nuestra delegación expresó que Panamá, al igual que los demás países del mundo en desarrollo, afronta en forma cada vez mayor los crecientes problemas que limitan su desarrollo en general, y en el sector agropecuario en particular. A pesar de eso el Gobierno nacional consciente de su responsabilidad internacional cumple con sus compromisos internacionales, y en particular con la FAO,

El Gobierno de Panamá valora la importancia que para los países en desarrollo tiene la FAO como organismo internacional de máxima eficiencia especializado en la agricultura y la alimentación. Por ese motivo compartimos plenamente las estrategias y prioridades establecidas, así como también las políticas y los programas propuestos por el Director General y, en consecuencia, nuestro Gobierno apoya el nivel del presupuesto para el próximo bienio.

Para finalizar, al ratificar nuestro apoyo a nivel de presupuesto, lo hacemos manifestando el reconocimiento del Gobierno de Panamá al Director General por el considerable esfuerzo realizado en lograr un equilibrio realista entre los programas y los reducidos recursos a su disposición, en un intento desesperado por tratar de establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional que garantice una paz duradera y estable.

H. MENDS (Ghana): My delegation, like most of the previous speakers, would like to compliment the Director-General and the Finance and Programme Committees for the thorough work they have done in introducing the Programme of Work and Budget placed before us for our deliberations this morning. We are pleased with the increased harmonisation and leverage of the Regular Programme and field programmes, and the priorities set out in the Medium-Term Objectives. Considering the persisting precarious world food situation which has been most eloquently described by the Director-General in his introduction to the document, my delegation is of the view that although the situation requires rather desperate action to bring about improvements, we are constrained by lack of financial resources to accept the programmes proposed by the Director-General as quite relevant to the solutions needed to improve food production and the supply position in developing countries. After all, FAO is the only specialised agency of the United Nations which is capable of addressing itself in this direction of world food production, supply, security and so forth. It is therefore clear that the low level programmes which we have the privilege to review in our earlier meetings and will most certainly review during the Conference next week, require the minimal budgetary estimates proposed by the Director-General for implementation beyond the 1982-83 biennium.

My delegation therefore fully supports the Programme and the level of the budget and calls upon this Council to adopt unanimously and recommend it to the Conference for approval.

A.G. NGONGI HAMANGA (Cameroon): During the 79th session of the Council held in June the Cameroon delegation supported the proposed level of the budget placed before it in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We now reaffirm the position taken in June. We do so because the Programme of Work and Budget presented to us in document C 81/3 has been prepared by the Director-General in the light of the wish of the 79th session of the Council that he base his final proposals on the proposals contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This he has done. The proposed budget level is a reflection of the programme priorities which have been approved by the Programme Committee, by the various Technical Committees, by this very Council and by the Conference, and by the many international fora which have high emphasis on agriculture and self-sufficiency in low income food deficit countries. It is very difficult to see how this modest project level for the biennium, and this modest increase can be refused by some Member States, but it is understandable. We do therefore urge that those Member States who were not in a position to support the budget level at the June session and are not in a position to do so at this moment, should, between now and the Conference, think over the matter and give the budget level unanimous support during the Conference.

On the details of the Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Objectives, we shall address ourselves to this during the Conference.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): Australia was one of the Members of the Council who at the June meeting reserved their position on the level of the budget, whilst giving absolute support to its objectives and priorities. It therefore seems appropriate that, with the lapse of time, we should intervene on this occasion to explain to the Council the subsequent evolution of thinking within the Australian Government, particularly in relation to the massive and horrifying problems of hunger and malnutrition, and in relation to Australia's view of the capacity of this Organization to use its programmes and funding, to do something effectively about the problems. As always, the Australian Government finds some difficulty in reconciling humanitarian principles with a hard-nosed and critical approach to the administrative and financial arrangements within international organizations.

In this last respect it is Australia's expectation that within international organizations, including this one, there should be the same rigorous approach to the examination of programmes which occurs in the formulation of our own national budgets. And we have, unfortunately, in recent years been obliged to shave and pare not only administrative costs but even to abandon programmes because of the tightness of our own budgetary situation. At the same time, we are very well aware of the increasing pressure on international organizations concerned with food and agriculture to expand their efforts in response to what are becoming problems so difficult as to be intractable. We see food and agriculture as a focal point in the new international development strategy, in the North-South Discussions and in other international approaches to bettering the world.

The Australian Government in recent months has committed itself in a series of decisions to expanding its own efforts in the direction of contributing to ensuring world food security.

In that context we have looked closely at the FAO budget. We believe that the budget for this biennium has been prepared on the basis of a comprehensive and critical review of all aspects of expenditure. We believe that the Organization has been energetic in reviewing and successfully holding down the operational costs of its support systems, its working methods and its staffing and we see these economies as having been achieved despite the significant pressures on the Organization deriving from the high domestic inflation rate. It follows from all this that we remain very much of the view that nothing but absolute rigour is satisfactory in establishing a budget level. We see that as crucial for 1982/83 and we will see it as even more crucial for 1984/85. The Australian government's position is that given the enormity of the world hunger and malnutrition problem, given the record of this organization in performing in a practical and effective way to do something about those problems, we are now in a position to say that we do support the objectives, priorities and level of the 1982/83 budget.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Having hosted the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne I am sure this is the least Australia can do to assist the developing countries and I am sure that France, who is now helping 29 African countries, will also tell us something very pleasing.

R. ROUPHAEL (Liban) (langue originale arabe) - Si nous passons en revue le rapport de la session précédente du Conseil exécutif, nous trouvons que le Programme de travail et budget est conforme aux recommandations du Conseil. Le Comité du Programme et le Comité des Finances ont accepté les propositions du Directeur général et demandent au Conseil de les adopter pour qu'elles soient soumises à la Conférence générale étant donné que cela est basé sur des priorités adoptées par tout le monde.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la délégation de mon pays approuve le Programme de travail et budget et estime que le niveau proposé est minimum; elle estime que les pays qui ont exprimé des réserves au sujet de ce niveau de budget reviennent sur leur position car au Conseil comme aux institutions internationales nous ne devons pas en limiter l'activité, nous ne devons pas réduire l'importance de la crise que vit le monde en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture. Le monde ne peut pas oublier la Déclaration de Cancún qui a donné la priorité absolue à l'agriculture. Le sommet de Cancún a vu participer les Etats qui sont représentés dans ce Conseil. Comment pourrions-nous sans défaut exécuter les programmes que nous adoptons?

J.PILANE (Botswana): I take the floor to register my delegation's support for the Programme of Work and level of budget proposed by the Director-General of FAO. I do support this budget with the full awareness that the level of budget proposed was arrived at taking into consideration the situation prevailing in both developed and developing countries. I also do this well aware that the original budget is now much less due to currency instability. In view of the foregoing we should naturally therefore be arguing for an even higher budget to make allowance for currency fluctuations but I think the budget should be accepted both as a compromise and as the minimum possible.

H.N. MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation thanks and congratulates the chairmen of both the Programme and Finance Committees for giving us clear views as to what transpired in the deliberations of both their Committees.

If there has been any one time when coordinated international action was required to combat the root causes of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, disease and ignorance it is now. The whole international world is agreed to the sobering fact that many more millions of people are today suffering from the above scourges than they were at the beginning of the decade. Commitments and pronouncements at various international fora, including the recent World Food Rallies, have been made to assist in alleviating the suffering of mankind by improving his productivity.

It is with the foregoing observation that my delegation finds the Director-General's programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium responsive to the enormous task and challenges before it. It is my delegation's considered view that Africa needs greater international support in the next biennium.

It is in this continent that the majority of Seriously Affected and the Least Developed Countries are. It is also the continent with relatively little export capacity to developed countries.

It is the continent with the fastest deterioration in the food situation. I am happy to note, therefore, that in a number of key programme areas budgetary allocations to the African region have been increased.

My delegation fully and particularly endorses programmes 2.1.1 through to 2, 1.8, these being natural resources, crops, livestock, research support, rural development, nutrition, food and agricultural information and analysis and food and agricultural policy. We endorse the general principles, priorities, and the budgetary allocations to the various sub-programmes.

We fully support the proposed budgetary increases on the overall programmes, in particular we would like to stress the need for increased funds for more work on natural resources to enable developing countries to make more use of the land and water resources at their disposal and also to enable more work on soil conservation activities and find the answers to the problems of shifting cultivation.

In the field of crops we endorse more work on food legumes, roots and tubers. Crop improvement and management, crop protection and seed development should also receive greater attention in the next biennium.

There is no doubt that the budgetary allocations in the various programmes of work are the minimum required to meet current obligations and the increased activities to meet the aspirations of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade which foresees an annual growth rate for agro-production during the 1980s. This challenge cannot be seriously faced without further increases in budgetary allocations to key programme areas.

The Director-General needs support from all of us here with regard to the contribution of funds to the budget and my delegation views the proposed budgetary increase as an unambitious and modest amount and in accordance with the present mood and spirit of the international community. With the foregoing in mind I appeal to those contributors who may have reservations to review their positions.

My delegation does not support the idea of zero growth. We feel that this idea emanates from the recession going on all over the world. We do not think this applies to multilateral organizations such as FAO which aims specifically at improving the livelihood of the poor. If the idea of zero growth rate refers to the need for FAO to become more efficient my delegation feels that their programme of work for the next biennium is enough evidence of FAO's streamlining of all its activities. My delegation views with fear and suspicion any ideas from many contributors to funnel funds more to bilateral aid. We feel that bilateral aid tends to be fettered and serves a different purpose from that of multilateral agencies. My delegation calls therefore on all member countries to review their positions and support the proposed budget level.

My delegation supports the draft resolution on budgetary appropriations in 1982-83 for adoption by the Conference.

S. DEMARE (Sweden): At the last meeting of the Council in June my delegation inter alia stated that we strongly supported the thrust of the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO and the efforts made by the Director-General to make the work carried out by FAO more efficient. At the same time, however, we also presented some reservations concerning the budget level, mainly because of the additional costs involved in the continued and rapid establishment of new FAO representatives and offices. These views have been further elaborated by our delegate to the meeting of the Programme Committee in September. We are still in the process of scrutinizing the full Programme of Work and Budget, taking into account the views presented in different fora and the general international development and we have not yet taken a final position concerning the budget level. At this Council meeting, therefore, I have to reserve, the position of my Government to the budget level until the question is taken up at the Conference.

A. RACHMAN (Indonesia): My delegation would like to associate itself with the previous speakers to congratulate the Director-General in the first place and then the Secretariat, the Programme and Finance Committees for their excellent preparation and presentation of the documents for this agenda item,

The Indonesian delegation has carefully studied the proposal and we are happy to note the positive proportional change incorporated in Technical Cooperation Programmes in particular and the Technical and Economic Programmes in general which we fully endorse.

All of us here are deeply concerned with the world food and agricultural situation which although we have noted some encouraging indications for the 1981 crop season, mainly for wheat and coarse grains, as a result of better weather conditions the world food situation remains uncertain and even could continue to be critical. In assessing the world food situation therefore a review of the adequate production and food stocks is an important factor and it is necessary to obtain an objective and balanced view of the overall situation. A review of the current world food situation does not seem to give us any reason for optimism, let alone complacency. Increased export prices of food grains aggravated by rising freight rates have put mounting burdens on many developing food deficit countries. To approach solutions various programmes and policy measures tabled out in the Programme of Work and Budget as presented here should be vigorously pursued.

It is for the above reasons that my delegation reiterates its support of the Programme of Work and Budget and the level of the budget as proposed in the document C 81/3, since it represents a modest increase necessary to support fairly our case for agricultural development and food security for all.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I wish to convey my delegation's most emphatic support of the level of the budget which we also did earlier in the Council when the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was discussed in the Programme Committee.

Also, speaking very briefly, we would like to urge on behalf of our country that all those countries who have reserved their position on the level of the budget should come forward and unanimously support it. We appreciate most deeply the fact that the Australian Government has viewed the world food situation in a more sanguine manner and has come forward to support the level of the budget.

It surprises us some-times to hear the priorities, the programmes, the strategies, the thrusts, being approved by our Member Nations, not only in this forum but in other international fora in the major world summit conferences - Cancún, Melbourne and Ottawa - all Member Nations. All countries, all leaders of the world realize that there is hunger in the world and that steps should be taken to eradicate it. What surprises us is that these words when they come to be translated into deeds, when action has to be taken, those very leaders, those very countries, those very members hesitate and reserve their positions. That makes us sad. It makes us sad because platitudes and clichés do not fill the stomachs of hungry people in the world, in Africa and in Asia; it has to be deeds and actions and resources.

So we urge all those countries who do declare that there is hunger in the world and something has to be done about it, we urge them to come forward and do it, to help us in eradicating hunger and to support the budget of FAO.

On behalf of my country and my delegation I once again urge all those countries who are reserving their positions to come forward. We feel that the amount of work that FAO is doing in this direction and the momentum that it has gained in this direction of agricultural development and the eradication of hunger, it is very essential that this momentum continues. A small spanner in the wheel would break the steps that we are taking. Therefore we urge that all of us should march forward together and support the level of the budget unanimously.

P. KANGA (Angola): Ma délégation approuve les orientations proposées par le Directeur général sous tous leurs aspects, comme l'observation des stratégies et priorités conformes aux objectifs des Nations Unies et les décisions prises par la dernière Conférence de la FAO: répartition équilibrée des crédits entre les différents programmes, voies et moyens utilisés par le Directeur général et niveau du budget fixé.

Nous tenons à déclarer pour notre part, comme nous l'avons d'ailleurs dit à la dernière session du Conseil, que cette augmentation est très modeste en soi et qu'il nous semble irréaliste de la réduire.

De ce fait, nous demandons à ceux qui ne l'ont pas encore fait d'approuver le programme de travail et budget de la FAO pour la bonne conduite de cette Organisation.

A.P.D. TANOË (Côte-d'Ivoire): Ma délégation a suivi avec intérêt l'exposé qui a été présenté tout à l'heure par les différents comités. Ma délégation appuie sans réserve tout le programme, y compris le budget.

Mrs. L. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): Thank you for giving me the floor at this point, since the item under our consideration is one of the most important items on our Agenda.

My delegation would like to express our position as follows. My delegation agrees with the Director-General's view expressed at the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Council that the prospects currently facing the world economy are not good, that there are increasing economic tensions and pressures and that this will have an adverse effect, particularly on the low-income developing countries.

Also my delegation is of the opinion that the world food situation calls for governments to strengthen their support of food and agricultural development, especially through FAO and other relevant international organizations. This means that we must urge FAO to increase its role to meet the needs of the increasing number of hungry and malnourished portion of the world's population.

While asking our Organization to work more and harder we should provide it with enough resources.

Having studied the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1982-83 my delegation is pleased, considering that the Director-General's strategies and priorities as proposed in his Programme of Work and Budget are designed to implement this role. The strategies and priorities are fully in accordance with the Council and Conference policy guidance.

We consider that the proposed budget level and programme increase are very modest, though we recognize the needs of developing countries to apply their economic policies in a world climate of increasing inflation, unemployment and cuts in public expenditure. But why should we ask FAO to work less when the world is affected by inflation and recession ?

The Director-General has capably and efficiently implemented over the past five years the mandate that he gave to FAO to respond to these critical problems. His proposals for the next biennium merely seek realistically to implement what we have asked for. For the above-mentioned reasons my delegation would therefore like to request the Council to agree unanimously on the Programme of Work and Budget as the minimum funds to face urgent and severe problems of world food and agricultural development.

In conclusion, my delegation would like once again to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General and would like to urge the Council members who reserved their position on the budget level to reconsider the matter in a positive way.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait): (original language Arabic) We very firmly support the strategies and priorities as suggested by the Director-General. These are strategies and priorities which are in conformity with the very serious situation faced by food conditions throughout the world. We feel that the Director-General has deployed efforts in order to carry out a balance between the Budget and Programme. The savings which have been made and the reductions in administrative costs are supported by us, while we feel that all the strategies and priorities are quite in line with the guidelines given by the Council and the Conference.

We support the Programme of Work and Budget more specifically because this Programme of Work and Budget represents a minimum, and we feel that the countries having expressed reservations should look at their positions once again. That is why we feel that the Council should unanimously adopt the recommendation with respect to the adoption of the budget so that the Conference may adopt it as well.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): Ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion, lors de la 79^{ème} session du Conseil, de faire des commentaires et de donner l'avis que lui inspire l'examen du Programme de travail et budget 1982-1983. Je serai donc bref.

Je tiens à souligner toutefois que les stratégies, les priorités et les méthodes de travail arrêtées par le Directeur général découlent logiquement de l'analyse de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Certaines mesures palliatives, concernant le relèvement du fonds de roulement ou le recours à l'emprunt, sont imposées par la situation financière de l'Organisation, situation quelque peu préoccupante. Aussi incombe-t-il aux gouvernements des Etats Membres de faire l'effort nécessaire pour s'abstenir de projeter leurs propres difficultés financières sur l'Organisation afin de ne pas grever davantage sa gestion.

Ma délégation accueille avec satisfaction la position évolutive que vient de prendre le gouvernement de l'Australie et l'en félicite, tout en espérant que les autres pays suivront cet exemple très stimulant.

Je termine en réaffirmant que ma délégation approuve entièrement le niveau proposé pour le budget, bien qu'il lui apparaisse comme un minimum en-dessous duquel il serait difficile à l'Organisation d'accomplir avec efficacité sa mission.

G. STREEB (United States of America): First of all, I would like to thank the Chairmen of the two Committees for what we consider to be an accurate and fair portrayal of the work of those Committees, and appreciate that they have both expressed views that were given by various delegations and the differences that were expressed during those meetings.

We have of course examined the Summary Programme and Budget and in general are satisfied with the thrust of the programmes and the priorities that have been established there. As was noted, we did feel that in one particular area, namely that of the regional offices, this issue should be kept under review to determine whether there could not be a more effective use of the resources, especially in the light of the potential expansion of the country representatives that is contemplated.

I have in the last several weeks had the opportunity to meet with virtually every head of every Specialized Agency and Agencies of the United Nations, and I do not think it is any surprise that practically every one of them feels that the budget of that Organization should expand.

I have likewise seen the reports from New York from the Fifth Committee where the views of the representatives of many delegations here on the question of zero growth or low growth in the budgets have been quite amply elaborated on in the Fifth Committee. El Salvador mentioned something about the possible priority to FAO and making the FAO an exception. I do think it is worthwhile looking at this suggestion as to the degree to which one can distinguish between the agencies, but to date, I at least have found that virtually impossible, given, as I say, that the heads of practically all of the agencies feel that they have very serious problems to be dealt with and their agency should receive some priority.

Obviously, and very understandably, in the area of food and agriculture, we have, if I could use the term, a more emotional issue, perhaps I should say a much more serious issue than others, and the problems worldwide are well appreciated by everyone, and I would guess that there is almost no level of the budget which could not very legitimately be considered a minimum.

Even if we doubled the level of the FAO budget, I am sure that most everyone here would still consider that inadequate, given the fact that we do have so many different types of problems to be dealt with worldwide.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot, I guess, point to any conference which the United States would host, but in any case, we have participated in some recent multilateral conferences, and I think it is fair to say that my country has led the way in putting stress on agricultural development as a priority area among the various developmental issues, and you might recall from my statement yesterday, I gave some statistics on the shift in emphasis that we have placed within our own government in the direction of relatively greater support for the agricultural sector among the development issues.

Some will also have noted that President Reagan at Cancún pointed out that within our government we were studying very intensively the types of initiatives we might be able to take to fulfill our desire to give greater emphasis to this sector, and I hope that we will have the opportunity to discuss some of those points during the Conference.

I think therefore it is important to bear in mind that the FAO budget must be considered in the context of the overall effort and should not be looked at in isolation. We were somewhat disappointed that following the 79th Session and the views that were expressed by several delegations there that the Director-General found it impossible to lower the budget projections, because we do feel very strongly that it is a time to pause in the growth of the United Nations system and the Specialized Agencies, particularly when these are viewed in comparison in the last ten years with the growth even in our national economies and in our own national systems. We think it is a time to consolidate the work of the agencies, to rationalize it and to determine where the lower priorities are and to therefore put greater attention on those issues which have highest priorities.

With all of these factors in mind, I have to say that we still remain among those who could not accept the currently projected level of the budget, and we will, of course, like others, give even further details on our position during the course of the forthcoming Conference.

DATO'SERI RADAN SOENARNO bin RADIN SOENARLO (Malaysia): My delegation has studied with great care and interest the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83 as presented in the relevant document. We do not wish to say much on the subject, as we will be commenting again on the topics during the Conference, but we would like at this Session of the Council to make the following remarks.

We are satisfied that the Director-General has taken into consideration the views of members expressed in the last Session of the Council in preparing his proposals. There is little doubt that the Director-General and his staff have taken into consideration the world food situation and the prevailing financial and economic situation in preparing his proposals, and in so doing, has made the necessary changes to the priorities between and within the programmes in compliance with the advice and views of the 79th Session of the Council.

I would like to add further that the proposed programmes constitute the minimum for the Organization, and further cuts would only injure the overall implementation of FAO programmes for the benefit of Member Nations. My delegation would like to reconfirm my government's support to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83, as proposed by the Director-General.

G. KELLEY SALINAS (México): Mi delegación quisiera hacer patente una vez más el apoyo de mi Gobierno al nivel del presupuesto, a su estructura programática y a las estrategias propuestas. Tendremos tiempo de analizar ampliamente durante la Conferencia estos asuntos, por lo que no abundaremos en ellos ni en las razones que motivan la posición de mi Gobierno en este asunto de tanta importancia.

No sobra subrayar, sin embargo, que con este apoyo al presupuesto va también nuestra solidaridad a la Institución, a sus propósitos y al equipo de trabajo que preside nuestro Director General.

A. MOUANGA (Congo): La delegation du Congo soutient le Programme du niveau proposé, car nous savons que la FAO est la seule organisation spécialisée capable d'affronter les problèmes alimentaires.

H.H. CARABAO (Venezuela): La circunstancia de hablar entre los últimos nos evita el tener que insistir en argumentos que ya han sido citados aquí, pero sí queremos reiterar que entre todos los organismos internacionales la FAO ha de tener prioridad, no porque lo quiera el Director General y los que aquí concurrimos, sino por un hecho natural: un pueblo que no reciba la ingesta alimentaria necesaria es imposible que haga programas de salud, de cultura y de deportes, y por eso nos sumamos a la proposición que aquí se ha hecho de solicitar para la FAO cierta prioridad.

Hemos pedido la palabra, señor Presidente, porque queremos identificarnos con todos aquellos países que sin reserva han apoyado el Programa de Labores, los objetivos, prioridades y medios de acción para el bienio 82-83 propuesto por el Director General. Consideramos que el nivel de presupuesto propuesto es realmente el mínimum para que esta organización pueda atender las urgencias de esa comunidad de países que tan urgentes están de recibir asistencia y ayuda. Por todo ello también ratificamos el pedimento que se ha hecho en el sentido de pedir que se reconsidere el concepto del crecimiento cero por aquellos países que lo han formulado. Desde luego, mi delegación no prejuzga acerca de las razones que esos países puedan tener para hacer tal invocación.

T. MIRCEA (Roumanie): La position constante de la Roumanie dans les organisations internationales, y compris la FAO, a toujours été celle de ne pas accepter à la légère les accroissements de budget et d'examiner attentivement les propositions et de voir comment les ressources financières des organisations internationales peuvent être utilisées d'une façon toujours plus rationnelle et plus efficace. Cette fois-ci, l'examen attentif des propositions de programme et budget présentées par le Directeur général de la FAO et les conclusions auxquelles sont arrivés les organismes de la FAO, notamment le Comité des programmes et le Comité financier nous offrent la possibilité d'apprécier que ces propositions sont judicieuses et réalistes. Par conséquent nous sommes dans la position de nous prononcer en leur faveur. Mis à part le fait que nous faisons pleine confiance au Directeur général, qui a fait preuve de hautes qualités en dirigeant les activités de la FAO dans une période non sans difficultés sur le plan international, nous avons vu notamment la spécificité du rôle de la FAO, et le fait qu'elle accorde une assistance aux pays en voie de développement par l'entremise des programmes de terrain principalement est un élément important d'appréciation à prendre en considération sur le niveau assez bas des frais d'administration. Un autre facteur à prendre en considération est la haute priorité reconnue et accordée sur le plan national et international aux problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et la nécessité que les efforts sur le plan national soient stimulés et appuyés vigoureusement par l'entremise des organisations internationales qui ont fait preuve d'efficacité et parmi celles-ci la FAO est en tête de la liste.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Je voudrais tout d'abord rendre hommage au Chef de la délégation de l'Australie qui vient de nous gratifier ce matin d'une très bonne nouvelle. Je crois que l'évolution de leur position depuis la 79^{ème} session de notre Conseil s'inscrit dans le sens de l'histoire et dans le sens de l'aide que ce pays, comme tant d'autres d'ailleurs, a toujours manifestée à l'égard de la FAO et des pays en développement. Je voudrais donc saisir cette occasion pour la remercier chaleureusement. Notre session est la seconde occasion qui nous est offerte pour exprimer nos points de vue sur le programme de travail et budget 1982-83 avant la Conférence générale. En ce qui concerne ma délégation sa position est connue: elle a été longuement exprimée lors de la dernière session de notre Conseil sur les divers aspects, sur le programme de travail et sur le nouveau budget proposé pour le prochain biennium. Je ne peux donc que confirmer cette position en faveur des efforts et des objectifs de la FAO qui, pour reprendre l'expression d'une délégation d'un grand pays qui a pris la parole ce matin, en l'occurrence le Royaume-Uni, sont "utiles et nobles." Je ne pense pas qu'il faille approfondir ici les débats d'autant plus que nous allons vers la Conférence générale où cette question sera discutée dans tous les détails. La noblesse des objectifs de la FAO, son efficacité, le souci d'économie du Directeur général et les efforts de la FAO pour l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le sous-développement ne font point de doute; ceci est reconnu par tous les Etats Membres sans exception. A maints égards on a dit l'ampleur et la gravité de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui nécessite des moyens importants pour y faire face. Le budget proposé, qui est l'émanation du programme de travail et des stratégies et des priorités reconnues valables par la Conférence générale elle-même, constitue à nos yeux un minimum; il se situe à mi-chemin entre ce qui est souhaitable et possible de réaliser. C'est la raison pour laquelle il ne nous semble pas opportun d'appliquer à des organisations telles que la FAO la fameuse théorie de la croissance zéro. Je ne pense pas que la FAO, sans sous-estimer les organisations que je vais citer, la FAO n'est pas l'Organisation mondiale du Tourisme, la FAO n'est pas l'Organisation mondiale pour la protection intellectuelle, Organisation du rente où le Sénégal est représenté. La FAO est autre chose, nous le savons. La FAO s'occupe des questions fondamentales qui concernent l'homme. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous lançons un appel certains des pays développés qui ont encore quelques résistances pour qu'ils tendent à aller dans le sens de la délégation australienne et de convaincre leur gouvernement respectif de ce que cela représente pour les pays en voie de développement; la FAO a une action qui va directement au bénéfice des populations rurales pauvres, d'une part par le biais de ses programmes et d'autre part par le biais des bureaux régionaux que nous sommes seuls à pouvoir estimer s'ils doivent être maintenus ou non dans les pays étant donné que nous sommes les principaux intéressés. A l'égard de ces représentations nationales et régionales de la FAO il me semble important de souligner que seuls les pays bénéficiaires sont en mesure d'en juger l'opportunité et l'efficacité. J'ose espérer que les délégations des pays réticents à l'égard du niveau du budget viendront à la Conférence générale avec des positions plus constructives car je suis sûr que ces pays ne peuvent rester insensibles aux souffrances de ces millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants dont, les yeux remplis de faim seront braqués sur nous la semaine prochaine.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): Our delegation will explain its position at the Conference. However, we support not only the budget level but also the priorities and strategies, as well as the methods adopted to restrict centralisation in the Budget.

We would also like to support the Field Programme and the enlarging and expansion of investment in the agricultural sectors of developing countries.

We will give our various reasons for this. First of all, we have examined the Budget in detail in the Finance Committee. We studied these objectives, which are perfectly clear, and which will be very profitable and helpful to all countries without exception: this is first and foremost for the developing countries, but it is also for developed countries although of course this would be in an indirect fashion.

We feel that Australia's approval of the level of the Budget is much appreciated, and we hope that other developed countries will follow Australia's example. As you all know, in Cancún powerful heads of state met. Amongst other things they approved the fact that agricultural development ought to be given absolute priority in the interests of all, not just in the interests of the developing countries. This was decided by chiefs of state, by representatives of the greater powers, and I think that should encourage everybody to give this Organization absolute authority by approving its budget. This Organization is the only organization which assumes the responsibility of providing assistance to developing countries which need aid in order to develop their agriculture.

This all serves to explain that it is not possible to ask the Director-General to reduce the Budget which was proposed to the Council, because there are countries that have enormous needs and even if we were to double or treble the budget level these countries would ask the Director-General to provide more aid for their peoples.

Another point that I would like to make is the progress that has been made, not only for us in Saudi Arabia but also in beneficiary countries as well who have felt the progress made by the Organization in its specialized field. We appreciate the efficiency with which the Organization operates. We have an example before us, and this is contained in Document C 81/INF/20.

I think it would probably be appropriate, after all members have read the document, for the Council and you to send a letter of thanks to the Director-General and the staff for the very efficient way they work, which we can see from this paper. I think in this direction FAO leads the field.

I repeat our support for the Budget level.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier le Directeur général ainsi que le Président du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme pour la présentation du document qui nous est soumis et que nous examinons actuellement. Mais, à ce stade du Conseil, je voudrais indiquer simplement que dès la soixante-dix-neuvième session la délégation française avait été amenée à formuler certaines observations, certaines réserves et aussi à formuler certains vœux tendant à ce que des aménagements apportés au projet de budget que nous discutons alors puissent être retenus de manière que lors de la Conférence qui va s'ouvrir dans quelques jours, nous puissions tous d'une manière unanime accepter ce projet de budget.

Nous avons examiné les nouveaux documents qui nous ont été soumis et cette étude se poursuit encore dans notre capitale pour parvenir à une décision finale, quant à la position que nous devons adopter.

Quoi qu'il en soit, j'aimerais dire que ce projet de budget répond certainement à nombre d'objectifs que nous partageons tous mais qu'il y a encore certaines contraintes qui nous empêchent dès aujourd'hui de prendre une position qui, je vous le répète, sera exprimée au cours de la Conférence.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Federal Government has, at various levels of the dialogue with developing countries and developed countries, stressed that it attaches great importance to the solution of world food problems for reasons of justice, humanity and solidarity, but also to help ensure peace and freedom. The Federal Government continues to hold this unchanged position. It is confirmed through its various contributions, at bilateral and multilateral level, to development. I do not wish to go into details in this respect but would just like to mention the following.

In spite of strong budget restrictions of the Federal Government, the development aid budget was again increased in 1981 by 8.8 percent, and thus was substantially above the average rate of growth of the total budget 1981. Measures for increasing food production and development are areas of priority action.

The Federal Republic of Germany finds itself with its official development assistance contributions amongst the three greatest donor States. With regard to support to least developed countries it is the biggest donor.

Regarding the item before us, my Government cannot but regret that the Director-General has not taken into account the position voiced by my own and other delegations at the 79th session of the Council, to lower the proposed budget and to strive for real zero growth. I have quite a few comments in support of our view but I shall refrain from giving details as you yourself have said, Mr. Chairman, there will be time at the forthcoming Conference to go into the minute details of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

However, if you would agree, Mr. Chairman, I could give some of our views for insertion into the verbatim record.

Discussions of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget were still going on in Bonn yesterday and may continue today. The conclusion reached at this stage is the following: the proposed budget increases as well as its structure make it not possible for my Government to lend its support to it. I hope that there will be an understanding that my delegation wishes to reserve its final position until the forthcoming Conference.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): ^{1/} The Director-General proposes the almost unrestricted continuation of all current programmes with full covering of the cost increases. The additional financial expenditure alone on this is estimated at more than US\$ 100 million. We feel that the estimates are rather generous and partly also differ from the method normally practised so far.

Another more important factor is the fact that in addition substantially additional expenses are suggested. According to the calculation method applied by FAO the real growth is calculated to be 5.8 percent, while according to the method applied in my country and in the UN-System the real increase would be 8 percent. These values are net values, a relevant gross calculation even leads to a real increase of 8.5 percent, only a very small share of this increase to the amount of about 5 percent (US\$ 1 387) should be financed by a reduction of the current programmes.

An expansion of the budget is mainly suggested. In our view these proposals are partly absolutely worthy of discussion. This applies for example to the technical and economic programmes and to the development support programme. It should, however, also be possible here to achieve a lower growth rate. More or less the same applies to the TCP. The increase envisaged for this programme should be more than 16 percent. Thus the TCP would add up to just under 13 percent of the total budget 1982-83, while the organization maintains that the share of the current biennium, that is 11.7 percent would not be exceeded. We do not understand that there should also be increases in real terms in the expenses for the general policy and direction as well as for the support services. Our opinion in principle, however, is that necessary programme expansions must be covered by savings elsewhere.

In this connection allow me a word about the envisaged changes in the personnel sector. My delegation does not believe that upgradings for which no reasons are given will improve the efficiency of the work of FAO. This would not be in line with the efforts of the Director-General to reduce administrative costs. We have to point again to the lack of transparency in various areas of the budget. This applies in particular to the personnel sector, where it is for example not explained clearly that apart from a certain reduction of posts for the coming biennium 18 new posts are envisaged. We wonder, why the process of post reduction in 1982-83 is only continued for posts of the general service, however not also, for the professional service, all the more since the deletion of established posts is compensated by the growth of fixed term contract staff and consultants. Alone for consultants a net programme growth of 15 percent is envisaged and at the same time stressed as the reason that the programme growth for travels must be 11 percent. Apart from the above-average growth in real terms in both areas consultants and travels are described to be particularly inflation cost affected and it is pointed out that past experience shows growth rates up to 70 percent and similar rates are expected for the future. In this connection we wonder, whether the increased employment of consultants is still justified in these circumstances. Finally we should like to suggest again to improve the transparency of the budget in particular also with regard to the country representatives. Here no break-down is made neither according to their number nor according to their grading in professional grades and above and in General Service grades, although on the basis of the data in doc. 75/3, para. 6.2. for 31 December 1983 about 600 posts should be available for this programme. Likewise there are no data on so-called filled posts. Like the other organizations in the UN-System FAO

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

should also inform about how "vacancies" are handled, in other words what actual impact has the established post quota on the budget. In this connection we would like to ask, whether it is true that only 85 percent of the approved post volume are utilized for P-grades and higher and only 88.5 percent for the GS-grades.

