

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL
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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 82/PV/1

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1982)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 15,40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 40 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président
indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 15.40 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente
Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Director-General, Members of the Council, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I welcome you all to this 82nd Session of the FAO Council. We are sorry that we could not begin the Session in the forenoon, as scheduled, and as announced earlier, but you will agree that the postponement was for a very good cause. In a way, this morning's meeting indicated a sense of urgency to the work of our Council, to the work of the Organization, because we listened to the problems of one of the most ecologically and economically handicapped regions of the world. Therefore, I feel in a way that that prepared the backdrop for our discussion, and I hope it will impart a sense of seriousness and urgency needed to many of the items under discussion during this Council meeting.

Before I take up the items in the agenda and also make some preliminary remarks, I have a sad duty to perform. You heard this morning about the tremendous contribution the Government of Italy is making to the whole area of developmental assistance, particularly in the field of agriculture, and we are sorry in this context that the Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO, Mr. Uberto Bozzini, died recently. Many of you might not have met him because he was accredited to FAO only recently, and we were hoping that he would be with us during this Council session. However, he passed away very recently, and I would like to briefly enumerate the highlights of his career.

He was born in 1921. In 1946 he had the first degree in Political Science and in 1948 he entered the diplomatic service of the Government of Italy. He started his career as Italian Representative in Tripoli, then was in Chicago, then in Washington and later he was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

In 1962 he joined as Consul General in Asmara and later was Minister Counsellor in Cairo. He was Chief of the Middle East Office of the office of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Italy in 1968 and was Ambassador in Damascus, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chief of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador in Algiers, Ambassador in Buenos Aires and appointed as Ambassador of Italy and as the Permanent Representative of Italy to the FAO in April 1982.

The Council is unfortunately deprived of the very rich and varied experience of this great person. May I request you all to stand for a minute in silence in homage to his memory.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

We will communicate the Council's condolences to the bereaved family.

At this session of our Council, we do not have any new members and therefore there is no one to be welcomed; however, I welcome all the Observers from various agencies, from Member nations of FAO, from other UN agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, and also Dr. B. R. Sen, the former Director-General of FAO. We are happy that all of them are present in this room.

As the Director-General said this morning we are using this room for the first time after it has been reconditioned and redecorated. I hope you will find this more functional than the previous arrangement, because for members of the Council, it gives a sense of greater closeness to the podium, and we shall be able to identify more easily the people who want to speak with this arrangement.

Six members of our Council will be leaving us at the end of this year. These are Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Portugal, Syria, Yugoslavia and Zambia. They have all made tremendous contributions, they are with us at this meeting of the Council, and I am sure they will make very valuable contributions during this meeting. We shall miss them at the future meeting, but I am confident that they will continue to help us with their experience.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

CHAIRMAN: The provisional annotated agenda was first circulated in July 1982. Document CL 82/1 was distributed in July of this year. The provisional annotated agenda, Document CL 82/1 (a), was distributed in October, and it carries a footnote referring to changes which have been introduced, as compared to the provisional agenda document CL 82/1 distributed in July.

These amendments were really caused by some of the recommendations and resolutions of regional conferences and also of the Programme and Finance Committees, which had met in September, the second meeting for the year. Also one particular item had to be added because of the change in location of the member here who has been transferred from the Embassy of India in Rome to India and hence there is a change in the membership of the committee.

Now the amendments in the revised annotated agenda concern item 17 and Sub-items 9.2, 19.3 and 19.4, as well as an additional Sub-item 19.6. These are the ones that differ from the Provisional Agenda distributed in July. I would like to give a brief introduction as to why these changes were necessary.

With regard to Sub-item 9.2, Joint Inspection Unit Reports, the last of three Joint Inspection Unit Reports listed in the agenda have been deleted as they have not been made available in time, which is the reason for the deletion of the last three.

Under item 17, Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters arising from the Forty-second and Forty-third Sessions of the Programme Committee, and Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Finance Committee, two Sub-items have been listed following the autumn sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees. These are personnel matters, and the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Under item 19, Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, Sub-item 19.3 has been amended to cover the abolition of one Article VI body, namely the Regional Commission on Farm Management. In addition to this change the title of another one which has been changed, Asia and the Far East Commission on Agricultural Statistics is proposed to be changed to Asia and Pacific Commission on Statistics. In other words, the Far East will be replaced by the Pacific.

Lastly the title of the regional body listed under Sub-item 19.4 has been slightly amended, adding the word "Regional": Establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

As I referred to earlier, the new Sub-item 19.6 is re-worded following the recommendation of the Seventeenth Latin American Regional Conference held in Nicaragua in September. This particular Conference had recommended the name of this Region be changed from "Latin America" to "Latin America and the Caribbean."

The Revised Provisional Agenda, document CL 82/1-Rev.1 has been made available to us. This is a revision of the document distributed in July bringing it into line with the Annotated Provisional Agenda and bringing in the changes I have just outlined.

I would also like to draw to your attention that under Item 21, "Any Other Business" a Sub-item has been inserted. This is Appointment of a Member Government representative to the Staff Pension Committee. This has become necessary following the recent departure from Rome of a member of this committee who was appointed by the Conference in 1981. I propose we take up this question on 2 December, our last but one day, in the afternoon.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid has been scheduled as the first item on Monday morning, 29th November. I would therefore suggest that nominations for this Committee be submitted to the Secretary General at the latest by 17.30 hours on Thursday, 25th November. In other words, the five nominations for members of the CFA must be submitted by Thursday evening so that we can proceed with the elections on Monday morning. The election forms will be made available by the secretariat.

I would like to suggest that since the agenda is rather heavy we should try to concentrate on essential matters, and also that the various interventions and remarks must be kept brief, precise, and to the point. Also we should get the formalities finished in as short a time as possible to save time discussion.

With these few remarks I want to welcome again members of the Council and all of you, and I wish now to seek your approval in the adoption of the agenda and time-table, and I would like to have a discussion on the adoption of the agenda and time-table for the Conference.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je vous rassure tout de suite, nous n'avons pas l'intention de remettre en question le projet d'ordre du jour, que nous approuvons. Notre seule remarque porte sur le point 17 de cet ordre du jour "Autres questions du programme, de budget et conférence", et comme il est indiqué dans l'ordre du jour annoté document CL 82/1(a), où l'on voit qu'il y a en quelque sorte deux sous-points: les questions de personnel et la conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches. Nous tenons à noter avec satisfaction que, ainsi que nous l'avons demandé, soit

à Djakarta lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, soit à Sofia pour la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, le Directeur général a bien voulu que cette question soit examinée lors de notre Conseil actuel. Si ce n'est pas abuser de l'attention du Secrétariat et du travail que nous allons lui demander, afin que nos débats soient efficaces sur ce point particulier, nous souhaitons que plutôt qu'un compte rendu des conférences régionales et d'une énumération des différents sujets que les uns et les autres ont pu demander à voir inscrire à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, (et ils étaient nombreux: 15 à 20 grosso modo), le Secrétariat s'efforce de les regrouper sous quelques têtes de chapitres (de manière à avoir six ou sept points qui correspondraient véritablement à la substance même des travaux de la future conférence). En même temps je demanderai, lorsque nous en serons au point 17, que ce thème de la Conférence mondiale soit véritablement discuté pour que les réactions des uns et des autres devant ces têtes de chapitres puissent utilement servir pour l'avenir en vue de la préparation de la Conférence. Mais peut-être ce que je demande est-il déjà dans les intentions du Secrétariat?

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I have a similar point to make to that which was made by the delegate from France. We also followed very closely at the Regional Conference in Jakarta back in June the ... discussion there on the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Indeed we have taken a very strong interest in the work of the Organization on this matter.

I would also like to make a point, if it were possible without too much disruption of your agenda and without engaging in too much extra work on behalf of the Secretariat, that this item be perhaps taken more substantively in relation to the proposed Fisheries Conference than as a Sub-item under item 18.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation would like to propose a re-organization of part IV of the Agenda. Part IV is entitled Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, and starts directly with a topic discussed at the Programme Committee, Format of Medium-Term Objectives and Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation would like to propose another order of discussion for these. This is intended to give the relevant place that my delegation believes the discussion of the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees deserves, so our proposal would be the following, patterned on Part V which deals with Constitutional and Legal Matters. Point 12 would be the reports of the Forty Second and Forty Third Sessions of the Programme Committee, Forty-Ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Finance Committee for your discussion and decision. This would be the new Point 12.

Point 13 would be called "Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters" and would include the different topics as listed starting from Point 12, Format of Medium-Term Objectives and Reports on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions Revised Calendar, and so on and so forth. So this Part IV would be two items, one for the discussion and comments on the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, and the other item would be for the discussion of all the other topics listed in Part IV except, naturally, the point 17 which would not have to be dealt with in the new Point 12.

R. de MEIRA FERREIRA (Portugal): The Portuguese delegation wishes to support the suggestion just made by the distinguished representative of Brazil regarding the methodology of our calendar. The question as to format deserves our attention since we are going to consider two important reports of two important committees which deserve - even from a formal point of view, at least - the same relevance given to reports of other committees in the agenda of this Council.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se complace en apoyar la propuesta de Brasil, que ya ha sido apoyada por Portugal.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, then we have several useful suggestions. The Director-General will make some comments.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not think that it is the intention of the Council to discuss here the agenda of the world conference on Fisheries. I intend to put the matter before the Council for discussion next June. We are not ready and we just intend to report on the various suggestions made by the regional conferences on the subject, since this item was on agenda of the various regional conferences. It was also discussed by the Programme Committee, but if it is the intention of France and New Zealand to settle here the agenda of the next conference on fisheries, it would not be practicable as I have not prepared the documentation. We will also have a discussion by the Committee on Fisheries which will meet next year and which will be really the technical phase of the conference. I am sorry Mr. Carroz is not here to be able to say whether we could prepare such a paper as suggested by France and New Zealand, but I can promise you, Mr. Chairman, that we are ready to discuss the recommendations of the Regional Conference, but not to have a separate document concerning the agenda of the conference. Such a document would have to be circulated to all member countries; it requires a great deal of thought but it will be ready by next June. The Conference will take place only in 1984.