We would like to repeat the concerns already expressed on several occasions about a renewed increase in the number of FAO representatives without sufficient evaluation results on their efficiency being available. On this occasion we recall that we have already pointed out some years ago that an increase in country representatives should in any case be accompanied by a reduction of regional offices expenditures. In the draft budget 1982-83 before us a substantial programme growth in real terms is again shown for the regional offices.

To conclude, allow me to point out this: We should welcome the fact if FAO would make greater use of the joint inspection unit. This applies in particular to such programmes which demand substantial parts of the budget and for which overproportionate growth rates are suggested. Under this aspect special attention is drawn to the TCP as well as to the country and regional offices and their relationship to one another.

Concludingly, it can be stressed that the suggested growth rates and the structure of the budget do not allow us a positive attitude.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for reserving the position of your Government which is a very important one. I am sure there will be time to reconsider the matter.

J. GORECKI (Poland): First of all I would like to congratulate the Director-General and the two Chairmen of the Committees which prepared this document. My delegation supports the proposal in general while at the same time we noted with satisfaction that our suggestions and proposals made during the last session of the Council have been included in the present document. We would like to discuss in some detail our further proposals regarding the budget during the general Conference coming in a few days.

L. SMITH (Barbados): The Barbados delegation would like to place on record its support to the budget for the 1982-83 biennium. We take note of the financial constraints which limit the effectiveness of certain programmes; and on examining the document C 81/3 we have noted a programme for the generation of energy from straw. What we have not noticed is how FAO will gain gold from straw. Clearly, if the budget is not supported we will be asking the Director-General to do the latter in order to achieve the former.

At a time when the membership of FAO is increasing and when the world situation is such that there is a demand on the services that FAO provides, and an increasing demand made by under-developed countries for many of the programmes indicated in the budget and Programme of Work, we feel that any country which recognizes this need to support the under-developed countries in areas of increasing their food output could not help but give fullest support to the level of budget, though modest, as prepared by the FAO Secretariat.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): My Government thinks that the problem of budgetary of FAO is a political one in front of world disaster. This is the reason why, after the Australian intervention, I would like to point at this stage the particular attention with which my Government will decide, trying to provoke similar attention from other States.

A. NAGA (Japan): First of all, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and to compliment the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees. I also wish to express our sincere thanks to the staff of the Secretariat for the hard work they have done for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83. Japan has always been a keen supporter of FAO and recognizes the importance of food and agriculture. We have already discussed the level of the proposed budget of FAO at the 79th session of the Council. At that time several member countries, including mine, explained serious financial difficulties which they are facing and stressed the importance that the budget of United Nations Organizations, including FAO, should be decided with due consideration for the very difficult financial situation of member countries.

The present level of the proposed budget of FAO is slightly reduced from 33.9 percent to 32.0 percent growth in nominal terms owing to the factor of currency exchange. However, its level in real terms has not changed at all since the 79th session of the Council: it is still at the high level of 5.8 percent growth in real terms, compared with other United Nations Organizations.

As Japan's budget growth for the past few years has been almost zero growth, and its budget for the 1982 financial year will be rather tight, the present level of the proposed FAO budget will not be realistic for us to accept. I therefore sincerely urge that the Director-General and the Secretariat understand our severe financial constraints and reconsider the budget level of FAO, again in the direction where we could finally accept it. While desiring and expecting the Director-General's treatment of the budget level in a flexible manner, at this stage my delegation would like to reserve its final position on the FAO budget.

P. J. O'DONOGHUE (Ireland): At the last session of the Council I was not in a position to give any clear indication as to Ireland's line of approach to the budget. This was because an election was in the offing at home. A new government has taken office since. You may be interested to know for the first time ever we have now a Minister of State specially charged with the task of development assistance. One of the first tasks of the new government was to renew and indeed to strengthen its commitment to development aid and this in spite of their stringent budget difficulties at home. It is in this context that I can say that Ireland is prepared to go along with the modest escalation in the level of activity that the Programme and Budget for the next biennium envisages.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): Last October 16th on the first World Food Day FAO celebrated its 36th anniversary. Those were 36 whole years dedicated to raising the level of nutrition and the level of life of many people in the world by means of well prepared and well implemented programmes. FAO has been an important instrument both in increasing productivity in the agriculture of developing countries and in promoting efforts to ameliorate food distribution especially in rural areas. Throughout its history FAO has contributed in a fundamental way to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Its efforts as an agency of international cooperation in food production and in the promotion of food development deserve the appreciation of all member countries.

Today we are living through a particularly difficult period of time. On the one hand the food and agricultural situation, especially in developing countries, is far from satisfactory. On the other hand this situation is aggravated by a very negative international environment crisis, by recession, shrinking markets, high market rates, high costs of agricultural input, especially energy input for agricultural activities. The consequences of such a difficult picture is felt with a particular acuteness in the non-oil exporting developing countries. The balance of payments of such countries is heavily over taxed by new and increasing obligations. It becomes ever more difficult to accept new obligations that will put heavier burdens on the shoulders of such countries. Brazil is one of those countries which face serious problems in its balance of payments.

As regards document C 81/3, my delegation will speak in more detail during the Conference. At this stage I will offer just a few brief comments to help explain the position of my country. A first reading of the document shows that the difficulties I have just mentioned have not been fully taken into account in the preparation of the new Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. In practically all chapters there have been increases due not only to costs but to expanded programmes. Moreover, in purely monetary terms the budget for the next biennium is much higher than the previous one, even the exchange rate on which it is going to be based is now much more favourable. The document also shows a stepping up in activities not directly aiming at any improvement in productivity and an increase in production. It is the understanding of the Brazilian delegation that in the particular international situation in which we find ourselves today FAO should concentrate on programmes leading effectively to increases in production and to better development in agriculture.

In this regard the Brazilian delegation wishes to inform the Council that it will not be able to lend its support to the proposed level of the Programme of Work and Budget and consequently it will have to abstain in the vote on the proposal during the next Conference at FAO.

C. LAMBERT (Canada): Nous avons écouté avec grande attention les interventions de ce matin sur le Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium. Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur le Président, qu'il en sera tenu compte dans la formulation de la position finale du Canada. Pour le moment, ma délégation ne peut accepter le niveau de budget qui a été présenté à ce Conseil.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): After hearing all the other speakers I would very much like to put on record that my delegation from Kenya are out to support the Programme of Work and Budget as well as Medium-Term Objectives as presented by the Council and by the Director-General. On the opening of the floor for discussion we thought there was silence and probably there was satisfaction but this was not so and there is food for thought in that there is a lot to be done and that is why various people have come up to support the Programme of Work.

Developing countries are coming to an awareness and see a need to increase food production as well as national fora to discuss food production. Kenya is one of them, and the other countries around it. They have produced national food policies and other countries are formulating their own national policy which means that they are particularly aware of the situation and have to do something. In real terms when we look at the inputs that would be required to make the food policies a reality it is colossal and in terms of funds.

After studying the details of the Director-General's priorities as laid down in the Programme of Work we think that we in the developing countries, and especially so in Africa, would like to see an even higher budget level so that the Director-General may carry out his activities for which food is a priority in this planet. Please note that I am talking about this planet.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Briefly I just simply wish to make the comment that my government categorically rejects any insinuation or implication that our view on the FAO budget has anything to do with the hunger of the world. I think our record on whether it is with respect to basic agricultural development or whether it is to the assistance that the government and the many private organizations in our country have given to the large numbers of refugees, or as some prefer to call them, nomads in the world speaks for itself, and I can say that we will not enter the Conference in either an apologetic or a defensive position.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Observer for Cyprus): I would simply like to say, coming as we do from a developing country, that we fully support the proposed Programme of Work and Budget presented to us today. We view both the programme and the budget as a minimum package that can be expected to have a meaningful impact towards increasing agricultural production and activity.

A.G. EXARCHOS (Observer for Greece): Just to say that Greece is always in favour of FAO programmes and projects aiming at the assistance and development of developing countries and therefore she supports the structure, the strategies, the priorities and the thrusts of these priorities as defined in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1982/83 presented by the Director-General.

A.A. KHALIL (Observer for Sudan): We firmly support the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1982/83 biennium as submitted by the Director-General. We feel that the budget suggested is indeed a very modest one if we compare it to the food situation which is worsening. I do not want to speak at any great length because we will be expressing the reasons and justifications which prompted us to support this budget and Programme of Work in the course of discussions in the general Conference.

MAI LUONG (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): Je voudrais d'abord, Monsieur le Président, vous remercier de me donner la parole en tant qu'observateur du Conseil pour que nous puissions renouveler notre appui sans réserve au niveau du Programme et budget 1982/83 présenté par le Directeur général et le Comité du programme et budget, comme nous l'avons déjà fait lors de la 79^{ème} session du Conseil. Nous espérons que ce niveau du budget sera approuvé à l'unanimité au Conseil et à la Conférence. Nous espérons aussi que les pays qui se qualifient champions de la FAO redoublent leurs efforts pour

approuver le niveau du budget qui est encore bien mince par rapport aux besoins de l'agriculture et des pays en développement dans le monde.

P. ROSENEGGER (Observer for Austria): Mr. Chairman, you mentioned, and several delegations mentioned, the Cancún conference. As we all know, one of the results of this conference has been the consensus on the absolute priority that should be given to the problem of food and agriculture. The only specialized international organization in the framework of the United Nations which can give a concrete answer to this result of the Cancún conference is FAO with all its knowledge and expertise. We think that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1982/83 would give this answer. We support it, and we have said so already at the last Council session in June. In accordance with our support to the Programme of FAO, we are also prepared to take our share resulting from the proposed budget level and we sincerely hope after hearing and following the discussion in this Council session that this budget will be approved unanimously at the forthcoming conference.

S. CADENASSO (Observador de Chile): Voy a ser muy breve. Solamente quiero felicitarles por el documento presentado y el trabajo desarrollado y decir, también, que mi delegación apoya el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio y que, como país en donde se encuentra la sede para Latinoamérica puedo manifestar, con toda justicia, la efectiva labor que desarrolla esta Organización.

Por lo tanto, estamos de acuerdo con el aumento mínimo del presupuesto después de haber realizado el Sr. Director General todos los ajustes recomendados durante el 79 período de sesiones del Consejo. El Sr. Ministro de Agricultura expondrá la posición de mi país después del estudio realizado por los expertos correspondientes.

A.R. SIAFA (Observer for Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone's Observer would like to lend support to the Programme of Work and Budget. This is a very important issue and we would not like to stay silent on it because food is a very prominent subject in our country and in fact the question of food is such a delicate situation that we have to give it the strongest support possible. We believe that the level of the budget as prepared by the Director-General is quite reasonable and is acceptable to Sierra Leone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also to thank those who prepared the documents which have been discussed by this Council.

CHAIRMAN: That exhausts the lists of speakers. Before I sum up I would like to give the microphone to the Director-General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, je voudrais vous dire combien je vous suis reconnaissant du ton constructif, du ton modéré avec lequel vous avez débattu cette question très importante qu'est le Programme de travail et budget pour 1982-83. Il n'y a eu aucune confrontation, et j'espère qu'il n'y en aura jamais, non seulement sur ce sujet, mais sur d'autres sujets.

J'ai aussi apprécié les interventions des délégués qui n'étaient pas en mesure, en ce moment, de se prononcer de façon finale sur le niveau du budget. Je crois que ceci constitue un encouragement pour nous tous en ce qui concerne la discussion à la Commission II de la prochaine Conférence. Je pense qu'avec de la bonne volonté nous pouvons espérer aboutir à un consensus - je ne dis pas l'unanimité. Ainsi les pays qui, pour des raisons qui leur sont propres et que je respecte, ne pourraient pas voter en faveur du budget, ne bloqueraient pas la décision de la majorité, en restant dans l'esprit démocratique qui caractérise les Nations Unies et la FAO. J'ai beaucoup apprécié le ton très modéré et très encourageant de la délégation des Etats Unis. Je m'attendais je dois le dire à une position plus difficile. Rappelons-nous que ce Conseil se situe juste après le sommet historique de Cancun. Comme il n'y a pas eu de documents officiels à la suite de ce sommet il y a une déclaration qui a été lue conjointement par les deux présidents: le Président de la République du Mexique et le Premier Ministre du Canada. Je voudrais me permettre - car il y a évidemment un rapport entre le programme de travail de la FAO et les problèmes traités par la FAO dont plusieurs ont été évoqués lors de ce sommet historique 7 de lire deux paragraphes qui me semblent pertinents de cette déclaration. Les débats ont en effet montré qu'il existait dans plusieurs cas une entente et une convergence de vues générales sur les

grandes questions concernant la sécurité alimentaire et le développement agricole. "La faim doit être éliminée dans un délai aussi bref que possible. Cet objectif constitue clairement une obligation de la communauté internationale et se place au premier rang des priorités tant à l'échelon national que dans le contexte de la coopération internationale. La condition fondamentale pour apporter une solution réelle aux problèmes de la faim est que les pays en voie de développement fassent eux-même sur le plan intérieur un effort soutenu et prolongé pour accroître leur autosuffisance en matière de production alimentaire. Cet effort exige néanmoins que soit aussi fourni en temps utile un soutien international technique et financier suffisant en liaison avec les politiques et stratégies intérieures. Ceci est la pensée des 22 chefs d'Etat qui se sont réunis les 22 et 23 octobre à Cancún. J'espère que l'esprit de solidarité qui a prévalu à Cancún, pourra aussi être reflété dans les discussions qui auront lieu à la prochaine Conférence de la FAO, non seulement sur le budget mais sur toutes les autres questions qui vont être débattues.

Je crois que je n'ai pas à ajouter grand chose sur la priorité qu'occupe l'agriculture non seulement dans le sommet de Cancún, d'Ottawa ou de Melbourne, mais aussi dans le cadre des politiques nationales d'aide au développement. Le représentant des Etats-Unis l'a dit, l'agriculture occupe la plus haute priorité dans leur programme d'aide; le Canada l'avait dit aussi, 45 pour cent de l'aide va au secteur agricole; le Japon à plusieurs reprises l'a répété, la Communauté également accorde 40 pour cent, le PNUD lui-même, la Banque mondiale.... C'est la priorité des priorités. Donc, quand je propose 11 millions de dollars d'augmentation d'aide nette pour 1982 pour aborder le problème de la faim et de la pauvreté on ne peut pas dire que j'ai été trop exigeant et on ne peut pas dire que j'aurais dû en juillet diminuer le budget.

Il y a eu 40 pays qui ont demandé en juin que le budget soit préparé de façon plus détaillée sur la même base que les sommaires qui leur avaient été soumis. Je dois tenir compte de ces 40 pays tout en respectant l'avis de ceux qui pensaient qu'on pouvait faire des restrictions. Je me suis donc conformé aux vues de la majorité sinon je ne serais pas le Directeur général de la FAO si je devais me ranger aux décisions minoritaires. Aussi n'ai-je pas à me défendre à ce sujet mais seulement à m'en expliquer. Aujourd'hui d'ailleurs, les résultats que nous avons obtenus montrent bien que cette même majorité de juin est restée la même au mois de novembre sur le même sujet et je pense qu'il est sage de suivre la voie qu'avait alors décidé le Conseil.

Je voudrais rendre hommage, comme l'ont fait beaucoup de délégués, à l'Australie qui a décidé d'appuyer le budget malgré les contraintes qu'elle subit. Je n'ai pas à les citer ou à les expliquer, nous savons de quoi il s'agit, je dois aussi rendre hommage à l'Irlande qui nous a indiqué aujourd'hui que sa position avait évolué et qu'elle appuyait le budget. Je suis certain que les pays comme la Suède, la France, la Pologne et pourquoi pas l'Angleterre, l'Allemagne, le Brésil qui a aussi indiqué qu'il s'abstenait, que même ces pays donc pourraient au moins ces prochains jours manifester leur sympathie pour la majorité des pays membres et faire les efforts nécessaires pour appuyer ce modeste budget.

En conclusion je voudrais encore une fois remercier toutes les délégations ici présentes. Nous allons continuer cette discussion dans quelques jours, durant la Conférence, et j'espère que le même esprit d'amitié et de solidarité prévaudra lorsque cet important sujet sera discuté.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, for this very clear more or less summing up of the reactions by members to the debate on this very vital subject. Next time I think we will hold the Commonwealth Conference in Canada.

Now, 47 members spoke on this subject, which is practically the whole membership, and out of that, 39 clearly indicated their support of the budget, and six more or less reserved their decision now until they go into Conference, but they were encouraging discussions, and out of the two who said they are against, there too the feeling is that they may reconsider their position in the light of Cancun and Ottawa, etc., when they really come to Conference. Therefore, this discussion, as the Director-General said, has not really been a confrontation or anything like that. There is a feeling that everybody here appreciates what the FAO is doing, what the Secretariat is doing, the measure taken by the Director-General to improve efficiency and to really bring up items which are of top priority. This has been considered by all, and the position is this: that although the financial situation is hard on all, it is harder still on the developing countries, the poorer of the developing nations, and therefore the feeling here that something must be done to assist I am sure will be transmitted to the Conference itself. It is an atmosphere that: has to be created and generated, the atmosphere of cooperation as was done at Cancun and Ottawa and Melbourne and all the others, as well as the Conference going on in Paris now.

In our report, therefore, we shall reflect this attitude of Council, there has been no confrontation at all. If I may say so, in almost 20 years of coming here, we have never had complete unanimity on budget. This is a fact. The Director-General knows it, all of you who have been coming long enough know it, and this is only natural, but the fact is that the majority decision is carried. This is a democratic way, and the Director-General has no alternative but to follow what the majority of the members of the Organization vote for or want, and I am sure that the small minority is not opposing anything as such, but governments are governments, they are sovereign and they can take their own decisions; nobody is grudging any government what decision it takes.

Now it is half-past twelve and I think it is better for us to adjourn, but before we do that I have here a note from the Secretary-General that concerns the Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee. It has been proposed for your proposal that Mrs. Rossi Perotti of Italy be the Chairlady of the Drafting Committee. It is agreed.

Then, it is here suggested that the Latin American Group have indicated that El Salvador will replace Venezuela on the Drafting Committee. Poland is also on the Drafting Committee. If this is agreed, then this now completes the chairman and membership of the Drafting Committee who can get to work perhaps this afternoon. They will have to work this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 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 80/PV/4

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(4 November 1981)

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

La quatrième séance 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

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

14. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters Arising out of the Forty-first Session of the Programme Committee and the Forty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 21 September - 2 October 1981):

14. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration découlant de de la quarante et unième session du Comité du programme et de la quarante-huitième session du Comité financier (Rome, 21 septembre - 2 octobre 1981):

14. Otros asuntos del Programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos dimanantes del 41 período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 48 período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (Roma, 21 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 1981):

- Financial Position of the Organization

- Situation financière de l'Organisation

- Situación financiera de la Organización

Contributions Matters

Contributions

Asuntos relativos a las cuotas

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier, non seulement • au nom du Comité des finances, mais également au nom du Comité du Programme, en l'absence du Président de ce dernier Comité, tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu appuyer nos recommandations.

A présent, je voudrais me référer à la question qui nous concerne cet après-midi, à savoir la situation financière de l'Organisation. D'après le calendrier des travaux qui a été distribué sous la cote CL 80/OD/2, les délégués ont pu se rendre compte que cette question comporte plusieurs volets. Je vais essayer d'être le plus bref possible et le plus clair possible en les prenant dans l'ordre où ces volets figurent dans le document que j'ai cité. Comme je vais certainement monopoliser pendant un certain temps la parole, je demanderai bien sûr l'indulgence et la patience du Conseil.

Je commence par la question des contributions. Le Conseil est prié d'abord de se référer aux paragraphes 3.31, 3.40 du rapport du Comité des finances. Ce rapport est complété par un document qui a été distribué ce matin par le Secrétariat. Il s'agit du document CL 80/LIM/1. Ainsi le Conseil peut constater que le tableau qui a été présenté au paragraphe 3.31 concernant la situation des contributions courantes est mis à jour par le document récemment distribué par le Secrétariat. En effet, depuis le 24 septembre, le Secrétariat a reçu de nouvelles contributions mais je dois également compléter le tableau du dernier rapport présenté par le Secrétariat par trois toutes récentes informations que j'ai reçues cet après-midi. Il s'agit des nouvelles contributions reçues après le 31 octobre. Les pays concernés sont le Viet Nam, la Tchécoslovaquie et la Guinée. Bien sûr, avec les nouvelles contributions le taux de recouvrement que vous avez dans le premier rapport du Comité des finances a changé. Actuellement, ce taux s'élève à 72, 87%. Si nous comparons ce taux de recouvrement avec le taux de recouvrement des années précédentes à la même période, nous constatons qu'il reste plus bas. En effet, à titre de référence, je peux vous les citer très rapidement.

En 1977, année de Conférence, à la même période le taux de recouvrement des contributions s'élevait à 92, 30 pour cent. Cela signifie qu'il y a presque 20 pour cent en moins.

En 1979, toujours année de Conférence, le taux de recouvrement pour la même période s'élevait à 94, 83 pour cent.

Si j'ai insisté sur ces pourcentages, c'est que la question présente une grande importance, et c'est au vu de la gravité de cette situation que vous serez saisis tout à l'heure d'un ensemble de propositions qui ont été discutées par le Comité des finances et qui seront soumises à votre approbation. A la lumière de ces chiffres, le Comité des finances considère que le taux de recouvrement n'est pas du tout satisfaisant, et le Comité continue à se préoccuper très sérieusement de la gravité de la situation des contributions courantes, et des arriérés de contributions également, car cela pose d'énormes problèmes et cause à la trésorerie de l'Organisation et à l'exécution de son programme des répercussions très négatives. Le taux reste, comme je l'ai déjà dit, plus faible que la part proportionnelle des crédits budgétaires. A cet égard, et j'insiste sur ce point car la question a été longuement discutée par le

Comité des finances, le Comité souhaite que le Conseil partage vivement ses préoccupations et en fasse rapport à la Conférence, notamment à la lumière du paragraphe 3, 33 de son rapport, à la lumière de la nécessité du respect du Règlement financier de l'Organisation et à la lumière de la nécessité de ne pas constituer un fardeau supplémentaire aux Etats Membres qui font honneur ponctuellement à leurs obligations.

Le Conseil, de l'avis du Comité, est appelé à noter en particulier les efforts du Directeur général pour protéger les intérêts financiers de l'Organisation. Il est appelé à l'encourager dans cette voie, car cette situation - et j'insiste sur le mot - sans précédent met l'efficacité de l'Organisation en danger, ce qui a d'ailleurs amené le Directeur général à proposer au Comité des finances, et par le truchement de ce Comité au Conseil et à la Conférence, un ensemble de mesures qui, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, est destiné à affronter ce genre de situation si jamais elle se répète.

D'ailleurs, cette situation, de l'avis du Comité, est d'autant plus préoccupante qu'un important bailleur de fonds a annoncé qu'il aurait l'intention d'envisager la modification des pratiques du versement de ses contributions, contrairement à ce qui est indiqué par le Règlement financier. En effet, et je dois le rappeler au Conseil au nom du Comité, toutes les contributions devraient être versées au plus tard au mois de février de chaque année. Le Comité insiste sur la gravité de la situation et espère obtenir l'appui du Conseil à ses recommandations.

A propos des arriérés de contributions, la situation n'est pas moins préoccupante. Le nombre des pays concernés est élevé et je crois qu'il est évalué maintenant à 22. Quatre d'entre eux, je dirais même cinq, risquent de perdre leur droit de vote lors de la prochaine Conférence. Il est à signaler à cet égard que la République Centre-africaine a fait une requête pour payer ses arriérés par tranches. Cette requête sera soumise à la Conférence dans les prochains jours.

Là encore, le Conseil, de l'avis du Comité, doit lancer un appel à ces pays pour qu'ils règlent leurs arriérés au plus vite. Il doit également demander au Directeur général de n'épargner aucun effort pour obtenir le versement de ces contributions.

Enfin, le Conseil voudra bien prendre note, aux paragraphes 3, 39 et 3, 40, des nouvelles demandes d'admission émanant de trois pays, et les propositions pour le taux de contributions à appliquer à ces pays, compte tenu des recommandations du Comité des contributions, lesquelles recommandations sont actuellement soumises à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New-York.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee. The floor is open for discussion.

L. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): Having listened to the very clear and concise introduction made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and having read with great attention the excellent documents prepared by the Secretariat, my delegation would like to express its concern at the unprecedentedly serious position of contributions, despite the intensive and special efforts of the Director-General. This situation could lead to very serious consequences both for the Organization and for Member Nations, should the present situation be repeated in future biennia.

In this regard my delegation would like to appeal to Member Nations concerned to make every effort to effect payments without further delay. In this connection my delegation also endorses the draft resolution to be proposed to the Conference as related in paragraph 3.52 of document CL 80/4.

G. STREEB. (United States of America): I was going for once to save Colombia the difficulty of having to start the discussion for every one of these issues. From the latest information I have, all I can anticipate is that the FAO Representative in Washington has suddenly run off to Brazil with \$13 1/2 million in the cheque that was given to him yesterday. In any case, my information is that, consistent with our policy of payments in the fourth quarter, we have passed to the FAO Representative in Washington approximately \$13.7 million. While this may not be entirely satisfactory to everyone here, in terms of our approach at least for the table in Appendix A, it does alleviate considerably the arrearages that are in the second column and, to a considerable extent, those that are in the third column. I assume that the fact that we have made the bulk of our payment will now be reported in due course to the Secretariat here.

I do notice that there are quite a number of countries which have outstanding payments and I think our position and the rationale for our policy of gradually making most of our payments in the fourth quarter of a calendar year or the first quarter of our new fiscal year is quite clear. We have explained this several times in terms of our budget's scale. It is the only way that we can go to the Congress and specify exactly the amount of money that we need for the next year and to have

our payments match our own budget scale. I give this only by way of explanation. I understand and appreciate that there continues to be concern about this approach but it is a fact of life and we feel it is much fairer to the Organization to make it quite clear what the basis of our payments is and the timing of those payments. At the same time, however, I would probably be a bit remiss if I did not register some concern about the fact that our clear policy is criticized while the late payment of many other countries, which is not explained, is left uncommented upon, but I share the concern of the Chairman that at least by the end of this year as many of these arrearages as possible be cleared up and the account for the full year be brought into full balance.

RAMADHAR (India): I would like to support what has been said earlier by the delegate of Thailand, that the financial position of the Organization as spelled out by the Chairman of the Finance Committee is really a matter of great concern to all of us and this Council being the governing body of the Organization should take serious note of that.

We are not here to point accusing fingers at those who have defaulted in payment or to those whose policies, whatever those policies are, have led to this state of affairs but the fact remains that the Organization has very difficult times ahead so as far as the financial position is concerned and I do not know what we can do at this stage except that this Council should make a strong appeal to those, including the defaulters, as well as to such countries whose policies have created a financial position, to heed to it and to see that the payments are made in time and the arrears are cleared and even such countries that have their policies of making payments in contravention of the financial contributions of the Organization. They may like to have concern in view of the financial difficulties of the Organization for there is some need of flexibility in those policies.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): As a member of this Organization in good standing, financially at least, Canada can only support the pleas of the Chairman of the Finance Committee for all members to honour their responsibilities to this Organization and to the United Nations system as a whole. Canada, of course, has always accepted the rule of the majority on such matters and recognizes its share of the approved budgets by prompt payment. Approval and enthusiasm for budget growth carries with it we think similar responsibilities.

H.N. MUKUTU (Zambia): I would like to put on record the fact that Zambia sent its payment to FAO on the 19th of October 1981 through the Bank of Zambia to the Bank of England and that payment should have reached FAO by now. If it has not we will follow the matter up and see what has happened.

M. BEL HAD J AMOR (President du Comité financier): Avant de poursuivre, je voudrais faire un ou deux commentaires, à propos de cette question, sur les réactions de certains délégués.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier le délégué du Canada de nous avoir rappelé la régularité du versement des contributions de son pays. Cela est vrai. Il n'y a jamais eu de critique concernant un retard de la contribution du Canada. Je voudrais le remercier au nom du Comité des finances.

La deuxième remarque concerne le Comité financier lui-même. Je n'avais jamais pensé que les appels du Comité financier pouvaient être parfois aussi efficaces. En effet, au moment où je vous lançais un appel au nom de ce Comité, une communication téléphonique venant de Washington, exactement à 14 h 50, annonçait le versement d'une grande partie de la contribution des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. Aussi je confirme ce que le délégué des Etats-Unis nous a dit, et je précise qu'il ne s'agit pas de 13 millions mais de 13 millions 735.112 dollars. Cela change le pourcentage du taux de recouvrement, qui devient ainsi 78 pour cent. Cependant, comparé au taux de 1979, année de Conférence, il y a encore une différence entre 78 et 94 pour cent.

Je remercie le délégué des Etats-Unis de nous avoir informé de ce versement et j'espère que d'autres efforts seront faits, non pas seulement pour ce biennium, mais surtout pour les bienniums futurs, car ce sont eux qui préoccupent le Comité des finances qui insiste pour que les versements soient faits à temps.

A propos de la remarque que le délégué des Etats-Unis a faite concernant les critiques, je tiens à souligner que le Comité des finances ne vise pas par ces critiques un grand pays mais qu'il s'élève toujours contre le principe même du retard des versements des contributions. Qu'il s'agisse de 10 000 dollars ou de 10 millions, pour le Comité des finances le principe reste toujours critiquable.

Mais pour être plus réaliste, les délégués des grands bailleurs de fonds doivent quand même reconnaître que dans la mesure où il y aurait un retard dans leurs versements, les répercussions sur la bonne exécution du programme de l'Organisation seraient plus grandes que s'il s'agit d'un pays qui ne verse que 50 000 dollars en deux ans. C'est pour cela que le Comité des finances se montre beaucoup plus insistant auprès des grands bailleurs de fonds, mais le principe reste le même; les contributions doivent être versées à temps.

Special Reserve Account
Compte de réserve spécial
Cuenta especial de reserva

Je voudrais passer maintenant à la deuxième question inscrite à l'ordre du jour concernant la situation financière de l'Organisation. Il s'agit du Compte de réserve spécial. Les paragraphes du rapport y relatifs sont 3.45 et 3.49. Plus spécialement, il s'agit de deux aspects de cette question: la situation de ce Compte et le mode proposé pour son réapprovisionnement.

Tout d'abord, le Comité souhaite rappeler au Conseil que ce Compte a été créé pour aider à protéger le Programme de travail et budget des effets des dépenses supplémentaires non inscrites au budget. De même, il faudrait rappeler que des propositions de modifications concernant le niveau et l'utilisation de ce Compte ont été examinées respectivement par le Comité à sa session de printemps et par le Conseil à sa session de juin. Il est inutile de revenir là-dessus.

A cette session, le Conseil est appelé à considérer la situation du Compte et son réapprovisionnement. Il faudra noter à cet égard, qu'en raison de l'écart favorable entre le taux de change de la lire utilisé pour le calcul du budget 1980-81 et le taux effectif des Nations Unies, le niveau du solde du Compte s'élevait fin août à plus de 14, 5 millions de dollars. Si cette tendance favorable se maintenait, le niveau du Compte de réserve spécial pourrait atteindre à la fin du biennium le montant de 19 millions de dollars, après financement des dépenses supplémentaires non inscrites au budget. Les modifications pour ce compte, telles qu'approuvées par le Conseil en juin dernier portent le niveau initial du compte de réserve spécial à 5 pour cent du budget opérationnel effectif. Au vu du niveau du budget proposé pour 82-83 à savoir 368, 016 millions de dollars au taux de 1 dollar = 1175 livres le niveau du compte serait de 18, 4 millions de dollars. En principe les fonds disponibles sur ce compte seraient suffisants pour réapprovisionner ce compte et le Comité soumet à cet égard une résolution au Conseil pour sa transmission à la Conférence. Il s'agit de la résolution ... excusez-moi, j'ai confondu avec le fonds de roulement ...

La dernière remarque concernant le compte de réserve c'est que le solde après réapprovisionnement du compte qui resterait de 19 millions de dollars serait viré aux recettes accessoires.

CHAIRMAN: Any comments on the Special Reserve Account?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): I just wish to recall that at the 79th Session my delegation was not in agreement with the proposed increase of the Special Reserve Account, nor with the change of the different rules which are therein.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Just simply to say that my position is the same as the Federal Republic of Germany.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): Just to ensure that what we send forward from Council to Conférence leaves us fully flexible and free to discuss in complete depth this question when our specialist will be here and able to deal with it more completely.

CHAIRMAN: Whatever we send to Conférence will be fully debated; there are no restrictions on it. If there is nothing more then, Chairman of the Finance Committee, can you go on to the next item.

Working Capital Fund

Fonds de roulement

Fondo de Operaciones

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je voudrais seulement faire une précision. Je n'ai pas du tout oublié les positions de certains pays au dernier Conseil où nous avons étudié cette question et c'est pour cela et je suis certain que l'interprétation est exacte, eue je ne la tiens pas pour argent comptant et la question sera rediscutée plus tard dans les commissions de la Conférence. A présent je voudrais aborder la question du fonds de roulement. La question du fonds de roulement aura deux aspects. D'abord la situation et la reconstitution du niveau actuel, ensuite il y a une proposition pour le relèvement du niveau de ce fonds. Je les soumettrai séparément.

D'abord en ce qui concerne la situation et la reconstitution j'invite le Conseil à considérer les paragraphes 3.50 - 3.52. Le Conseil se rappelle qu'il a accepté en juin dernier un prélèvement sur le fonds de roulement pour financer les dépenses supplémentaires non inscrites au budget. En raison de l'évolution du montant de ces dépenses le Comité a été informé que le prélèvement des ressources intégrales de ce fonds, à savoir, 6, 5 millions de dollars environ s'averera nécessaire. Au terme du règlement financier le mode de remboursement de ce prélèvement est déterminé par la Conférence. Avec un peu d'optimisme, on peut espérer que les pays membres paieront leurs contributions en temps voulu d'ici la fin du biennium. Si ce fait se vérifiait il en résulterait un excédent de trésorerie assez suffisant pour rembourser le montant prélevé sur le fonds de roulement. A cet égard le Comité recommande au Conseil de soumettre à la Conférence pour approbation le projet de résolution figurant au paragraphe 3.52.

CHAIRMAN: This item is now open for discussion. There is a draft resolution to be recommended for the Conference if members agree.