I have not understood very well the proposal of Brazil, supported by Portugal and Colombia, but I would have certainly appreciated receiving it in writing, when it would have been clearer. If I understood the Representative of Brazil, the essence is to upgrade the importance of the Programme Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Director-General has explained the difficulties in producing the document but I take it both France and New Zealand would like to offer many suggestions of their own which will be taken into account when preparing the documents for next June.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je vous remercie de me redonner la parole et je voudrais rassurer tout de suite M. le Directeur général; il n'a pas été dans nos intentions qu'à ce Conseil-ci nous fixions et nous discussions d'un projet d'ordre du jour. D'ailleurs, lorsque j'étais intervenu précédemment dans les Conférences régionales, j'avais demandé que ce soit au Conseil de juin prochain que le véritable projet d'ordre du jour soit présenté. Nous sommes donc tout à fait d'accord là-dessus. Ce que je dis simplement, c'est qu'actuellement, après les différentes conférences régionales, il y a eu une liste de 15 à 20 propositions qui ont été faites par les uns et par les autres. Je dis que certaines de ces propositions sont très proches et que peut-être le Secrétariat, s'il en a la possibilité, regroupe ces idées voisines de manière qu'on nous dise: il semblerait que pour la prochaine Conférence il y ait six, sept, huit thèmes (je ne peux pas vous dire exactement) qui mériteront une attention particulière. Voilà grosso modo ce que je veux dire.

Je demanderai par contre qu'on ne nous énumère pas toutes ces propositions les unes .après les autres, parce qu'il vaut mieux que l'on ait une vue plus synthétique, plus générale, voilà ce que je demande.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je ne sais pas si vous avez vu le document que nous avons préparé pour cette session du Conseil sur ce sujet ... Si vous le permettez, M. le Président, nous pourrions peut-être avoir une discussion avec le délégué de la France demain matin à ce sujet parce que je crois que nous pourrions nous mettre d'accord. Le document CL 82/INF/8 donne des recommandations des conférences régionales en ce qui concerne la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches qui, je crois, lui donnerait satisfaction; sinon, on verra quels sont les renseignements supplémentaires qu'il voudrait avoir sous forme peut-être d'un document que nous pourrions préparer.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The other proposal of several countries to list the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, as item 12 under IV Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters; I think the problem here will be that many of those items come under different headings here, for the Programme Committee has examined a whole range of problems and in every one of them I think, the Programme Committee's views, will have to count. But what probably I could do is to request the Chairman of the Programme and the Chairman of the Finance Committee to make their comments first when we take up this item, otherwise the whole agenda will be sort of an omnibus agenda because the Programme Committee covers many areas, the Finance Committee covers many areas. The agenda items have been structured in such a way that a detailed examination of each item and sub-item is possible and, subject to this, if this is satisfactory I shall give the floor to the chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, in the beginning, and they could explain.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I respectfully do not agree with the opinion on those four reports. I do think that they do encompass a number of subjects but they are quite limited. There is even a

front page at the beginning of each one of those reports, stating the matters that are most urgent and the matters that are subject to decision or discussion by the Council. I think it is a matter of giving the proper place to the work done by those two fundamental Committees in this Organization, as we have in Part 5, and I state -I mentioned it before- we have item Number 18, which proposes a discussion on the report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, no matter how complicated might be the subjects included in that Report, and then the following item, item 18, lists a number of other topics which are related to the Constitutional and Legal Committee; and I think the same arrangement could be made without any damage to our discussion in this Council.

I insist on having in item 12 a discussion on those four reports and then on item 13, the discussion on the other programme, budgetary, financial and administrative matters. My delegation believes this is a reasonable request and it should make easier the discussion in this Council on those important topics.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I wanted to explain the reasons for the agenda being in this form. It is a traditional form but of course traditions can be broken; and it is based on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of Council Procedures which was held several years ago, which recommended -and the Council approved- that the agenda of the Council should deal first with those items emerging from the reports which required decision at this session of the Council, and then separately with other matters where the Council might wish either to decide something or to give further instructions to the Programme and Finance Committees. Thus, the agenda is divided into the first two items which require decisions at this Session of the Council, and then other items where normally the Council merely notes what has transpired in the two Committees.

If the Report of the Committee is to be taken as a whole it will seem more logical to take the Report as a whole - as in the case of other Council Committees - and not have separate items, except to the extent that the Chairman wishes to draw attention to those items specifically. The order in which it is done is not important, as long as the Council does take a decision on those items which require a decision. That is what I wanted to say before the last intervention.

G.E. GONZALES (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina aprueba la distinguida representación de Brasil apoyada por otras dos delegaciones; tiene sentido y evidentemente, como lo acaba de decir el señor West, lo importante, lo fundamental, de fondo, es que se discutan cada uno de los temas del proyecto de agenda. Sin embargo, creemos que la propuesta de la distinguida representación de Brasil tenía un sentido práctico, metodológico y útil, ya que facilita el analizar el conjunto de ambos importantes informes. Por otra parte, mi delegación entiende que, como ya se ha dicho aquí, nadie puede dudar de la trascendencia de ambos o de la labor que realizan ambos comités para la labor de la organización, y consecuentemente, se estaba reconociendo simplemente el lugar relevante que les corresponde.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): S'agissant de la suggestion qui a été présentée par la délégation du Brésil, ma délégation voit certainement l'intérêt de cette proposition en ce sens qu'elle attire notre attention sur l'importance des rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier et que cela conduirait à examiner, au titre du point 12, véritablement ces rapports. Toutefois, les remarques du Secrétariat ont aussi leur valeur, car à l'intérieur de ces rapports du Comité du Programme ou du Comité financier, il y a tout de même des points moins importants les uns que les autres.

Je ne vois pas très bien comment vous suggérer une formule transactionnelle, mais dans mon esprit, sous le point 12 on devrait examiner le rapport du Comité du Programme et le rapport du Comité financier en ce qui concerne les grands points des discussions, c'est-à-dire la présentation des objectifs à moyen terme, le programme de travail et l'examen du document budgétaire en cours qui en a été fait par le Comité. Il y a aussi un point qui est évidemment très important et sur lequel le Comité financier s'est penché, c'est la situation financière de l'Organisation. Cela entre vraiment dans le point 12 considéré en général.

Les comptes vérifiés, j'avoue que c'est important, mais c'est une chose qui ira vite et je le vois plutôt dans la partie "autres questions".

Ce qui me semble le plus substantiel, c'est l'examen des objectifs à moyen terme du Programme de travail, les commentaires faits par le Comité à ce sujet, la situation financière de l'Organisation. Quant aux autres questions, telles celles reprises aux points 13, 14, 15 et 16, elles peuvent être reprises sous la rubrique "Autres questions de Programme et de budget". Compte tenu de ce remaniement, le sujet de la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches, actuellement mentionné au point 17, pourrait faire l'objet d'un point distinct.

CHAIRMAN: Any other comment? If there are no further suggestions, I entirely agree with the delegate of Brazil that the Programme and Finance Committees are doing such a thorough job and in fact I had the opportunity of attending the meetings, both in May and in September and I was deeply impressed with the dedication and thoroughness with which the members of the two committees were performing their tasks and therefore I think the intention in this matter of the arrangement of agenda has not in any way been to detract from the importance of these committees but as Mr. West explained, it is a matter of convenience of taking out, picking up the items on which concrete decision will have to be taken at this meeting. If you look at the Format of Medium-Term Objectives, unless this is given the Secretariat cannot proceed, and so on. I see the point and I think we can try to develop a small re-arrangement here by which it does not in any way give the impression that the Programme and Finance Committees' recommendations have just been included only under item 17. If the delegate of Brazil and others will agree I will consult the Director-General and make a slight re-arrangement, but steps will be taken to see that these items are given the importance they deserve.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): In fact this is not what I had in mind but as you said, I will not take the time of this important meeting of the Council, I still think that the discussion on those full reports deserve a special item of their own. If after that other matters are detached from them to make for other items I will agree entirely but I think that it is important that the first item of this part should be entitled Reports of the Session, number so-and-so, of the Programme and Finance Committees.

CHAIRMAN: If that is satisfactory, we shall adopt the Agenda.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

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 los Miembros del Comité de Redacción.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): It is with great pleasure and honour that we propose the name of Mr. Hasan Ahmad, the Additional Secretary of Agriculture of Bangladesh as one of the Vice-Chairmen.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia tiene el honroso encargo de proponer para una de las tres Vicepresidencias a la distinguida Embajadora de Panamá, Sra. Mayra Ivankovich de Arosemena. Los latinoamericanos estamos seguros de que la Embajadora de Panamá nos representará muy bien en la Vicepresidencia, porque todos conocemos la inteligencia, la capacidad y la experiencia que distinguen a nuestra candidata.

CHAIRMAN: I am informed that developed countries are having consultations amongst themselves and would like to offer a nomination tomorrow so that today we will consider the names for two positions of Vice-Chairmen, and defer filling up one position until tomorrow morning.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I am extremely thankful to the delegate to Pakistan for proposing me as one of the three Vice-Chairmen and I am deeply moved at the honour that has been accorded to me by this Council by electing me. I take it as a mark of feeling for my country, Bangladesh, on the part of the Council and on behalf of my country I would like to utilise this opportunity to express our grateful thanks for the confidence that has been shown to Bangladesh and while expressing my thanks I would like to assure the Members of this Council that I will do my best to live up to their expectations.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Deseo agradecer al delegado de Colombia, al Embajador Bula Hoyos, quien ha propuesto mi candidatura para ocupar una de las tres Vicepresidencias de este 82 período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, y a todos ustedes que han apoyado esta candidatura. Espero poder contribuir, en la medida de lo posible, para el éxito de este período de sesiones. En nombre propio y del Gobierno al cual represento, les expreso mi más profundo agradecimiento por tan alto honor.

CHAIRMAN: I warmly welcome both of you as Vice-Chairmen. We now proceed with the Designation of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Le Groupe africain m'a chargé de vous proposer la candidature de M. Ngongi Namanga représentant du Cameroun, à ce poste de Président du comité de rédaction.

M. Ngongi est connu de nous tous puisque depuis quelques années il travaille avec nous. Il nous a montré ses qualités, et par conséquent il pourra rendre des services précieux à notre Conseil. Encore une fois, je vous le propose pour le poste de Président du comité de rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: If that is agreed I would welcome Mr. Namanga as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

As regards the other members of the Drafting Committee, some regions are still having consultations. I would therefore suggest that we defer the elections of the other members of the Drafting Committee until tomorrow morning along with one more Vice-chairman.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

19. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

19. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

19. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

19.1 Application for Membership in the Organization:

19.1 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation:

19.1 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización:

Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua et Barbuda

Antigua y Barbuda

Belize

Belize

Belize

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En ce qui concerne ce point, nous avons deux demandes d'admission en qualité de membre de l'Organisation, celle d'Antigua et Barbuda, et celle de Belize.

Tous les membres de l'Organisation ont été informés de ces demandes, qui seront naturellement soumises à l'approbation de la Conférence générale qui se tiendra en novembre 1983.

Entre-temps et conformément aux paragraphes B1, B2 et B5 des principes régissant l'octroi de statut d'observateur aux nations, ainsi qu'à l'article XXV-11, du Règlement général, le Conseil peut autoriser le Directeur général à inviter des représentants de ces deux nations, en qualité d'observateurs, à assister aux réunions du Conseil, ainsi qu'à des réunions techniques régionales ou à toute autre réunion d'intérêt pour ces dites nations,

G. ESTRADA STRECKER (Observador de Guatemala): Mi delegación se siente en el deber de poner en el conocimiento de los señores Miembros del Consejo lo siguiente:

Guatemala reitera en esta reunión sus legítimos derechos sobre el territorio de Belice, los cuales se fundamentan en sólidos argumentos históricos, geográficos, jurídicos, políticos y morales, que son del amplio conocimiento de la Comunidad Internacional, por lo que la delegación de Guatemala hace solemnemente reserva expresa en este Foro de sus incuestionables derechos sobre dicho territorio.

Guatemala ratifica su decisión de encontrarle al caso de Belice una solución digna, justa y equitativa que tenga en cuenta los legítimos derechos de Guatemala y los intereses de la población beliceña. A la cual puede llegarse a través de un proceso de negociaciones directas entre Guatemala y el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, que no puede desligarse de su responsabilidad histórica en este diferendo. Mientras no se llegue a un arreglo definitivo de esta secular controversia, Guatemala reafirma en esta reunión internacional, que no reconoce la independencia unilateral concedida a Belice por la Gran Bretaña; que tampoco reconoce a Belice como Estado, ni le reconoce fronteras.

Por tales razones, Guatemala se opone al ingreso de Belice a la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): My delegation would wholeheartedly wish to support the applications both of Antigua and Barbuda and of Belize for membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The reason for the United Kingdom's supporting will be well understood, because of the long association we have had with both countries.

I am bound to say that I greatly regret the intrusion into this forum of political matters which this body has traditionally avoided and I regard it as most unfortunate that there should have been a departure from this tradition on which our deliberations as a technical and developmental body should avoid political issues.

I trust that the Council will recognise that as sovereign independent countries both the States who are applying for membership are eligible to do so and I hope that the Council will commend these applications in the normal way and that they be permitted to have Observer status in the Organization in the interim period.

CHAIRMAN: We will note the points made and invite the two countries to serve in an Observer capacity until their formal election. If this is agreeable we will invite them to subsequent meetings as Observers. I hear no comments. Therefore I take it that the motion proposed by the Secretary-General is adopted subject of course to the reservations which have been expressed by Guatemala and the United Kingdom.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Déclaration du Directeur général

3. Declaración del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Il serait bon, je crois, de commencer par faire le point de la situation économique. L'économie mondiale se trouve aujourd'hui dans une phase critique, et son avenir dépend en grande partie de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

J'ai souvent eu l'occasion de m'adresser au Conseil; pas une fois, hélas, je n'ai pu dire "Tout va bien", ni même "Nous arrivons au bout du tunnel".

Or, si je regarde en arrière, j'ai l'impression que la situation n'a jamais été pire, ni les perspectives aussi décourageantes.

Il est difficile de croire que la marche de l'économie mondiale est réglée par je ne sais quel "grand ordinateur". Où trouver trace en effet d'un plan rationnel, harmonieux, intégré? Imaginons quand même qu'il y ait un grand ordinateur. Dans ce cas, pas de doute, il est détraqué. C'est toute sa conception qu'il faut revoir, ses programmes comme ses circuits, car il ne répond plus aux besoins des usagers.

Voyons les faits.

En 1981, pour la première fois depuis les années cinquante, les pays en développement pris dans leur ensemble ont vu diminuer leur PNB par habitant. La contraction du commerce mondial leur coûte le double de ce qu'ils reçoivent au titre de l'aide publique au développement. Leurs difficultés de balance courante s'en trouvent terriblement aggravées. En 1981, l'endettement de ces pays atteignait 516 milliards de dollars. Le service de la dette représentait plus de 20 pour cent des recettes de leurs exportations de biens et de services. La situation économique des pays en développement est grave sur tous les plans, et l'on s'interroge de plus en plus sur l'avenir de la viabilité financière de certains pays et donc aussi de certaines institutions financières des pays développés.

Déjà pauvre, le tiers monde s'appauvrit chaque jour davantage. Son endettement et sa dépendance à l'égard des importations alimentaires, de même que la dégradation des termes de l'échange, se sont aggravés ces dernières années à tel point qu'il se trouve aujourd'hui dans une situation encore pire qu'il y a une génération.

Prenons le cas du sucre. Les cours ont baissé de 40 à 50 pour cent depuis l'année dernière et sont aujourd'hui nettement inférieurs aux coûts de production. Quant à la banane, sa valeur unitaire à l'exportation a diminué, en termes réels, de 20 pour cent en l'espace de dix ans.

Inutile d'accuser la fatalité'. Inutile aussi de prétendre que cela tient au choix de tel ou tel système économique - les formes existantes vont du libéralisme au collectivisme-, ou même à des politiques erronées.

Il est vrai que certains pays en développement se sont parfois fourvoyés; il est vrai, en particulier, qu'ils n'ont pas accordé suffisamment d'attention au développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et que ces erreurs peuvent expliquer en partie les problèmes de plusieurs d'entre eux. Mais qui donc, aujourd'hui, oserait nier que l'interdépendance économique mondiale est un fait et que les pays en développement subissent les effets de forces économiques externes qui leur sont défavorables? Qui pourrait le nier?

Ces forces, qui font tant de mal au tiers monde, sont impersonnelles et aveugles. Elles frappent le juste comme la brebis égarée.

Les erreurs, le manque d'efficacité que l'on constate parfois dans les pays en développement ne pèsent pas grand-chose par rapport aux effets des forces extérieures qu'ils subissent: l'inflation, la récession et les mesures économiques et budgétaires prises par les méga-économies pour y remédier.

Je ne veux nullement minimiser les problèmes des méga-économies. Bien au contraire. Ces maux persistants - inflation, récession, absence de croissance - ont pris une telle ampleur que les pays en développement, avec leurs moyens dérisoires, sont totalement incapables de faire face aux conséquences qui en résultent pour eux.

Ne sous-estimons pas les problèmes des pays riches et notamment les douloureuses conséquences économiques et sociales d'un chômage qui dépasse aujourd'hui tout ce que l'on avait vu depuis des dizaines et des dizaines d'années. Leur attitude ne peut manquer de s'en ressentir lorsqu'on leur demande de mener des politiques altruistes et qu'on fait appel à leur générosité pour l'aide publique au développement.

Il est donc de l'intérêt de tous que les pays développés viennent rapidement à bout de leurs difficultés. Nous espérons tous que les optimistes ont raison lorsqu'ils disent que nous sommes au seuil d'une nouvelle ère de croissance saine et équilibrée. Nous espérons tous aussi ranger bientôt parmi les mauvais souvenirs la stagnation, voire la diminution plus catastrophique encore, du pouvoir d'achat réel des exportations du tiers monde, de même que les conséquences funestes de la hausse des taux d'intérêt et des pressions insidieuses en faveur d'une autarcie murée dans le protectionnisme.

A n'en pas douter, la crise ne pourra être surmontée que par l'expansion du commerce, la stabilisation des marchés à des prix rémunérateurs, et le maintien d'un système commercial ouvert qui réponde équitablement aux besoins des pays en développement. Espérons que les débats qui auront lieu ce mois-ci sous l'égide du GATT aboutiront à des décisions positives, car une escalade de mesures protectionnistes et contre-protectionnistes ne pourrait être que préjudiciable à tous.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi d'élever notre débat en rappelant le mot de Pascal: "Description de l'homme: dépendance, désir d'indépendance, besoin". Les pays en développement ne peuvent ni ne souhaitent se décharger de leur responsabilité primordiale, qui est de prendre les mesures correctives qui s'imposent et de compter davantage sur eux-mêmes.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai dit tout à l'heure que la situation ne m'avait jamais paru aussi décourageante. Toutefois, il faut faire une distinction entre la situation économique dans son ensemble et celle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Celle-ci est, fort heureusement, assez encourageante à certains égards.

Les récoltes ont été excellentes en 1981, elles seront abondantes en 1982. En 1981, la production vivrière a augmenté au total de 2,9 pour cent, dépassant ainsi son niveau des deux années précédentes.

Toujours en 1981, la production de céréales s'est accrue de 100 millions de tonnes; il est vrai que cette augmentation est due en grande partie aux pays développés. Néanmoins, beaucoup de pays en développement sont eux aussi parvenus à augmenter leur production d'aliments de base.

C'est un point très important. Il apporte un démenti à ceux qui craignent que le monde ne puisse pas se nourrir, et aussi à ceux qui prétendent que les pays en développement sont incapables de faire les efforts nécessaires pour accroître leur production vivrière. Il montre qu'il faut, au contraire, les aider davantage dans leurs efforts.

On a beaucoup insisté ces derniers temps sur l'importance des mesures d'encouragement en faveur des agriculteurs et d'une bonne politique de prix. Dans certains cas, on a dit explicitement que cela devrait être l'un des piliers des nouvelles stratégies et, implicitement, que ce serait une condition de l'aide.