G. STREEB (United States of America): We are having a little difficulty in understanding this resolution Not having been on the Finance Committee we do not have all the explanations. I am not sure whether it is appropriate to ask for those explanations here or if we do it in private. But given the fact that the issue of replenishment of the Working Capital Fund per se seems to me to be a very straightforward routine operation, I am confused first of all what it is about the regulations that does not make it straightforward, and secondly what the very last paragraph of the Resolution means, particularly the part 'notwithstanding the provisions of the Financial Regulations'. In reading that for the first time I have the impression that we are trying to change something and bypass some existing regulations, but I cannot figure out what it is. If it is possible to get an explanation on this now I would appreciate it, if it seems to be more appropriate to do it later on I agree, I could do it either way.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Non, nous n'essayons absolument pas de détourner quoi que ce soit. Il suffit de voir ce qui est écrit dans les textes de base, dans le règlement financier, et vous trouverez exactement le libellé. Si mes souvenirs sont bons, tout excédent à la fin du biennium doit être reversé aux Etats Membres; dans la mesure où l'on fait une dérogation à ce règlement on est obligé de le dire, et de rappeler que cela n'est pas conforme aux dispositions. Mais cela a été une pratique. On a toujours utilisé, et ce n'est pas la première fois, une partie des excédents pour réalimenter des fonds de l'organisation ou des comptes spéciaux. J'ignore si le Secrétariat a quelque chose à ajouter à ce propos.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): There is nothing unusual about this resolution. There are many many precedents over the years for such a resolution whenever it has been necessary to withdraw money from the Working Capital Fund for any purpose. In the past we have had to withdraw money to meet emergencies such as foot-and-mouth disease, we have had to withdraw money to finance the World Food Conference for example, which was an additional budget item, and in this biennium we have had to withdraw money to meet the unbudgeted costs. It is paradoxical that, as you have just heard, we have an enormous amount piling up in the Special Reserve Account which cannot be used to meet unbudgeted costs. Therefore we have to turn to the Capital Working Fund to meet these costs, but the Capital Working Fund has to be reimbursed at the end of the biennium and it is the prerogative of the Conference under the Basic Texts to decide how to reimburse it. If there were no cash

surplus it would have to vote an additional assessment. In this case there would be a large amount of money available from the currency gains and also from miscellaneous income. In order to tap that money, to use it, it is necessary to adopt a resolution which says in effect that whereas normally this cash surplus would be distributed to Member Nations in due course, on this occasion because we have to fill up the Working Capital Fund to its old level we are withholding that part of the cash surplus to do that. That is the only significance of the words 'notwithstanding the provisions of Financial Regulation 6.1(b)'. This is all foreseen in the Basic Texts and there are many precedents over a generation exactly on the lines of this resolution.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Let me assure you that I do not see anything sinister or devious in this. I know there is a very straightforward explanation. The third paragraph of the resolution says that if members pay their contributions promptly there will be a surplus. My simple accounting logic would tell me that if during the year you do not get contributions paid promptly and you borrow out of the Working Capital Fund, when those contributions are paid you refurbish the Working Capital Fund. So if in the last quarter of this year all the contributions are paid you will simply put the money back into the Fund that you borrowed in the first place because they did not pay. What I do not understand is what seems to be described by Mr. West as tapping the other funds. This is simply taking the new contributions coming in and funnelling them straight into the Working Capital Fund to reimburse it. It seems to me that it is obvious that you would do that. You do not need a resolution. So what is it that we are tapping that is different than contributions paid during the last quarter of the year?

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The contributions are not paid into the Working Capital Fund. They are paid into the General Fund. If necessary we draw on the Working Capital Fund because of shortfall of contributions. We have not reached that point yet because our accounts do not close until the end of the year and we have money in hand. We will run out of money unless all the further outstanding contributions are paid. Then we might have the problem of drawing on the Working Capital Fund. Quite separately from that we have authority to withdraw \$5, 425 million from the Working Capital Fund in addition to whatever might be affected by shortfall in contributions, and that \$5.4 million has to be replaced. It will be replaced if you adopt this resolution, as in the past, from miscellaneous income. The extent of miscellaneous income depends on the payment of contributions because the greater part of it comes from interest accrued on contributions. So that is what we are going to tap, mainly interest accrued on contributions. I hope this is now clear.

CHAIRMAN: Is this clear enough now?

G. STREEB (United States of America): It is clear that they are tapping. It is not quite clear to me why they tapped the Working Capital Fund in the first place. What was the emergency that we tapped it for? You implied that it was not the shortfall in contributions that you tapped it for. It was for some emergency, which I assume had to do with inflation or a special programme. Obviously it had nothing to do with the dollar, that we know.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As stated in the first paragraph of the resolution, it is not to cover any emergency except what you might call the emergency of inflation; it is to cover unbudgeted costs. This was decided by the Seventy-ninth Session of the Council. So that is what we are covering, unbudgeted costs.

CHAIRMAN: Then if there are no more comments we will forward this resolution as a recommendation to Conference.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Puisque le fonds de roulement intéresse beaucoup le délégué des Etats-Unis je vais continuer la discussion sur ce point, mais cette fois-ci il s'agit d'une proposition pour relever le niveau du fonds de roulement. Le Comité estime que le Conseil doit considérer cette question à la lumière de la grave situation des contributions qui lui a été présentée tout à l'heure et qui crée des problèmes financiers à l'Organisation. Le Directeur général propose de relever le niveau du fonds de roulement de 6, 5 millions à 13, 25 millions de dollars. Le Comité a longuement discuté cette proposition et à la fin de ses débats il considère que ce montant peut se présenter comme raisonnable et recommande l'approbation de relèvement au Conseil pour les raisons suivantes. D'abord la situation du recouvrement des contributions reste inquiétante. Ensuite cette tendance dans le retard de versement des contributions risque de persister et de continuer à se manifester dans les années à venir. Troisièmement, le principal bailleur de fonds a informé de son intention de modifier les modalités de versement de sa contribution: cela entraînerait des retards dans le recouvrement de cette importante contribution et pourrait causer de graves difficultés de trésorerie. Quatrièmement, certains autres bailleurs de fonds pourraient être tentés de suivre cette tendance et ce en dépit des recommandations du Comité financier et du Conseil. En cinquième lieu, le Comité convient que ce fonds de roulement serait utilisé en premier recours pour faire face au déficit de trésorerie dû à des retards dans le recouvrement des contributions, car le compte de réserve spécial n'intervient qu'en second recours et sous réserve des ressources disponibles.

De même, le Conseil voudrait bien noter que le montant proposé est un montant fixe. Cependant, il représente un pourcentage d'environ trois pour cent du budget proposé. A noter que l'augmentation proposée du fonds pourrait être compensée en partie au moins par l'excédent de trésorerie susceptible d'être disponible en fin d'exercice.

Cependant, il faut être réaliste et penser à ce qu'un effort financier supplémentaire demandé aux Etats Membres reste toujours probable. Enfin, il y a deux précisions avant de soumettre au Conseil le projet de résolution. On se rappelle que dans les dispositions de la résolution qui a établi le fonds de roulement, il y a une autorisation de prélèvement jusqu'à un million de dollars pour financer des mesures initiales d'urgence contre les maladies du bétail et le criquet pèlerin. Ces dispositions restent inchangées.

Deuxièmement- c'est uniquement en réponse à une question qui pourrait être posée - le Comité voudrait rappeler au Conseil que le fonds de roulement a été relevé pour la dernière fois en janvier 1976.

Enfin, j'invite le Conseil à considérer le projet de résolution qui fait suite au paragraphe 3.60 et à le soumettre à la Conférence.

CHAIRMAN: Again we have a resolution to recommend to Conference based on the explanation given by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'interviens sur le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis concernant l'augmentation du niveau du fonds de roulement. Pour notre délégation c'est une chose nouvelle dont nous avons pris connaissance en recevant le rapport du Comité financier dont la dernière journée de réunion était le 1er octobre 1981 et lorsque j'ai quitté Paris le 2 novembre ces documents n'étaient évidemment pas parvenus. Nous n'avons donc pas pu consulter sur ce point nos autorités financières.

Aussi, je dois dire que, de manière générale, pour des questions aussi importantes que les questions financières - je sais que c'est difficile et que le Secrétariat rencontre toujours sur ce point beaucoup de difficultés pour les transmissions en temps utile - il faudrait que les documents puissent, si possible, parvenir 15 jours après la réunion. en particulier pour le Comité financier et qu'ils puissent être dans les mains des capitales intéressées dans ce délai.

Finalement je suis très embarrassé quant à l'augmentation suggérée de 6 500 000 dollars à 13 500 000 dollars. C'est pourquoi la délégation française est d'accord pour que cette résolution soit transmise par le Conseil à la Conférence tout en réservant la possibilité, pour nos représentants spécialistes en Commission II de la Conférence, d'indiquer ce qu'ils pensent du fond de cette résolution.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation finds that this is a very straightforward, a very clear proposal, including the resolution, and we have again to remember when we discussed the first sub-item that this measure is being suggested by the Organization in view of the extreme financial difficulties envisaged

by the Organization so from that point of view we again support this, and we are glad that even some distinguished colleagues who have some problem at this stage do not oppose the transmission of this, and since we still have some time between now and when the matter will be taken up in the Conference, this should not pose any problems.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Republic of): My government is of the opinion that there is no need for the raising of the level of the Working Capital Fund. My delegation can therefore not go along with the proposed resolution spelled out in paragraph 3.60 of document CL 80/4.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): The Cameroon delegation finds that the reason for having a Working Capital Fund are quite clear and that a Working Capital Fund at a level of 3 percent of the budget is not really excessive. We therefore would support the draft resolution and recommend that it be transmitted to the Conference.

R. ROUPHAEL (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation de mon pays estime que la proposition tendant à augmenter le niveau du fonds de roulement est une proposition logique et justifiée. Nous approuvons cette augmentation pour subvenir aux recettes accessoires et pour couvrir les retards dans les contributions.

G. STREEB (United States of America): In our case, if you look at the figures, it turns out that the additional assessment or the tapping of other sources that could be involved in expanding this fund would virtually come to the same level as if we approved the expanded budget of the Organization. If for no other reason, it should not come as any big surprise, then, that we would oppose the expansion of the Working Capital Fund, but beyond that, we ourselves do not see any justification or any need for such a doubling of the size of this Fund, and I must say that the previous discussion we had on the question of the Special Reserve Account or the replenishing of the Working Capital Fund now convinces me more than ever that we should not be in favour of expanding the size of this Fund.

M. GHASSI (Syria) (original language Arabic): My delegation supports India and Lebanon as far as concerns the level of the Working Capital Fund.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Durante la discusión del aumento del nivel del Fondo de Operaciones en el Comité de Finanzas, fuimos informados de la preocupante situación que se suscita por el retraso del pago de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros, y sobre el hecho de que se estaba estableciendo una nueva modalidad de pago de las cuotas de algunos de los Estados Miembros; modalidad que causo gran preocupación al Comité. Ante esta delicada situación, el Comité examinó la propuesta del Director General de aumentar el nivel del Fondo de Operaciones de 6, 5 millones de dólares a 3, 25 millones de dólares. Considerando que el Fondo de Operaciones debe ser la primera fuente de financiamiento de los gastos presupuestados, y ante la delicada situación por la cual atraviesa la Organización por la demora en el pago de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros atrasados, dimos nuestro apoyo al aumento del nivel del Fondo de Operaciones, aumento que representaría aproximadamente un 3 por ciento del nivel presupuestario para el próximo bienio.

En esta oportunidad, deseamos ratificar el apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución que se nos presenta para que sea enviado a la Conferencia.

H. MENDS (Ghana): My delegation is also quite satisfied with the justification provided for the raising of the level of the Working Capital Fund, and we therefore fully support the adoption of the Resolution for Conference approval.

M. F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): My delegation supports the draft resolution before us in order to allow the Organization to overcome the difficulties which had been noted by the Finance Committee, and therefore approves this increase from 6.5 million to 13.2 million for the level for the Working Capital Fund.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): Ma délégation se joint aux autres délégations qui ont approuvé la proposition de résolution et sa recommandation à la Conférence.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis est clair. Les raisons évoquées, notamment celles relatives au retard de paiements des contributions, sont convaincantes. En conséquence, vous comprendrez aisément que la délégation de mon pays puisse appuyer ce projet de résolution et recommander qu'il soit transmis à la Conférence.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to join all those countries which have approved the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund. We also approve the explanations which have been given and which justify this increase.

Finally, we approve the submission of the draft resolution to the Conférence.

P. KANGA (Angola): Ma délégation estime que l'augmentation à 13, 5 millions de dollars est justifiée. De ce fait, nous appuyons la résolution et approuvons qu'elle soit transmise à la Conférence.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Venezuela es uno de los países que mantiene al día su contribución ante esta Casa en el pago de las cuotas que le corresponde a la FAO, pues considera que solo con las contribuciones de los países es con lo que la Organización puede mantener un estado financiero limpio y proclive a funcionar de la mejor manera posible para el cubrimiento de su presupuesto. Este es un principio que defendemos, y quisiéramos hacer un llamado general, aprovechando la ocasión, a todos los países para que ayuden a pasar el grave momento que nos indica el Director General, por el cual estamos atravesando la Organización. Esto lo traemos a colación porque no somos proclives a apoyar este tipo de principio como es el uso de recursos adicionales sustraídos por otros canales, como los que se están en este momento trayendo a discusión. Pero comprendemos a cabalidad, nuestro país, las razones que mantiene el Director General en esta vía y por lo tanto, nuestro país apoya la transferencia al Fondo de Operaciones que el señor Director General nos ofrece esta tarde. Nuestro país apoya la propuesta.

WANG SHOU RU (China) (original language Chinese): Concerning the question of the Working Capital Fund as raised by the Secretariat, the Chinese delegation is in agreement with the views expressed by the Programme and Finance Committees in order to ensure the smooth operation of the normal activities of this Organization in a time of temporary financial restraint.

We support the appropriate increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund.

CHAIRMAN: It looks as if we are going back to a long general debate and our time is very, very limited. Therefore, if everybody wants to speak on this, please be very brief.

A. ELKADIRI (Maroc): Vu les justifications que nous avons reçues nous pensons que pour améliorer l'efficacité des activités de notre Organisation ma délégation appuie amplement l'augmentation du fonds de roulement et appuie la transmission de la résolution à la Conférence.

K.S. BINGANA (Botswana): We support the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, and further ratify adoption of the draft resolution for consideration by the Conference.

M. ZYALIC (Yugoslavia): We approve the submission of the draft resolution to the Conference as contained in Document CL 80/4, page 28.

M. S. ZAFAR (Afghanistan): Ma délégation appuie fermement le projet de résolution et souhaite sa transmission à la Conférence.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I do not want to hold you up, but it is appropriate to make a couple of points because in fact we have been dealing with three arms or instruments, and unfortunately we have been dealing with them in the wrong order. We should have dealt first with the question of the Working Capital Fund, then the Special Reserve Account, and then with authority to borrow, because that is the logical sequence. The reason we have not done this is that the idea of the Special Reserve Account occurred at the last Council and not at this one. The Working Capital Fund is the normal resort in the first place for shortfall contributions, and it is this situation which will not go away.

Incidentally, I would like to confirm that our representative in Washington has not gone to Brazil or any other country, but after he had recovered from the shock, he did let us know that the cheque had arrived!

The Special Reserve Account does mention contributions, but obviously from the beginning has been designed to cover the Programme against unbudgeted costs due either to inflation or adverse currency movements, and authority to borrow, which we come to next, is proposed as the last resort in case we get into a desperate position on contributions, which unfortunately might be the case in 1983, if not before. I am not pointing a finger at anybody, whether they are following a deliberate policy or whether they are affected by force majeure or civil wars or conflicts with other countries, or whether there are other reasons or financial difficulties which prevent them from paying on time, but it is very clear now that for the next few years we are going to have serious problems with delayed contributions. Therefore we have to be covered against these things if you want to preserve the Programme.

To those who want to cut the Programme I have nothing more to say, as their position is invincible, but as regards the need or otherwise the facts are there, both as regards delayed contributions and as regards the size of the Working Capital Fund. This is diminishing more and more in proportion to the effective working budget level.

I think we have been extraordinarily moderate. Some of you will not agree with me, and sometimes I think how daring I could be and I bite my hands and get moderate again. We have not proposed the percentage of the effective Working Budget, we have proposed a fixed amount, which is still rather smaller than is the case for the other international organizations. For those who say there is no need, I would ask them first to consider the actual situation we are going to be faced with on contributions, and secondly the fact that in other organizations the Working Capital Funds are considerably higher. In fact, in one, the provision for this is in the region of 14 percent of the Working Budget Level, so what we propose of just about 3 percent is very small indeed, and if the budget is larger in the following biennia that percentage will come down again, so what we are proposing is really rather moderate.

What we are proposing should be seen as the first arm; the Special Reserve Account has been dealt with as the second; and we are coming to the authority to borrow as the third resort in carrying out our programme.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr. West have explained what the problems are. It is up to this Council to ensure the Organization runs smoothly, and these measures have been proposed in order to facilitate proper management, proper functioning of the Organization. There is nothing sinister about it.

In the debate the majority consensus is that this resolution should go forward to Conference. Some members do not agree. In our report we will reflect that some members did not agree with this, and then the decision is up to the Conference.

We will now go on to the next one, which is probably going to be worse for some people. The Chairman of the Finance Committee will go on to the subject of borrowing.

Authority to borrow

Autorisation d'emprunter

Autorización para tomar dinero a préstamo

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Avant de continuer sur la note pessimiste présentée par M. West, qui justifie d'ailleurs la proposition qui va être soumise maintenant au Conseil, je voudrais appeler mon collègue le Président du Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles, car nous aurons également besoin de ses lumières.

Pour présenter cette question nous restons toujours dans la même atmosphère, à savoir l'atmosphère de la difficulté probable de trésorerie, de la dégradation de la situation quant au versement des contributions, malgré les recommandations du Comité et du Conseil.

Ce qui a déjà été présenté comme arguments pour la question du relèvement du fonds de roulement reste, de l'avis du Comité financier, toujours valable également pour cette question. Ces arguments sont encore beaucoup plus étoffés par le tableau qui apparaît au paragraphe 3.64 du rapport du Comité financier et qui illustre l'état de trésorerie probable en 1982-83, ainsi que les déficits possibles compte tenu d'un retard persistant dans le versement des contributions.

A la lumière de ces éléments, le Directeur général a demandé au Comité des finances, pour transmission au Conseil, qu'on lui donne l'autorisation d'emprunter.

Il faut préciser au Conseil que cette autorisation ne constituera que le troisième recours en cas de difficultés financières de l'Organisation, le premier étant le fonds de roulement et le second le Compte de réserve spécial.

Le Conseil voudra également relever que cette autorisation ne constitue pas une exception, qu'elle a été accordée auparavant à deux reprises, en 1964 et 1979, mais que le Directeur général n'en a jamais fait usage.

Le texte de résolution qui vous est soumis est sensiblement le même que celui des résolutions précédentes. Cependant, il y a deux nuances: il a été proposé qu'on supprime la limite de durée, de même on ne mentionne pas le montant, ce qui d'ailleurs aurait été difficile. Après un très long débat, après également avoir posé une foule de questions qui ont eu des réponses satisfaisantes, le Comité des finances a décidé d'appuyer la proposition du Directeur général et de recommander au Conseil le projet de résolution, objet du paragraphe 3.73 de son rapport.

Cependant, il souhaite attirer l'attention du Conseil sur ce qui suit: d'abord les sources essentielles devraient être internes, et vous pouvez vous reporter au paragraphe 3.69 qui vous donne un exemple de sources internes.

En second lieu, une grande rigueur dans l'utilisation du pouvoir d'emprunter devra être appliquée et on ne devra avoir recours à cette autorisation qu'en cas de stricte nécessité, et en tout dernier lieu.

En troisième lieu, l'autorisation devra être assujettie à un contrôle financier attentif. Néanmoins, le Comité a reconnu que dans certains cas indispensables une certaine souplesse pourrait s'avérer utile, sinon nécessaire.

Le Comité espère que sa recommandation du projet de résolution au paragraphe 3.73 soit appuyée par le Conseil.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee. This item is now open for discussion.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'ai entendu avec beaucoup d'intérêt les explications données par M. Bel Hadj Amor, Président du Comité financier, sur ce point.

Bien que l'essentiel soit dans le rapport du Comité financier, qui nous est parvenu avec retard, nous étions cependant avertis du problème car le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui en avait traité auparavant quant à la forme, nous était parvenu en temps utile, et de ce fait il nous a été possible d'avoir des instructions précises.

Ces instructions, je ne vous cacherai pas qu'elles sont négatives et que du côté de la délégation française nous ne sommes pas favorables à une autorisation donnée de manière aussi large sans limitation de montant et sans limitation de temps.

Il ne faut certainement pas y voir une expression de défiance à l'égard du Directeur général, mais c'est au contraire la volonté de voir respecter les règles applicables dans les institutions au point de vue financier et budgétaire. Les gouvernements n'ont pas l'habitude de donner - j'allais dire - des chèques en blanc soit à leur ministre des finances soit aux organisations internationales. M. Bel Hadj Amor nous a dit que des précédents concernant l'autorisation d'emprunter avaient déjà eu lieu en 1964 et 1979 et qu'il n'y avait que quelques nuances avec le projet qui nous est présenté aujourd'hui. En fait, je crois qu'ils s'agit plus que de nuances, parce que ces précédentes autorisations indiquaient jusqu'à combien et pour combien de temps. Maintenant il n'y a plus rien. Ce n'est plus une nuance, c'est un fossé.

Mais nous comprenons aussi la situation délicate dans laquelle se trouve l'Organisation et qui peut conduire le Directeur général pour assurer la bonne marche de l'institution à trouver, si cela est nécessaire, de l'argent lui permettant de couvrir des dépenses réelles.

Dans ce cas, est-ce qu'il ne serait pas possible, je ne dis pas de convoquer le Conseil parce que la procédure peut être un peu longue et qu'il faudrait déplacer les uns et les autres, mais d'utiliser - et cela doit exister à la FAO comme ailleurs - des procédures de consultations écrites? Est-ce qu'il ne serait pas possible, lorsque le Directeur général estimerait que la situation le justifie, que l'on en saisisse immédiatement par écrit - et quand je dis par écrit, ce peut être la forme télégraphique - les membres du Conseil, en leur donnant un délai pour répondre, étant entendu que s'il n'y a pas de réponse de l'un ou de l'autre dans les délais impartis, le silence serait considéré comme un acquiescement?

Alors, Monsieur le Président, vous comprendrez après cette intervention que nous ne pouvons pas appuyer la résolution telle qu'elle nous est soumise, mais nous demandons au Président du Comité financier et au Secrétariat de voir si une autre procédure, qui serait à rédiger et à soumettre à la Conférence, ne pourrait pas être envisagée. C'est-à-dire que lorsque sera constatée la nécessité d'emprunter, le Directeur général saisirait immédiatement les membres du Conseil par la voie de la procédure écrite, en indiquant le montant qu'il envisage d'emprunter, la période de temps qui pourrait être nécessaire et fixer un délai pour la réponse.

T. GLASER (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Le Comité financier qui a traité cette question après le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a déjà tenu compte de quelques remarques de forme que notre Comité avait formulées. Elles sont incorporées dans une proposition de résolution que nous avons maintenant devant nous. Je peux donc me borner aux points suivants:

Le CQCJ a noté que si l'article 6.2 (2) (i) du Règlement financier prévoit que des prélèvements peuvent être effectués sur le fonds de roulement, les Textes fondamentaux ne contiennent aucune disposition autorisant ou interdisant expressément de recourir à des emprunts provenant d'autres sources. Le CQCJ est convenu que l'absence de toute limitation de durée ou de montant n'avait aucune incidence du point de vue juridique ou constitutionnel et qu'elle n'était nullement incompatible avec l'autorité du Conseil en la matière ni avec les Textes fondamentaux en général. A cet égard, le CQCJ a tenu compte du fait que, comme l'indique le paragraphe 5 du dispositif du projet de résolution du Conseil, le Directeur général serait appelé à rendre compte au Conseil de tout emprunt par l'intermédiaire du Comité financier.

Le CQCJ a également conclu que la résolution du Conseil, telle qu'elle est proposée, ne nécessite aucun amendement des Textes fondamentaux de la FAO.

En conclusion, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques est convenu que du point de vue constitutionnel et juridique le projet de résolution est correct quant à sa forme et que sa teneur est conforme aux Textes fondamentaux.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of that, can we continue the discussion?

M. GHASSI (Syria) (original language Arabic): I shall be very brief. The reasons mentioned for this resolution and the delays in payment of contributions to ensure the smooth running of the Organization lead my country to support fully the draft resolution. We would recommend that it be submitted to the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Actually, the resolution is directed at us, it is not going to the Conference, if my understanding is correct.

C. LAMBERT (Canada): Excusez-moi, Monsieur le Président, je n'ai pas compris si vous venez de dire que cette question allait à la Conférence ou si elle n'y allait pas.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters what the recommendation is. I think it is not going to the Conference; it is for us.

T.T. GLASER (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): It is as you say, Mr. Chairman: it is for Council, it will not go to the Conference unless the Council decides otherwise.

C. LAMBERT (Canada): De tous les points qui nous sont soumis aujourd'hui, c'est certainement celui qui présente le plus de difficulté. Nous ne prendrons pas beaucoup de temps pour exprimer notre point de vue car le délégué de la France a très bien exprimé les raisons qui motiveraient le Canada à refuser cette résolution.

E. TIZOL MARTINEZ (Cuba): Al referimos a este tema 14, en particular al Informe contenido en el documento CL 80/5, sobre el informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, nuestra delegación desea expresar su apoyo al acuerdo de dicho Comité, que aparece en el párrafo número 10 del mencionado documento y, en consecuencia, expresa su apoyo a la resolución que aparece en la página 32 del documento 80/4, sobre: Autorización para tomar dinero a préstamo.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): We would like to express our support for the adoption of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3.73 of document CL 80/4 on page 32. I do not think that a long discussion or justification is needed. We understand it is a last resort and that before this resolution is put into effect, into practice, there are other ways and means to solve the financial problem. But we feel, such a resolution in this situation is really needed, and that is why we give it our full support.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je crains que si nous nous opposons au principe de l'autorisation d'emprunter accordée au Directeur général cela ne lui permettrait pas d'agir. Le principe d'emprunter ne constitue donc pas un désir mais il est dicté par des raisons. Par conséquent nous appuyons les justifications présentées par le Comité financier et la possibilité de sources internes et de sources externes et le paragraphe 5 ne porte pas atteinte aux droits du Conseil car le Directeur général, conformément à ce paragraphe, doit consulter le Comité financier et le Comité financier est l'un des piliers du Conseil et il doit référer au Conseil lors de ses sessions. Par conséquent, nous approuvons le projet.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): Ma délégation estime que, compte tenu du risque de voir cette situation s'installer pour quelque temps, elle appuie l'adoption de résolution concernant l'autorisation emprunter.

N. RAMADHAR (India): I thought that this matter which has been carefully considered by the Financial Committee in depth and has been agreed to by the Finance Committee, was going to be a routine one, an obvious one, and should not take that amount of time. When I look at the whole portion, my delegation notes that there are a number of built-in controls in the proposal which this Council should take note of. We find from paragraph 3.67 that on two earlier occasions this support was given but it was not used by the Director-General.

Then again we find that the primary source of such loans should be internal funds as mentioned in the fourth sentence of 3.69. The next paragraph we note that the amount and the time of borrowing must be limited to the minimum possible. Then again we find that this has to be a last resort situation which could not be predicted in advance but might need to be dealt with immediately. Again in paragraph 5 of the Resolution, as pointed out by the delegate of Lebanon, there will be strict control by the Finance Committee on the whole operation and as far as possible the Director-General will consult the Finance Committee and where it is not possible he will apprise the Finance Committee to be so affected. So we feel that this proposal, along with the draft resolution, is very much a necessity for the smooth and efficient functioning of the Organization and my delegation would like to reiterate its strong support of this.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation supports the draft resolution seeking authority of this Council to borrow in cases of extreme financial hardship specially as the borrowing will mainly be from internal sources. The Council may wish to authorize the Finance Committee to impose some sort of ceiling on the amount that could be borrowed at any time or the period over which this borrowing could take place. So we are in support of this resolution, subject to this amendment.

S. MURTAZA (Pakistan): My delegation considers this resolution to be important enough to get our strongest support. This resolution seems to be the result of a particular situation in financial matters which exist or which can be perhaps foreseen or expected. There are sufficient checks within the resolution which will make it quite improbable or impossible that this resolution will be misused or could be to the disadvantage of anybody. As such my delegation strongly supports the resolution.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): We acknowledge that there could be circumstances where the amounts available in the working capital fund and the special reserve account would be insufficient to meet a shortfall of income. We see this authority to borrow is what you might call the third leg in the series of defenses against inflation. We think also that with the growth in the capital fund, the need for resort to it should be quite rare if required at all. If we are to go along with it we would much prefer from the United Kingdom's point of view that there should be restrictions as suggested by Nigeria both as to amount and length of time.

M.M. SHANIN (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation is fully convinced by the justifications provided as regards the needs to give the Director-General authority to borrow, especially following the views expressed by the CCLM. My delegation therefore wholeheartedly supports this draft resolution on authority to borrow.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Face à la situation financière créée notamment par les pays qui accusent des retards de contributions ou même qui modifient les modalités de leurs paiements, la seule solution qui reste est celle proposée par le Comité financier. C'est cette solution seule qui pourra permettre à notre Organisation d'accomplir son programme sur lequel nous sommes tous d'accord. Nous voudrions aussi saisir l'occasion qui nous est offerte pour lancer un appel pressant aux pays membres pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions au plus tôt. En effet, ces retards non seulement entraînent des frais supplémentaires préjudiciables aux pays membres bons contributeurs mais également et surtout gênent l'exécution du programme. Nous sommes partisans de mettre les moyens utiles à la disposition du Directeur général pour lui permettre de s'acquitter correctement des tâches qui lui sont confiées. Après avoir appuyé la dernière résolution, ma délégation, qui reste logique avec elle-même, demande l'adoption de cette résolution permettant au Directeur général de la FAO d'emprunter, résolution qui s'inscrit dans le droit fil de la précédente avec suffisamment de garanties quant au contrôle que le Conseil par l'intermédiaire du Comité financier exercera dans le cadre de son mandat.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I asked to intervene because certain points have been raised and it might shorten debates if I could answer one or two of these before we go further. The first is the suggestion made that somehow or other we are asking for a blank cheque.

I would like to make it clear that we would never be able to borrow more than would take us above the approved budget level. There is no suggestion here of a power to borrow money which would enable us to spend more under the regular programme than we had been authorized by the Conference to spend. So there is an automatic limitation there.

Secondly, I would like to make it clear that it is not possible in the circumstances to put into the Resolution any fixed amount or time because what we are envisaging is a hypothetical case of nonpayment of a very large amount of contributions. Now we do not wish if we can avoid it to point the finger at the main cause of such a situation. We know it is going to happen, at least we have been told it is going to happen and we know what 25 percent of the effective working level of the budget is. Now if you work that out and divide it by two you get a measure of the minimum of the shortfall in contributions which may occur from 1983 onwards. I stress "may occur". I hope it will not. Now, if you make that little calculation you will see that if you wanted to insert the amount into the Resolution you would be asking me to put down a figure which would horrify your financial authorities much more than leaving it open like this and indicating that we would only borrow the minimum. It is not only with one contributor whose declared policy it is who may be involved. We had in the past something called the Helms Amendment that could also occur in the future; again I hope not. Then there are other countries, including some who have spoken on this point, who have only just paid up their full contributions, quite large amounts being involved. So the matter is really in your hands. If contributions are paid on time, even if the major contributor follows its policy, we may be able to avoid altogether the use of this authority. We cannot say how long it will be required for, except that if the policy is applied it may be required for at least one year at a time. Beyond that we cannot be more precise. However, as was already pointed out by some delegations, there are limitations in paragraph 5 of the Resolution which was amended in the form as a result of very long consideration of this precise issue by the Finance Committee. This is not the formulation proposed by the Director-General but one as amended by the Finance Committee. It envisages clearly that normally the Director-General will consult the Finance Committee in advance. The Finance Committee meets twice a year in the spring and in the autumn and we hope that we can foresee such a situation arising well enough in advance to put it to the Committee. But we may not be able to do so because quite apart from declared policies, other things can happen, as I have indicated. In that case you can be sure that the Finance Committee would examine any action very critically and would, in consultation with the Director-General, ensure that the situation was carefully controlled and then the Council would have the possibilities, either of itself considering a proposal in advance or taking a decision which would enable it to be sure that proper controls were being used and that the borrowing would cease at the earliest possible moment.

Consideration has been given to the idea of using the provision in Rule XXV.14 of the Basic Text. This is the one about consultation by post. Unfortunately that would not serve because it envisages a positive response within a certain time. It is not enough to say, if you do not reply by such and such date you may go ahead. The text does not envisage that and there is no other provision in the Basic Text which would enable us to take that course. In any case unless every member nation were to be informed of the reasons for such a situation arising, for example, the policy of the major contributor, and were in a position to do something about that policy there would be little point. I can imagine that without being so informed or even after being so informed a Member Government, France or any other, might say, "Well you cannot use your authority to borrow" but what would that serve the Organization, it would come to a full stop. We do not want to put Member Governments in the situation of having to take a position against its ally or friend. It is better to leave this to the Director-General and then having it put to the Finance Committee, but do you really want us to send you a message saying some Member Government is behaving not in accordance with the rules and do you approve of this or not. What could you say, that you do approve of it not behaving in accordance with the rules. This is not a real situation. What is real is that we might get into difficulties, the Director-General will consult the Finance Committee if it is humanly possible in the circumstance; the Finance Committee will take a position which is public and then the Council will review it. If we are near enough to the Council we will go to the Council so I really think that the Resolution from beginning to end is far from being a blank cheque. We do not want a blank cheque. We do not want even to use this ever, if we can avoid it. The Resolution provides all the safeguards that can be provided, given the circumstances, which unfortunately we are obliged, not of our own will, to envisage.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I certainly appreciate Mr. West's explanations and his attempt to be as balanced in his presentation as possible. As I indicated earlier on this while he referred to my country's policy of paying in the fourth quarter may be one of the sources, we are certainly not alone, and it is true that if all the other three-quarters of the membership paid up in the first three quarters there would be no problem., I am not saying that is an ideal solution, but since we are at most only -one-third of the problem of payments in the fourth quarter there is at least two-thirds of the problem somewhere in this room. Be that as it may, I understand his concern about the flow of funds into the General Account compared with the cash flow problem. What we are really addressing is the question of the principle under which you manage. We do two things in the Conference, we establish a programme and a budget. As is typical of any manager one is faced with the problem of do you adjust the budget to suit the programme during the period of one or two years, whatever your budget cycle is, or do you adjust the programme to the budget. This is where we have a bit of difference, I think. The idea of a blank cheque is not to exceed the authority but to guarantee through the three steps that have been established here that the Director-General never has to take a difficult decision. Every time he has an exchange rate problem, anticipated or badly predicted, every time he miscalculates or underestimates the inflation factor, he covers himself automatically through one of these elements. He has no problem whatever. I submit that every one of our budget managers should be thrilled to death to have such a system, but since we do not give our own budget managers or any one who has to live within an account that sort of flexibility it is a little difficult to see why we give this total freedom to the manager of an international organization.

There are other ways to adjust for these situations. I am sure it is well known to the members of the Secretariat what techniques can be used and have been used in the past to provide such adjustment.

Mr. West made a statement to the effect that the Organization could come to a fullstop. I cannot quite envisage the circumstances in which given the Special Reserve and the Working Capital available and the capacity to delay payments and so forth that the Organization would actually come to a full stop. That would indeed be a rather dire circumstance, totally unpredictable. But in any case I will acknowledge that there is a management problem that is created by the situation in which you get these irregular cash flows and payments through the months.

There has been some suggestion that there is a control and a check built into this resolution. I frankly cannot find it. There was a suggestion that paragraph 5 somehow provides a check. If you read it closely you will see that it provides no such check at all. The second line very carefully says that at his discretion he should keep the Committee informed and then that in his judgement if the circumstances and time permit he should consult the Finance Committee. But it does not give the Finance Committee any particular authority and in any case he would tell them after it was all over anyhow. So, if there are members here who see in paragraph 5 a check on the capacity of the Director-General to borrow, I do not see it. I am not saying this in any pejorative way to the Director-General but in any case there is no check built into the resolution. This is one of the concerns that have been expressed here consistently by various delegations. There is no real check in paragraph 5, there is no quantitative check, there is no time check. So while I agree that it is not a blank cheque in terms of exceeding the budget authority, it is in a sense a blank cheque to draw on the other accounts and then go to borrowing without having to take any very serious management decisions throughout the year in terms of the pattern of payments in order to try to compensate for the pattern of income from Member Governments' contributions.

Oddly enough, while perhaps it is not appropriate for me to make this point, since I have already expressed my government's position on this, there is a rather strange disincentive in this resolution, which is that there is every incentive in the world for all governments to pay in the fourth quarter of the year because they cannot possibly hurt the Organization. The Director-General can draw on funds and whatever he was short he can borrow. So there is no incentive and all those delegations who have been expressing the hope that there will be early payment, I do not see how this resolution will help them.

I will admit that there is one slight flaw in my argument, and that is that presumably from the basis of this resolution this is not all interest free, which of course causes a problem in terms of how those interest payments were made. From paragraph 4 it is quite clear that that will all come out of miscellaneous income so that for the year following the audit there will be an impact on Member Government contributions. But there is some penalty in that sense, but it is certainly not a penalty per se to the management of the Organization. Let me just finish on that line by saying that I, of course, support the view expressed earlier by the delegate of France both with respect to opposition to granting this authority and with respect to the suggestion he made for further study of the possibilities regarding such a resolution.

But going back to the point of interest, I am not familiar with all the various accounts that are specified in paragraph 3.69 which constitute the internal sources of borrowing. But I would like to ask if it is at all possible that the Director-General would have authority to borrow which would not incur interest costs. Are there ways to borrow from these internal sources without paying interest on them to at least avoid that problem?

CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. West can answer this last question.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Yes. There are one or two other points I would like to make as well. All the moneys we have except those which are required for day-to-day cash operations are invested at different terms and are earning interest, so there is no source of borrowing. In any case the loss of interest will accrue at one point or other to Member Governments, so it is as broad as it is long.

The United States suggested that we were asking for a total freedom which other organizations do not have. I would like to point out in this connexion that quite apart from our record over last six biennia which you will find in the explanatory notes to the Programme of Work and Budget about the cuts made and quite apart from the \$7 1/2 million which we are saving this year we do not have the prerogative which other organizations, particularly the United Nations, have of coming annually for a supplementary estimate to cover cost increases. In the case of the United Nations the last time they asked for a supplementary estimate it amounted to more than \$100 million. The United States opposed it but it was adopted. We do not have any such provision. So we have always been under a squeeze and always will be, and our record has nothing in it to suggest that we have suddenly gone mad and want to borrow money and spend it all over the place without regard to economy or without reference to the Finance Committee and the Council if at all possible.

It was also suggested that it was unlikely that we could come to a full stop because of all these other accounts. But in fact it is quite feasible that we could have a combination of non-payment of contributions, of adverse currency movements plus inflation way and above what we have provided for in the budget, plus this particular problem with the major contributor and perhaps others and it could add up to an awful lot of money and we would in fact be coming to a full stop in such circumstances. There is no way in which we could save enough money to keep going if all those things happened. I am not suggesting that it is going to happen, I hope sincerely that it is not. This is a purely preventive measure which will only be used in the last resort and you can be sure that it will be used to the minimum degree possible because we do not want you to lose the interest on miscellaneous income any more than you want to lose it.

The moral, as I said before - and here I agree fully with the United States - is that all contributions should be paid on time. The significance of this resolution, however, is that there is only one government which tells us in advance that it has a policy of not paying on time and that government happens to be the one that accounts for a very large amount of money.

Other defaulters or sinners or unfortunates may be bad payers but what their little contributions which are not paid would add up to is a very small amount. We are not discussing very small amounts, we are discussing very large amounts. I do not want to get into a controversial situation but I have to make that point.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Por haber participado en las largas y complejas deliberaciones del Comité de Finanzas sobre este tema, y ante la explicación dada por el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas y el Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, y del Dr. West a este Consejo, me limitaré a ratificar el apoyo de mi delegación al Proyecto de Resolución que aparece en el párrafo 3.73 del Informe del Comité.

Ms. L. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): As far as authority to borrow given by the Council to the Director-General is concerned my delegation fully recognizes the necessity of maintaining the sufficient cash flow to cover obligations and ensure implementation of the approved Programme of Work and therefore endorses the draft Resolution which appears on page 32 of the English text, paragraph 3.73.

Having heard the concern of some delegations my delegation would like to draw attention to the operative paragraphs 4 and 5, particularly paragraph 5, which has been pointed out by the delegates of Lebanon and India.

Furthermore, paragraph 4 indicates that any interest payable on such loans shall be charged to Miscellaneous Income. My delegation does not think that the Director-General will easily decide to borrow, if no real need exists, since it will have an effect on the Miscellaneous Income.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): The Barbados delegation has some difficulty with this Resolution as it stands. It is our view that the level of borrowing which is permitted to the Director-General should not be allowed to exceed the allocation made in the Working Fund. We feel that this would offer some measure of protection against increases in allocations from Member States.

Secondly, we are of the view that paragraph 5 of the Resolution on page 33, as stated by the United States delegation, does not offer any binding commitment on the Director-General to consult with the Finance Committee. We feel that a modification of that should be made to make it binding on the Director-General before any such borrowing takes place that he must consult with the Finance Committee.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): My delegation notes the reasons given in document CL 80/4 on page 32 in paragraph 3.73 as considered by the Finance Committee and the explanation being given at this debate. Authority should be given to the Director-General to borrow so as to be able to operate smoothly and effectively. We support the authority to borrow.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Federal Republic of Germany holds the view that the financing of FAO should be ensured, as with all other international organizations, by the contributions of the Member States. The proposed authority to borrow therefore encounters our general reservation. The proposed measure would rather influence negatively the paying behaviour of Member States. Additionally the modalities of the envisaged authority to borrow are not sufficiently precise, namely the amount or the time are not defined, nor are the obligations of reimbursement of credits.

Finally, no sufficient provisions are foreseen for obtaining previous approval of the governing bodies.

For the reasons explained my Government opposes the draft resolution as spelled out in paragraph 3.73 of document CL 80/4.

A. F. M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation did not oppose the two previous resolutions regarding reimbursement of the Working Capital Fund and the raising of the level of the Working Capital Fund. We believe that those two instruments should be enough to help the Organization face unforeseen situations and unbudgeted costs.

As regards the resolution now under consideration, besides not having any instructions to approve it because of shortage of time, I tend to support the idea already put forward that it needs more consideration by the Council. I am not in a position to support it.

A. G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): The majority of the members of this Council have supported the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. It has clearly been demonstrated by document CL 80/LIM/1 that the rate of payment of contributions is far from satisfactory. Indeed if the explanations given that there is a policy of paying contributions by some major contributors in the last quarter of each calendar year it clearly shows that the Organization will have some financial difficulties. The cash flow which is shown to us in the document is troubling. There is no need to have a number of projects which cannot be maintained in order to support the programmes which are approved by the Conference. It is clearly said in the Resolution and we do not think that the Director-General will use the opportunities available to have to go to borrow money. Clearly there should be some means of control. In a general manner therefore we do support the proposed Resolution and recommend that it be transmitted to the Conference.

A. NAGA (Japan): My delegation shares the view of the delegation of Canada. This resolution of authority to borrow should be taken after long and careful discussion. So my delegation thinks that this resolution should not be transferred to the Conference.

H. MENDS (Ghana): Like my colleague from the Cameroons we think that document CL 80/LIM/1 has amply demonstrated the need for the authority to borrow. For example, between 21 September and 1 October about \$19 1/2 million had to be paid and soon we have quite a number of countries whose contributions are still outstanding to well over \$46 million. Again I have listened carefully to the reasons advanced for holding the Resolution back and I really do not seem to see eye to eye with those people, because paragraph 1 clearly delineates that the Director-General must only resort to this tool in case of need. I think that is a sufficient check. Coupled with that is paragraph 5, and paragraph 3.67 has demonstrated that this opportunity offered to the previous executive heads of the Organization was not used. This maturity has been amply demonstrated and I think that with these checks and balances the Director-General will continue to exercise this maturity and experience. Therefore I wholeheartedly support the draft resolution and recommend that this Council adopts it for consideration by the Conference.

Ms. G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italy): As Mr. West has said before, the logical order of the package of measures proposed is: first, enlargement of the Working Capital Fund; second, use of the Special Reserve Account; and third, the authority to borrow. We fully understand the preoccupation of FAO. Therefore we would like to announce that we can agree with the first two propositions that will be further discussed during the Conference, but on this particular issue we believe that the suggestion of the delegation of France should be given more detailed attention.

B. E. PHIRI (Zambia): I will say only a few words, that is to support the views expressed by those who support the Resolution and recommend that it goes forward to Conference. We have seen in the past that unbudgeted costs could arise and in the current biennium it was expected that about \$18.5 million would have to accumulate as unbudgeted costs and that these would be paid from the Special Reserve Account, from the Working Capital Fund, and even from cutting the programmes.

We think that if authority to borrow is given it is a safeguard against any eventualities and particularly with a possible delay in the payment of significant contributions to the Organization. So without wasting time we wish to place on record that we support this resolution.

A. Z. M. OBIDULLAH KHAN (Bangladesh): Although some members feel that the matter should be given some more consideration I feel that no such action is called for. The document amply explains the situation which might necessitate such borrowing. If we wish to allow this Organization to pursue its programme it should be possible for us to depend on the discretion of its functionaries. Without adding more to this debate I would simply say that my delegation supports this proposal.

G. KELLEY SALINAS (Mexico): La delegación de México quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para adherirse al proyecto de resolución que autoriza al Director General a pedir prestado en casos de necesidad. No quisiera abundar en esto, pero nos parece que es simplemente un asunto de consecuencia con la Organización. En principio, si como miembros de esta Institución aprobamos el proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, es necesario que demos a esta Institución las posibilidades de que lleve a cabo su función de acuerdo con ese presupuesto aprobado. Independientemente de las causas muy legítimas que pueden existir para que algunos países no puedan cumplir con sus cuotas a tiempo, es la posición de la delegación de México que en esos casos hay que dar al Director General las armas suficientes y los elementos necesarios para que pueda cumplir con el mismo presupuesto que ha sido aprobado por todos los miembros de la Organización.

A. EL KADIRI (Maroc): Depuis ce matin nous parlons de l'inefficacité des programmes. Nous sommes toujours d'accord pour que le Directeur général puisse avoir la possibilité d'agir suivant le programme tracé par la Conférence. Pour cela, il faut lui donner les moyens de le faire. La résolution telle qu'elle est rédigée dans les paragraphes 1, 4 et 5 nous donne les moyens d'agir puisqu'elle le

paragraphe 1 il est bien dit que l'emprunt sera fait en cas de besoin, dans la mesure nécessaire, après avoir dûment recouru au Fonds de roulement et au Compte de réserve spécial. Et dans les paragraphes 4 et 5 nous avond encore d'autres possibilités. Ma délégation est donc pour l'adoption de cette résolution et son transfert à la Conférence.

J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): As a member of the Finance Committee I never thought it would be necessary for me to take the floor at this stage to defend a resolution which we adopted at the last session of the Finance Committee. In fact, as was rightly pointed out by one of my colleagues on the Finance Committee, we did go through this resolution very carefully and every item was discussed at length. We should realize that the budget is prepared very much ahead of the two-year period. In fact the preparations take place one year ahead. We are asked to support a budget, where the Director-General has to be assured that the funds required to implement the programmes will be forthcoming. The assumption is that you accept the programme and expect the Member Nations, however big or small, to pay in their contribution in time.

The Rules, if I recollect correctly say the contributions for the two-year period should be paid, one-half within the first month of each year. Unless there is an assurance that the funds are available to implement the programme, how else can the Director-General implement the programme which had been approved by the Conference unless he has some other means of financing the programmes, such as borrowing? We have been told there have been two instances in the past where recourse to borrowing from outside was necessary, but this was not availed of as the contributions which had been delayed were in fact paid.

Even if there is an assurance that the full amount due for a biennium or half a biennium would be paid on a staggered basis, how could we implement a programme without a regular cash flow? In a way, what the Director-General has asked for and the Finance Committee has approved is to be given those measures in case of need only and with due reference to the Council where possible, but without waiting for a calamity where there would be a complete stoppage when he would have to go to the Conference and say that the programme could not be implemented fully.

Some means are necessary to give authority to borrow internally, which we can give without much discussion.

We must remember the Director-General, and the Secretariat who advise him, are responsible people. If we were thinking of a reckless hierarchy, we should not give this type of authority, I think no one would deny, as I mentioned in my first intervention, that we have confidence in the Director-General, and we feel he should be given these resources.

As one delegate mentioned, we are all members of a club, and we should all honour our bills and contributions. It is really a problem arising out of a situation which is beyond the control of the Director-General. If we pay all our contributions as good members of a club, there will be no problem. If the contributions which each member country has to pay each year are increased, however small or poor the country, or a food-deficit country, still that contribution should be honoured whether it is a few hundred thousand dollars or more. We are committed to a programme, and we should pay these contributions.

Countries like my own we have paid regularly although we know the difficulties we have in balance of payments problems, which are becoming worse each year. The problems are real. Still the fact that we have joined the club means that we should respect the rules.

We should respect the fact that FAO has a role to play and it is our duty to support it, and in this sense what we have been asked to support is a resolution which makes it possible for the Director-General to carry on his Programme of Work for two years.

I am sure members would all agree that we should assist the Director-General to have a Programme of Work which will benefit all mankind.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I wanted to intervene because two delegates since I last spoke referred to transmitting this to the Conference. I hope it is entirely clear, in fact, that the decision has to be taken by this Council, it is not going to be

the Conference. This Council has the power and the authority to adopt this resolution. Equally, in future if it is discontented with the use made of it, it can change this resolution. So I want to make it clear that it is for the Council to decide, and this is urgent as we are coming up to the next biennium and the Council will not meet again until November/December, 1982 and by this time we might have some problems we fear. We do not envisage it at the moment, and we hope not.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the point which was made - I am not sure if I understand it - but one delegate suggested borrowing power should be limited to the amount in the Working Capital Fund. At the moment this is limited to \$6.5 million only and even if it is doubled it will only be \$13.25 million. We are not referring to the declared policy of the major contributors. Let me draw attention to the document which you have already considered, 80/LIM/1 Appendix A, in which you will see three of the members who today have expressed reservations or who have opposed this resolution have outstanding contributions in the order of \$1.9 million for Brazil, France \$4.3 million, and Japan \$10.26 million. So together they account for very much more than the level of the Working Capital Fund were it to be doubled in the next biennium. When they advocate delay apparently they are being consistent, as they are the ones who are now the major delayers in their contributions. If they are concerned that this authority might be used, it is up to them to prevent it being used by paying on time, " which they have not yet done, and we are now nearly at the end of the biennium.

I am sorry to point the finger at this time, but the facts are here in black and white.

Lastly, on another point on this fixed question of control, why is it, I would ask, that on this third leg which we all hope will never be used, there is concern about introducing a check which it was not thought necessary to introduce concerning the use of the Working Capital Fund or the use of the Special Reserve Account. There is no requirement therein for the prior authority of the Council - I see there is some concern, but I am making the point that we have three legs here, two of which are in constant use, unfortunately, and one which we hope will never be used, and yet there is much more concern about the control here than there is about the other two.

Under paragraph 5 I have tried to explain that we have to keep open a loophole in which the Organization can survive a major financial blow until such time as the Council can meet and put the situation right. The intention is always to consult the Finance Committee and if possible also the Council in advance of its use. The situation would have to be so serious we would not want to just borrow, we would want the Council to do something about it and right the situation. We cannot close the door to having to take immediate action if you do not want the Organization to be completely paralyzed.

I am not talking about spending money beyond the level approved by the Conference. We cannot do that in any case, and we will never try to do so.

M. A. AZAMI (Afghanistan): I would like to be very brief. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan joins the other distinguished delegates to support the resolution to give the Director-General the authority to follow.

Afghanistan has already paid its contributions for the previous years as well as for the current year.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Confieso que al inicio no tenía la cosa muy clara en relación con la complicación que se ha encontrado; quería dejar pasar la discusión del tema para tener mayores elementos de juicio que pudieran en este punto del temario encajar el espíritu de nuestras instrucciones con la realidad del problema que estamos atacando.

Entendemos que seríamos incoherentes entonces con el espíritu de nuestra intención, que ha mostrado la colaboración más amplia con la problemática presentada por el Director General, si no entendiéramos también el contexto general de la resolución que se nos presenta y la necesidad de acatar la misma.

En este sentido, y respetando totalmente y con el mejor entendimiento las razones que cada país tenga para aceptar o no la resolución en cuestión, nuestra delegación apoya la resolución que presenta en este momento el documento CL 80/4 y que autoriza al Director General a tomar dinero a préstamo en las condiciones que en la misma se están discutiendo.

A.P.D. TANOË (Cote_d'ivoire): Les différentes délégations qui ont pris la parole tout à l'heure ont précisé l'importance de ce problème. Evidemment j'ai été gêné, je ne savais pas du tout quels sont les moyens qui pourraient permettre à notre Organisation de pouvoir contrôler l'éventualité d'une certaine erreur. Les explications données par le Secrétariat me paraissent assez claires et c'est pourquoi ma délégation s'associe à ceux qui sont d'accord pour donner leur appui à l'autorisation du Secrétaire général.

Ms. F.H. YAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): The principle of authority to borrow we find in this resolution comes in third place in the number of priorities following, of course, the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. For this reason this procedure would only be used in extremis. If we are obliged to resort to this, what measures are we going to adopt? Are we going to cease the Organization's work? Are we going to halt the Programme of Work? No, Sir, we should not fall into such an error. Therefore my country's delegation gives its approval to this principle of giving the Director-General this possibility, especially as the Director-General has on two previous occasions resorted to this same procedure which, would, of course, only be used when the Finance Committee is fully informed, as we read in paragraph 5 of the resolution.

ALHAMBRA RACHMAN (Indonesia): My delegation holds the view that the need to provide the Director-General with adequate means to manage properly the activities of FAO is clear and valid, especially after we follow with interest the presentation of CCIM and consult the status report on contributions as presented. Therefore my delegation endorses the proposed resolution as presented in paragraph 3.73 in document CL 80/4.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Le problème est important mais l'heure est tardive, beaucoup de délégations se sont exprimées sur cette importante question et je ne vais pas être long, d'autant plus que ma délégation partage les commentaires faits par le Secrétariat et reprend à son compte la déclaration faite notamment par mon collègue de Sri Lanka. Je me limiterai à apporter l'appui de ma délégation à ce projet de résolution.

P. KANGA (Angola): Comme vient de le dire le délégué du Sénégal il est tard et nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt cette discussion qui me semble plutôt un problème très facile à résoudre mais nous nous sommes heurtés à beaucoup de complications et je veux bien m'exprimer en dernier lieu pour porter l'appui de ma délégation au paragraphe 3.73.

WANG SHOU RU (China) (original language Chinese): I wish to express the view of the Chinese delegation on this aspect of this item. In view of the financial situation of the Organization, my delegation agrees that we should grant the Director-General authority to borrow, subject to the conditions laid down in the resolution to be adopted.

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Deseo expresar que he recibido instrucciones de asociarme con las delegaciones que apoyan el proyecto de resolución que figura en el documento 80/4.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the first time round. I see that some delegates are asking to speak for the second time but I do not think it needs all this debate, because up to now nearly forty delegates have spoken and the trend is quite clear. However, in order to facilitate the debate I will ask the delegate of France to speak for the second time and then the others too, quickly.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'avoue que je regrette de demander la parole une seconde fois sur ce sujet à cette heure tardive mais il me semble nécessaire de le faire car il y a plusieurs choses à préciser et malgré les réponses qui nous ont été données tout n'est pas parfait.

Tout d'abord, une fois de plus je le répète, de notre part, il ne s'agit nullement d'une question de défiance à l'encontre de qui que ce soit. En second lieu nous savons très bien que compte tenu des difficultés de versement rapide des cotisations, l'Organisation peut, peut-être plus maintenant que précédemment, avoir des difficultés. D'autre part, il n'a jamais été dans notre esprit d'envisager de compromettre le programme et le budget de l'Organisation quel que soit le montant du budget qui sera finalement adopté: ce n'est pas là la question. Je suis certain que comme tout bon gestionnaire M. West établit chaque année une sorte de planning mensuel des recettes reçues et des recettes escomptées et en face il y a très certainement les dépenses engagées et les dépenses à engager. De là apparaît une sorte de bilan équilibré ou déséquilibré, peu importe, compte tenu du retard dans les versements des cotisations et il est vraisemblable que, même avec les facultés données par l'utilisation, d'une part du compte de réserve et du fonds de roulement, il soit possible qu'apparaisse à un certain moment une prévision de déséquilibre. Ce que nous suggérons c'est que, dans une hypothèse de ce genre, puisqu'il est difficile de réunir le Conseil, le Secrétariat, au moment où il semble que cela va prendre mauvaise tournure ne saisisse les Etats Membres du Conseil d'une proposition du Directeur général qui pourrait avoir la teneur suivante: "Messieurs, la situation est telle que je suis amené à vous demander l'autorisation d'emprunter (disons un chiffre n'ayant aucun rapport avec la réalité) de 50 millions de dollars par exemple, et ceci compte tenu de ce que les versements que j'escompte n'interviendront pas avant six mois: est-ce que je puis emprunter 50 millions de dollars pour six mois? Les Etats ainsi consultés et suivant les règles et le règlement général seraient tenus de répondre par Oui ou par Non. Je suppose qu'à ce moment-là la proposition du Directeur général serait acceptée et si c'est non elle serait rejetée et effectivement cela poserait un problème au Directeur général. Je crois que dans un cas de ce genre il serait peut-être bon de convoquer une session extraordinaire. En tout cas, le chiffre de 50 millions d'était qu'un exemple. Il ne faut pas le considérer comme une limite. Il me semble que ces questions précises et ces exemples précis peuvent obtenir une réponse et on peut savoir si cela est faisable. On nous demande de prendre une décision au Conseil maintenant et effectivement c'est une affaire de gestion, mais n'oublions pas que nous avons la Conférence qui va nous occuper durant les semaines à venir et si le Conseil ne peut prendre une décision sur ce sujet aujourd'hui, je ne crois pas qu'il y ait une règle qui interdise à la Conférence, si le Conseil n'a pas pu se prononcer en temps utile, de prendre la décision elle-même.

Je ne sais pas si je me trompe dans mon interprétation mais c'est une question que je sou mets au Secrétariat. Je voulais ajouter ceci: Croyez bien que nous sommes, en faisant cette proposition, tenus par des instructions précises de nos autorités financière et que vraiment nous essayons, en vous faisant cette proposition de compromis, d'arriver à un résultat favorable.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the CCLM told us clearly that this is a matter which is within the constitutional responsibility of the Council. Therefore there is no need to refer this matter to the Conference, and we shall settle it here, rather than take it up to the Conference, because it is within our own powers to do so.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Intervenimos por primera vez al final de un debate bastante prolongado con la esperanza de hacer una contribución que pueda producir una solución favorable para todos sobre el contenido de este debate.

Entendemos que aunque las apariencias sean contrarias, hay algunos argumentos esgrimidos en contra y en pro de este proyecto de resolución que se acercan bastante, sobre todo después de la última intervención del colega de Francia en la cual él ha reiterado cierto espíritu de aceptación a este proyecto de resolución, naturalmente con las condiciones que él ha enumerado nuevamente.

Con base en eso nosotros proponemos formalmente que este proyecto de resolución pase al Comité de Redacción; en el Comité de Redacción están representados varios de los países que principalmente han intervenido en este debate y allí podría encontrarse una fórmula satisfactoria. Nosotros no pretendemos esbozar ahora esa fórmula porque comprendemos que una redacción no sería fácil de adoptar inmediatamente sobre un texto leído ahora al momento, pero el acuerdo podría consistir en reforzar el párrafo 5 del proyecto de resolución, por ejemplo suprimiendo las tres líneas centrales del párrafo 5, diciendo simplemente: "Pide al Director General que, sin perjuicio de hacer uso discrecionalmente de la

autorización otorgada en el párrafo 1 que precede", suprimiría todo lo demás y continuaría "consulte de antemano al Comité de Finanzas sobre esta medida etc."

Creemos que esto sería viable porque el Comité de Finanzas se reúne dos veces al año, en primavera y en otoño, y suponemos que si una crisis se ha de presentar no sería con un carácter tan inmediato que no impida consultar al Comité de Finanzas. Además, en una ocasión anterior, por lo menos, el Comité de Finanzas fue convocado a una reunión extraordinaria, de manera que creemos que esta sería una solución que contemplaría en buena medida la inquietud de Francia. El Comité de Finanzas es un órgano asesor del Consejo y sus miembros son elegidos por nosotros, los miembros del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia, are you making a formal proposition to amend paragraph 5? Because nobody has made any suggestion as to amendments.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): He hecho una propuesta concreta de que el proyecto de Resolución pase al Comité de Redacción a fin de ver si se encuentra una solución satisfactoria. Como base de ese posible entendimiento he sugerido una modificación al párrafo 5. Dije de antemano, y lo repito ahora, no pretendo que el Consejo discuta textualmente mi propuesta de enmienda al párrafo 5; la enuncié solamente para que si mi propuesta es aceptada, en el Comité de Redacción ese enunciado nuestro sirva de base a la discusión.

CHAIRMAN: But the Finance Committee is also a committee of this Council and I sat in during their discussions. I can tell you they spoke for many hours and this was not what the original proposal was from the Secretariat and the Finance Committee, after spending very many hours, came to this proposal that we have now. Therefore, to send it back to another committee I do not think is going to solve the problem.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): We made an intervention under the mistaken impression that the matter was to be referred to the Conference. The Cameroon delegation supports the proposed resolution and the matter should be settled here at the Council and we propose that this resolution should be adopted.

M. GHASSI (Syria) (original language Arabic): I understood that the authority to borrow had to be referred to the Conference but I now understand that Council is authorized to adopt it and therefore I suggest that Council adopts this Resolution without reference whatsoever to the Conference generally.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I think we are in a different situation here than we were on the other agenda items. In those cases we all felt, well, we get one more chance in the Conference, so we can just pass the subject on and we do not have to intervene again but now we are being asked to take a decision it tends to change the nature of the debate a bit. I simply wanted to suggest that we have been focussing almost exclusively here oil the income side of the account and been paying very little attention to the expenditure side. Again, as I indicated before, while there are constraints on the Organization because of the sizeable percentage of its budget which goes to the salaries and expenses which cannot be so easily deferred there are other elements in the programme where if it appears that for a period of several months there will be a cash flow problem we could anticipate delays in payments, other kinds of techniques to get around that problem, plus having access to the other two accounts. In any case I hope it is clear that Mr. West's intervention regarding the why, he does not understand why we do not have the same position with respect to freedom of use of these funds; he recognizes that both the working fund and the Special Reserve is a fixed amount of money and therefore there is a limitation to the extent to which one can go to those funds, and as I have said before there has been some suggestion that one way perhaps some of their problems could be solved with respect to this Resolution is to look at the question of some limitation. Certainly it is true that the Director-General cannot exceed the total amount of his authorized budget but what does he do if he anticipates a certain flow of income and for a period of several months his revenues are lower than that and he begins to borrow. He still has to project down towards the end of the year what his revenues might be. What happens if his revenues are not that, not because of payments made in that quarter but because of

non-payment made at all? He has now got himself exposed in borrowing and the income is not even sufficient to repay the amount that he has borrowed at the end of this biennium because of governments' non-payments. I do not see where that constraint comes in here because he could make a very, very legitimate projection which anyone here could have made, might have made ourselves, so that there is nothing that he did wrong or mismanaged. He simply anticipated legitimately a certain flow of income and it did not materialize. Which leads me to a final question to the Finance Committee, I am a little perplexed why there is not a statement in here regarding repayment and timing. I do not understand how you can grant somebody the authority to borrow without spelling out also the conditions for the repayment of the funds you borrowed. They specify that income must be paid out of the miscellaneous income but there is nothing to take care of this difference between income and potential exposure of borrowing if the two do not match, so I am a little puzzled as to why that is not in here.

It strikes me that irrespective of the fact that there may be a majority here who favour this resolution as it is and there are several of us who do not support it, there are also others who have questions and it may be advisable to refer this whole question back to the Finance Committee and have them address the questions, not necessarily mine, but others that have been raised by some other delegates here, to see what the possibilities are for tightening this Resolution up and address some of those concerns in the process and then take another look at the resolution a second time.

BEL HADJ AMOR (President du Comité financier): Depuis un moment, j'avais demandé la parole non pas pour critiquer bien sûr la position des délégués car je sais que le Comité des finances fait des recommandations mais qu'il appartient aux délégués de décider de l'adoption ou bien du refus de ces recommandations. Je respecte cette attitude mais j'ai voulu quand même éclaircir certains points avant de répondre à la question précise posée par le délégué des Etats-Unis concernant le délai de remboursement comme si on était déjà devant la banque pour encaisser le premier emprunt.

Tout d'abord je voudrais rappeler au Conseil que les sept Régions de cette Organisation sont représentées au Comité des finances. Ces délégués ont étudié avec beaucoup de sérieux et beaucoup de soin la proposition du Directeur général. Or, j'ai eu l'impression - et c'est pour cela que j'ai demandé la parole - que certains délégués ont pu peut-être douter de la manière dont le Comité a examiné cette question. Je tiens à préciser à cet égard que, du moins à notre avis, nous avons pleinement respecté l'orthodoxie et la rigueur qui doivent être de règle dans toute opération et toute gestion financières.

En recommandant ce texte, après l'avoir amendé, nous n'avons pas du tout l'impression d'avoir donné un chèque en blanc au Directeur général, qui, soit dit en passant et entre parenthèses, et ne l'oubliez pas Messieurs les délégués, a déjà la responsabilité de 300 millions de dollars. C'est le budget qu'il gère. Plus 370 millions, le budget qu'il va gérer pour le prochain biennium. Il a donc déjà la responsabilité d'une grande gestion. Après avoir longuement discuté - et nous nous sommes référés dans notre rapport au résumé des explications qui nous ont été fournies - si j'ai précisé cela c'est juste pour rappeler au Conseil qu'il n'y a pas seulement M. West qui vous a donné des explications. Il aurait suffi de lire ce qu'il y a dans le rapport pour avoir déjà réponse à de nombreuses questions que vous vous êtes posées. Là également je dois vous dire que, non seulement dans le rapport du Comité des finances, mais aussi moi-même dans mon exposé, nous avons dit également que cette autorisation ne constituera que le troisième recours. Donc, ce n'est pas seulement le Secrétariat que vous le dit, mais également le Comité des finances que l'a précisé en ce sens.

C'est pour vous dire que c'est avec beaucoup d'objectivité que nous avons étudié cette résolution et nous estimons profondément - ce n'est pas pour faire plaisir au Secrétariat mais c'est notre conviction - que cette autorisation sera nécessaire pour le Secrétariat et pour le Directeur général dans le futur car nous avons des prévisions dont vous avez uniquement un échantillon; et c'est à notre demande que vous avez le tableau concernant les éventuels déficits pour 1982-1983 mais la situation sera encore plus difficile.

C'est pourquoi à la lumière de ce qui s'est produit dans le passé, à la lumière de ce que nous avons vécu et de ce que nous vivons actuellement, pour 1981 il nous a semblé que peut-être il faudrait envisager un troisième recours et ce n'est que sous cet angle que nous avons décidé d'examiner la proposition du Directeur général concernant l'autorisation d'emprunter et également de la recommander pour votre approbation; mais dans l'esprit du Comité des finances cela ne signifie pas qu'elle sera automatiquement employée. Or, d'après les commentaires de certains délégués, j'ai l'impression que certains d'entre eux sont sûrs dès maintenant qu'ils ne vont pas payer leurs contributions en temps voulu. Donc, vous encouragez en réalité le Secrétariat à avoir recours à cette autorisation.

Deuxièmement, je ne suis pas de l'avis de ceux qui ont dit - parce que la question nous l'avons posée nous-mêmes - que si nous allons recommander cette autorisation tous les pays vont alors être encouragés à ne pas payer. Ce n'est pas vrai parce que tout peut se discuter.

Pour ce qui est du contrôle, d'aucuns ont dit: Nous ne voyons pas du tout qu'un contrôle existe. Le croyez-vous sincèrement? Parce que nous avons nous-mêmes posé la question du contrôle. Tout le paragraphe 5 a été entièrement conçu par le Comité des finances, c'est son libellé. Croyez-vous sincèrement qu'un Directeur général qui a la gestion d'un budget de 400 millions de dollars va s'amuser sans raison à utiliser une autorisation d'emprunt dès lors qu'il n'en a pas besoin? Je ne le crois pas. Du moins, quand je dis "je ne le crois pas", je ne le crois pas non plus au nom du Comité des finances et nous ne pensons pas du tout avoir péché par excès d'optimisme, de confiance ou autre en recommandant ce projet de résolution. Nous avons estimé que cette autorisation protégerait le Programme mais protégerait également les Etats Membres car le contrôle existe et je ne pense pas qu'il y aura un mismanagement pour l'utilisation de cette autorisation d'emprunter.