Monsieur le Président, dire que l'adoption d'un système de double prix - soutien des prix agricoles et subventions pour les consommateurs, formule qui n'est pas inconnue de certains pays - devrait être une condition sine qua non de l'accroissement de l'aide publique au développement de l'agriculture, ce serait peut-être aller un peu trop loin.

La question des politiques de prix est capitale mais complexe. J'ai donc décidé d'y consacrer une grande étude; ce sera l'un des travaux prioritaires du prochain exercice.

Mais, en attendant, l'agriculture a désespérément besoin d'une aide accrue pour son développement. Or, en termes réels, cette aide diminue depuis 1979, même si, à toutes les réunions au sommet, on proclame à l'envi qu'il faut donner la priorité des priorités à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture.

S'il est une chose qui doit nous préoccuper tous, c'est bien la diminution des ressources des principales institutions de financement que ce soit multilatérales ou bilatérales, sous l'effet de l'inflation ou de l'évolution des taux de changes. Cette baisse est très forte: elle peut atteindre 30 pour cent en termes réels. Le FIDA, le PNUD et le PAM sont parmi les plus touchés. Ainsi, les ressources du PAM restent de près d'un cinquième inférieures aux objectifs fixés pour 1981-82 et 1983-84. De même, les contributions à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence pour 1983 ne représentent que 35 pour cent de l'objectif.

Certains pays ont même cessé de fournir une contribution annuelle à la Réserve internationale d'urgence.

Et, pendant ce temps-là, certains pays développés croulent sous des montagnes de victuailles et multiplient les subventions, les aides et les ventes à bas prix, qui pèsent de plus en plus sur leur budget.

Pouvons-nous accepter sans réagir le retour à une époque où la nourriture était gaspillée et même détruite dans certains pays, alors que l'on mourait de faim et de malnutrition dans d'autres? Le monde est-il vraiment incapable de corriger les tendances actuelles et de parvenir, comme le prévoit Agriculture: Horizon 2000, à une répartition plus rationnelle et plus équitable de ses ressources?

Je me refuse à le croire. Il est plus que temps, pour ceux qui président aux destinées de notre planète, de prendre une initiative spectaculaire, de se mettre d'accord sur un programme alimentaire minimum à l'échelle mondiale, comme je l'ai déjà proposé, ou bien d'adopter tel autre plan susceptible de mettre un terme au scandale de la faim.

Cette thèse a été éloquemment illustrée dans la Déclaration de Rome sur la faim, adoptée par le Colloque de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, qui s'est récemment tenu au siège de la FAO, le 16 octobre dernier. J'y reviendrai.

La nécessité d'adopter des mesures précises et concrètes - mais aussi, hélas, l'absence de progrès sur ce plan - sont, depuis quelques années, l'un des leitmotiv de toutes les conférences au sommet.

Comme je l'ai indiqué, la diminution, en termes réels, de l'aide à l'agriculture a des conséquences particulièrement graves pour les institutions multilatérales.

Les problèmes que pose aux organisations du système des Nations Unies l'érosion des ressources disponibles pour l'aide à des conditions de faveur sont actuellement étudiés par le Comité administratif de coordination des Nations Unies; j'ai assisté au début de ce mois à sa deuxième session ordinaire.

J'espère que son rapport sera disponible avant notre conférence de l'an prochain. Il devrait plus particulièrement insister sur les points suivants. Alors que la population mondiale a augmenté de 700 millions de personnes entre 1970 et 1980 et que notre monde pourrait compter 6 milliards d'habitants d'ici à l'an 2000, l'aide publique au développement est très loin pour l'instant de répondre aux besoins sur lesquels se fonde la Stratégie internationale du développement. En 1980, elle ne représentait que 0,3 pour cent du PNB des pays du CAD et 0,13 pour cent de celui des pays du Comecon.

L'aide multilatérale, complément indispensable de l'assistance bilatérale, présente en outre des caractéristiques particulières qui la rendent très précieuse: en particulier, elle réagit avec plus de dynamisme aux priorités mondiales et elle stimule la coopération entre pays dans des domaines essentiels: maladies animales, protection des cultures, aménagement et mise en valeur des pêches, recherche, etc. De plus, elle a l'avantage de l'objectivité et de la neutralité politiques; bien entendu, cela n'est pas du goût de tout le monde, à commencer par les plus chauds partisans de l'aide bilatérale. Enfin, sur le plan technique, elle permet de mobiliser les expériences et les connaissances les plus diverses.

L'inefficacité! Tel est le grand reproche que l'on fait souvent, à tort ou à raison, à l'aide multilatérale. Certes, le système des Nations Unies doit tout faire pour accroître son efficacité et améliorer ses résultats. Néanmoins, en m'appuyant sur ma longue expérience comme sur les témoignages spontanés de nombreux observateurs impartiaux, je peux dire que les opérations multilatérales - du moins, celles de notre Organisation - sont certainement aussi efficaces et parfois plus efficaces et je dirai même plus économiques que celles de beaucoup d'organismes bilatéraux.

Nous touchons là un point sensible. Il ne faut jamais oublier à ce propos que beaucoup des difficultés que nous rencontrons tiennent aux problèmes mêmes que l'assistance technique s'efforce de résoudre, à savoir la pauvreté et le sous-développement, et que ces difficultés sont identiques pour les organismes multilatéraux et pour les organismes bilatéraux.

En ce qui nous concerne, il va sans dire que nous continuerons à faire le maximum pour justifier l'aide accrue que nous souhaitons obtenir afin de jouer au mieux notre rôle de promoteur, de planificateur, de catalyseur et d'agent du développement sur le terrain. A ce propos, je remercie une nouvelle fois encore notre pays hôte de la confiance qu'il nous témoigne pour le développement des pays du Sahel, question dont Son Excellence le Président du Cap-Vert a parlé si éloquemment ce matin.

J'en viens maintenant au problème, hélas toujours actuel, de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Après bien des années d'efforts dans de multiples instances, le principe de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a, semble-t-il, fini par s'imposer. Pourtant, c'est à peine si l'on a commencé à mettre sur pied les politiques et mécanismes nécessaires à son application. La communauté internationale n'est pas encore parvenue à se mettre d'accord sur un système qui garantirait des approvisionnements à des conditions de faveur en cas de besoin.

Je le répète, maintenant que les récoltes sont si bonnes et les effets de la récession si pernicieux, le moment est certainement venu de débloquer la situation et de faire un pas décisif sur la voie de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Comme l'indique une recommandation de la soixante-neuvième conférence de l'Union interparlementaire, réunie récemment à Rome, ce qui est nécessaire, en termes simples, c'est "d'adopter des politiques et des objectifs céréaliers, de constituer des réserves alimentaires de sécurité et de les gérer conformément aux critères énoncés dans le Plan d'action de la FAO sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale".

Je suis en train de préparer l'étude que j'avais promis de soumettre au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à sa prochaine session dans quelques mois. Cette étude retracera l'évolution de la situation dans ce domaine depuis la fin de la guerre, réexaminera le concept même de sécurité alimentaire mondiale et présentera différents systèmes qui pourraient être adoptés, leurs conséquences institutionnelles et les premières mesures à prendre. Dans ce travail, j'essaierai de concilier l'esprit normatif et l'approche pratique.

Venons-en à ce qui s'est passé cette année, en commençant par les conférences régionales tenues ces derniers mois.

Ces réunions ont toujours beaucoup d'importance et d'intérêt, car elles permettent aux ministres de chaque région de confronter leurs expériences et de passer en revue leurs politiques et programmes. Environ 70 ministres ont participé aux conférences de cette année. Je les ai tous rencontrés, un par un. Ces rencontres me sont précieuses, non seulement parce que j'y apprend beaucoup, mais aussi parce qu'elles permettent des contacts personnels et des échanges de vues avec les diverses délégations sur les problèmes de leurs pays respectifs.

Concrètement, si ces conférences régionales apportent des résultats à long terme plutôt que de l'inédit ou du spectaculaire, nous n'y voyons rien à redire. Nous ne sommes pas à la recherche du sensationnel; notre but est d'intensifier la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement eux-mêmes. Ces conférences régionales sont en effet un excellent moyen de promouvoir la coopération Sud-Sud. A cet égard, les conférences de 1982 ont été particulièrement fructueuses. Je remercie tous les ministres et chefs de délégation qui y ont participé sans nous ménager leur aide.

Il y a eu beaucoup d'autres réunions et visites importantes, beaucoup trop pour que je les énumère toutes. Je me contenterai d'indiquer que nous avons eu l'honneur de recevoir 17 visites de ministres, deux visites de Présidents de la République et que nous avons tenu beaucoup de réunions avec des délégations de diverses organisations. Pour la première fois, les délégations présentes à notre réunion

annuelle avec les pays nordiques ont été présidées par des ministres. Je tiens à remercier à ce sujet le Ministre norvégien de l'agriculture, qui a été l'animateur de ce travail politique dont le fruit, me semble-t-il, est un renforcement de la compréhension et de la coopération entre les pays nordiques et notre Organisation.

Autre délégation importante: celle du Programme du Golfe en faveur des organismes de développement des Nations Unies, conduite par Son Altesse Royale le Prince Talal bin Abdul-Aziz al Saud. Ce Programme a décidé d'allouer, par l'intermédiaire de la FAO, plus de 3 750 000 dollars à des projets de développement dans plusieurs pays du tiers monde.

Comme vous le savez, nous venons aussi d'avoir une réunion avec le Comité interministériel du CILSS.

Enfin, nous avons été particulièrement honorés de la visite qu'à bien voulu nous faire en octobre dernier Son Excellence le Président du Liban, M. Amin Gemayel. Cette visite a montré le vif intérêt que suscitaient les possibilités d'action conjointe de la FAO et du PAM pour le relèvement de l'agriculture libanaise qui, évidemment, a beaucoup souffert sur le plan matériel et aussi sur le plan commercial. On a déjà fait beaucoup; il reste à faire bien davantage encore. Les difficultés ne sont pas insurmontables, à condition que l'autorité du gouvernement soit pleinement reconnue et que les responsabilités dans les différents domaines soient clairement définies et respectées.