Pour ce qui est du délai de remboursement, c'est vrai, nous n'avons pas discuté du détail d'un délai de remboursement. On a discuté surtout du principe d'autant plus qu'il y a deux nuances. Je sais que M. le délégué de la France n'aime pas ce terme, mais je continue à l'utiliser. En parlant de nuances on ne cite pas de montant, on ne cite pas de délai. A présent je me réfère au paragraphe 3.69 où on dit que ce sont des sources internes qui doivent être utilisées. Je crois que le délai de remboursement ne se pose pas alors comme si l'on s'adressait à la Chase Manhattan Bank ou à une banque privée. C'est pour cela que nous n'avons pas discuté de cette question.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee. I think the question is quite clear. We have discussed this matter, we have allowed a long discussion over this. As I said, the Finance Committee also discussed it. The positions taken are quite clear, and I do not think deferring this matter to next year will solve the problem. In the first place, this particular item, the resolution, came up in the interest of protecting the Organization's programmes. This has been explained by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, explained by everybody, those who spoke, especially the members of the Finance Committee.

When a situation like this arises, there is one way of solving it, that is going to vote. As you know, I do not like to divide this Council. There was only one occasion, I think, on which we had to divide. That was at our last biennium. If we divide from the trend, from the consensus, the result is quite obvious, because on my list that I have here, those who spoke in favour of the resolution are 28, and those who had some reservations are 10, and the list of the countries is there, so the conclusion is well known already.

Therefore, I suggest to you that you adopt this resolution by consensus and ask the Director-General, perhaps, to consult the Finance Committee before taking any decision in this respect. The resolution is here before you, and I suggest that you adopt it by consensus.

Yes, the resolution is adopted by consensus, bearing in mind all the discussions, all the objections, all the doubts that were raised, and which will be reflected in our report.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have followed very carefully this debate from the beginning. I did not expect such a hot debate. The situation really is exceptional this year and will continue to be exceptional. I have enquired from my colleagues in other agencies. They have the same situation, in which a high percentage of contributions have not been paid and there are arrears. So, this year for the first time, I have allowed myself to address the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all major contributors who were seriously in arrears, as well as Ministers in some developing countries. This is the first time that I have written such letters. My colleague, Mr. Skoufis, has asked all the permanent representatives in Rome of countries in arrears to see him. He was reporting to me every day about the payment of countries such as Switzerland, Germany. When I was visiting some countries, I also discussed the subject with Ministers. I think, however, that this trend will continue to be as such.

There are of course high rates of interest in some countries for dollar investments and countries apparently have preferred to delay the payment on this account. Some countries also have difficulties because of swings in the exchange rates of the dollar. Thus, some governments have provided in their budgets a certain amount to meet contributions to the FAO budget at a specific exchange rate for the dollar of their own currencies, but it has happened that the dollar has been revalued and they have found themselves unable to meet their full contributions in dollars entirely, at the right time.

We are living in a difficult economic situation. This is why I have asked the Finance Committee to give me this authority to borrow. We have had it before, but have never used it. When we were given this authority before, no one expressed concern on details such as modes of repayment. Those details are certainly important, but they were not raised then.

I can see that 75 percent of those who have spoken, i.e. 28 countries out of 38, have supported this Resolution. I know that 10 countries who represented 25 percent of those who have spoken are very important Member countries, for wellknown reasons.

I would be tempted by a spirit of conciliation to say I do not insist on having this authority, but in that case I would be giving up my responsibility and putting the Organization in a dangerous situation. We may already have a crisis, and everything shows that we are going to need this authority in the next biennium. The Council will not meet before a year from now. I do not think I have the right to take the risk to say let us discuss the matter again in a year's time.

I can however promise, formally, that for this biennium, I will consult the Finance Committee. They are going to meet in the Spring and Autumn. If between those two dates, there is something very urgent, I will still consult them by correspondence. I may even call for an extraordinary session of the Finance Committee.

I will do it. So, you can be assured that the Finance Committee will be consulted in order to give me prior authority for borrowing. I also would agree that the matter can be reviewed in 1983 in the light of a report I will make to you at the end of 1983 on how this authority has functioned if at all,

I do not want to have to use this authority. If, therefore, at that time it is true that there is no need, I myself can tell you to please cancel it or modify it.

I repeat that if I am not able to consult the Finance Committee between its sessions, I will, if necessary, call for an extraordinary session of the Finance Committee to put the matter before them. In fact, gentlemen, it means that this authority is given to the Finance Committee, not to me. I repeat, it will not be an authority given to the Director-General, since, if I have to go to the Finance Committee to ask their permission to allow me to borrow, the authority will not be given to me but to the Finance Committee. This is very clear.

It will cost money to have a small session of the Finance Committee, but if necessary, we will do it. Thus, you will have a guarantee that this Committee, which is elected by you, which has your authority to go through the financial questions, will be fully consulted and will be asked by me to authorize me to borrow, if need be. I hope not.

We will afterwards review our experience and next year I will make a report and we can see how we should proceed with this authority - if there is a need to keep it or if there is a need to take it away. In fact, what I am saying now, to conclude, is that I am passing on my authority to borrow which you are giving me, to the Finance Committee for this biennium.

CHAIRMAN: I think this is not a confrontation. I have made it quite clear. This is a matter of concern for the welfare of the Organization, so that is quite clear.

Now, the resolution is adopted by consensus, but as I said, all the fears, etc., expressed will be fully reflected in our report so that the situation will be presented as it is.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I want to put on record what I have said, that the Director-General, while thanking you for the authority which is given to him to borrow, will for this biennium undertake in any case to consult the Finance Committee before borrowing, even at the cost of calling a special session of the Finance Committee, and that I will report on the whole matter in two years' time, at the end of the next biennium, to see whether the authority is still needed or not.

G. STREEB (United States of America): We are just sort of mulling over what this implies. I certainly have no desire at all to upset the concept of consensus as you have described it and I appreciate why you want and need to pursue that approach. What I am not quite sure about is the relationship between the record of the Council and the Resolution. The Resolution will sort of stand in isolation and will be seen as a Resolution, but the fact that there had been reservations about this issue will be buried in the body of the report, and in the future there will be reference to the Resolution. The United States ---

CHAIRMAN: May I explain that there was a long debate for and against, and from the record I have, those who are in favour of the Resolution are more in number; if we have to vote, they will win, so what I am asking is that we adopt this Resolution, but all the debate will be reflected fully.

If you or anybody does not want to be associated with it, this can be reflected, this is something that we have done in footnotes, and so on. You can always explain you are for it or against it, but since we have not voted this is not brought into it at all.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I am not an FAO Parliamentarian, and as I said, I am not trying to provoke myself into a vote that I am going to lose, although I do not mind going on the record, frankly, but I do not like to upset your own desire to not have this sort of thing happen in this Council, and so out of respect for your desire to do that, that is why I want to avoid that.

On the other hand, when I get back home and my budget people raise hell with me for having joined in the consensus to give the Director-General the authority to borrow, I am going to have to say, "Well, if you look on page 13 of the report you will find that I had some doubts about it", and what I am wondering is where I get this cross-reference. If that is impossible, I will just go along with it.

CHAIRMAN: We have a verbatim record of Council proceedings, we have a verbatim record of what everybody said, and normally you check it. If you think you have been wrongly quoted, within a certain limited time they can correct it.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As you said, Mr. Chairman, we have a verbatim record, and even when the United States delegate coughed, that was taken down in the record. We also have the narrative of the report and the narrative will make clear reference to the views expressed by all delegates, not individually but the group of views, and then the conclusion will be that the Council generally agreed to proceed with the resolution. The resolution was adopted. If we use the word "generally" after that narrative part, together with the verbatim record, I think you can defend even your cough to your friends at home.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation welcomes the explanations given by the Director-General, and we see a certain inconsistency between what he said and what is written down in our documents about the resolution. We still wonder whether it will not be worthwhile to bring this into conformity, and to make an effort to re-draft, in view of what the Director-General said on para. 5 of the resolution. I think it might be worthwhile.

CHAIRMAN: We have concluded this, I think. It is late and we have not even concluded our morning agenda items.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 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 80/PV/5

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(5 November 1981)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours,
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plinière est ouverte à 10 h 15, sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

14. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters Arising out of the Forty-first Session of the Programme Committee and the Forty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 21 September - 2 October 1981)

14. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration découlant de la quarante et unième session du Comité du programme et de la quarante-huitième session du Comité financier (Rome, 21 septembre - 2 octobre 1981)

14. Otros asuntos del programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos dimanantes del 41º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 48º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (Roma, 21 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 1981)

- Audited Accounts
- Comptes vérifiés
- Cuentas comprobadas

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Les points qui concernent les aspects financiers de l'organisation et qui doivent être abordés ce matin sont respectivement les comptes vérifiés, les questions de personnel, les locaux du Siège et enfin la prévention des pertes des produits alimentaires.

Je sais que nous n'avons pas beaucoup de temps et j'essayerai d'être le plus bref possible quitte à répondre plus tard aux questions des pays au cas où le Conseil l'estimerait nécessaire.

Tout d'abord j'aborde les comptes vérifiés. Dans le rapport il s'agit des paragraphes 3.74 à 3.88. Comme je l'ai dit, je n'ai pas l'intention de faire de longs commentaires et je me limite à deux ou trois remarques. Concernant le programme ordinaire de 1980, le Comité a apprécié la qualité du rapport du Commissaire aux comptes tout en demandant que ses recommandations soient mises en oeuvre compte dûment tenu de leurs répercussions financières. A propos des comptes du PNUD, toujours pour la même année, c'est-à-dire 1980, le Comité, tout en appuyant les recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes, appelle l'attention sur la nécessité d'un contrôle rigoureux de la part de l'Organisation sur la gestion des projets et tous les aspects y relatifs.

Troisième remarque: Il s'agit des comptes vérifiés du PAM. C'est uniquement pour informer le Conseil que le rapport a été transmis au Comité des politiques d'aide alimentaire.

Le Conseil est prié de soumettre à la Conférence le projet de résolution du paragraphe 3.88 concernant ces comptes ainsi que ceux qui lui ont été soumis à sa 78ème session.

CHAIRMAN: This item now is open for discussion. If there are no comments I will ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee to go on to the next sub-item.

- Personnel Matters
- Questions de personnel
- Asuntos relacionados con el personal

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Là également, je serai très bref. Le Conseil est prié de se référer aux paragraphes 3.94 et 3.100 du Rapport du Comité. Je n'ai aucun commentaire spécifique à ajouter au contenu du rapport notamment en ce qui concerne les ajustements de postes, traitements du personnel des services généraux et ceux des Bureaux régionaux et Bureaux des représentants de la FAO. Je me limite à mentionner l'accord du Comité concernant la position du Directeur général à propos de l'application de certaines recommandations de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale, objet des paragraphes 3.97-3.98.

De même, je voudrais, au nom du Comité bien sûr, attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le fait qu'il est invité à soumettre à la Conférence pour approbation une résolution, objet du paragraphe 3.99, alignant les émoluments du Directeur général et ses conditions d'emploi sur ceux des chefs de Secrétariat des autres grandes Organisations des Nations Unies.

CHAIRMAN: This Item is now open for discussion.

G. STREEB (United States of America): This is a somewhat difficult issue for me to deal with personally since my salary in the United States Government has been frozen for many years and there does not appear to be any chance that my salary will be unfrozen for many years. Having to absorb an 11 percent and 12 percent cost of living reduction in my salary every year it is hard for me to be very sanguine about approving an increase for an international civil servant.

My government did oppose the action in the General Assembly regarding the increase in salary levels. However, since that was passed this resolution is nothing more than an attempt to bring the Director-General of FAO up to the same level as other Directors General in the Specialized Agencies and consistent with our position I will therefore simply note a reservation on this but obviously I will not attempt to stand in the way of approval of the resolution by this group.

I have a question with regard to the representation allowance. This seems like a very small sum of money, \$4 thousand increase from a period of January 1977 and I have heard and seen indications that part of the justification for this is to bring it up to the same level as that of other Directors General in the System and I would be interested in knowing whether indeed the level of allowances is the same for the other Directors General. Again I would not want to make an awful lot out of this situation. Our position on the representation allowance is a bit stronger than it is on the salary since in one case we are simply trying to catch up with the rest of the System but in the other it is a more agency specific issue as far as I can see and on this point again I would simply like to register the fact that we have abstained on any votes that have to do with the increase in salaries, that we are more opposed to the increase in representation allowance but again I respect that this is probably an individual country view and not shared by most of the group here so once again I will not make any attempt to raise any further objections than those that I have simply noted for the record.

CHAIRMAN: As you rightly pointed out we are really being carried along on this matter by the United Nations System as a whole but of course you are quite right to register your government's views on what the United Nations System is doing. Any more comments? If not, then the Resolution under para 3.100 is to be recommended to the Conference. It will be recommended.

- Headquarters Accommodation
- Locaux du Siège
- Locales de oficina en la Sede

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Ce point concerne les locaux au Siège. Là, je serai obligé d'être un peu plus long vu l'importance et l'acuité de la question. En effet, tout d'abord j'attire l'attention du Conseil sur les paragraphes 3.101, 3.106 qui traitent de cette question dans le Rapport du Comité des finances. Comme vous le savez désormais cette question est devenue un sujet périodique du Comité des finances et du Conseil. A sa 79ème session, le Comité voudrait le rappeler, le Conseil a fait des recommandations au Directeur général. Le Comité a été informé de l'évolution de la mise en oeuvre de ses recommandations. Force a été à ce Comité de constater que les progrès semblent être très lents. Il semble que les autorités italiennes n'ont accepté qu'une seule des propositions qui lui étaient soumises par le Directeur général. D'ailleurs cette acceptation n'a même pas été signifiée par écrit mais uniquement verbalement.

Je voudrais rappeler au Conseil que ces propositions figurent dans le 47ème Rapport du Comité des finances au paragraphe 3.96. Il est inutile que je vous les relise.

La proposition qui a été acceptée verbalement par les autorités italiennes concerne la construction d'une soixantaine de bureaux sur le toit du bâtiment D. Le Comité des finances estime que cette solution, tout en prenant du temps, s'avérera cependant insuffisante pour libérer le bâtiment F. Le Comité rappelle que le bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation continue à souffrir du manque de locaux adéquats et suffisants, et à faire face à de nombreux problèmes tant pratiques que financiers.

Devant le sérieux de la situation, le Comité des finances estime que des mesures énergiques s'imposeraient de la part des organes directeurs. A cet égard, il recommande que le Conseil porte la question à l'attention de la Conférence en soulignant tous les inconvénients posés à l'Organisation par l'insuffisance des locaux, et en invitant la Conférence à désigner un groupe de travail ou bien une délégation d'Etats Membres choisis sur une base régionale. Je tiens à préciser que cette idée du groupe de travail ou de délégation vient du Comité des finances et elle a été également soumise au Comité du Programme lors d'une session conjointe. Je tiens à préciser qu'elle a été appuyée très fermement. Dans l'esprit du Comité des finances - car je ne veux pas qu'il y ait d'ambiguïté - ce groupe de travail, ou bien cette délégation, ou bien vous trouverez un autre terme - aura une fonction bien définie: (je pèse mes mots) il assistera le Directeur général dans son action avec le Gouvernement italien en vue de l'amener à prendre les décisions à court, moyen et long terme pour fournir les locaux nécessaires au bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation et, pourquoi pas, du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Cela signifie - c'est ce qui est très important - que ce n'est pas un comité nouveau qui va être créé, qui va causer des dépenses supplémentaires pour son fonctionnement ou autre. De même, ce ne sera pas un comité avec un président, un vice-président, un rapporteur et tout ce qui s'ensuit. Je veux que cela soit très clair. Donc, il s'agit d'un groupe de travail qui assistera le Directeur général dans son action pour résoudre le problème des locaux avec les autorités italiennes.

Pour concrétiser cette idée, le Comité des finances a décidé, d'ailleurs en accord avec le Comité du Programme, de soumettre au Conseil une résolution pour sa transmission à la Conférence. Il s'agit de la résolution qui se trouve au paragraphe 3.106 et j'espère que le Conseil appuiera la suggestion présentée par le Comité des finances. J'ignore, depuis notre réunion de septembre, s'il y a eu une évolution dans cette question et si le Secrétariat a d'autres éléments à fournir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee. I will ask the Secretariat to let us have further explanations.

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): There is very little to report by way of latest developments since the Finance Committee reviewed this matter last September. A positive development in connexion with the only interim measure which the Government of Italy was willing to consider -- that is, the construction of sixty rooms on the roof of Building D -- was verbally received to the effect that the Ministry of the Treasury has approved in principle the financing of this construction estimated to cost about 1 billion lire, subject to the Organization providing detailed estimates and designs for final approval by the Government. Such estimates and designs have been elaborated by our Buildings Maintenance Services and have just been submitted to the Government. We therefore now wait for either a deposit of funds so that the Organization may undertake the construction or for the Government to approve the designs and initiate the construction itself. However, I would wish to highlight again that even when the sixty rooms are eventually added to our Headquarters accommodation it will be totally inadequate for the purposes of releasing the rented premises which we occupy in Building F and regrouping the Secretariat and the World Food Programme in one location. Therefore, as has been repeatedly stated, the only permanent solution is the construction of a new building complex.

On this front we have had a further confirmation of the Government's intentions from the President of the Council of Ministers during the World Food Day celebrations on 16 October last, who declared in this very building that the Government intends to construct a new complex in Rome to be known as the World Agricultural Centre. However, there is nothing to report by way of any concrete action regarding any steps taken by the Government so far to promulgate the necessary legislation or allot the necessary funds for the project to get off the ground. That is all that can be reported on the latest developments on this issue.

CHAIRMAN: One proposal, one recommendation, made by the Finance Committee, supported by the Programme Committee, is that this matter be reported to the Conference and an inter-regional group be set up to consider, discuss, etc., which you may wish to discuss and consider.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dada la brevedad del tiempo, no vamos a entrar en el fondo de la cuestión. Sólo deseamos proponer una adición en el proyecto de Resolución para la Conferencia, que aparece después del párrafo 3.106. En el párrafo 1, donde dice: "Decide establecer en virtud del Artículo VI.5 de la Constitución, un Grupo de Trabajo integrado por los siguientes Estados Miembros:".

Nosotros proponemos que se diga: "... un Grupo de Trabajo integrado por siete Estados Miembros, siete Estados Miembros pertenecientes a cada una de las regiones de la FAO." Hacemos esta propuesta con el ánimo de que el Consejo cumpla su función natural de ayudar a la Conferencia que toma esa decisión, y a la vez preserve la función superior del órgano supremo. Hemos tenido muchos grupos de trabajo en el pasado, y generalmente la Conferencia aprueba esta clase de Proyecto de Resolución y luego delega en el Consejo, inmediatamente después de la Conferencia, la escogencia de los miembros de esos grupos de trabajo. Nuestra propuesta persigue sólo ese principio constructivo.

CHAIRMAN: That is a very useful suggestion.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): I thank the delegate of Colombia for his attention. In the opinion of the Italian Government this working group would not facilitate things. I will try to explain why. Through very frequent contacts between FAO and the representation my government has been informed of the necessities due to the constant growth in the number of the employees. That is why the Italian Government in the past years has approved many measures financially covered by the engagement related to Headquarters Agreement between FAO and Italy.

Noticing a certain scepticism of the Finance Committee towards the timing of the realisation of ad interim measures, I would like to point out that the Italian Government has already given authorisation for the construction of sixty offices on the 8th floor of Building D.

As you have been informed by Mr. Georgiadis this morning, the Italian expenditure would be 1 billion lire, if the indication of costs will be approved. Owing to the fact that such indication of costs, has been submitted by FAO on 4 November we could foresee an Italian green light not later than 20th December, with the possible end of the works in October 1982.

As you know, there is also the problem of the expectations of the United Nations Agencies present in Rome toward a permanent solution.

On many occasions the Italian Government has underlined its political will to resolve the problem.

From 1979 the Italian Government has advanced on two sides financially, detecting the most appropriate type of investment and locally selecting the best solutions of the very difficult problem of the site in Rome.

I may foresee that before the second meeting of the Finance Committee my government will be able to give the final information.

Such a progress in a political initiative which needs also parliamentary support has been confirmed by Prime Minister Spadolini at FAO on the occasion of the World Food Day on 16 October.

This is why I feel quite embarrassed by the proposal to create a multilateral working party. A working party means a pressure group. Pressure groups could be useful to win a political battle. But in this case my governments political will is already assured in advance and confirmed most recently. On the contrary, I am afraid that the contacts between a working party and my authorities would produce only confusion, delays and misunderstandings.

I would like to add the strong appreciation of my government for the very good work done by the Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. At the same time I would like to remember the very good collaboration given to the Italian representative by Mr. Skoufis on behalf of the Director-General and by Mr. Georgiadis.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I would like to support the recommendation by Colombia. I think that we have in each region enough governments which in themselves have coped with the problems of headquarter staffs, that we can find representatives who also had this experience, and I think this is a very useful Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Any more contributions to the discussion? Now, Colombia has made a suggestion to improve, to clarify the Resolution, and the United States has supported it. Italy has said that this Resolution going to Conference for the setting up of the group will probably not help him very much. You have to decide either to go ahead with the Resolution now or to take the line suggested by Italy.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): I think that all the Council members who also address an Italian representative have more experience of Italian working lines than foreign people. I appreciate Colombia's thought and that of the United States but I still feel very strongly against this group, because I know all the past work that we have done together with FAO and the representatives, I know the bureaucratic difficulties that we must overcome and I am very free about this working group which could shift from one authority to another and could cause a lot of waste of time and energy.

Anyway, I am here.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more views?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): In fact, after having heard the views of the Ambassador of Italy to FAO and having heard what the fears are in case of setting up such groups, remembering that this would be more or less a pressure group on the Italian government and after a discussion of this in the Finance Committee, the members of the Committee never had in mind any sort of pressure on the Italian government. It was not political or financial pressure, far from it, but rather the need of setting out of a situation clearly before the Italian authorities. In putting the question to them, this group would simply be a link between the Italian government and FAO. This group, as I said, is a completely neutral group made up of representatives of seven Member States on a regional or geographical basis. The problem is much greater than that which would involve a sort of pressure. It is a question of the capacities of those who are here and who live here, those who work here or come here and who experience the difficulties of the enormous distances between the buildings and the difficulty in communication, and therefore, setting up this group or delegation would never be a problem of a delicate nature.

This delegation, in my view, would go to the Italian government to discuss the matter, and this is the point of setting it up. I do not think it would lead to negative results either; quite the contrary. It would lead to positive results, much more positive than the correspondence between the Director-General and the Italian government. But we certainly do not believe that this is a negative aspect, and that is why we fully support the setting up of this group or mission, in accordance with the suggestion made by Colombia and which the United States has supported and which, we in our turn, support too.

CHAIRMAN: Now, when this matter was discussed I sat in on the Finance Committee and my own impression was it was to help the Italian authorities to take decisions, etc., and to push the matter rather than to make pressure on them, so Dr. Bukhari's explanation is valid from the point of view of the Finance Committee, because I was there when they discussed it.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Monsieur le Président, une partie de ce que je voulais dire a déjà été formulée par le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite, ainsi que par vous-même, mais j'ai voulu quand même intervenir pour insister auprès du délégué de l'Italie sur le fait que ce Groupe de travail n'a rien à voir ni avec une bataille politique, ni avec un sentiment de pression. Je tiens à lui préciser que quand nous avons rédigé le premier projet de résolution le mot "pression" avait été mentionné. J'étais présent, et je suis intervenu moi-même pour enlever le mot "pression". Il s'agit donc d'un Groupe de travail destiné à assister le Directeur général dans son action, et il ne s'agit de rien d'autre. Je ne veux pas du tout que cette idée soit mal interprétée. Il ne s'agit ni de groupe de pression, ni de bataille politique, et j'estime que la création de ce Groupe ne constituera ni malentendu, ni confusion.

A propos de l'idée qui a été présentée par l'honorable délégué de Colombie, je voudrais préciser la pensée du Comité des finances à ce propos.

Effectivement, quand on a fait cette proposition, nous avons envisagé que le Groupe pourrait être constitué par un représentant de chaque région. La décision appartient bien sur au Conseil et à la Conférence mais nous estimons qu'il serait bien que les représentants qui sont à Rome fassent partie de ce Groupe pour qu'il n'y ait pas de dépenses. Mais il s'agit simplement d'une suggestion, parce que c'est ainsi que nous envisagions la création de ce Groupe, car autrement cela va créer des dépenses, il faudra appeler les personnes de l'extérieur et cela nous voulons l'éviter. Donc un représentant de chaque région, et dans la mesure du possible un représentant ou un membre de l'Ambassade du pays qui se trouve à Rome.

CHAIRMAN: Now, if the Resolution is adopted, as Colombia said, the matter will come back to the Council to select the people anyhow, so at that point Council can decide on selecting people who are resident in Rome. I do not think we should go into so much detail, as you suggested in the Resolution itself, but we should take what Colombia has said. If that is agreed, this will be incorporated and the Resolution will then be forwarded.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia): Yes, I think we can submit this Resolution to the Conference, but we have to mention here that the members must be the representatives in Rome.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): Thank you very much for the attention given by Saudi Arabia and Colombia but from their words, if I understood well, they think that this working group should be a bureaucratic link between FAO and Italy. Now, in my experience, of the past work which we have done together, I do not think that we need to add another bureaucratic link, because another bureaucratic link you will notice in the future if the Resolution is adopted will only - - in Italy in the Italian mentality, would only add confusion. Here I am. You will see in one year I hope everything will go much better if we have this new, in my opinion, unusual diplomatic link but if you want to go ahead, of course, I will agree.

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Service Division): First an explanation: As the Chairman of the Finance Committee has said, this is not intended as a pressure group, but there is need for a link between the Conference itself, in view of the seriousness of this matter, and the highest Italian authority. Ambassadors and other persons in their post change, and the Honourable Representative of Italy may not be with us after a year; then we have to establish contact with another Ambassador.

The Director-General himself has been trying recently to see the Prime Minister, the President of the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs with whom to discuss this matter, but he has not been successful so far. In view of the seriousness of the situation for the future, the Conference must be made aware of it and have its own working group to establish this contact at the highest level.

I should also clarify that this working group would not deal with daily matters of plans, designs, location of the centre and similar administrative matters. This is naturally to be left to the Secretariat. In other words, confusion, I am sure, can be avoided.

CHAIRMAN: It would appear no member has supported what the delegate of Italy has said - that this Resolution should not be forwarded, so I would assume that members support the recommendations by the Finance Committee supported by the Programme Committee, that this Resolution be forwarded with the amendments which have been proposed.

Before I sum up, I will give the floor to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Il s'agit uniquement d'une précision; les membres de ce groupe de travail, ne doivent pas être désignés par le Conseil; c'est la Conférence qui doit les désigner, à moins que la Conférence, après adoption de cette résolution, ne donne pouvoir au Conseil de le faire. C'était juste pour préciser ce point.

CHAIRMAN: Since the amendment of the addition made by the delegate of Colombia has not been accepted and endorsed by the delegate of the United States, and the recommendation made by yourself has been accepted by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, then in this case the Resolution should be suitably amended and forwarded to Conference. You will advise the Commission, whichever is taking it, on the best procedure to implement it, but the Resolution will go ahead as amended by the various delegations. It is accepted, and we will go on to the next sub-item.

- Prevention of Food Losses
- Prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires
- Prevenición de pérdidas de alimentos

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je serai très rapide. Il s'agit du compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires et plus spécifiquement je me réfère aux paragraphes 3.122 à 3.126 du rapport du Comité financier. Je me limiterai à souligner que le Comité des Finances, après avoir pris note de la situation de ce compte spécial, n'a pas manqué d'insister sur l'importance du programme de prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires ainsi que sur la nécessité de nouvelles contributions pour financer les demandes d'urgence déjà parvenues de la part des pays en voie de développement. C'est pourquoi il estime que le Conseil pourrait également lancer un appel spécial aux Etats Membres pour obtenir davantage de contributions et permettre au programme de la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires à continuer son assistance.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): First of all, very briefly to draw attention to the reference to the part dealing with the Food Losses Programme. Our views are at page 17 and 18 in the English text, paragraphs 1.91 - 2.103. Our deliberations were based on the document prepared for the Programme and Finance Committee. In our part of the report we provided background information showing clearly that all resources available were actually committed, if not over-committed, having in mind the number of projects and the amount involved either for projects already approved and awaiting the financing, or the projects received and now under review.

According to our best judgement the minimum amount necessary to maintain the momentum in the programme that we felt was really necessary was about \$10 million annually, and we recommend to the Council to make an appeal to that effect.

We then considered the problems of the method of assessment, the method of work in general. We are satisfied with the increasing use of national institutions in that context.

We also considered the coverage, having in mind, or not losing sight of, the resources limitations.

Then duration of projects. We stress one point that I need to underline especially, the need for FAO to cooperate as closely as possible with the agencies dealing in this field, and our reasonable satisfaction with the contact already established between FAO and the major agencies.

That is all, in a very brief intervention.

CHAIRMAN: This item is now open for discussion. If there are no speakers, then I take it that the reports of the Finance and Programme Committees are acceptable to Council as presented.

That concludes the discussion on item 14.

- 12 - Review of the Regular Programme, 1980-81
- 12 - Examen du programme ordinaire, 1980-81
- 12 - Examen del Programa Ordinario para 1980-81

CHAIRMAN: You have the various documents listed. This item and the next will of course be discussed in Commission II in great detail. They have also been dealt with by the Programme Committee in detail, therefore there will be no need for us to go into real detail as we can leave it for the longer time that you will have in the Conference. However, I will call on the Chairman of the Programme Committee to introduce item 12.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): In view of the time shortage, I will again be very-brief I share fully in what you have just said. The Programme Committee first of all expresses its satisfaction with the improvement in both the format and the substance. We felt the support was very candid and contained, in most of the cases, very deep analysis.

We are specially satisfied with the improvement which has been based on our own suggestion, and we have again stressed - especially in part 2 - the in-depth review. We welcomed the expansion of the reviews and their fuller coverage, the time period which was also extended, and then we also especially paid attention to the development of the small-scale fisheries and the information covering analysis and dissemination which were certainly getting across the programme line.

Then the Programme Committee suggested a number of potential lines for a further improvement in both the format and the content. We suggested an improvement in the coverage in a way which gives less space to some things which are of a competitive nature, by and large, and paid at the same time great attention to such things as progress and achievements of the issues.

There is an issue which we also considered, not necessarily only under this specific agenda item, and this is on the Regional offices in general. You will find our views in paragraph 2.72. In all honesty I would say this paragraph reflects more the minority than the majority view in the Committee, but the Committee had a very long debate on the issues and agreed to suggest that in the future programme reviews greater attention should be paid to the role of the Regional offices, within, of course, the whole framework of FAO activities.

It was felt by at least two members in the Committee that that particular aspect was not clear enough and that it really needed some further analysis.

This is by and large the essence of our view of the matter,

I have to admit that we have not enough time to go deeply into the substance of reviews, including both part 1 and part 2, and quite naturally you can yourself witness, Mr. Chairman, as you have been with us for most of the time, that the pre-conference session of Council has a number of important issues to be studied, so we decided to make full use of the information before us in the next programme-reviewing cycle which will start next year.

CHAIRMAN: This item is now open for discussion. Are there any comments?' If not, we will pass the report on to Conference and to the Commission that is involved. I am sure the Secretariat, the Programme Committee, the Chairman and members etc., will assist in any details that may be raised at the Conference level.

13 - Review of Field Programmes (Including Agricultural Investment and Development Assistance for Food Production and Rural Development; and Support Costs)

13 - Examen des programmes de terrain (notamment l'investissement en agriculture et l'aide au développement en matière de production vivrière et de développement rural et les frais de soutien)

13 - Examen de los Programas de Campo (en particular, la Inversión agrícola y Asistencia al desarrollo para la producción alimentaria y el desarrollo rural, y Gastos de apoyo)

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): As usual, the Review of Field Programmes was debated in the Committee and we have found a document of an improved quality as compared with the already high quality of the previous attempts. May I very briefly refer to the main findings and suggestions of the Committee.

We of course paid attention first of all to the problem of extra-budgetary resources in general and studied this in depth and again we expressed really very serious concern at the possible shortfall that seemed to be the result of the tendencies, especially as far as UNDP was concerned. We stressed the likelihood of the reduction in UNDP resources of 12 percent in real terms in the next cycle, as compared with the existing one. Again, it is nothing new to the Council.

We also were concerned with a declining tendency in the agricultural share in UNDP resources, and as a consequence, the declining share of FAO as a part of the agricultural projects-. We observe, of course, that it fell from 86 percent in 1972 to 95 percent at the end of the decade.

We especially studied the problem of cyclical variations in UNDP resources. It was clear from the additional information provided to the Committee that some sort of, so to speak, regular irregularities occurred during the cycle, with low-level at the start, then a sharp increase, and again a very sharp decline this really tends to become one of the major problems besides, of course, the problem of the level of resources. We fully recognize the negative fact of the cyclical variations on both support costs and FAO efficiency in field projects based on UNDP funds in general. We were specially concerned with the low level of allocations of UNDP funds to FAO in 1981 which, according to our best assessment, are not likely to exceed the figure of \$110 million. We were satisfied with the intention or decision of the Italian Government to implement a significant technical assistance programme and to use FAO largely for this purpose. We wanted to clarify that in one of the tables, research was included, actually only the basic research and the projects which were entirely intended to support research in the Member countries.

We regard to the assessment of field programmes, Chapter 2 of the Review. I would say that generally we were satisfied with the slight improvements in all basic aspects of the assessment, though again we recognize the difficulties involved in the assessment of the overall impact of technical assistance projects in general, including of course the FAO's part. The rest of our report deals with some aspects which are certainly very important, but I doubt very much that I have to use much of your time. The whole matter will be discussed at the Conference in depth, so I would prefer not to go further than this; of course, I am ready to clarify or answer any questions if asked to do so.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je ne tenais pas du tout à intervenir sur le point concernant l'examen du programme ordinaire car il ne contenait pas des aspects financiers saillants. Cependant en ce qui concerne le programme de terrain je souhaite attirer l'attention du Conseil sur les considérations du Comité financier. Il faudra se référer au rapport du Comité du paragraphe 3.113 au paragraphe 3.121. En général le Comité a apprécié la concision et la clarté du document concernant le programme de terrain, et notamment l'utilité des tableaux et des graphiques qui y sont contenus ainsi que l'objectivité qui a prévalu à la mise en relief des problèmes et des obstacles. Le Comité financier s'est penché en particulier sur les aspects financiers des activités de terrain et les fonds extra-budgétaires y relatifs.

A la lumière des chiffres fournis, le Comité a relevé qu'en 1981 les dépenses d'exécution dépassent le montant des nouvelles allocations. De l'avis du Comité, cela entraînerait une baisse du niveau futur des opérations de terrain, non seulement en 1982 mais également dans les années suivantes. Cette situation, de l'avis du Comité, se vérifierait notamment pour les activités FAO/PNUD eu égard aux sombres perspectives des ressources générales du PNUD prévues pour le troisième cycle de programmation, à savoir 1982-1986, et ce avec une baisse en valeur réelle d'environ 12 pour cent par rapport à celle du deuxième cycle de programmation 1977-1981.

Cette situation, de l'avis du Comité, s'avère encore plus grave quand on considère la stagnation au cours des cinq dernières années de la part des ressources du PNUD allouées au secteur agricole et en particulier du pourcentage de ces ressources acheminées par l'intermédiaire de la FAO. En effet, ce pourcentage a subi, comme l'illustrent les paragraphes 1.6 et 1.9 et le graphique 2 du document C 81/4 d'importantes fluctuations, lesquelles n'ont guère favorisé l'efficacité et les économies des opérations exécutées par la FAO.

C'est pourquoi le Comité formule l'espoir de voir la FAO et le PNUD convenir des moyens aptes à régulariser l'apport de fonds destinés aux activités de terrain de l'Organisation.

Par ailleurs, le Comité a relevé avec satisfaction la participation accrue des gouvernements bénéficiaires au processus d'évaluation des programmes de terrain de la FAO ainsi que le rôle efficace des représentants de la FAO à la surveillance et à l'examen des activités de terrain, notamment le Programme de coopération technique, ainsi qu'à la promotion des nouvelles dimensions de la CTPD.

Enfin, le Comité estime que cette étude justifie la validité des méthodes de gestion et d'évaluation internes appliquées à la FAO et il a retenu que ce document pourrait constituer un outil indispensable pour les organes directeurs lors de l'examen des activités extérieures de l'Organisation.

J. de MEREDIEU (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Comme vous l'aurez constaté, le point 12 couvre en fait trois sujets qui, tout en étant étroitement apparentés, sont néanmoins différents. Le premier est l'examen des programmes de terrain proprement dits contenu dans le

document C 81/4. Le second se réfère aux problèmes de l'assistance au développement de la production alimentaire et du développement rural qui fait l'objet du document C 81/28. Le troisième est le problème des frais de soutien qui fait l'objet du document C 81/INF/16.

Je suis ici pour présenter les deux premiers sujets et M. West sera à votre disposition si des questions étaient posées en ce qui concerne le troisième.

Je ne crois pas avoir grand-chose à ajouter en ce qui concerne l'examen des programmes de terrain à la suite de l'excellente présentation qui vient d'être faite par les Présidents des deux Comités. Avec votre permission, je me limiterai, dans une minute, à revenir brièvement sur le problème des ressources du PNUD. Je dois par contre faire des commentaires un peu plus détaillés en ce qui concerne le second document et répète que je me réfère à celui qui est intitulé "Assistance au développement, production alimentaire et développement rural", document C 81/28.

Comme vous vous en souviendrez, l'origine de ce document est la résolution 6/79 de la 20ème session de la Conférence. A la suite de cette résolution, un rapport provisoire a été soumis à votre Conseil il y a un an, sous la référence CL 78/21 et le Rapport de la 78ème session du Conseil a fait état de ce problème dans ses paragraphes 95 à 105. Comme indiqué en particulier au paragraphe 95, il avait été convenu que le Secrétariat soumettrait un document mis à jour à la 21ème session de la Conférence, et tel est le document C 81/28 qui est maintenant devant vous.

Comme vous l'aurez constaté, ce document concerne essentiellement deux sujets principaux. Le premier sujet, c'est-à-dire l'étude d'ensemble de l'aide officielle au développement de l'agriculture, est couvert aux paragraphes 5 à 12 et 18 à 23 du document, ainsi qu'aux tableaux 1 et 2. Le deuxième sujet, coopération entre la FAO et le PNUD, est couvert aux paragraphes 13 à 17 ainsi qu'aux paragraphes 24 à 38 et qu'aux tableaux 3 et 4.

Vous ne serez pas surpris si je vous dis que la première partie doit être lue en même temps que le rapport sur la Situation Mondiale de l'Alimentation et de l'Agriculture, et en particulier que son Supplément 1, document C 81/2. De même, la deuxième partie, qui se réfère à la coopération entre la FAO et le PNUD a beaucoup de points en commun avec le chapitre 1 de l'Examen des Programmes de Terrain, dont nous venons de parler.

En ce qui concerne la première partie, c'est-à-dire le flot d'aide officielle d'une part au développement au sens général du terme et, d'autre part, au développement de l'agriculture, le Conseil notera que nous nous sommes efforcés, non seulement de mettre à jour, mais aussi de compléter, les données qui avaient été fournies voici un an. Nous ne sommes pas encore arrivés à réunir tous les éléments que nous aurions désirés, mais le document est néanmoins beaucoup plus complet que voici un an.

L'examen des données contenues aux tableaux 1 et 2 conduit à des conclusions incertaines. Le tableau 1, qui concerne le flot d'ensemble d'assistance au développement, montre des résultats positifs. De plus, ces résultats sont encore plus positifs sur la base des données pour l'année 1980, que nous avons reçues trop tard pour pouvoir les incorporer. C'est ainsi que les engagements en 1980 se sont élevés à 40, 6 milliards de dollars, contre 33, 4 en 1979, soit une augmentation de 21, 5 pour cent, tandis que les paiements se sont élevés à 30, 2 milliards en 1980 contre 26 en 1979, soit une augmentation de 16 pour cent. Dans les deux cas, il s'agit d'augmentations qui sont nettement supérieures au taux de l'inflation et il y a donc amélioration nette.

La situation est malheureusement moins satisfaisante en ce qui concerne l'agriculture et le développement rural, et je vous renvoie à cet égard au tableau 2, qui vous montrera qu'il y a eu, au contraire, une stagnation. De plus, les résultats pour 1980 que nous venons de recevoir confirment cette tendance. En 1980, le total qui apparaît à la première ligne du tableau s'élève à 7, 5 milliards, contre 7, 1 en 1979. L'augmentation n'est cette fois-ci que de 5, 8 pour cent, ce qui est clairement inférieur à l'inflation. Dans ce cas particulier, il y a donc décroissance en termes réels.

Il existe toutefois certaines raisons d'espérer que la situation pourrait s'améliorer, en particulier en ce qui concerne les pays les moins avancés. Ceci semble d'ailleurs tout à fait dans la logique d'un certain nombre de réunions récentes, et je me réfère aux sommets d'Otawa et de Cancun, ainsi qu'à la Conférence de Paris sur les pays les moins avancés. On voit mal, en effet, comment on pourrait, d'une part reconnaître une priorité toute particulière au développement de l'agriculture et de la production alimentaire et, d'autre part, continuer en fait à allouer des sommes décroissantes à l'aide publique dans ce domaine.

Le paragraphe 52 du supplément au Rapport sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture indique d'ailleurs déjà une légère amélioration, au moins en ce qui concerne les pays les moins avancés dont la part, dans le total de l'aide à l'agriculture, est passée de 16 pour cent en 1979 à environ 19 pour cent en 1980.

Je voudrais finalement vous mettre au courant des derniers développements concernant la situation des programmes FAO/PNUD, dont la gravité a déjà été justement soulignée par les deux Présidents dans leurs introductions.

Cette situation est malheureusement sérieuse, peut-être même très sérieuse et ce de trois points de vue.

Le premier concerne le niveau général des ressources du PNUD. Lors du Conseil d'administration de juin 1981, l'Administrateur, M. Morse, avait indiqué qu'il craignait que des ressources insuffisantes le conduisent à réduire les sommes effectivement consacrées au développement au cours du troisième cycle, qui commence, comme vous le savez, en 1982. C'est ainsi que la somme précédemment prévue de 5 148 millions de dollars pour les opérations effectives aurait été réduite à 3 740 millions de dollars. C'était déjà là une réduction considérable, de l'ordre de 30 pour cent, qui, compte tenu des effets de l'inflation, aurait en fait impliqué un niveau réel d'opérations au cours du troisième cycle d'environ 12 pour cent inférieur en termes réels à celui du deuxième cycle.

Malheureusement, ces prévisions, puisqu'il ne s'agissait alors que de prévisions, viennent d'être non seulement confirmées mais encore aggravées dans un télégramme que M. Morse a adressé au Directeur général le 27 octobre. Dans ce télégramme, M. Morse souligne d'abord que, tandis que les ressources disponibles en 1981 n'avaient dépassé celles de 1979 que de trois pour cent - ce qui était déjà, bien entendu, inférieur à l'inflation - celles de 1981 se sont révélées inférieures de 7 pour cent à celles de 1980, soit une décroissance de 7 pour cent plus l'inflation, ou encore quelque 20 pour cent en termes réels.

L'Administrateur indique de plus que les prévisions qu'il avait mises en avant pour 1982 au mois de juin dernier, qui s'élevaient alors à 815 millions de dollars, doivent être révisées et que pour l'instant il ne saurait compter sur plus de 637 millions, soit 22 pour cent de moins, et je répète qu'il s'agit là d'une différence qui s'est produite entre juin et octobre 1981. En quelques mois, l'Administrateur a dû réviser son estimation en baisse de 22 pour cent! Il est évident que c'est là une situation très sérieuse et M. Morse dit dans son télégramme qu'il n'y a pas, pour l'instant, de raison d'espérer une amélioration rapide, en tout cas pas avant la fin de 1983.

La deuxième raison pour laquelle nous sommes préoccupés par l'évolution de nos programmes FAO/PNUD est celle qui a déjà été mentionnée par les présidents des deux Comités, à savoir le fait que la part de l'agriculture dans les opérations du PNUD, et la part de la FAO dans ces mêmes opérations, ont décliné. Voici quelques années environ 35 pour cent des ressources du PNUD allaient à l'agriculture au sens large du terme et la FAO était chargée de l'exécution d'environ 85 pour cent de cet ensemble. Ceci veut dire qu'à ce moment-là la FAO était chargée d'exécuter environ 30 pour cent de l'ensemble des opérations du PNUD. Au cours des dernières années, la part allant à l'agriculture a progressivement décliné pour atteindre un chiffre de l'ordre de 30 pour cent et, sur ce, la FAO ne se voit plus confier que 75 pour cent. Le résultat de cette double évolution est que la part d'ensemble de la FAO dans l'exécution des projets du PNUD a décliné de 30 à 25 pour cent.

Le Directeur général vous a dit hier, au cours de la discussion du Programme de Travail et Budget, que le PNUD était l'un des programmes qui consacraient une part importante de leurs ressources à l'agriculture, et il a cité ce chiffre de 30 pour cent. C'est vrai, on peut dire que 30 pour cent est une proportion importante, mais il est également vrai que la plupart des autres grands programmes, tant internationaux que bilatéraux, consacrent à l'agriculture des chiffres nettement supérieurs, de l'ordre de 40 à 45 pour cent.

Nous persistons donc à espérer que le système des Nations Unies, et plus particulièrement le PNUD, ne restera pas le seul grand programme d'assistance technique à ne consacrer que 30 pour cent à l'agriculture, au moment où la priorité absolue de ce secteur est plus que jamais reconnue.

La troisième raison de nos préoccupations est liée aux irrégularités cycliques dans l'allocation des ressources du PNUD qui est décrite aux paragraphes 1.6 à 1.9 du document C 81/4 "Examen des programmes de terrain" et en particulier au graphique 2. L'examen de ce graphique vous montrera qu'il semble y avoir une variation cyclique, avec une fréquence de 5 ans correspondant au cycle quinquennal du PNUD, assortie d'une concentration des approbations au cours des premières années et d'une décroissance brutale au cours des dernières. Bien entendu, ceci est reflété par nos opérations qui se trouvent ainsi varier de plus ou moins 25 pour cent suivant les périodes. Il est certain qu'à un moment où, très justement, nos pays membres nous demandent d'opérer de la façon la plus efficace et la plus économique possible, ce n'est pas en nous contraignant successivement à licencier de nombreux experts puis, deux ans plus tard, à les recruter à nouveau, que l'on nous aide à améliorer notre efficacité et à faire des économies.

Mis ensemble, ces trois facteurs risquent d'avoir des conséquences très sévères sur le niveau de nos opérations au cours des années 1982-83. C'est ainsi, par exemple; que les nouvelles approbations du PNUD, qui se sont élevées à plus de 160 millions en 1980, sont tombées à moins de 110 en 1981. Ceci se reflétera sur le niveau de nos opérations en 1982-83. Nous sommes d'ores et déjà informés que nos divisions opérationnelles risquent, de ce fait, d'être amenées à licencier 300 à 400 experts hautement qualifiés au début de l'année prochaine, ce qui n'exclut pas que, dans 2 ans, elles seront peut-être obligées de se précipiter sur le marché pour les recruter à nouveau. Nous sommes, bien entendu, en correspondance avec le PNUD à ce sujet, mais j'avoue que la situation générale ne nous donne guère de raison d'être optimistes, au moins à court terme.

Ceci souligne encore plus la très grande importance qu'il faut attacher au Programme de fonds fiduciaire de notre Organisation et à notre programme de coopération technique qui, par bonheur, se portent beaucoup mieux pour l'instant. Les chiffres que vous trouverez dans l'Examen des Programmes de Terrain vous montreront tout au contraire qu'il existe là une croissance raisonnable, qui nous permet de mieux augurer de l'avenir.

Monsieur le Président, je m'excuse d'avoir été un peu long, mais, après tout, nos programmes de terrain représentent un montant qui est presque le double de celui du programme régulier, et j'ai donc pensé que votre Conseil souhaiterait recevoir ces informations, en particulier les dernières nouvelles que nous venons de recevoir de l'Administrateur du PNUD.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRMAN: Of course the Council is very interested in this matter because this is the crux of the issue. The document which has been introduced by Mr. de Méredieu is C 81/28. It is a Conference document. It will be submitted to Conference so you will have an opportunity to discuss it, especially the UNDP/IFAD issues which have representatives of these organizations who will also be there. They normally address the Commission and take part or give explanation of their activities.

Now this item is open for discussion.

G. STREEB (United States of America): First let me say that we find the documentation, the Review of Field Programmes and the other documentation very well done and appreciate the quality of its work. We will, of course, reserve our comments to go into details on all aspects of the document in the Conference but as a preliminary to that I would be interested in some observations from the Secretariat regarding the trends.

I appreciate that the data can be very weak and therefore perhaps not be good enough to draw very solid conclusions. But the trend that has been cited in the reduction in UNDP resources going to agriculture, if we assume that that is a real trend, that there are not other activities in the agricultural sector but which have not been classified as agriculture per se or in the previous statistics - let me put the question another way. Is this not a matter of country decision, are not the countries themselves deciding how their IPFs are to be allocated? In other words, is this the responsibility basically for the recipients in this decline and is it therefore a matter of leaving this to the attention of recipient countries and asking them to take a new look at the role of agriculture in their overall UNDP programmes?

As to the share implemented by the FAO, are there explanations for this? Is it that perhaps - and I am just speculating - UNDP is doing more in terms of technical training and the like and therefore using other forms of expertise than FAO or does it have to do with the aspect of programme delivery?

Thirdly although I note that the statistics on ODA are cited as being particularly suspect, do we have any idea of how much of the overall ODA, other than UNDP, is being directed towards agriculture? Is the same trend evident in Overall Development Assistance as is evident in the UNDP programme?

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. de Meredieu could answer these questions and that may forestall other similar questions members may raise.

J. de MEREDIEU (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Is the decrease of UNDP allocations to the broad field of agriculture a clear trend? The answer is Yes. It is not only over one or two years that it has been noted; there has been a constant decrease over the last ten years. So this is absolutely clear. The overall share has gone down from 35 to 30 and FAO's share has gone down steadily from 30 to 25 over the last ten years.

Is this not the primary responsibility of the recipient governments? Yes, it is. Two years ago the Conference, in Resolution 6.79, has stressed that point and the Director-General has, of course, conveyed the preoccupations of the Conference to the Governments concerned. But I also think that we should not overlook the fact that the UNDP country programming is carried out by governments in close consultation with the UNDP representatives, who have no doubt a very marked influence in this process.

How to apportion influences which affect the final decisions which are taken in this regard, this I cannot do. But I would think that the UNDP representatives, sometimes, could also call the attention of the governments to the fact that the programmes proposed may not reflect sufficiently the extreme priority of food and agriculture.

Are there explanations why the share of FAO has gone down? Yes, there are, two in particular, which were also mentioned two years ago. One is that UNDP, against the repeated advice of participating agencies, has considerably developed its own Office of Project Execution, OPE, which has been the fastest growing executing agency in the UN system during recent years, has now become the third largest one, and is operating almost nine percent of the total UNDP programmes. A good part of this concerns projects in the field of agricultural research, which, otherwise, should have been assigned to FAO.

Similarly, it is rather surprising to note that most UNDP projects in the field of rural development, a field for which a leading role has been recognized to FAO, have been assigned for execution, not to FAO but to UN-DTCD, which normally deals with subjects such as general planning, mining, public works and transportation. This, again, is something which we have some difficulties to understand and which was pointed out by the Conference two years ago.

Concerning trends in development assistance I have already given certain figures. For instance, I have said that, while the overall ODA to development has increased over the last year by 21.5 percent, the particular share of ODA intended for agriculture has increased by only 5.8 percent. The first has increased by a figure which is more than inflation, there has been a net increase. The second has increased by a figure which is less than inflation, there has been a net decrease. Therefore the answer is Yes, unfortunately there has recently been a trend towards a smaller share of ODA going to agriculture, which seems surprising when so many summit and other high level meetings have assigned first priority to that sector. Detailed figures, as I indicated, are to be found in Tables 1 and 2 of document C 81/28.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. de Meredieu. I think these answers are satisfactory to the United States delegate. If any more negotiations are needed we will come back to it. Are there any more points?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In order to be brief, and following the order given by Mr. de Meredieu, I would like to limit myself to the following points.

First, Review of Field Programmes. We consider the document C 81/4 generally to be a good document and we will give our comments at the forthcoming Conference.

Second, regarding my country's assistance for development I gave you some figures yesterday under Item 10. We will take up this point again at the forthcoming Conference.

Third, with regard to Support Costs my government's position is unchanged from the view that we expressed at the Seventy-Eighth Session of the Council. My delegation therefore wishes to state that our Organization should accept the decision taken by the UNDP Governing Council.

Finally, I was surprised by the statement of Mr. de Meredieu that the UNDP was only involved in the country programming. We had so far the feeling that the agricultural experts - that is, the FAO country representatives - would also take part in this country programming and in that way help to see that agriculture gets the priority it deserves.

CHAIRMAN: I will again call on Mr. de Meredieu to answer the last question.

J. de MEREDIEU (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): I have only one comment. Yes indeed, FAO representatives and our experts are actively engaged in the country programming process. But the only individuals who have authority for approving projects under the IPF are the Resident Representatives up to a certain amount, and UNDP Headquarters for higher amounts, on the recommendation of the Resident representative. When an individual has authority for approving funds, I think it is clear that he has great influence in the process concerned. The FAO representatives, unfortunately, have no authority for approving UNDP funds.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more comments on Item 13? Then we conclude this discussion of this Item which is going forward for more detailed consideration in the Conference.

VI. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
VI. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
VI. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

16 - Other Constitutional and Legal Questions.
16 - Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.
16 - Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular.

- Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions
- Invitation d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO
- Invitación a Estados no miembros a asistir a reuniones de la FAO

- Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have Status with FAO
- Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO
- Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO

CHAIRMAN: We come now to Item 16, which is divided into sub-items. On sub-item 1, which is Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions, I am informed that there is nothing to report.

We go on to the next item, which is Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have Status with FAO, document CL 80/2. I will call on Mr. Régnier to report on this item.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): As you know, FAO has established formal relations with as many as 160 international non-governmental organizations and they are regularly invited to FAO Technical meetings according to provisions formulated in Part P of the FAO Basic Texts. There is however a need for the Organization because of the highly specialised nature of some aspects of its work, to invite from time to time on an ad hoc basis some non-governmental organizations which do not have official relations with FAO to attend specific Technical meetings on particular subjects. Experience has shown that FAO can thus obtain expert advice and information on particular questions from organizations of recognised standing in their field of specialised competence-

The Forty-ninth Session of the Council in 1967 requested the Director-General to inform the Council in advance whenever possible of the names of those non-governmental organizations not having status with FAO which they intended to invite to Technical meetings and to report ex post facto to the Council when prior notification was impracticable. The names of these organizations and the meetings to which they have been invited are given in document CL 80/2. This matter is intended for the information of the Council and no decision is required.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments or questions on this item? If not, it is noted.

- Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees
- Modification de la représentation des nations membres au Comité du programme et au Comité financier
- Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

CHAIRMAN: This is an item for information only. In both the case of the Programme and Finance Committee, changes have been made by a Member Government each in the representation in the Committees, and the names and the curricula vitae are given for your information, and this is an item only for information.

Shall we note the information and proceed? Yes.

- Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Asian Development Bank
- Mémoire d'entente entre la FAO et la Banque asiatique de développement
- Memorando de entendimiento entre la FAO y el Banco Asiático de Desarrollo

C. FERNANDO (Director, Investment Centre): The document related to this item is CL 80/11, and as you will see from it, the original agreement for cooperation between FAO and the Asian Bank entered into force in 1968, only one year after the Asian Bank had been established and indeed only a few years after the FAO Investment Centre had also been established.

Under the agreement, the Investment Centre assists Member Countries in the region to identify and prepare projects by the Asian Bank, and this work has been going on for several years. Recently the work has expanded, and the Asian Bank is turning increasingly to the Investment Centre for help in carrying out its lending programme.

You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that the Council in June 1979 endorsed the Director-General's policy of harmonizing to the extent possible FAO's arrangements with financial institutions, particularly as far as cost-sharing arrangements are concerned.

As background, in the case of the Asian Bank the old agreement provided for an equal sharing of costs for loans for both project identification and preparation. Under the policy of the Director-General, it was felt that while FAO should always bear some costs of project formulation, its share should decrease as the project is incorporated in the lending programme of the financing institution. It was felt, therefore, that for project identification, which is the first stage of the project cycle, the costs should be shared equally between FAO and the financing institution, in other words, fifty-fifty, but that when we go to the next stage of the cycle, which is the preparation of the full feasibility study, the financing institution should pay 70 percent and FAO should pay 30 percent. This standard formula for cost-sharing has been incorporated in FAO's agreements with IFAD, several Arab financing institutions and more recently with the African Development Bank, and it is this cost-sharing formula, which of course is favourable to FAO, which is the main new feature of the revised agreement with the Asian Bank.

As you know, the 1968 agreement was approved by the Council and the Conference. Before the Director-General can enter into a new agreement, it was thought necessary to seek approval of the Council for the termination of the old agreement. A similar procedure was followed as far as the African Bank was concerned, so we are therefore asking the Council, as recommended by the Programme and Finance Committees sessions in September, to agree to the termination of the old agreement by mutual consent, after which the Director-General will be in a position to sign the new memorandum of understanding.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that on 22 September, the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank agreed to terminate the old agreement and authorized the President of the Asian Bank to sign the new memorandum of understanding with FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion on this? The point is that the old agreement is to be rescinded and a new memorandum of understanding to be signed. The Bank itself has agreed to it, and it is now up to us to agree and to recommend it for Conference endorsement for the Director-General to sign the new memorandum of understanding.

If there are no comments, I take it that this recommendation is approved and the matter will be put to the Conference.

This then concludes the discussion on item 16 and we will go on to item 17.

- VII. OTHER MATTERS (continued)
- VII. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)
- VII. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

17 - Any Other Business (Cont'd):

17 - Autres questions (suite):

17 - Otros asuntos (continuación):

- Second Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1980-81 Biennium
- Deuxi rapport sur les reunions hors programme pendant l'exercice 1980-81
- Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas en el bienio 1980-81

- Site of the Ninth World Forestry Congress. 1984
- Lieu du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial. 1984
- Lugar del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial de 1984

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): El documento del Consejo CL 80/10 contiene información sobre los lugares de los anteriores Congresos Forestales Mundiales, la función de la FAO con relación a los mismos y los medios disponibles en los países que han ofrecido hospedaje al noveno Congreso. Los Congresos Forestales Mundiales han venido celebrándose desde 1926, fecha en que el Instituto Internacional de Agricultura decidió organizar el primero aquí, en Roma, en la primavera de aquel año; a partir de 1945 la responsabilidad de seleccionar el país hospedante recayó sobre la FAO al absorber ésta las funciones del Instituto Internacional de Agricultura.

Con el pasar de los años los países hospedantes han asumido mayor responsabilidad con respecto a estos Congresos y la función de la FAO se ha limitado a la selección del país hospedante, función que lleva a cabo el Consejo de la FAO.

Por lo tanto, en esta coyuntura deseo enfatizar que los Congresos Forestales Mundiales no son reuniones de la FAO y que tales Congresos no tienen que dar cuenta o informar a los órganos rectores de la FAO.

Como puede verse en el citado documento CL 80/10, tres países, México, India y Filipinas han hecho su ofrecimiento como contestación a la carta circular del señor Director General enviada en febrero de 1981 a todos los países miembros de la FAO, de las Naciones Unidas, de las agencias especializadas y de la Agencia Internacional para la Energía Atómica.

Los Apéndices C, D y E del documento dan un breve bosquejo de la situación forestal en estos países.

Durante el cuarto Congreso celebrado en India en 1954 se estableció un Comité sobre principios y procedimientos para la consideración y sugerencias de los principios concernientes a la finalidad del Congreso Forestal Mundial y las reglas generales de organización y procedimiento. Las propuestas de este Comité examinadas por la segunda sesión del Comité Forestal en mayo de 1974 y subsecuentemente aprobadas por el Consejo de la FAO en su sesión número 64, estos principios y medidas aparecen detalladamente en el Apéndice B del mencionado documento CL 80/10.

El octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial celebrado en Yakarta, Indonesia, en 1978 fue organizado de acuerdo con estos principios y medidas, los cuales serán transmitidos al país hospedante del noveno Congreso, una vez que el mismo haya sido seleccionado.

Además, señor Presidente, desde el punto de vista técnico forestal siempre se ha considerado importante que los colegas delegados tengan la oportunidad de analizar y opinar sobre los progresos y problemas de diversas áreas del mundo y la forma en que la profesión forestal participa en el desarrollo rural de tales áreas. Por lo tanto, ha sido costumbre considerar importante la rotación geográfica entre los diversos congresos y la capacidad del país hospedante de ofrecer la oportunidad de exponer a los delegados las múltiples zonas ecológicas con suficiente variabilidad.

A pesar de que la organización del Congreso Forestal Mundial es de responsabilidad única del país hospedante, nosotros, naturalmente, estamos a disposición de dicho país una vez seleccionado si así lo solicitara.

A. J.-M. ISSA (México): Nuestra delegación desea reiterar el ofrecimiento que hiciera el jefe de la delegación de México durante el octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial celebrado en Indonesia para que México sea la sede del noveno Congreso.

Como lo señala el documento de la Secretaría del Consejo, el 70 por ciento de nuestro territorio, es decir 137 millones de hectáreas corresponden a terreno forestal; de ellas 44 millones son bosques templados, fríos y tropicales. Esta característica de México le obliga como un país forestal, donde

actualmente hacemos importantes esfuerzos para estimular este sector productivo a través de un plan a largo plazo. Se han instrumentado así importantes programas de mejoramiento de la silvicultura que está aumentando y diversificando la producción, al mismo tiempo que permite a los campesinos dedicados a esta actividad acceder a mejores condiciones de vida.

Especial atención hemos dado al aprovechamiento de la selva tropical donde por primera vez se lleva a cabo un inventario de manejos que nos permitirá racionalizar la utilización de estos bosques considerándolos parte del complejo suelo, cubierta vegetal, fauna y aguas. Se ha intensificado también los programas encaminados a lograr un uso más adecuado de los recursos forestales de las zonas áridas. Todos estos programas están en el marco de una política forestal que estimula el uso de recursos forestales no como algo aislado, sino como factor prioritario del desarrollo de las comunidades rurales.

De acuerdo a los lineamientos establecidos por la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la participación campesina en todos estos programas es fundamental. México, consciente de que la actividad forestal afecta a la realidad económica de más de 1 500 millones de habitantes, el 35 por ciento de la población mundial, ha solicitado que la FAO incremente la importancia y participación de esta fundamental actividad dentro de la propia Organización.

En la pasada Conferencia de FAO, México reiteró su pleno apoyo al contenido de la Declaración Yakarta aprobada en el octavo Congreso Forestal de octubre de 1978 en razón a su calidad y alto contenido positivo donde se señalan recomendaciones para coadyuvar al mejoramiento de la actividad forestal, vinculada especialmente al desarrollo de las comunidades rurales.

Señor Presidente, por estas razones anteriormente señaladas y porque consideramos que debe prevalecer el principio de la alternabilidad y de la rotación, México reitera su ofrecimiento. Tal como lo señala el documento CL 80/10, nuestro país está en la mejor disposición para facilitar todos los recursos necesarios para el desarrollo exitoso del noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial a celebrarse, si así lo deciden, en México.

Asimismo, quiero reiterar tres ofrecimientos que México ha hecho desde el Octavo Congreso Forestal Mundial y que se refieren a las facilidades por un lado financieras, y por otro lado físicas para la realización de este Congreso. Por otra parte a las facilidades financieras y de asistencia técnica para que los participantes en el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial puedan realizar viajes de estudio al interior del país, donde podemos ofrecer una vasta realidad forestal en cuanto climas, suelos y grados de explotación; y por otro lado, quisiera reiterar también el ofrecimiento del Gobierno de México para facilitar recursos financieros a estudiantes y profesionales interesados en la materia y que puedan asistir, con esta asistencia, a dicho Congreso.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to express the views of my country on this item. A brief idea of India's vast forest resources has been given in the document.

Our country has to cope with a rapidly rising requirement, of timber, fuelwood and various other forestry products. A very high priority is therefore being given to the forestry sector. In the current five-year Plan, the country has provided nearly 6.9 billion rupees or around \$ 770 million to promote forestry development. A very special programme in this context relates to social forestry which is intended to provide timber, fuelwood, fodder and wherever possible fruit for the benefit of hundreds of millions of the rural poor.

For economic, social and ecological reasons, the government is giving special attention to forestry development. In this background, India has expressed a strong interest in the holding of the 9th World Forestry Congress, 1984, in India. Now we have noted that Mexico has come forward with a proposal for holding this Congress. Similarly the Philippines has also shown interest in hosting the Congress. We thus find that two other friendly developing countries are also keen in this regard. Our view is that this subject should not be made controversial.

In this context, I would like to make a suggestion for the consideration of our fellow delegates and this Council. The suggestion is that shortly in connection with the FAO Conference, Ministers of our three countries are expected to be in Rome. In my view, it would be better to ensure a consensus on the basis of mutual consultation at the above level of representation.

Since the World Forestry Congress is to meet in 1984, a decision can perhaps be taken at the next meeting of the FAO Council. Therefore, I submit this suggestion for the consideration of this august House.

A. CAPAY (Observer for Philippines): The Philippine Government wishes to reiterate its offer to host the 9th World Forestry Congress in 1984. The Philippine Government affirms its readiness and availability to provide everything necessary to maintain the high standards set at previous congresses. This includes special experts and students from developing countries to attend the congress, and the full costs of any assistance necessary from FAO for the preparation and conduct of the congress, including any assistance after the congress in order to finalize the proceedings.

The Philippine Government offers the premises and facilities of the internationally renowned Philippine international convention centre in Manila, as well as hotel accommodation and facilities for congress participants and guests. The Philippine Government offers gladly to share its forestry development concerns and experience with FAO member countries, especially the developing countries.

The Philippines is a demonstration site for various regional, sub-regional, and bilateral support forestry projects. The Philippines has the FAO SIDA regional project on the Centre for Forestry Education; research and development for Asia and the Pacific region; the ASEAN-New Zealand Reafforestation and Soil Erosion Control Training Centre, among others.

Mr. Chairman, we have taken up an intensive national reafforestation programme, supplemented by the habilitation of sixteen cultivators, agro-forestry programmes, multiple-use forestry, watershed management, fuel woodlands, tree planting drives, and widespread forestry extension activities.

These programmes and the forestry situation are mostly similar to those of the developing countries, so this could provide valuable information and experience to the delegates of the 9th World Forestry Congress.

With the above-mentioned facilities and forestry development demonstration project the Philippine Government reaffirms its offer to host the Congress.

In conclusion, we agree with the proposal of the delegate from India in order to have a harmonious relationship.

CHAIRMAN: This subject is now open for discussion.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): Italy notes that three friendly countries wish to host the very important congress, but Italy thinks also that the principle of rotation should be respected.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Italy is suggesting the principle of rotation. The proposal is also made by India that the decision should be delayed or postponed.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation would like to support the proposal made by the Indian delegate.

Mrs. SAODAH SYAHROEDDIN (Indonesia): After studying carefully the document CL 80/10 and listening attentively to the explanations presented by the delegates of Mexico and India as well as the Philippines, I wish to express my delegation's views as follows: with reference to the World Forestry Congress, the Indonesian delegation would like to record its gratitude for the support given by FAO in the success of the 8th World Forestry Congress held in Indonesia. The experience of the Indonesian Government in handling the 8th Congress will enable us to handle the necessary requirements for organizing a congress in the future.

In this regard the Indonesian delegation endorses the offer of the Philippine Government to host the 9th World Forestry Congress to be held in 1984. We are also concerned with the arrangements made to set up field trips which could reflect the actual state of integrated forestry management efforts at the present time, and it is in line with this technical requirement that we consider the Philippines to be the best suitable site for the coming Forestry Congress.

Furthermore, accommodation and complementary activities for the Congress are readily available in Manila and so are other facilities as contained in document CL 80/10. My delegation therefore believes that the objectives of the 9th World Forestry Congress can be successfully achieved if it is held in Manila.

H. MENDS (Ghana): Looking at the document before us, my delegation would be tempted to vote --if it came to that -- for the Philippines. However, in view of the problem posed by three friendly countries wishing at the same time to host this all important Congress, and in view of the fact that the Congress is not to take place until 1984, I would go along with the others who have suggested that we give ourselves some time to consider this a little further and take a decision later on.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): I, too, wish to support the suggestion made by the delegate of India that the three ministers of the countries concerned get together in the Conference and consult, and possibly come up with one of the countries to host the Conference. If they fail to agree, perhaps the matter should be re-tabled for the next Council session.