En matière de réunions, l'un des grands événements de cette année a bien entendu été la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le 16 octobre dernier. Vous avez assisté pour la plupart aux cérémonies organisées à cette occasion. Elles avaient été précédées d'un colloque dont j'ai déjà parlé et sur lequel je reviendrai. Mais, pour le moment, je voudrais ouvrir une parenthèse: dans son discours d'ouverture, M. Amintore Fanfani, Président du Sénat italien et notre principal invité lors de cette journée, a fait allusion aux locaux du Siège.

Il a rappelé que c'était lui qui avait été chargé d'aménager le bâtiment A lorsque la FAO était venue s'installer à Rome,

Bien entendu, je n'ai pas manqué de lui faire part de nos préoccupations. Je me suis ému en particulier que le groupe de travail créé par la Conférence biannuelle de la FAO pour résoudre nos problèmes de locaux n'ait pas encore été reçu par les autorités italiennes et que rien pratiquement n'ait été fait pour trouver une solution provisoire.

J'avoue que je suis aussi très préoccupé par l'absence de progrès concernant l'Accord de Siège et d'autres questions se rapportant à nos privilèges et immunités diplomatiques qui n'avaient jamais encore fait l'objet d'attaques aussi violentes.

Tout cela contraste étrangement avec le remarquable esprit de coopération dont fait preuve le Gouvernement italien à notre égard, et aussi avec la générosité qu'il manifeste pour le développement du tiers monde et notamment du Sahel.

Vous serez saisis de certaines de ces questions au cours de la présente session. Pour ma part, je tiendrai le Comité financier et les organes directeurs au courant de la situation et je n'hésiterai pas à vous soumettre les propositions nécessaires.

Nous avons aussi tout lieu de nous préoccuper de notre situation financière et ceci en raison des retards extraordinaires des contributions. Les contributions dont nous attendons toujours le versement atteignent en effet un montant extraordinaire. Le rapport du Comité financier vous éclairera sur ce point. Depuis sa session de septembre, nous avons reçu quelques autres versements: à peu près 54 millions et demi de dollars au total. Un document d'information vous donnera de plus amples détails à ce sujet. Quoi qu'il en soit, la situation demeure très grave. Les contributions non acquittées représentent encore près de 44 pour cent des sommes dues en début d'année.

Bien entendu, il ne faut pas y voir une manifestation de mauvaise humeur à l'égard de la FAO en particulier. La situation est identique dans la plupart des autres organisations; elle est même parfois pire. Néanmoins, il est extraordinaire que notre organisation, qui se consacre à la lutte contre la faim, soit privée de ressources dûment votées par ses organes directeurs.

Tout a été fait pour convaincre les Etats Membres de régler leurs arriérés. Dans l'intervalle, je m'efforce de contenir nos dépenses. Heureusement, l'évolution des taux de change, en plus du Compte de réserve spécial, nous a donné une certaine marge de manoeuvre. J'ai donc bon espoir de ne pas être forcé de recourir à l'autorisation d'emprunter avant le Nouvel An. Mais, ensuite, cela deviendra vite inévitable si les arriérés de 1982 et des années précédentes n'étaient pas finalement réglés et si les contributions pour 1983 n'étaient pas versées rapidement en janvier prochain. Je demande donc instamment à tous les intéressés de remplir leurs obligations à cet égard.

Les raisons de ces retards de paiement sont variables. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que les pays en développement sont en butte à des difficultés particulières. C'est en ayant ces difficultés particulièrement présentes à l'esprit que j'aborde la préparation du prochain Programme de travail et budget.

Dans la mesure du possible, les nouvelles priorités du Programme ne feront que remplacer des activités menées à terme ou que l'on aura supprimées en raison de leur moindre priorité. L'efficacité de l'Organisation doit être encore améliorée, notamment dans les secteurs de soutien. Néanmoins, certaines priorités nouvelles exigeront des ressources accrues. Il est indispensable d'intensifier notre action, notamment dans les domaines qui permettent de promouvoir la production vivrière et la sécurité alimentaire, d'obtenir un maximum de résultats sur le terrain et d'exploiter au mieux les possibilités de coopération économique et techniques entre pays en développement. D'autres priorités, aussi bien générales que particulières, se sont dégagées des travaux des comités du Conseil, notamment du Comité du programme, des conférences régionales et d'autres organes statutaires dont les avis sont très utiles dans ce domaine.

On ne peut être sûr de rien en ce qui concerne l'évolution des coûts; il serait donc terriblement imprudent de ma part de vouloir donner des prévisions sur le niveau du budget que je proposerai pour le prochain exercice, ou sur sa ventilation en augmentations de programme et de coûts. Ceux d'entre vous qui vivent à Rome ne le savent que trop: l'inflation, qui recule ailleurs, reste très forte en Italie. Malgré tous ses efforts, le gouvernement n'est même pas parvenu à la limiter à 16 pour cent comme il se l'était proposé. En taux annuel, l'inflation se maintient actuellement aux alentours de 20 pour cent. Les perspectives pour 1983, pour ne pas parler de 1984 ou de 1985, restent très problématiques.

Il serait vain d'espérer que la situation change d'ici le printemps prochain, c'est-à-dire d'ici la présentation du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Il faut donc bien comprendre que les augmentations de coûts que je proposerai alors ne seront que purement indicatives et qu'elles conserveront un caractère aléatoire pendant un certain temps. Dans ces conditions, je ne peux raisonnablement pas vous proposer, comme certains le souhaitent, une absorption des augmentations de coûts, car cela représenterait une réduction très importante de notre programme en termes réels.

Vu la situation mondiale, vu les difficultés particulières que connaissent, comme chacun le sait, les pays africains, vu la détermination avec laquelle on affirme vouloir lutter contre la faim, vu aussi les demandes des Etats Membres eux-mêmes, je ne comprends vraiment pas comment on pourrait se faire l'avocat d'une réduction ou même simplement d'une stagnation de notre programme. Néanmoins, je l'ai déjà dit, je tiendrai dûment compte des difficultés et des vœux de tous les Etats Membres.

Revenons-en à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Les cérémonies organisées au Siège ont été honorées par la présence de M. Amintore Fanfani, Président du Sénat italien, et peut-être bientôt Premier Ministre, et aussi du Prince Talal, de M. Raúl Prebisch et de beaucoup de représentants et d'invités de marque. Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier une nouvelle fois encore de leur soutien la Ville de Rome et son maire, M. Ugo Vetere, ainsi que tous ceux qui ont participé à cette manifestation.

Pas moins de 45 chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, qui, dans leur pays, ont donné un éclat particulier à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, nous ont adressé des messages à cette occasion. Je voudrais plus particulièrement retenir le message éclairant de Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II, et aussi le texte émouvant que nous a envoyé le Président des Etats-Unis, qui a décidé que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation serait célébrée sur tout le territoire de son pays.

Il faut bien comprendre que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ne s'arrête pas aux portes de Rome mais qu'elle a une signification universelle. A cet égard, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter du retentissement qu'a déjà eu notre initiative dans le monde entier.

Il faut bien comprendre aussi que cette Journée a des effets qui ne s'arrêtent pas le 16 octobre au soir. Elle éveille les consciences et fait naître des activités qui, nous le constatons chaque jour, se poursuivent bien au-delà du 16 octobre. C'est une caractéristique très importante dont nous nous efforcerons de tirer pleinement parti à l'avenir.

Dans ce domaine, nous devons nous inspirer de la Déclaration de Rome sur la faim, adoptée à l'issue du Colloque de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Malgré le peu de temps dont ils disposaient, les participants ont eu un débat de haut niveau. Je suis sûr que leurs délibérations seront pour vous une source d'inspiration et d'encouragement, comme elle l'ont été pour moi-même; c'est pourquoi j'ai décidé que le compte rendu de ce colloque et la Déclaration elle-même seraient largement diffusés.

La Déclaration de Rome n'a rien à voir avec ces appels stridents et irréalistes que l'on entend trop souvent. Les participants du colloque, aussi éminents que divers, ont adopté une attitude équilibrée et réaliste en regardant en face les difficultés auxquelles se heurte le monde pour résoudre ses problèmes.

Ils se sont déclarés convaincus que l'humanité devrait axer bien davantage ses efforts sur l'alimentation et aussi qu'elle courrait les plus graves dangers si elle laissait persister et, à plus forte raison, s'accroître les inégalités entre les nations et à l'intérieur de celles-ci. Ils ont affirmé qu'un "effort mondial majeur et concerté" s'imposait de toute urgence pour accélérer la croissance des pays en développement et, surtout, des moins avancés d'entre eux. Ils ont ajouté qu'il était de l'intérêt de tous les peuples et de toutes les nations d'accorder une priorité beaucoup plus élevée à la production alimentaire et de faire des efforts soutenus pour parvenir à plus d'équité. A leur avis, c'était d'ailleurs la seule solution à long terme.

Dans leurs recommandations, où ils envisagent l'ensemble des besoins du développement, y compris le commerce agricole et la sécurité alimentaire, ils évoquent les responsabilités des pays en développement et indiquent quelles sont les principales priorités dans les différents secteurs; ils soulignent en particulier qu'il faudrait accorder davantage d'attention aux pauvres ainsi qu'aux objectifs de la CMRADR. Ils insistent également sur la nécessité d'un accroissement massif de l'aide au secteur alimentaire et agricole et jugent indispensable qu'une part croissante de cette aide passe par les institutions multilatérales.

Ils rendent par ailleurs hommage au rôle des organisations non gouvernementales qui ne cessent d'attirer l'attention sur les problèmes de la pauvreté et de la faim. Enfin - et c'est pour moi une grande satisfaction -, ils reconnaissent à la FAO une responsabilité particulière et un rôle de chef de file dans la lutte contre la faim.

A l'issue de leurs travaux, ils m'ont invité à soumettre leur Déclaration, non seulement aux organes directeurs de la FAO, mais aussi aux Chefs de Secrétariat des autres organisations internationales et aux responsables des politiques aux niveaux national et international. "Nous espérons, ont-ils précisé, que les dirigeants et les peuples auxquels s'adresse cette Déclaration seront à la hauteur du défi et manifesteront l'ampleur de vues, le courage et la volonté nécessaires".