T.C. RAJAONA (Madagascar): L'organisation d'un tel Congrès dépend du ressort du pays hôte. Ma délégation estime devoir appuyer la proposition tendant à ce qu'un consensus intervienne entre les responsables des trois pays candidats.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais simplement dire que la délégation Française, comme l'a dit le délégué de l'Italie, estime qu'il serait peut-être préférable d'avoir dans ce domaine une certaine rotation.

Ceci dit, je me rallie entièrement à la proposition du délégué de l'Inde qui propose une réunion de ces trois ministres de l'agriculture pour qu'ils s'entendent entre eux et leur décision sera naturellement la bonne.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Se nos ha presentado el documento 80/10 con relación al Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial a celebrarse en 1984. Se nos dice en el documento que el Consejo examinará el tema y que determinará el país hospedante. Mi delegación desea expresar su apoyo a la aspiración del Gobierno de México de hospedar el Congreso Forestal Mundial, y lo hacemos ratificando una decisión tomada por el Grupo Latinoamericano, de apoyar la candidatura de México. Por otra parte, consideramos que México tiene condiciones ecológicas muy importantes y consideramos también, que estos eventos se deben realizar en diferentes zonas geográficas basadas en el principio de la rotación.

WANG SHOU RU (China) (Original language Chinese): Three friendly countries have now made their offer to host the 9th World Forestry Conference. We think this problem would be better solved through friendly consultations and that is why we support the suggestion made by the Indian delegation.

M. GHASSI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): My delegation supports the proposal made by India for consultations to take place to choose the place where the Forestry Congress is to be held.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como ya lo han dicho otros colegas, se trata de una decisión difícil. Estamos plenamente de acuerdo en que no es conveniente una confrontación. En ocasiones pasadas, el Consejo tomaba esta decisión a través de un diálogo como el que estaraos celebrando. Consideramos constructivas las propuestas de la delegación de la India, pero creemos conveniente que se tenga en cuenta un hecho fundamental. Si el Consejo, en todas las ocasiones anteriores, ha procedido a seleccionar el país hospedante del Congreso Forestal Mundial con toda anticipación, esto se debe al tiempo que requiere este país hospedante para adelantar todos los preparativos que puedan garantizar el buen éxito del Congreso. Por eso se hace esta selección con toda anticipación. Si dejáramos esto para el próximo Consejo, esa reunión sería en noviembre o diciembre de 1982, a fin del 82; quiere decir esto

que el país escogido solo dispondría prácticamente de un solo año, el 83, lo cual posiblemente no sería suficiente. Por estas razones, y por cumplir instrucciones precisas de nuestro Gobierno, apoyamos la candidatura de México.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Obviously, each of those countries offers a particular experience in forestry and each of them has the facilities to host such a conference, so it does make the choice somewhat difficult. It seems to me that, as several delegates have suggested, the easiest way out of this is to stick with the principle of rotation. I think that this is a good principle for a practical reason which is that in the case of Mexico, we do have a somewhat different situation in forestry and forests as compared to South East Asia where, if we were to hold another conference back-to-back, we would in essence be dealing with a region having very similar problems; while in this case, we would be going to a region with somewhat different problems.

Having said that, it is also true that Mexico, of course, offers a wide diversity from north to south in terms of the different kinds of forests it has and I think it is useful from the standpoint of the kind of discussions that go on and the kind of field trips and so forth that take place around such a conference, to provide this kind of diversity every six years. I would hope that we can decide this issue here. I am not particularly in favour of postponing the decision. I of course have no problem with the idea that the ministers from these countries get together and as long as they pick Mexico, I will not object. What else they will do I do not know, but I am a little bit afraid that if they meet and do not resolve this, then we will be postponing the decision to a time that will make it much more difficult to plan, as the delegate of Colombia has just said.

I would like to have some assurance that we will decide this issue in one way or another, perhaps on the day following the Conference when the Council again meets, and that we will not postpone the decision until next year, because if indeed the three ministers cannot agree amongst themselves, the problem will not go away and we will be confronted with exactly the same choice later. I therefore hope that if we do not take a decision today, we will have some assurance that we will take it in the one-day session following the Conference.

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Después de oír las distintas propuestas que se han hecho aquí, la delegación de Argentina desea respaldar calurosamente la candidatura de México para sede del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial de 1984. Deseamos subrayar, sin perjuicio de reconocer los méritos de los otros postulantes, que por el desarrollo que ha tenido esta temática en México, el interés y la responsabilidad con que se encara la organización de este importante evento y por el criterio, además, de rotación, pensamos que pocos países serían más indicados que México para sede de este Congreso Forestal.

C.N. LINYAMA (Zambia): I wish to support the Indian delegation's suggestion but I would add that the ministers, when they meet, should give us an answer by the end of this Conference so that at the next Council meeting which we shall have at the end of this Conference we can decide on this question.

S. DE MARE (Sweden): My delegation wishes to support the candidature of Mexico to host the next Forestry Congress. The reason for our decision is not only that we feel that the principle of rotation should be respected, but also because of the interesting characteristics of Mexican forestry, its great potentials and the important role forestry seems to play in community development in that country. Of course, my delegation could go along with the proposal of India, if that is the wish of the three countries concerned; but until now we have just heard the Indian view.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): The delegates of the United States and of Zambia have said what I was going to say, that is, let the ministers meet and discuss, but report back to us at the short Council at the end of the Conference, no later than that.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): First, procedurally, I think it will be very interesting and helpful to know the position of the Mexican Delegation *vis-a-vis* the Indian suggestion. If they also feel that there is a reasonable chance of success to resolve the problem by ministers then I could not see any harm if we postpone the final decision of the Council until the end of the Conference. It will be the best possible way out and I am suggesting this procedural matter also in view of the very short time indeed.

M.J. RICKETTS-BARBARIE (Canada): At the Fifth Session of the Committee on Forestry in May 1980 Canada voiced its support in favour of accepting the kind offer of Mexico to act as host for the Ninth World Forestry Congress. If I am not mistaken Mexico was at that time the only FAO member country offering to act as host. Whereas we believe that all the countries that are now interested in this offer have fully adequate facilities and can each make a good case for being selected by the Council, we would like to see them find agreement amongst themselves, taking into account all the factors, of course, including the principle of fair regional rotation. If the delegate of Mexico agrees we have no objection to the matter being resolved during the Conference.

P. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): En primer lugar, deseamos agradecer al Sr. Flores Rodas su interesante presentación de tan importante evento. Indudablemente se trata de tres candidaturas, de tres países muy amigos; nuestra delegación, sin embargo, al igual que las delegaciones de Italia, de Francia y de otras, apoya el principio de la rotación y consideramos que es un principio que incluso en este caso, desde el punto de vista técnico, tiene un peso muy importante.

Consideramos que México es un país con características forestales muy diversas a través de sus distintas regiones geográficas, lo que brindará una experiencia muy rica en materia forestal a todos los países asistentes. Por estas razones: la razón de la rotación, la razón específica de las condiciones ambientales y geográficas de México, nuestro Gobierno desea expresar el apoyo a la candidatura de México para sede del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

DATO SERI RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): My delegation supports the suggestion made by the delegation of India, as modified by the delegation from Zambia that there should be a discussion between the three friendly countries concerned to resolve the choice of the host country.

H.H. CARABANO (Venezuela): Mi delegación desea comenzar por agradecer a los tres países el ofrecimiento que han hecho para hospedar este importante Congreso. No nos cabe la menor duda de que cualquiera de ellos podría hacerlo logrando grandes éxitos; por lo tanto, expresar cierta preferencia no significa subestimar a los demás. Por las razones que han sido expuestas, mi país apoya calurosamente la sede para México y sería un honor para toda América Latina el que este importante evento pudiera realizarse en un país que, como aquí se ha dicho, tiene condiciones ecológicas en las cuales estarían representadas no solamente todos los países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, sino todos los países del mundo.

Por todo esto, nos pronunciamos por México, pero sin dejar de reconocer la importancia de la consulta de los Ministros para diferir decisiones hasta la reunión del Congreso, inmediatamente después de la Conferencia, tal como lo ha propuesto la delegación de Estados Unidos y por las razones que fueron tan claramente expuestas por Colombia.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation has all the respects for the different candidates presented this morning to hold this Conference on Forestry. Two different orders of reason have been presented in favour of Mexico; ecological conditions which particularly present good opportunity for forestry experts to study different kinds of forestry resources; and the facilities that Mexico could also offer, like the other candidates. So with due respect to all the different candidates my delegation would like to express its support for the candidature of Mexico for this Ninth World Forestry Congress and personally I would like to see this decision, as far as possible, taken from this Council. If this is not possible I subscribe to the idea that discussions could be held during the Conference for decision at the earliest possible opportunity during the next Council at the end of the Conference.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): My delegation notes the friendliness that exists between the three countries that have offered themselves to host this important forestry Conference. I would, however, go along with the other members, particularly as suggested by India because there are laid down requirements and other things to be looked at. So I would suggest that this particular assignment be given to the three friendly ministers who are coming in, for discussion during their stay here and if this fails we should then, as a Council, step in after the Conference so that a decision could be made.

P. KANGA (Angola): Les trois pays qui ont présenté leur candidature, présentent des conditions adéquates. Ma délégation se rallie à la proposition de la délégation de l'Inde de procéder à des consultations amicales entre les trois ministres. Si nous n'arrivons pas à une entente, je me rallierai à la proposition de la délégation zambienne pour que la décision soit prise à la fin de la Conférence, lors du Conseil.

A. EL KADIRI (Maroc): Ma délégation se rallie à la proposition de l'Inde, telle qu'elle a été amendée par la Zambie.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal): Ma délégation voudrait ajouter sa voix à celles des autres délégations qui sont d'avis que la décision sur cette question doit être reportée à la session du prochain Conseil, ce qui donnerait l'occasion aux ministres présents à la Conférence de se consulter et de nous suggérer un consensus.

CHAIRMAN: I think unless the other three members insist on speaking the trend is quite clear, that there should be a meeting between the ministers to reach a consensus and then report to the next Council which is in three week time at which a decision will be taken. So Mexico, I do not know what Mexico's own views are.

A.J.-M. ISSA (México): Como bien lo dijo la distinguida delegada de Canadá, México fue el primer país que presento la petición formal para ser sede de este Congreso, petición que sigue sosteniendo y sigue manteniendo sus relaciones amistosas con todos los países que solicitan ahora también la sede.

Nos adherimos al consenso que usted acaba de manifestar, en el sentido de que nuestros Ministros se reúnan durante algunas fechas de la próxima Conferencia de la FAO y en el Consejo inmediatamente posterior a la Conferencia se conozca la recomendación de los tres Ministros y se seleccione el país anfitrión y organizador de este Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mexico for this. This would mean that the Secretariat will arrange some sort of dialogue between the three ministers and report back for Council to take a decision on the matter at its next meeting.

Now this concludes our morning agenda but there is a suggestion from the Secretariat that in order to facilitate our work and perhaps to avoid a night session the items which we have discussed this morning have not been very controversial at all and it is suggested that the report should come straight here instead of going through the Drafting Committee. Now, if this is agreed it will facilitate the work but if you insist it would be routed through the Drafting Committee and that will take a long time. Is it agreed that the report comes straight here, the one for this morning? Yes, I see everybody nodding.

Now I will vacate the Chair and call on one of the Vice Chairmen, Ambassador Morales Carballo of Cuba to take this seat.

P. Morales Carballo, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

P. Morales Carballo, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia P. Morales Carballo, Vicepresidente del Consejo

Unveiling of the portrait of the Independent Chairman of the Council

Inauguration du portrait du Président indépendant du Conseil

Descubrimiento del retrato del Presidente independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados: al presidir este Consejo tengo el honor de anunciarles que dentro de breves momentos celebraremos la ceremonia para develar el retrato de nuestro querido Presidente independiente, Sr. Bukar Shaib; por lo tanto, se trata de un acto tan sencillo como sincero mediante el cual no sólo será una oportunidad para expresar nuestro reconocimiento por el extraordinario trabajo

realizado por el Sr. Bukar Shaib como Presidente del Consejo, sino que será también una manera hermosa de recordarle siempre haciéndole formar parte de la histórica galería que está a nuestra derecha.

Sin más preámbulos, doy la palabra al Director General de la FAO.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few moments, Dr. Bukar Shaib, I will have the honour to commemorate the unveiling of your portrait.

It will join those of your illustrious predecessors who have held the high function of Independent Chairman of the FAO Council.

This ceremony is particularly moving for all of us.

We are living the history of our Organization.

You, Sir, are the Ninth Independent Chairman of the FAO Council and the first from Africa.

A distinguished son of the great continent of Africa, you brought to FAO a wealth of experience and a broad knowledge of almost all the fields which this Organization embraces.

Having achieved the highest academic honours in the field of veterinary medicine, you brought to us your experience from a succession of increasingly responsible posts dealing with livestock management and disease control in your country.

Your outstanding capabilities found ready recognition and you soon became responsible for all aspects of agriculture, livestock forestry and fisheries administration, as Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Nigeria, and later as Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

Your association with FAO stretches over almost 20 years, from the time you first attended an FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1962.

In that time you not only distinguished yourself as a meritorious delegate, but rapidly assumed a number of important functions for this Council.

You joined the Programme Committee in 1971, becoming its Vice-Chairman in 1973.

You were the first Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

I do not even attempt to enumerate all the responsibilities which you concurrently exercise outside the framework of FAO, from which you have constantly brought a wider vision and a more enriched experience for our benefit.

As Independent Chairman of the FAO Council over the last four years, your wisdom, tact, discretion and competence are well-known.

You have visibly earned the respect of all delegations.

My colleagues and I have valued your counsel and ready collaboration.

For me personally, our association is without compare.

Our respective functions call for the closest association.

It is a reflection of the perfect blending of our association that the last four years have represented: for me a period of the most complete mutual respect and a sense of mutual confidence.

I have indeed been fortunate.

I wish to pay tribute, Sir, to your many qualities, which all of us have learned to appreciate and of which I am particularly aware.

I wish on behalf of the Organization, my colleagues and myself to record our gratitude for the eminent services that you have rendered to the Organization.

We trust that you will always consider yourself a son of FAO, from whose continued achievements and excellence FAO may further benefit.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EI PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos mucho al Director General estas hermosas palabras que todos compartimos.

Señoras. y señores: como es la tradición en ceremonias como ésta, ruego encarecidamente a los miembros del Consejo que se mantengan en sus respectivos asientos y los que deseen hacer uso de la palabra en nomenaje al señor Bukar Shaib lo hagan durante la Conferencia que comenzará dentro de muy pocos días y en ocasión de la toma de posesión del nuevo Presidente independiente del Consejo.

Quiero ahora, en nombre de los miembros del Consejo, dirigir unas breves palabras al señor Presidente.

Señor Presidente independiente del Consejo de la FAO, querido hermano Bukar: sabemos que su hoja de servicios trabajando por el avance de la ganadería, de la agricultura y del desarrollo de su país se inició al principio de los años 50 trabajando como veterinario y luchando contra enfermedades epizooticas en rebaños nómadas. Una historia de servicios que comienza en la propia base, sobre el terreno, en el campo, donde surgen las más ricas y valiosas experiencias, diríamos, que es una escuela que vale para siempre, y así lo prueba la historia posterior de su carrera como Administrador de una de las zonas ganaderas más importantes de Nigeria.

Esas experiencias obtenidas sobre el terreno seguramente fueron firme punto de apoyo para las tareas que ya a escala nacional le encomendó el Ministerio Federal de Agricultura y Recursos Naturales de su país; es decir, que se trata de un profundo conocedor de la problemática del campo nigeriano a cuyo desarrollo técnico, económico y social ha contribuido mucho.

Sus aportes en el desarrollo de la ciencia veterinaria en su país, y en particular en lo referente a la investigación agrícola, son dignos de destacar, incluyendo sus trabajos en la universidad de Ahmadu Bello.

En la esfera internacional, ya con su vasta experiencia nacional, ha contribuido en congresos mundiales de veterinaria, en varias conferencias regionales para Africa y en las conferencias bienales de la FAO.

En la sede de esta Organización su experiencia también ha sido valiosa; sus contribuciones en este Consejo y en el Comité del Programa como representante de Nigeria alcanzan su punto más alto con sus éxitos como Presidente independiente del Consejo.

Todo ello es un hermoso ejemplo de lo que ha sido capaz un genuino hijo del pueblo nigeriano y africano en su año por lograr los objetivos de la FAO.

Señor Presidente, usted ha sabido ser imparcial y firme en cada ocasión, eso no lo duda nadie, pero también ha sabido ser decidido cuando se trata de alcanzar los objetivos por acabar con el hambre y la miseria de la faz de la tierra.

Para todos los miembros del Consejo, y en particular para el Grupo de los Setenta y Siete, es motivo de orgullo y satisfacción haber tenido durante cuatro años un Presidente que con tanta sabiduría, paciencia, facultad de escuchar a todos ha sabido dirigir con tanto acierto nuestro trabajo. Su dedicación, su entrega a esta tarea son un ejemplo para todos nosotros. Sabemos que los frutos de su trabajo fortalecen su profundo ideal por alcanzar un mundo más justo, sin miseria, sin hambre, con paz para todos, por lograr el nuevo orden económico internacional.

Les deseamos muchos éxitos futuros y le agradecemos muy sinceramente todos sus esfuerzos y trabajos como Presidente independiente del Consejo. Muchas gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (original language Arabic): I would like to invite Dr. Bukar Shaib, the Independent Chairman of the Council, to accompany me, so that together we may unveil his portrait.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores delegados: tengo el honor de pasar la palabra al Sr. Presidente, Bukar Shaib.

B. SHAIB (Independent Chairman of the Council): Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Colleagues: I would like to thank all of you this morning for the great honour done to me. This I think is the proudest moment of my career in FAO when the Organization, through the person of the Director-General, has done me the honour of having my portrait in the gallery.

Now, I was expecting the Director-General to do what Dr. Boerma did once, at which there was a lot of laughter. Dr. Boerma, who was then the Director-General, when he was going to unveil the portrait of Professor Cépède said to him: "Now, Professor Cépède, let's go and see you hanging". My portrait is hanging there, and I am very grateful that it will be here for future members as well as yourselves to see.

My association with this Council really started in 1969 when I first came to represent Nigeria as a delegate. At that time I met many delegates, and I was struck, most impressed by three people whom I thought one day would become either Chairmen of Council or something for which they will be greatly remembered. These are Dr. Ralph Phillips, who was then representing the United States. He impressed me with his very calm, methodical way in his debates. He never gets ruffled or excited, and he gave us in the Council then some sort of stability, a reference point that we could always look up to. That impressed me very much, and I decided I would probably try and do the same thing.

The second person is Mr. Edward West. He was then representing the United Kingdom as a delegate. Mr. West, when the situation is tense -- in those days they were tense more than now -- always had a good sense of humour and he always told us stories which made everybody laugh and relax. That too I thought was a very wonderful quality which impressed me very much, and I thought I would try and emulate.

The third person is Mr. Gonzalo Bula-Hoyos. He was then a firebrand speaker, standard bearer of the oppressed developing countries, and at that time I also decided to join him. so I had three people from whom I tried to copy something. Now I must hurry up to say that Councils, with age and responsibility, have mellowed him very much, so the old fiery speeches are no longer so fiery.

There are many others who deserve to have their portraits up there. I am lucky.

Now I would like to thank my own country, Nigeria. I am very proud for my country for giving me the opportunity to come here to serve the Council. Then when the time came for Africa to provide a candidate for Independent Chairman of the Council, the African group, the African region chose me, and I am most grateful to the African region for giving me the opportunity to serve Africa, and I am very proud that I have done what I could to uphold the tradition of Africa, which is peace, conciliation, dialogue and never violence.

Then I would like to thank the whole of the FAO membership, because when it came to the time of electing me, I think there were only one or two votes against, which was very democratic, and so I have been able to serve you for the past four years. I have interacted with many people, with the Chairmen of our main committees, with the Secretariat; above all I have the greatest cooperation, respect, mutual understanding with the Director-General, who has made my own work much easier because there are times we disagree on certain issues on which he strongly feels, and then he will say, "All right, you are the Independent Chairman, do it your own way". This is something which made my own work easier, because there is no antagonism and the Director-General cooperated with me and assisted me in what I am doing. If I knew something was wrong, I told him and he accepted it, and you in Council have been very patient with me because I did the same thing to you. If I thought that a Member or Members are not doing the

right thing, I said so and they accepted it, and for that I am very grateful. I have no doubt that the Director-General will continue to lead this Organization, to lead his colleagues in the Secretariat and also to work with this Council in the years to come in the way he did with me.

As for me, I have finished my work in FAO. I have other things to do. But whenever the occasion arises, I will be very, very glad indeed to serve this Organization in any capacity.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Una vez mas, pero ahora desde lo alto, decimos, muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

De esta manera concluye esta hermosa e inolvidable ceremonia.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours

La séance est levée a 13 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 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 80/PV/6

Eightieth Session

Quatre-vingtième session

80° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1981)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.20 hours
Bukar Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 20, sous la présidence
de Bukar Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 16, 20 horas bajo la presidencia
de Bukar Shaib, Presidente independiente del Consejo

- II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE
 - II. PREPARATION DE LA VINGT ET UNIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE DE LA FAO
 - II. PREPARATIVOS DEL 21° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO
- 3. Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference
 - 3. Propositions de candidatures aux postes de Président de la Conférence, de Présidents des commissions de la Conférence
 - 3. Propuestas de candidaturas para la presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: With regard to this item, we held a meeting this morning of co-ordinators of the various groups, chairmen of the various regional groups, with the Director-General and with the Secretary-General in my office. We discussed this item, and the various groups agreed on the recommendation that we should make to the Conference, to be put to the Council now, with regard to the Chairman of the Conference; you will remember that in June when we met we had discussions privately with heads of delegations and that the chairmanship of the Conference would normally go to the North American region. However, after detailed discussion, that region declined to take the chairmanship. Therefore we informed the next region, that is the Latin America region, asking them to produce a candidate and after discussions I have been informed -- and also at the meeting this morning -- that the Latin America group have agreed to nominate Mr. Ruben Aguado, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Argentina, who is available throughout the Conference, to be the Chairman of the Conference.

Now all the groups' coordinators when we met accepted this nomination by the Latin America Group. So I now put to you that we recommend to the Conference the name of Mr. Ruben Aguado, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Argentina.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): En nombre de mi país deseo agradecer muy cálidamente a los miembros del Consejo por haber designado como candidato a la Presidencia del 21° período de sesiones de la Conferencia al Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería, Don Jorge Rubén Aguado.

Deseo transmitir a ustedes la honra que ello significa para el Sr. Aguado, así como su reconocimiento por la oportunidad que se le brinda para trabajar en favor de los nobles ideales de la FAO desde un foro donde están representados ampliamente todas las regiones y todos los sistemas jurídicos y políticos del mundo.

Para los países hermanos de América Latina, vaya especialmente nuestro saludo emocionado por haber hecho posible esta designación.

CHAIRMAN: We will now go on to the Chairman of the Commissions. For Commission I when the Groups met we agreed that this should go to the Africa region and the Africa Group have nominated Mr. J. Tchicaya, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO of the Congo to be the Chairman of Commission I. This was accepted at the coordination meeting this morning and this is now put to you.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais simplement remercier tout d'abord le groupe africain pour avoir bien voulu présenter ma candidature au Conseil. Je voudrais ensuite remercier le Conseil pour avoir accepté de le représenter par ma candidature, à la Conférence.

CHAIRMAN: For the Chairman of Commission II it was agreed that this should go to Europe and the European OECD Group have nominated Mr. R. Steiner who is a Ministerialrat in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture of Austria. This nomination was also agreed to in the meeting I had with the Director-General, with the liaison officers and the various groups. So Mr. Steiner is now proposed as a candidate as Chairman of Commission II.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

P. ROSENEGGER (Observer for Austria): I would like to thank the Group of the OECD countries who have proposed Mr. Steiner for this important function and I would also like to thank those who supported his nomination. We consider this nomination a great honour for our country and I take great pleasure in informing you that Mr. Steiner will accept this nomination. I am certain that he will do his utmost to serve this important Commission in the best possible way.

CHAIRMAN: For the position of Chairman of Commission III it was agreed that this should go to the Asia region and the representatives of Asia region have nominated Mr. S.A. Qureshi Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Pakistan as a candidate.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I wish to convey my delegation's appreciation first of all to the Asian group who were kind enough to nominate my Secretary of the Federal Government for Food and Agriculture for the Chairmanship of Commission III and I also wish to convey appreciation to all the members of the Council who have so kindly agreed.

4. Election of the Nominations Committee

4. Election de membres de la Commission des candidatures

4. Elección del Comité de Candidaturas

CHAIRMAN: Now the Nominations Committee consists of 11 member countries who then put up the people who will serve on the Committee. At the meeting this morning we discussed also this item and the various regional groups agreed as follows: For Africa it is recommended that Botswana and Upper Volta should be represented on the Nominations Committee; for Asia it is Indonesia and Thailand; for Latin America it is Costa Rica and Venezuela; for the Near East it is Yemen, the Peoples Democratic Republic; for North America it is Canada; for Europe it is Finland and the United Kingdom and for the Southwest Pacific, Australia. These are the nominations for the Nominations Committee who will supply people who will sit on this Committee.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

5. Nomination of the Chairman of the Informal Meeting of Observers of Non-Governmental Organizations
5. Designation du Président de la réunion officieuse des observateurs des organisations non gouvernementales
5. Propuesta de candidaturas para el cargo de presidente de la reunión oficiosa de observadores de organizaciones no gubernamentales

CHAIRMAN: This is the nomination of the Chairman of the informal meeting of observers of non-governmental organizations. At the meeting this morning it was agreed to put forward Prof. Michel Cépède who is the President of the French National Committee for Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

VII. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VII. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)

VII. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

18. Date and Place of the Eighty-first Session of the Council

18. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-unième session du Conseil

18. Fecha y lugar del 81º período de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La réunion du Conseil se tiendra immédiatement après la Conférence, donc le 27 novembre et elle se terminera le même jour. Il est prévu que les travaux du Conseil ce jour-là commenceraient à 9 h 30.

CHAIRMAN: That means the next meeting of Council is fixed for the 27th of November immediately after the Conference. This concludes item 18 and we can start with the adoption of report.

Adoption of report

Adoption du rapport

Aprobación del informe

Draft report of Plenary - Part I

Projet de rapport de la plénière - Première partie

Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte I

Mme G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Présidente du Comité de rédaction): Vous savez très bien comment nous procédons dans nos travaux. Je voulais simplement vous informer de la façon dont se sont passés les travaux du Comité de rédaction. Celui-ci a préparé deux parties du rapport qui sont sous vos yeux et il a siégé durant deux séances, hier soir et ce matin. Notre travail a été accompli dans une atmosphère très détendue qui a permis au Comité de se pencher sur le rapport d'une façon très satisfaisante. Aussi notre travail a pu être accompli avec aisance et rapidité.

Je tiens par conséquent à remercier très vivement les membres du Comité de rédaction pour leur contribution et leur compréhension. Je tiens également à remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour son assistance à nos travaux.

Naturellement, je suis à votre entière disposition au cas où des éclaircissements sur les travaux du Comité s'avèreraient nécessaires

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 3 to 12

PARAGRAPHE 3 à 12

PARRAFOS 3 a 12

G. STREEB(United States of America): Could I ask that at the end of the first sentence in Paragraph 3 you add the words 'as adopted'?

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed? There is no objection to the proposal by the United States delegate? Agreed.

Paragraphs 3 to 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 to 24

PARAGRAPHE 20 à 24

PARRAFOS 20 a 24

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es muy grato discutir este proyecto de informe que fue elaborado por un Comité de Redacción presidido por una dama distinguida como la Sra. Rossi Perotti.

Sobre el párrafo 20, el texto español comparado con el texto inglés, que suponemos fue el idioma básico, tiene por lo menos la mitad tan solo del contenido del párrafo 20 en el idioma inglés. Desapareció la otra mitad del párrafo 20, por lo que ruego a la Secretaría que compare estos dos textos y los ajuste.

Esto no tiene importancia, pero la intención de nuestra intervención está referida al párrafo 21. En el párrafo 21 en realidad se refleja lo que paso en París en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre países menos adelantados, pero no se refleja lo que paso aquí en el Consejo. En esa forma el párrafo es muy pasivo. Sé que no hubo un gran debate sobre este tema, pero por lo menos nuestra delegación sí intervino y destaco como hecho positivo la actuación del Gobierno italiano. Por lo tanto, proponemos simplemente que el párrafo 21 comience con las siguientes palabras: "El Consejo tomo nota con satisfacción desque", y luego sigue tal como está, "en la Conferencia de París etc.". Con esto por lo menos se hace un mínimo de justicia al interés que ha despertado la iniciativa italiana sobre el tema.

CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to answer two points raised, one in connection with Paragraph 20 and the proposed addition to Paragraph 21.

Mme G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Présidente du Comité de rédaction): Nous avons pris note de la traduction en espagnol. Nous allons ajouter la partie qui manque et quant à la phrase que le délégué de la Colombie veut ajouter, il n'en a pas été discuté au Comité de rédaction, donc c'est le Conseil qui peut accepter que cette phrase soit ajoutée à ce paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN: Should we then add what the delegate from Colombia has suggested to the beginning of Paragraph 21? Agreed. Then Paragraph 20 will be properly translated into Spanish.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Just for the sake of accuracy I would like to make the quotation from Cancun complete. At the end of the first sentence the text from Cancun should read: 'At the United Nations on a basis to be mutually agreed and in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress.' That is a direct quote from the Chairman's Report from the Cancun Conference. That is Paragraph 23.

CHAIRMAN: That will be done. There will be no problem with that. Paragraph 23 will be given the full statement, as suggested by the US delegate.

Paragraphs 20 to 24, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 20 à 24, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 24, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 25 approved

Le paragraphe 25 est approuvé

El párrafo 25 es aprobado

Paragraphs 26 to 28 approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 28 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 28 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 29 INCLUDING RESOLUTION AND DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 29 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION ET LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 29 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO, LA RESOLUCION Y EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

On paragraph 29 I will give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Mme G. ROSSI-PEROTTI (Presidente du Comité de rédaction): Il y a une petite correction à faire. Il s'agit d'un mot qui était au pluriel et il faut le mettre au singulier, à la 8ème ligne avant la fin en anglais et à la troisième ligne en français. La contribution de l'OPEP est au singulier. Même correction en espagnol.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (WFP): I agree with that correction. I also have a small point on the tenth line from the top in the English text, when we are urging traditional and potential donors to make every effort, etc. I think we should be a little more precise on that. What we are speaking of is the food situation in the developing world. Perhaps we should say there, if the Council agrees, 'in view of the precarious food situation in many countries and regions of the developing world'. Perhaps that adjustment should be done.

CHAIRMAN: So it would read: 'in view of the precarious food situation in many countries and regions of the developing world'.

Paragraph 29 incl. draft resolution, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 29, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 29, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

The Resolution of paragraph 29 is adopted

La Résolution du paragraphe 29 est adoptée

La Resolución del párrafo 29 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 30 to 36

PARAGRAPHERS 30 à 36

PARRAFOS 30 a 36

Mme G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Présidente du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais corriger un point à la quatrième ligne avant la fin du paragraphe 34. C'est une modification que nous avons apportée au cours du Comité de rédaction. Au lieu de lire "au consensus" il faudrait lire "à un consensus".

CHAIRMAN: Instead of the "the" it is "a".

G. STREEB (United States of America): In paragraph 35, a very important point that was made by all of these delegations as I recall, has been omitted, and I would like to insert a sentence after the end of the sentence in the sixth line, in other words, after "also areas in which the proposed budget could be reduced.", to insert the following sentence: "They expressed their disappointment that, given the concern over the budget they had expressed at the 79th session, the Director-General had not proposed a lower budget".

CHAIRMAN: Now, here is an addition, a statement of fact being added. Is this acceptable to the members?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No podemos aceptar algo que no hemos captado totalmente. Creo que es necesario que se lea muy lentamente.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I will write it at the same time so that I am at the speed: "They expressed their disappointment that, given the concern over the budget they had expressed at the 79th Session, the Director-General had not proposed a lower budget".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo solo deseaba tener el texto. Aun no estoy en condiciones de pronunciarlo.

CHAIRMAN: The United States delegate is proposing a sentence to be inserted after the sixth line; it is a complete sentence he is inserting. I think this is the point is it not, United States?

So this is the text of the sentence which he is proposing. Any comments?

Chairman of the Drafting Committee, did you discuss this?

Mrs. G. PEROTTI ROSSI (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): We discussed paragraph 35 at length, and we re-arranged it, but this specific point was not made, from what I recall.

E.M. WEST (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): If I may, I would like to make a comment on the Draft Report as submitted to the Drafting committee and as discussed therein. Such a sentence was not included in the draft, neither was the sentence in paragraph 31 or one of the earlier paragraphs recording the view of the majority, that the Director-General had been correct in proposing the budget he had in view of the decision of the last Council that he should use his proposal as the basis for preparation of the final Programme of Work and Budget. So this was a balanced omission if you like. It is up to the Council to decide what to do, but I feel fairly safe in saying, if I may, on behalf of the Director-General, that if now one side of the Drafting Committee, so to speak, who are concerned with paragraph 35 have a concern about remedying an omission, it would be a matter of satisfaction if this implied criticism of the Director-General could be corrected by inserting what has been omitted on the other side of the argument.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I continue to be baffled by procedure here. I apologize, since I have not been through very many FAO meetings. It seems to me that if I am not on the Drafting Committee, it is a little hard for me to make my points there, and therefore that is what this meeting here is for. I have absolutely no problem with acts of commission. If there is a feeling that there is a problem of balance here and the Director-General or the other Members of this Committee or the Council want to insert the sentence somewhere else, I have absolutely no problem with that.

CHAIRMAN: So that both sides can be stated, yes. In that case, Mr. West can give us a small draft for the other side so that both sides can be balanced.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Regarding the sentence which the U.S.A. wants to insert, if I remember the issue correctly this issue was mentioned by one delegation, whereas practically 40 members of the Council conversely said that the Director-General more or less did not have the mandate to change the level of the budget, because it was supported by the majority during the 79th Council. If this sentence is to be inserted, then I would agree with Mr. West; I would urge that the converse sentence saying that the overwhelming majority of the Council in 79th and the overwhelming majority of the Council in the 80th session said that the level of the budget was according to the majority's views and the Director-General had no mandate to change it.