Comme ils l'ont eux-mêmes souligné, "la coopération internationale pour le développement marque un déclin dangereux, juste au moment où elle est le plus nécessaire". Privilégier l'aide bilatérale aux dépens de la coopération multilatérale ne ferait qu'accroître la division du monde, "division qui a dans le passé provoqué de graves conflits mondiaux".

Au cœur même de leur message, il y a la conviction que l'on peut vaincre la faim et qu'en l'an 2000 toute la population du globe et tous ses enfants devraient pouvoir se nourrir convenablement. Il suffirait pour cela de consacrer chaque année à ce noble objectif une "minuscule fraction du total des budgets militaires". "Le désespoir, ont-ils affirmé, peut faire place à l'espoir et une action concrète se substituer à un pessimisme négatif".

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, ils ont souligné, et je voudrais me faire l'écho de cette parole, que "l'objectif du développement est, en dernière analyse, l'être humain ... Le progrès de l'homme est à la fois la fin et le moyen du combat mené pour accroître la production alimentaire et vaincre la faim".

Puissent ces paroles se graver dans nos esprits et dans nos cœurs et nous aider à surmonter toutes les difficultés qui nous attendent; hélas.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. Director-General for this very comprehensive, meaningful and also hopeful report, and I am glad you ended with a message of hope and not of despair.

It is not customary for any discussion to follow the Director-General's Statement. Members of the Council will have the opportunity to refer to the points he has made during their interventions on various items, including item IV. I have however received a request from the Chairman of the Group of 77 to speak and I give him the floor.

M. ZJALIC (Chairman, Group of 77): We have listened with great interest to the statement delivered by the Director-General. Since we have a very long and comprehensive agenda, this delegation as well as the other members of the Council will be in a position to express their views at a later stage during our Session, but we feel that some of the questions and problems phrased by the Director-General in his statement require our attention and immediate comments as well as careful consideration in the process of defining future tasks and role of FAO. This delegation agrees with the Director-General's assessment of the current world food situation. In the bleak picture of world economy the overall improvement in food and agricultural productions in 1981 and 1982 has provided some relief. However, this progress in food production and particularly in basic foodstuffs such as cereals, has been unequally and unevenly distributed over the different regions of the world. In least developed countries food supplies by capita decreased by two percent in 1982. Food production in Africa still crushes down the region's population. Cereal stocks in 1982 are at a satisfactory level but concentrate in a few major developed and exporting countries. At a time when the total export revenue of developing countries continues to decline, when there are liabilities for debt servicing in amounts of more than 20 percent of their export earnings, they are compelled to increase imports of cereals and to spend more resources for survival of their population, postponing in the main the achievement of food self-sufficiency based on use of their natural food resources. The good harvests in 1981 and 1982 have in no way solved food problems in developing countries. That is why continued and strengthened national and international efforts are needed in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, as was rightly pointed out at the Cancun, Versailles, and Ottawa meetings and in many international fora. The message is clear: the solution of food problems cannot wait. The FAO has a well established and recognized responsibility within the international community. This responsibility was reflected in conclusions and recommendations of regional conferences; the Regional FAO Conference for Africa in its resolution on Technical Cooperation Programme invited the Director-General of FAO to consider ways and means of strengthening the Organization's presence and activity in the Region, particularly through its Regional Office, with a view to focusing on technical cooperation when formulating his proposal for Programme of FAO and Budget for 1984-85 biennium. The same Regional Conference requested the Director-General of FAO to accord a key role to training programmes, particularly high-level training, when formulating his Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85. The FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific required FAO, *inter alia*, to strengthen its assistance in planning policy analysis and project formulation. It also invited the Director-General of FAO to take the necessary steps to establish a commission on food security for Asia and the Pacific within the existing legal and administrative framework of the Organization.

The Regional Conference for Latin America, recognizing Technical Cooperation Programme as a particularly valuable instrument for providing appropriate and rapid assistance in the field, invited the Director-General to increase the availability of Technical Cooperation Programme funds within the total resources of the Regular Programme.

The Group of 77 supports this resolution of the Regional Conference and considers that the growing needs of developing countries for technical and other forms of assistance in the sector of food and agriculture require substantially increased support by FAO. I have been authorized by the Group of 77 to express its position that within overall development assistance, financial resources for the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition should have the highest priority. These resources in the budget of FAO should not be reduced or decreased, nor become items of savings in public expenditure by Member Governments. The Member Governments should adopt a selected policy in financing international organizations in accordance with priorities and merits of their programme. An effective implementation of the FAO Programme of Work implies that the Organization should have at its disposal adequate financial resources.

The implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions in priority areas requires a net increase in the financial resources of the Organization. On behalf of the Group of 77 I should like to invite the Director-General of FAO to take these recommendations into account when formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984/85 biennium.

CHAIRMAN: As I said earlier, I think Members of the Council will have an opportunity to comment on the various items referred to by the Director-General. Since I gave the floor to the Chairman of the Group of 77, is there anyone else who wants to make an immediate comment? No? I then take it that you will reserve your comments for the appropriate times.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

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

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1982

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 3 982

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1982

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department): The Council has before it two documents presenting the Secretariat's analysis and assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture. The first, CL 82/2, gives an assessment of the current world food and agricultural situation, based on information available up to early August. It also presents a preliminary analysis of use of inputs and resources in agricultural production.

The second document, CL 82/2 Sup.1 updates and supplements the earlier document with information available up to late October 1982.

In introducing these two documents, Mr. Chairman, I wish to begin by highlighting widespread concern at the still bleak environment which characterises the world economy. The industrial countries as a group are likely to register zero real economic growth in 1982. They achieved a very low 1% rate of growth in the two earlier years. The plight is even worse for many developing countries whose per capita real income will have fallen for the second year in succession. The current economic crisis is hampering progress in agriculture as well.

As regards the current food and agricultural situation, following a year of relatively rapid growth of about 3 percent, the increase in world food and agricultural production in 1982 according to preliminary estimates will be only 1 to 1.5 percent. Cereal production will slightly exceed last year's record harvest, but the production of non-food crops is likely to decline. Of greatest concern is the failure of food production in 1982 to increase in Asia and The Far East, with the exception of China which had a reasonably favourable agricultural year. There is also only a very slight increase in production expected in Latin America; in Africa and the Near East, the increase in food production slowed down in 1982.

Food shortages and emergency situations have persisted, particularly in Africa despite the relative-ly ample global supply situation. In fact more than 75 percent of the new or expanded emergency operations receiving assistance from the World Food Programme/International Emergency Food Reserve in the first nine months of 1982 were to relieve distress in man-made situations.

As a result of another large cereal harvest in North America and a recovery of output in western Europe, which coincided with a weakening of both domestic and foreign demand, cereal stocks of course have sharply increased and increased stocks have been mainly concentrated in North America. This has been accompanied by declining cereal prices in US dollars. On the other hand, in a number of exporting countries the prevailing low level of prices has depressed farmers' incomes leading to pressure for supply management measures. On the other hand, many developing countries are still not able to afford all the grain they need.

The events of the past season and the outlook for the current and future ones demonstrate yet again the narrow margin between shortage and surplus and the tendency towards instability arising out of year-to-year fluctuations in weather. It is disheartening that the opportunity presented by these stocks to improve world food security has not yet been grasped.

Development assistance to agriculture is another area in which international cooperation is flagging. Official commitments of external assistance to this sector have been stagnating in real terms since 1978. Currently it is more than 40 percent short of the estimated annual requirements of \$8.3 billion in 1975 prices. In 1981 they declined by 7.5 percent at current prices due largely to a sharp drop in bilateral assistance. Moreover, the concessionality of the assistance has decreased, posing a future threat to recipient countries' balance of payments.

Food aid also shows a similar failure to achieve agreed objectives. It is worth mentioning that at a time of relatively ample supplies of cereals, the allocations of food aid are still lagging behind the shipments made last year.

Agricultural export trade recently has proved less resilient than at the beginning of the current world recession; world agricultural trade fell in 1981 - by 1 percent - for the first time since 1967. For developing countries, whose export, products generally faced exceptionally steep price declines, the drop was 3 percent. Their agricultural terms of trade deteriorated by as much as one-sixth and the purchasing power of their agricultural exports declined for the fourth consecutive year to the lowest level since the early 1970s.

At this stage I should also refer to the review of the fishery and forestry sectors included in the two documents before you. The fisheries sector provides some positive features with production increasing relatively rapidly in 1981; fishery trade generally has been less affected by the recession. The Forestry sector, on the other hand, has been seriously affected by recession and

the depressed market conditions for some processed forest products are hampering efforts to restructure forest industries in a few developing countries.

I would now like to refer to some of the issues raised in the document on resource use for agricultural production. Resource use in agriculture raises issues relating not only to extensive use of land and water resources, but also to the intensification of agriculture through increased use of modern inputs.

Modernization of agriculture in developing countries would require that purchased inputs constitute an increasing proportion of growth value of agricultural output rising, we estimate, from 20 percent now up to 30 percent by the end of the century in order to achieve a rate of growth between 3.5 and 4 percent.

As cultivable land becomes scarcer the pressure to increase its productivity grows correspondingly, 50 percent of the population of the developing world live in 18 countries, where 90 percent of the cultivable land is already in use. Along with double or multiple cropping, supported by increase in irrigation, what is needed is an accelerated increase in the use of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, etc.

In this connexion, the critical role of research can hardly be exaggerated. Research both promotes and economises in the use of modern inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and power. No more than 0.5 percent of agricultural GDP in developing countries is devoted to agricultural research as against 2 percent in developed countries. About 40 countries in the developing world are large enough to justify a national agricultural research system but lack the necessary research infrastructure and manpower. Simultaneously with expansion of agricultural research, progress in seed improvement needs to be accelerated, covering such areas as varietal improvement of seed, quality control and seed production and distribution. In 1980/81 in half a sample of 107 developing countries use of fertilizers was less than one-fifth of that in developed countries. Intensive use of fertilizers needs to be combined with a greater efficiency in its utilization, use of local fertilizer materials and organic manures.

One of the key questions in the agricultural development strategy is the extent and pace at which animal and tractor power can be used or substituted for human labour.

At the same time the rising cost of the modern inputs and, in some circumstances, environmental considerations, render the increased efficiency of their use more urgent. This again is linked up with research and extension, education and training for the development and diffusion of improved technology. No less important are policy issues relating to incentive, both price and non-price incentives for the efficient utilization of agricultural inputs.

In concluding this brief overview, I can do no better than to recall the Rome Declaration on Hunger adopted by the World Food Day Colloquium last month. It emphasized, amongst other things, "Farming should be progressively modernized and intensified on the basis of sustained research efforts - national, regional and international ... Adequate incentive, including appropriate pricing policies, must be provided. This must be undertaken in ways which conserve natural resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and avoid ecological damage which cannot be made good except at very great cost".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for this very concise and precise introduction of these very important papers. Tomorrow we shall start an intensive discussion on this item.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Comme vous avez pu le voir dans le programme d'aujourd'hui, le Directeur général et Madame Saouma se feront un plaisir de recevoir tous les membres des délégations et les observateurs ainsi que leur conjoint à la réception qui aura lieu au 8ème étage de ce bâtiment, à 19 heures.

Je me permets de vous rappeler cette invitation pour vous informer que le Président de la République du Cap-Vert a bien voulu accepter l'invitation du Directeur général et qu'il sera présent à cette réception, ce qui vous donnera l'occasion de le rencontrer. Ceux qui le désireront pourront l'entretenir de problèmes particuliers.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

council

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 82/PV/2

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1982)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours, M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCIÓN - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee (continued)

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

2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We now complete our work relating to Agenda Item 2, namely the election of three Vice-Chairmen and the members of the Drafting Committee. You will recall yesterday we elected two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. S. Hasan Ahmad of Bangladesh and Sra. M. Ivankovich de Arosemena of Panama. We also elected the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Mr. A.G. Ngongi Namanga of Cameroon.

I am happy to report we now have the other members of the Drafting Committee. The countries which will be represented on the Drafting Committee are: Lesotho, Philippines, France, Cuba, Egypt, USA, New Zealand, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ngongi Namanga of Cameroon.

I hope the chairmen and members will get together and decide on the schedules of their meetings.

I now wish to give the floor to the delegate of France to make a statement on behalf of the developed countries regarding the remaining position of Vice-Chairman.

A. FEQUANT (France): Au nom de ma délégation je propose le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, M. W.A.F. Grabisch, pour cette vice-présidence.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. If there are no further nominations, we welcome Mr. Grabisch, the Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, as the Third Vice-Chairman. I want to congratulate him and I hope you will join me.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I should like to thank the Council for the great confidence which it has shown in me and the honour it has shown to my delegation in electing me as Vice-Chairman I can assure you that I will try, as in the past, to be helpful whenever necessary. I am glad to serve the Council under your guidance, Mr. Chairman, together with Señora Ivankovich de Arosemena from Panama, and Mr. Hasan Ahmad from Bangladesh.

CHAIRMAN: I would also once again draw your attention to the announcement on the reverse side of the Order of the Day regarding the election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme. We will be electing the five members, and all the members of the Council have been requested to send their nominations by 17.30 hours on Thursday, 25 November 1982. Nomination forms should be delivered to the Secretary-General of the Council at Room B-201.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1982 (continued)

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1982 (suite)

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1982 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will continue the discussion of Item 4, which was introduced yesterday by Mr. N. Islam.

KONG CAN DONG (China) (original language Chinese): Before I speak on the subject, please allow me to congratulate you and express our pleasure to see you in the Chair to guide our deliberations. We also wish to offer our congratulations to Mr. Ahmad and Mme. Ivankovich de Arosemena on their election as Vice-Chairmen.

Yesterday afternoon we heard the Director-General Dr. Saouma's important speech at the opening Session of our Council, for which we would like to express our appreciation. After the Director-General's speech Professor Islam made a lucid introduction of the current state of world food and agriculture. We have learned from his introduction and the documents that world food and agricultural production this year is fairly satisfactory. Food supply and food prices tend to be normal. This is indeed gratifying. However, on the one hand, some major exporting countries hold large stocks of surplus grain to be brought to the market while on the other hand, many developing countries, being seriously affected by the economic crisis shifted onto them by certain developed countries, still can not guarantee sufficient food supply for their people. Food remains a problem in the world today. And in some regions it is becoming more acute. In addition, the developing countries face unfavourable conditions in obtaining access to the world market and fair prices for their farm produce. Their balance of international payments is deteriorating drastically, and their burden of foreign debts is getting more and more heavy. Therefore the world economic situation as a whole is bleak. All these factors have made us understand the crucial importance and urgency to establish a just, rational, new international economic order.

In order to realize the goal to establish the new international economic order, in our view, there are two major accomplishments to be achieved in the field of food and agriculture: to speed up food and agricultural production in the developing countries and to improve the terms of inter-national trade of farm produce. Now I would like to speak mainly on food and agricultural production.

Recently the World Bank in its World Development Report 1982 analyzed world economic development over the past 30 years. It points out that a country where agriculture registers rapid development is sure to have a fast-developing national economy. The conclusion of the report is: The fast growth of agriculture is indeed a necessary condition for an overall transformation of economic structure and the realization of industrialization. Agriculture is the key link in economic development. In fact, if food and agricultural production is fully developed in developing countries, it not only can meet the needs of their own people, promote the development of their national economy, but can be beneficial to the economic development of the developed countries.

Last year the co-chairmen of Cancun Summit pointed out in their summary statement: "Sustained and long-term internal efforts on the part of the developing countries to attain increasing self-sufficiency in food production is the basic element to attaining a real answer to the problem of hunger. Nevertheless, this effort requires timely and sufficient international technical and financial support in coordination with internal policies and strategies". We think this conclusion has been drawn from facts and we share this view. However, the multilateral concessional funding provided by the international community has been declining. As is pointed out in Para 8 of Document CL 82/2, there are still many obstacles in the transfer of technology and assistance. We consider this trend of development does not meet the eager desire of the developing countries for development, and at the same time it runs against the long-term interests of the developed countries.

Since 1978, in accordance with the actual conditions of our rural economy, our country has carried out agricultural readjustment and a series of management policies conducive to enhancing the peasants' enthusiasm for production. At present, most of the peasants are practising the system of production responsibility, a system under the unified leadership and management of production teams, but with every household assuming the responsibility of farm operations. Practice has proved that such a system combines in a better way the advantages of the cooperative economy and the initiative of the peasants for management. After 1979, the government raised the procurement prices of 18 major farm products by 20 percent - 30 percent, reduced or abolished agricultural taxes in some areas, and put into effect a system of providing subsidies in selling chemical fertilizers, pesticides, agro-machinery and fuel to the peasants. The state spends 30 billion Chinese Yuan a year on agriculture, which accounts for one third of the total national expenditure of 1980. Besides, we have taken measures to improve rural commerce and enliven rural fairs. As a result of these policies, agricultural production has been developing rapidly, rural economy is becoming stronger and peasants' life has improved tremendously.

Our principle in agricultural readjustment is: "Spare no effort in developing food production while encouraging a diversified economy". The implementation of this principle has brought about remarkable achievements in all sectors of agriculture. Compared with 1978, grain output in 1981 increased by 6.6 percent, cotton 36 percent, oil-bearing crops 95 percent, sugar 51 percent, meat 47 percent, output value of agro-business 56 percent. The total output value reached 172 billion Yuan, with an annual progressive increase of 5.1 percent as against 1978. In spite of floods and droughts in some provinces, good harvest has been reported this year. And the output of grain will surpass that of last year. Cotton, oil-bearing crops and other cash crops production also have recorded increase.

The outcome of the recent census shows that China's population is over 1 031.88 million. With limited areas of arable land, the problem of man-land ratio now stands out more conspicuously. We noticed that Document CL 82/2 described at length the utilization of resources for agricultural production. We attach great importance to this question for it has important bearing on the future development of agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Delegate of China, for this very encouraging report on the progress in China.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cada dos años en este período de sesiones del Consejo acostumbramos iniciar nuestras discusiones con este tema: el estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación; y en cada una de esas ocasiones nos sentimos verdaderamente desalentados y deprimidos porque siempre esa situación es grave y dramática.

La cooperación internacional para el desarrollo atraviesa uno de sus períodos más sombríos, dice textualmente el párrafo 1 de la Evaluación General del documento 2 básico para este tema. Y el mismo párrafo 1 del suplemento 2 agrega que las principales dificultades que tiene que afrontar la economía mundial no han disminuido.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que a fin de que la discusión de este tema en nuestras reuniones del Consejo no se convierta en un rito vacío de contenido se impone una doble acción: por un lado, las opiniones de los representantes de los gobiernos que debemos preocuparnos porque en la parte de nuestros informes sobre este asunto se consignen claramente lo que piensan los representantes de los gobiernos, y así tratará de hacerlo nuestra delegación; y por la otra, la función de la FAO; consideramos que es una función esencial que viene cumpliendo adecuadamente nuestra Organización, pero que deberá seguir realizando con mayor firmeza, sin vacilación y con la máxima claridad posible.

Respecto a las políticas comerciales de los países desarrollados, la delegación de Colombia piensa que nuestra Organización tiene un papel fundamental en el deber de señalar esas políticas y sus consecuencias funestas a los gobiernos. Tenemos un grato recuerdo de la UNCTAD V, de Manila, cuando el Director General afirmó acertadamente que era cinismo por parte de los países desarrollados aplicar el proteccionismo y pretender a la vez el mejoramiento de las economías de los países en desarrollo,

El fondo de ese lamentable estado de cosas es un problema de voluntad política, ha declarado recientemente en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia. Si bien es cierto que los resultados de la producción agrícola y alimentaria en 1981 han sido relativamente mejores que en los dos últimos años del decenio, esto no debe hacernos sentir tranquilos, sino más bien preocupados porque los incrementos de la producción alimentaria y agrícola no fueron repartidos equitativamente, como se afirma en el párrafo 3.