Thus, we personally have no difficulty with the Draft Report as it is, as compared with the Drafting Group, and I am sure the Drafting Group went to great pains in making and preparing this Report, and I believe they were here last night until 11.00 and the U.S.A. was represented on the Drafting Group, whereas the majority of the other countries were not, so we would be happier with the formulation of the Drafting Group, but if that sentence has to be added, then we think that the converse position should also be reflected.

S. AIDARA (Senegal): Monsieur le Président, comme vous le savez j'ai siégé au Comité de rédaction. Je dois avouer que ce paragraphe 35 était libellé d'une autre façon quand nous l'avons examiné au cours de nos travaux. Ce n'est qu'à l'issue de négociations laborieuses que nous avons accepté le paragraphe 35 comme étant un compromis, que nous avons élaboré avec beaucoup de difficultés, les uns et les autres offrant un maximum de coopération. Je ne sais pas si la délégation des Etats-Unis insiste pour faire inclure ce membre de phrase, mais je ne me souviens pas, en tant que délégation qui a suivi les travaux de la 79ème session du Conseil, qu'il ait été donné mandat au Directeur général de réduire le budget. Au cours de cette session, certaines délégations avaient manifesté le désir de réduire le budget mais, si je me souviens bien, le mandat donné au Directeur général était d'élaborer le projet de budget sur la base du sommaire du Programme de travail et de budget qui avait été examiné par le Conseil à sa 79ème session.

Monsieur West nous propose une solution. La délégation américaine désire faire insérer ce membre de phrase dans le paragraphe 35. Je m'en appelle à la sagesse de la délégation américaine pour rappeler que ce paragraphe a été élaboré à l'issue de négociations et de consultations avec le représentant des Etats-Unis au niveau du Comité de rédaction. J'ai personnellement pris part à ces négociations. Le paragraphe 35 est le fruit de ces négociations.

G. STREEB (United States of America): Once again I certainly do not feel bound by things that have been done in a drafting group in which I did not personally participate, I thought I was only inserting a question here of facts, which I am sure when you get the verbatim record you will find a minimum of two delegations made, so I did not realize I was going to stir things up so much, because when you read paragraph 34, it says that the "great majority... strongly supported ... as realistic ... minimum required ... concept of zero-growth ... not acceptable to the vast majority ... inappropriate in the case of FAO ... substantial increase could be justified". It sounds to me like paragraph 34 is quite strong in its content. Then you get to 35 and you start getting "unable to support", the general economic problems of the world, they felt it was more appropriate to consolidate certain activities and so forth. It seems to me a very mild paragraph following on 34, so I think any suggestion that my insertion is in any way offsetting a delicate balance in this text comes as a bit of surprise to me, but nevertheless, I think we have had a fairly good session here, and I certainly do not want to end it on a sour note over a sentence like this, so if in the light of the comments I have heard from the members of the developing countries here and in the hope that we go into the Conference on a positive note, I will certainly not insist that this sentence be put in there and I will withdraw that suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. United States, for solving the problem in this manner. I have two other Members to call upon, if they want to speak - Federal Republic of Germany and Lebanon.

W.A.F. GRABISH (German, Federal Republic of): I was going to say the delegate of the United States is correct, according to my memory. Several delegations spoke according to the views which he spelt out, but we can go along the paragraph as it stands as a compromise.

A.A. MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Le Comité de rédaction a passé au moins deux heures à discuter le paragraphe 35. L'amendement proposé n'a pas été émis devant le Comité de rédaction. Le délégué des Etats-Unis a participé à la rédaction de ce paragraphe 35. Per conséquent, nous en appelons au délégué des Etats-Unis pour qu'il retire cet amendement.

CHAIRMAN: He has actually done so! Thank you very much.

Paragraphs 30 to 36, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 30 à 36, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 a 36, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière 1ère partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

G. STREEB (United States of America): Just to make sure that there is no confusion, the very last line on page 2 should read: "organization that..." and then delete "even later" and delete "could be expected in future"; and then have it read "that the largest contributor had advised the Organization that in the future payment would normally be made in the fourth quarter of the calendar year".

CHAIRMAN: That is a correction of fact, and a statement of fact also. Is there any problem with this? No.

G. STREEB (United States of America): I am a little confused over this paragraph because they start out in 4 talking about "the Council" and I do not recall my delegation being a party to the statements that are made in paragraph 5 specifically, so I wonder if this section should not be like many of the others which say something about "the vast majority recalled" or "the vast majority said something to that effect", just to be consistent.

Mrs. G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I do not recollect that we had any discussions on this specific point.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. West can provide a formulation?

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is obvious why the United States does not wish to have it though it was general in paragraph 5, so if they were on their own in this I would suggest it should read "all but one Member Nation" but if there are other Member Nations which wish to associate themselves with the United States we would have to say "the great majority". My impression was it was only the United States which in fact disassociated itself from this and therefore if it is acceptable to the Council it would be correct to say "all but one Member".

CHAIRMAN: But this does not specify which Member.

G. STREEB (United States of America): There is also a mistake in the third word in the second line, I think it should be "affected" and not "effected".

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is correct. Thank you.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 13 son aprobados

Paragraphs 14 and 15 approved

Les paragraphes 14 et 15 sont approuvés.

Los párrafos 14 y 15 son aprobados

Paragraph 16, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 16, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 16, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 17 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 23 son aprobados

Paragraph 24, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 24, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 24, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 25 to 35 approved

Les paragraphes 25 a 35 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 35 son aprobados

Paragraphs 36, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 36, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 36, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 37 approved

Le paragraphe 37 est approuvé

El párrafo 37 es aprobado

Paragraphs 38 and 39 approved

Les paragraphes 38 et 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 38 y 39 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière IIème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENTERE - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Paragraph 4 approved

Le paragraphe 4 est approuvé

El párrafo 4 es aprobado

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraphs 6 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 8 son aprobados

Paragraph 9, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 9, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 9, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 10 and 11 approved

Les paragraphes 10 et 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 y 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 12, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 12, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 to 18 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 18 son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 and 20 approved

Les paragraphes 19 et 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 y 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 24 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 25

PARAGRAPH 25

PARRAFO 25

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): J'ai écouté pour ma part, très attentivement du reste, ce paragraphe 25 qui concerne la construction de bâtiments et concerne également l'intention du gouvernement hôte de mettre un certain nombre de structures au service de la FAO. Je pense qu'il faudrait peut-être revoir ce paragraphe au sujet de l'autorité spécifiquement visée. Je ne pense pas qu'il soit opportun de l'indiquer. Nous pourrions tout simplement dire que, malgré les autorités, malgré les déclarations, ou bien malgré les bonnes intentions du gouvernement du pays hôte, la déclaration expresse faite par cette éminente personnalité du gouvernement

Je ne sais pas ce qu'en pensent les autres membres du Conseil, mais je pense qu'il ne faudrait peut-être pas spécifier la personnalité qui a fait la déclaration.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Comparto la preocupación del Senegal y voy un poco más allá. Creo que se debe suprimir esa última frase, entre otras cosas porque según entiendo esa manifestación fue hecha el 16 de octubre con motivo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y no podemos esperar que después de tres semanas se vaya a cumplir ese proposito. De modo que lo mejor es suprimir esa frase final.

CHAIRMAN: I think there are some corrections.

Mme G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italie): Je n'étais pas présente au moment où le chef de ma délégation a fait son intervention à ce sujet ce matin. Je sais qu'il a mis à jour cette intervention, mais je n'ai pas sous les yeux le texte précis. Cependant, je crois bien qu'est mentionnée l'intervention du Président du Conseil dans sa déclaration. Donc, je trouve qu'il faudrait la mentionner puisque cela a été dit.

CHAIRMAN: I think what the delegate of Senegal was pointing out and also the delegate of Colombia is that the reference in connection with this statement is such that it cannot expect any results in such a short time so the Secretariat is now recasting the statement or the sentence.

H.H. CARABASO (Venezuela): Comparto la preocupación de Senegal y de Colombia, pero creo que el Consejo no puede ignorar la declaración del personero del Gobierno de Italia en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Entonces, en vez de decir "pese" debía decir "si bien el Consejo ha tomado nota con complacencia de lo declarado por el Presidente Spadolini en la Reunión del Consejo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. de Caprona, do you have a formulation you can read now?

N. C. de CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): Perhaps we could begin the sentence, instead of saying "no concrete action" if we say "no immediate concrete action has yet been taken by the Host Government in connexion with the other interim measures which was also by the Finance Committee as requiring urgent and simultaneous implementation; nor on the proposal for a new building complex. The statement by the Prime Minister on the occasion of World Food Day was, however, duly noted.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I think if you want to recast this we have to go back earlier in the paragraph. The first sentence would remain the same, "The Council noted the recommendations of the Finance Committee, as outlined in the Committee's report", etc. etc. The second sentence would be, "It also noted with concern that, despite the Director-General's efforts, the only developments since that session of the Committee was the possibility of the Host Government implementing one of the interim measures proposed by the Director-General, namely the construction of some sixty rooms on the roof of building D, and the welcome statement made recently by the President of the Council of Ministers of Italy regarding the government's good intentions in regard to a new building complex". So the only development since the Committee have been these two things, some progress on the interim arrangement and this statement. Then we would go on "No concrete action has yet been taken by the Host Government in connexion with the other interim measures" etc., etc. or on the proposal for a new building complex". So you report what happened on the 16th of October as a welcome development but regret that no concrete action has yet been taken. This would then lead logically to the further paragraphs in the report.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. West, I think the declaration on the World Food Day by the Prime Minister should be separated and reported as a matter of fact that he made the statement because it is too short a time to lead to any action.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This would be in the second sentence, "It noted with concern that despite the Director-General's efforts the only development since the session of the Committee had been the possibility" and then we refer to the interim measures and then the welcome statement made on the 16th of October, World Food Day, and then you would go on "No concrete action had however yet been taken" without referring to any particular statement. You just say "No concrete action had yet been taken" and then you go on to decide what you do in these circumstances. This is the logical sequence.

Now I will read the whole paragraph; "The Council noted the recommendations of the Finance Committee as outlined in the Committee's Report of its Forty-eighth Session. It also noted with concern that, despite the Director-General's effort, the only developments since the session of that Committee were the possibility of the Host Government implementing one of the interim measures proposed by the Director-General, namely the construction of some 60 rooms on the roof of building D, and the welcome statement made on World Food Day, 16th of October, by the President of the Council of Ministers of Italy regarding the government's good intentions concerning the construction of a new building complex". Then I would suggest a new paragraph saying "The Council noted however that no concrete action had yet been taken by the Host Government in connexion with the other interim measures which were also recognized by the Finance Committee as requiring urgent and simultaneous implementation; nor on the proposal for a new building complex".

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I think that some small further alteration and it would then read quite well and be quite logical; I think the second sentence, the reference to the action taken by the Director-General is not the preferable place. I think it should be moved to the third sentence and then it will I think be agreeable to all. In the second sentence we would then simply note the two developments that happened since the Finance Committee's session and then you can continue saying "despite all steps taken by the Director-General no concrete measures..." or whatever, and then I think it would read logically.

CHAIRMAN: The only problem now, Mr. West, is that you have to put it into the new formulation for us to hear, because we will adopt it.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The second sentence will now read: "It also noted that the only developments since..." and it will continue as before. The new paragraph I suggested will be: "noted, however, with concern that despite the Director-General's efforts no concrete action has yet been taken", etc.

S. AIDARA (Senegal): Je n'ai pas d'objection majeure, mais je pense qu'il faudrait apporter un léger amendement au texte tel qu'il a été lu par M. West, si l'on veut se référer à la déclaration de M. Spadolini qui avait pris la parole au cours de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. En fait, il n'a pas dit qu'il y avait une décision du gouvernement italien de mettre de nouveaux bâtiments à la disposition de la FAO. Lors de sa déclaration, il a réitéré la décision du gouvernement italien de créer un Centre mondial de l'alimentation. C'est le terme exact de sa déclaration. Donc, au lieu de "nouveau complexe de bâtiments" il faudrait dire "Centre mondial de l'alimentation".

CHAIRMAN: I think whether you call it "World Food Centre" or "new building complex" is immaterial, because it is going to be a building. The important thing is either the Prime Minister's statement is reported correctly in its intention or its decision, because those of us who were not here do not know if he pronounced a decision of his government or an intention and I think Mr. West's draft says intention, which is, I think, correct. If that operative word "intention" is correct, then I do not think it matters whether it is World Food Centre or a complex.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. Je ne voudrais pas prolonger le débat. Je suis tout à fait d'accord mais je voulais simplement respecter l'esprit de la déclaration de M. Spadolini.

CHAIRMAN: We will agree with the formulation that you have now heard.

Paragraph 25, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 25, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 25, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 26 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 26 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 26 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: It is said the following Member Nations, but I think Colombia and Saudi Arabia made specific recommendations as to one from each region.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La enmienda nuestra reza textualmente así: "...integrada por siete Estados Miembros pertenecientes a cada una de las regiones de la FAO, o sea, un miembro por cada región, siete en total". Ese fue el texto que propusimos y que el Consejo acogió.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec le représentant de la Colombie, mais je voudrais rappeler qu'il avait été décidé que les représentants de ces Etats devaient être à Rome. Cet élément avait été souligné.

CHAIRMAN: This is correct. Now that the Colombian amendment which was agreed to when we discussed the matter has come up we should also include the Saudi Arabian suggestion that they should be resident. So the operative paragraph of the Resolution would be recast now to read as amended.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que es exacto lo que dijo mi colega de Senegal, pero creo también que esta mañana convinimos en que no convendría complicar el texto mismo del proyecto de la Resolución; que el texto de la resolución lo dejaríamos como fue enmendado por nuestra delegación, y que en el contexto del informe, pondríamos que ese grupo estaría integrado, en lo posible, por representantes residentes en Roma. Esto hace más sencilla la solución.

CHAIRMAN: I remember we discussed in the Conference itself. So far as the people who made the suggestion of including all this do not press for it, I think the Colombian amendment is straightforward and the rest can be done in debate. If that is agreed I will ask Mr. de Caprona to read the final text.

N.C. de CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): Operative paragraph 1: 'Decides to establish, under Article VI.5 of the Constitution, a working party consisting of the seven following Member Nations, one from each of the FAO regions.'

CHAIRMAN: Why not instead of saying 'the following Member Nations' simply say one from each?

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Following on what was suggested I think it is much simpler if you do not complicate the Resolution because you get into terrific tangles and it does not make sense if you mention the Member Nations and then specify that they

be from various regions. The names, when they are put in, will obviously be from the regions. I think it is much simpler if in the text before you adopt the Resolution you say what you want to say on the subject both of the geographical representation and the question of permanent representatives in Rome and just keep the Resolution to say, "decides to establish a working party consisting of the following Member Nations, " and then you name the Member Nations. But it will be clear from the Report that they will be chosen in accordance with certain principles which we have just discussed.

CHAIRMAN: We in fact agreed this morning to the Colombian proposal, which said in the Resolution we should include one from each FAO region. We should incorporate that somewhere into this Resolution. All we need really is putting it into neat language.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): If you want to do it this way, Mr. Chairman, I think operative Paragraph 1 has to be split into two paragraphs. You have to begin by saying:

'1. Decides to establish, under Article VI.5 of the Constitution, a working party consisting of seven Member Nations comprising a representative from each of the seven regions.'

Then you say:

'2. Decides accordingly to appoint, or select, the following Member Nations, ' and then the names will appear.

CHAIRMAN: I think that will solve the problem.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): I am making an exception against my conviction. I strongly suggest you should limit the number of persons. Three could make less danger, six already should be confusion, ten will be disaster.

CHAIRMAN: Of course the number of seven came from Colombia. Either three or seven will be effective.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que se están complicando las cosas innecesariamente. Nuestra propuesta de esta mañana fue muy clara. Yo no creo que ofrezca dificultades, de que sea necesario dividir el párrafo de la resolución en dos partes. Nosotros hemos propuesto claramente: "integrado por siete Estados Miembros, uno por cada una de las siete regiones de la FAO"; uno por cada una de las siete regiones de la FAO. Esto no ofrece dificultades ni hay que agregar nada, según propone el Sr. West. Yo creo que el texto de resolución debe ser sencillo y simple como lo propuso el Comité de Finanzas.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Pour nous permettre d'avancer, ne pourrions-nous pas autoriser M. de Caprona à continuer la lecture? Pendant ce temps, M. West pourrait peut-être se pencher sur un texte précis de ce paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN: Let us have what we have got first, because what Mr. West said is just divide it. You give in one paragraph the principle of it and then in the next paragraph the actual countries that have been elected by Conference. I do not think, Colombia, there is anything wrong in that. It does not affect your amendment really. So perhaps we could hear it now, Mr. de Caprona, slowly as Mr. West gave it.

N.C. de CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): If I understand well, we would have as the first operative paragraph:

"Decides to establish, under Article VI.5 of the Constitution a working party consisting of seven Member Nations comprising a representative of each of the seven FAO regions,

and then a second operative paragraph:

"Decides that the working party will comprise the following Member Nations:"

CHAIRMAN: Then we go on to the next paragraph.

M. TRKULJØ (Yugoslavia): I think we could quite easily delete one word, "competent", because it would in a way imply that there might be incompetent authorities. We could say simply "Italian authorities at the highest level", I think, without harm.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think it matters. We will delete the word "competent" and we will go on.

Paragraph 26, incl. draft resolution, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 26, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 26, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 27 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 27 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 31 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 32 to 39, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 32 A 39, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 32 A 39, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

N.C. DE CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division):

"32. The Council endorsed the views expressed in the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses concerning the operating of the Acting Programme and the need for additional resources to finance project requests already received and continuation of the Programme in the future."

CHAIRMAN: Can you read that again?

N.C. DE CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): Yes, there is something wrong.

"The Council endorsed the views expressed in the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses concerning the operations of the Action Programme and the need for additional resources to finance project requests already received and the continuation of the Programme in future."

CHAIRMAN: I do not know, that does not sound right. Maybe a sentence needs to be broken up or something.

N.C. DE CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division):

"The Council endorsed the views expressed in the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees concerning the operation of the Action Programme and the need for additional resources to finance project requests already received and continuation of the Programme in future."

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is satisfactory.

Paragraphs 32 to 37, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 37, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 à 37, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 38, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 38, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 38, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 39 approved

Le paragraphe 39 est approuvé

El párrafo 39 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IIIe partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: This then concludes the Eightieth Session of Council. This session has been a very short meeting and is therefore, very, very, cramped. We are sorry about that, but this is always so just before the Conference.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, and with the permission of the other delegations around the table, may I just say a few words before you close, Mr. Chairman.

Some colleagues around the table thought I could have felt somehow upset yesterday at the end of our afternoon session when you, Mr. Chairman, interrupted me in trying to make a constructive proposal, but I can assure them and also you, Mr. Chairman, that I was not, as we two have been working fruitfully together in the interests of FAO for quite a time.

During these years I was always touched by your frankness, your broad professional knowledge, objectivity, and your spirit for compromise and conciliation. It is the feeling of my delegation that our Organization owes you more than could be indicated by the space given to your portrait here in the Red Room.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that once the History of FAO has been written your name will be recalled as an outstanding leader of FAO's activities.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat staff for the preparation of documentation and for having facilitated so expeditiously our deliberations. We include in this, of course, also the interpreters and all the staff who worked behind the scenes, as well as the messengers. My delegation very much hopes, Mr. Chairman, that the good climate and the spirit of cooperation experienced during this Council session will continue to prevail during the forthcoming Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dr. Grabisch, for these nice words, but you know, as I always have said, when we are working there is no friendship, we just have to do the job, and I did what I had to do, knowing really that it is probably in the interests of the rest. Thank you very much.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cuando usted se apresta a dejar la presidencia del Consejo, ruego me permitan mis colegas unas breves palabras como delegado de Colombia, palabras que necesariamente reflejarán mi condición de ex Presidente del Consejo.

Han pasado ya cuatro años desde que yo tuve el honor de que usted me sucediera en la Presidencia de este Organismo. Como usted lo dijo esta mañana, a los dos nos unen gratísimos nexos de amistad y de compañerismo. Durante muchos años compartimos nuestras labores, particularmente en el Comité del Programa y en el Consejo; usted, señor Presidente, termina hoy su mandato con honor, con altura y con prestigio unánimemente reconocido. Yo había aprendido muchas cosas del eminente Profesor Cépède, de Francia, a quien reemplacé en la Presidencia del Consejo; la experiencia del Profesor Cépède me enseñó bastante, la apliqué en los cuatro años de mi mandato y recuerdo siempre a mi antecesor con gratitud y afecto.

Después de 1977, he tenido la fortuna de seguir a usted, señor Presidente, muy de cerca como representante de Colombia en este Organismo, y a veces, cuando analizo interiormente, con modestia y sencillez sinceras, mis actuaciones anteriores, las encuentro con deficiencias que yo habría evitado si hubiera tenido la táctica, la firmeza, la seriedad, la comprensión, la tolerancia y la inteligencia que han caracterizado su labor como Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Durante cuatro años yo ocupé la silla que usted va a dejar ahora, Doctor Bukar Shaib y distinguido amigo; sé muy bien las dificultades que conlleva el ejercer la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo, por eso yo tengo condiciones particulares para admitir la sabiduría que usted ha aplicado a cada una de las soluciones.

Al final de la Conferencia, en nuestro próximo período de sesiones, nuestro ilustre Presidente cederá el martillo a otro distinguido representante de un gran país amigo, pero Bukar y yo seguiremos unidos, nuestra vinculación no terminará, ya que sobre esta misma pared nuestros retratos estarán el uno al lado del otro, y quienes crean en la ciencia del espiritismo podrán pensar que cuando se haya consumado, ojalá esté muy lejos, el proceso inexorable de la humana existencia, Bukar y yo sobre esa pared, en noches frías y silenciosas, sin el testigo de los miembros del Consejo, a lo mejor nos intercambiamos opiniones y hasta recriminaciones sobre cómo cumplimos los dos nuestras misiones; y quién sabe, si este diálogo se lleva a cabo, qué pensaríamos de muchos de ustedes como miembros del Consejo.

Seramente ahora, señor Presidente, yo sé que usted me ha manifestado que sus ocupaciones en Nigeria, donde ocupa una alta posición al lado del Presidente de la República, ese gran país, no le permitirán participar en las reuniones del Consejo, aunque Nigeria seguirá perteneciendo a este órgano. Ojalá que esto no sea así, ya que yo desearía que pudiera venir y atender las reuniones del Consejo pues sus luces y experiencias nos serían de gran valor. De todos modos, Bukar debe sentir ya desde hoy la satisfacción íntima del pleno deber cumplido después de haber desempeñado la Presidencia con tan excelsos méritos. Puede salir de esta Sala Roja con la frente en alto seguido de nuestro reconocimiento y del afecto que le conservaremos y que será perenne, invariable a través del tiempo.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Gonzales, I am sure all you have said is extremely touching to me but I do not want to meet you in the cold room so soon!

C. BATAULT (France): Les deux orateurs que je viens d'entendre ont volé une grande partie de ce que je voulais dire. Je ne vais donc pas répéter ce qu'a dit mon ami le Dr. Grabisch ni mon ami Bula Hoyos. Mais je voudrais dire qu'une observation n'a pas été faite. C'est qu'en vous rendant hommage, et un hommage plus que mérité, car je me souviens encore de la première fois où j'ai assisté à une réunion de la FAO qui était en 1978 tout juste après mon arrivée; c'était un Conseil assez difficile dans une atmosphère tendue qui n'existe plus maintenant. Vous avez su la faire disparaître et depuis s'est instauré parmi nous un véritable esprit d'amitié et nous n'avons plus, bien que nous ne soyons pas toujours d'accord sur tout, de discussions qui sortent de ce cadre amical qui caractérise nos débats. C'est grâce à vous que nous le devons en très grande partie et je tiens à vous en rendre hommage car l'atmosphère de ce Conseil est typique de l'oeuvre que vous avez accomplie. Je voudrais toutefois ajouter une chose c'est que vous n'avez pas été sans remarquer ce matin la difficulté qu'il y a eu à dévoiler l'étoffe de votre portrait! Ceci à mon avis a deux raisons. Vous avez ce que l'on appelle un "gremlin", un esprit malin qui préside souvent les activités humaines. Je crois que les difficultés que l'on a eues de dévoiler votre portrait témoignent à la fois d'un symbole de notre tristesse de vous voir quitter la présidence de ce poste de Président indépendant du Conseil dont vous vous êtes si brillamment acquitté et aussi parce que ce portrait nous apparaît austère à tous et ne reflète pas le sourire avec lequel vous avez mené nos débats; il ne reflète pas la gentillesse qui vous a permis de régler tant de problèmes et ne reflète pas la bonne humeur avec laquelle vous avez dirigé ces débats. Si j'étais peintre, et malheureusement je ne le suis pas, j'ajouterais un petit sourire qui témoignerait

de la manière dont vous vous êtes acquitté si brillamment de cette tâche difficile, mais comme l'ont dit mes collègues vous resterez toujours présent dans nos coeurs et j'espère pouvoir vous dire au nom de tous: "Ce n'est qu'un au revoir".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much delegate of France.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne prends pas la parole aux termes de ce débat pour désobéir à ce que le Vice-Président de notre Conseil nous a demandé ce matin. Et c'est pour cela d'ailleurs que je veux être bref dans mon intervention. Vous nous permettrez néanmoins de vous rendre cet hommage mérité par quelques mots.

En effet, aux termes de votre mandat, c'est pour moi un honneur de prendre la parole au nom du groupe africain pour vous remercier et vous féliciter pour le travail que vous avez accompli durant les quatre ans de votre mandat. L'Afrique entière, présente à ce Conseil, qui vous a suivi depuis quatre ans, a été honorée que l'un de ses fils se soit acquitté avec autant de brio d'une aussi lourde tâche. Votre mérite est d'autant plus grand que vous êtes arrivé à la tête de ce Conseil à un moment difficile où la situation économique mondiale était et reste préoccupante, notamment pour les pays en développement. Mais grâce à votre expérience, à votre savoir-faire, à votre intelligence, vous avez toujours su concilier les points de vue les plus divers. Vos conclusions ont toujours rencontré l'unanimité et ce grâce à votre sens de l'équilibre.

Au moment où vous quittez ce Siège et où vous inscrivez votre nom pour la postérité comme Président indépendant de notre Conseil, je vous réitère notre confiance et vous prie de mettre ce capital de compétences à la disposition de notre Organisation et de notre continent, j'ai cité l'Afrique.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Congo.

A. CONTE MAROTTA (Italy): As the representative of the host country, I have the honour to strongly support what has been said. You know very well the Italian people are said to be very happy people but you know also when they feel sad they feel extremely sad, and this is such an occasion. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador of Italy. I was also serving as an ambassador of Nigeria, and I really valued my connexions with the Italian people.

B.E. PHIRI (Zambia): This is a moment of great pleasure, but also a moment of sorrow and sadness. But we are happy to congratulate and praise you for the way you have conducted this Council for four years. It is also a moment of sorrow because we are losing your leadership in this Council. We had similar sorrow to express at the time when Mr. Bula Hoyos was leaving as the Independent Chairman, but by some good luck we found he remained on the scene and he is still here with us. Unfortunately, what you said this afternoon gives the indication that you may not be a permanent feature of this Council in the foreseeable future, but we hope, even if you are based in Nigeria, when the opportunity occurs, you will come and join us so that your immense wisdom can still be of value to us and we can still draw some lessons from you.

You said this morning that you have learned a lot, silently, from three people, and you mentioned the Deputy Director-General, Mr. Philips, and you also mentioned Mr. West and Mr. Bula Hoyos. These three are still here, the people with whom you associated in those early days. They are still giving their valuable experience to this Organization and to this Council. We hope that you will be the fourth person who will count as a contributor to this Organization as well as to this Council.

We also wish to express our profound pleasure and happiness that as the first African, you did not let us down, you kept the standard of debate in this Council quite high, and that is something that we are really proud of, and we hope that you will not be the last African to hold this high position.

With those few words I wish you a good rest after the four rigorous years.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zambia, very much.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my country's delegation and also on behalf of the Near East group, I wish to express our sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for the wonderful way in which you have chaired the Council. We are particularly grateful for the way in which you have handled the debates and discussions throughout our meeting. Your personality has struck us deeply during these discussions, especially through the contacts you have had with the various groups and with individuals separately. On this occasion I wish you, Sir, every possible success in your future career once you have left the Council. I wish you every possible success so that you will be able to carry out the tasks which remain for you to do in your country.

I am also grateful to you for having helped us achieve success in this meeting. I also wish to thank the Secretariat and the interpreters. I wish you all every possible success.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

R.J. KELLY (Australia): Mr. Chairman, with great personal warmth on behalf of this delegation and those who share the South-West Pacific region with us, we join in the tribute of respect and thanks as others have already done. To what has already been said, we would only record our very deep appreciation of what we see as your infinite personal graciousness. It is a quality which has lifted this Council and which has been of extraordinary value to all of us as we have attempted to contribute to the work of the Organization.

I might conclude on a lighter note, Mr. Chairman: I hope that you can assure us that even if you come back to haunt us from the wall, you can be sure that Mr. Bula Hoyos does not.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I assure you I will not haunt you. That is why I said I do not want to meet Mr. Bula Hoyos in the cold room. We shall all meet in the flesh. Thank you very much indeed.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): On behalf of the North American region, which is at once the smallest in terms of membership and the worst in terms of coordination, I can do no better than endorse and underline and embrace the comments made by the most eloquent speakers before me. We Canadians perhaps have less concern about cold rooms than some. We know that when the lights go off in the Red Room tonight, there is going to be a new source of heat and light which will be overseeing our forum and they will represent the spirit which will do much to inspire us all to follow the example you have set, the spirit of the debates in the United Nations, which is so precious to us all. For that we all owe you indeed our enduring thanks.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Canada.

A. CZARKOWSKI (Poland): Mr. Chairman, I would like to share all the so eloquently expressed words of recognition of the way in which you, Sir, discharged your very high office. Being this time a member of the Council for only one year, we could really come to the conclusion that all that has been said by previous speakers is really true. Mr. Chairman, you hold the office of Independent Chairman, and thinking about it, we came to the conclusion that you have presented to us a very high quality in holding this office, and mainly that of independence of mind, which quality you so ably used in bringing this Council to many successful conclusions even after some difficult debates' and

controversies. But only by overcoming those controversies and difficulties could we come to those conclusions which I would say are very positive and the nature of which depends fully on the qualities of your personality.

I would also like to join all those who wished you, Sir, a very long life before you and also equal success as in this Council in all the future functions which you will be called upon to perform.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Poland.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): May I, on behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the Asian region, join all the other colleagues who have paid rich tribute to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the way in which you have led and guided us over the last four years. My experience is limited on these Council meetings. This is actually only my second meeting. Other colleagues who have seen and heard you conduct these meetings for a much longer time, are in a much better position to comment on your contribution; but you mentioned in the morning that you had learned from three people. In my brief stay here, the thing I learned from you, Mr. Chairman, was the serene, composed, unruffled manner in which you have guided us in these meetings, the manner in which you have not allowed any recrimination or argument to divide the friends and colleagues who sit and debate issues here.

For that, Mr. Chairman, the tribute that we pay you is very little because we shall always remember the way you have led and guided us. We hope that all of us, even in future, will remember your serene and composed conduct of the meetings and will follow it, and we hope that wherever you go you will lead your own people, the African people and developing countries in the manner in which you have been doing so far.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I, too, cannot miss this opportunity to say a few words, in my own name, and on behalf of my delegation. Though I certainly cannot match the eloquence of my friends who spoke before me, I hope I can match their sincerity in expressing very deep gratitude indeed to you, Mr. Chairman. I was honoured and I have been privileged to consider you as my personal friend for some years, starting when we worked together in the Programme Committee, and I was one of those who learned much and who benefited greatly from our friendship.

I must say something also on behalf of the Programme Committee, that we were privileged and very happy indeed that you always sacrificed some of your precious time to be with us when we studied issues that would then come to the Council Session, and your very presence in the Committee helped us greatly in our deliberations. Besides, you intervened and you established very, very close contact with all of us and I think I cannot exaggerate how fruitful it was for the final outcome of the Programme Committee.

As has been said, it is also a sad moment. It is really always sad when we come to a crossroads, but I personally do not believe that we are approaching a crossroads. I deeply hope that despite the very many demands on your time and the very many high obligations you will have, you will be able occasionally to be with us. I sincerely share the hope that many before me have expressed, that we shall see you from time to time for the benefit of all of us.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Milan, for your kind words. I am sure you will also continue to lead the Programme Committee in the way you have done.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, the Director-General expressed his deep appreciation to you this morning for your excellent service as Independent Chairman of this Council and for your service to FAO in many other ways. However, it would be inappropriate if this 80th Session and your last Session

in the Chair were to end without at least a further word of appreciation being expressed from the head table on his behalf. All of us on the Secretariat side have very much appreciated your work over the last four years and in this Session, and I would say to the other side of the table, the delegates, that we have equally appreciated their excellent cooperation and support on the many issues which have had to be dealt with by this Council.

If I may say just a word on the personal side, first let me say that I appreciated your kind comments this morning; and second, that, like many others here, I had profited by and appreciated your friendship and the association with you for many years now and in various kinds of FAO activities. As I look down this series of portraits on the wall, I am reminded that I have sat through somewhere between 76 and 78 Council Sessions out of the 80, and I have sat either on that side of the table, or on this, under the chairmanship of all of the chairmen who are reflected there. Each of them has left his mark on this Council in one way or another and that mark has persisted over the years, surprising though that may be. I feel sure in view of your outstanding performance as Chairman of the Council that not only the portrait will look down at the Sessions in the future but the spirit that you have developed and which has pervaded these sessions under your Chairmanship will be felt here for many years to come. Good speed.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ralph, thank you very much indeed for speaking on behalf of the Director-General and on your own behalf. Now I will close the meeting and I do not want to go into another long speech because all you have said has really touched me very much indeed and the only reason why perhaps I have acted the way I have done in the four years is that when I came here 20 years ago as a much younger person I had the vision that this Organization will assist to eradicate hunger in the world somehow and I have tried very much to find where this can be done and I think this Council is the place if there is anywhere this task can be achieved and if we continue to forget our small differences and really concentrate on the main objective of this Organization which really affects all of us then I am sure that the vision that I had for 20 years which did not succeed will, in the future, definitely succeed and all that I ask of you and of other colleagues who will come is to keep this in mind and to make sure that the FAO Council succeeds.

I am very grateful to all of you; I am grateful to the Director-General, to his colleagues and to the Secretariat and to everybody. I thank you very much.

The Eightieth Session is closed and next I will hand over the gavel to somebody else!

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 horas.