Igual cosa sucede con las reservas. Las existencias de cereales en 1982 se encuentran a un nivel razonablemente satisfactorio, pero sigue existiendo el desequilibrio en su composición y distribución, pues esas reservas se hallan intensamente concentradas, progresivamente concentradas, en algunos pocos importantes países desarrollados, productores y exportadores. La circunstancia de esa concentración de reservas, tal como lo ha venido anotando repetidamente la delegación de Colombia, es peligrosa, injusta, y desvirtúa de todo contenido la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Así lo han demostrado hechos en el pasado.

El nuevo gobierno de Colombia ha declarado enfáticamente, y aquí queremos repetirlo, que Colombia se opondrá siempre a que los alimentos se usen como arma política al ser distribuidos a la luz de preferencias ideológicas y no del amplio sentido de las necesidades. No hacemos con esta afirmación referencia específica a ningún país, sino a ese concepto que ya ha sido consagrado en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, que fue aceptado en la reciente Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en septiembre pasado en Nicaragua, y que debe imponerse también en la FAO, en el PMA, en el FIDA y en todos los organismos que se ocupan de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Seguimos con atención la interesante declaración que hizo nuestro distinguido colega y vecino de la izquierda i, el representante de China, y estamos plenamente de acuerdo con el representante de esa gran nación en el sentido de que a la base de la preocupante situación alimentaria mundial está el proteccionismo, el aumento de las barreras, las prácticas comerciales, los subsidios a las exportaciones. El proteccionismo se ha apoderado de los grandes mercados con sus consecuencias obvias en el intercambio, ha declarado Colombia recientemente en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. En su declaración de ayer, el señor Director General de la FAO, se refirió al caso del azúcar; sobre el azúcar, Colombia dijo en las Naciones Unidas que la situación del mercado se debe especialmente a las políticas irresponsables - y son palabras de un Ministro colombiano - a las políticas irresponsables, egoístas y catastróficas de grupos de países desarrollados que, como en el caso del azúcar, han llegado a precios verdaderamente irrisorios.

No es posible, agregó nuestro Ministro, que los países abanderados de esta política azucarera de subsidios de aumento artificial en la producción y de imposición de cuotas, aspiren a nuestro agradecimiento.

En opinión de la delegación de Colombia, debemos incluir en nuestro informe una afirmación categórica en el sentido de que a la base de esta preocupante situación se encuentra el hecho de que esas políticas comerciales, esos subsidios a las exportaciones, impiden a los países que están en condiciones de aumentar su producción, una planificación adecuada porque carecen de mercados con volúmenes estables de exportación y precios remunerativos.

Estas son las consideraciones de orden general que quería expresar la delegación de Colombia sobre este tema, respecto al cual creemos también que se debe agregar que la demostrada e irreversible dependencia de las economías nacionales no permitirá que ningún país o grupo de países solucionen aisladamente sus problemas comerciales. Creo que en la discusión de este tema tiene actualidad esta referencia al comercio, que además está incluido en los documentos, porque como todos sabemos, a partir de mañana se inicia en Ginebra la sesión ministerial del GATT, y es un hecho evidente que los problemas agrícolas están a la base de esa importante reunión.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (German/, Federal Republic of): As in the past the Secretariat has submitted a comprehensive and clear report on the State of Food and Agriculture. In this respect my delegation particularly welcomes the fact that this year's report for the first time gives a survey of resource use of agricultural production. There is no special need to emphasize the importance of the input related questions in view of increasingly scarce funds, energy problems and more and more ecological awareness. We should therefore like to suggest that in future the report should also deal with resources and inputs.

With regard to food production we can note with satisfaction that in a year which was marked by an unfavourable overall economic development world food production distinguishably rose by 2.9 percent compared with the preceding year. In this respect it is gratifying to note that the developing countries as a whole substantially exceeded the developed countries with an increase in production of 4.4 percent. In three years it is the first time that per capita food production also rose in the developing countries by a notable 2.3 percent.

Another important positive statement in the report is that a total carry-over of stocks of cereals increased to about 18 percent of world grain consumption and thus reached the volume estimated by the FAO secretariat as the minimum level of world food security. Behind this positive development in terms of sober figures there are the untiring great efforts and also often privations of millions of farmers and of the active agricultural population all over the world. All our thanks go to them. They have proved, as highlighted yesterday by the Director-General, that they are capable to produce more food, but governments, and to a certain extent also, international organizations, must spare no efforts in creating generally favourable conditions for production increases. A crucial issue in this context is without any doubt an appropriate agricultural price policy by which producers are given incentives. My delegation welcomes the statement of the Director-General to carry out a study on the impact of price policies to farmers and their production output.

The results achieved so far, that is our hope, should encourage farmers all over the world to continue with these efforts they have shown during the last year.

In view of the world-wide relatively more favourable production development in agriculture in 1982, it should, however, also, not be ignored how unfavourable the general economic development is with growing unemployment, increasing public indebtedness and minimum growth or stagnation of the national product also in the developed countries. This cannot be without repercussions on the agricultural sector of the states concerned, especially since it is increasingly integrated in the overall economy.

Declining producer prices with simultaneously higher costs of inputs and financial burdens led in a number of developed countries to lower incomes in agriculture.

Another unsatisfactory factor of the present world food situation is, as rightly pointed out in the document before us, the inadequate distribution of food production between industrialized and developing countries. This applies particularly to Africa where despite an increase in production per capita production also declined last year by 0.4 percent as against the preceding year. The number of African countries with an inadequate food supply is still too large. Also the geographic distribution of world grain stocks is unfavourable. Only about 20 percent are held in developing countries, of which only about 1 percent are in Africa, where about 11 percent of the world population lives.

The fact that a solution of the world food problems was given high priority on the agendas of international meetings demonstrates the increased consciousness that more must be achieved above

all in Africa. This attitude has been reflected increasingly in national and international political decisions to which the delegate of China already referred this morning. For my country this problem is a focal point for our development policy efforts.

Prior to the Eighth Session of the World Food Council in Mexico this June, fruitful consultation was held in Kenya among African Ministers of Agriculture. At present the United Nations General Assembly is discussing possibilities of supporting measures to improve the food and agriculture situation in Africa.

The fish catches in 1981 rose, as stated in document CL 82/2, by 2.2 percent compared with the preceding year, and that mainly in developing countries. Undoubtedly this result is to be welcomed, just as the fact that the developing countries should increase their share of trade in fish products.

The statements in the document before us concerning forestry correspond more or less to our own assessment of the situation. The measures to be taken in general to improve the world food situation are also outlined in FAO's study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", in particular to give high priority to the promotion of agriculture in the developing countries, in particular to small farms; to give preference to labour intensive technologies in these countries over capital intensive technologies; to establish more favourable conditions for agriculture in developing countries, like raising the agricultural price level as an incentive to production, and in a number of countries redistribution of land to create jobs for agricultural employees; to avoid, with increasing cropping intensity and use of the unutilised resources, the destruction of the natural productivity of fertile sites and of the ecological balance. With regard to the international commodity agreements and international trade negotiations we can generally agree with the analysis given by the FAO-Secretariat.

All existing international commodity agreements are faced with more or less great difficulties. This is also due, apart from the recessive world economic general situation, to the choice of instruments and their applications. We regret in particular that efforts were not yet successful to negotiate a new international wheat agreement which could make a substantial contribution to market stabilization and to world food security. The modest progress within the framework of the integrated Commodity Programme of UNCTAD shows how difficult it is to cover the diverse interests within the framework of the international commodity agreements. On the one hand there are the producers, sometimes having difficulties among themselves to agree on a special type of agreement or, however, have no or little interest in the negotiations. On the other hand there are the problems between producers and consumers to conclude reasonable compromises with regard to the instruments and price fixing.

Of the ministerial meeting of GATT we expect a strengthening of the multilateral open trade system as an important contribution to overcoming the global economic problems. This also includes, in our opinion, improvements in the agricultural trade system.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): Let me first of all congratulate the Director-General on his excellent statement which puts in proper perspective the current world situation of the explosive problem of world hunger. His clarion call inviting both the developed and more especially the developing countries to meet the situation could not be more timely or more urgent. Let us all in this august world body wholeheartedly endorse his appeal and heed his warning before we are overtaken by the ruthless and devastating march of hunger, malnutrition and deaths. It is given to very few of our kind to tirelessly and courageously voice the problems of the hungry and the poor because those who are hungry and poor cannot reward their advocates except through the gratitude of their tears and their blessings.

I, representing the great country of India, which has more than one-seventh of mankind within its boundaries, take this opportunity to say that the Director-General has earned the gratitude and blessings of millions of those hungry and poor men, women and children whose cause he has so sincerely, so assiduously, so nobly and so ceaselessly espoused.

It is a matter of unique and fortunate coincidence that when the tide of production, distribution and trade of agricultural and cereal production seems to be turning against the developing countries we have in the Director-General a person whose unbounded sympathy for the hungry and concern for world food security makes all countries, developed and developing, sit up and do something about it before it is too late.

About a year ago in this very building the Prime Minister of India in her McDougall memorial lecture gave us the message of achieving self-reliance through collective and collaborative action. She pointed out that if India with 683 million people could attain self-sufficiency in food the challenge of hunger cannot be insurmountable. She also said that only a 3 percent increase in world food production will eliminate world hunger immediately. She also indicated that even if the present daily expenditure of \$1.3 billion on armaments is frozen at that level money for hunger can easily be found.

My delegation believes that we have now come to a stage when any attitude of confrontation between the developed and developing, between the donors and the takers, between the north and the south, will be meaningless, counterproductive and self-defeating. An atmosphere of mutual understanding and of constructive action by and between the north and north, action by and between the south and south, and action by and between the north and south will be very necessary.

Let this Council meeting be the beginning of a new chapter of international understanding and cooperation for a campaign against hunger, poverty and for collective self-reliance.

My delegation strongly believes and agrees with the Director-General that the developing countries themselves will ultimately have to undertake the responsibility of solving their food problems. Others can only help them financially, technologically and materially to attain self-sufficiency. In that context my delegation would urge: a) AID should help in creating durable assets and productive infrastructure like forests, irrigation, land development, etc. In that respect the policy and programmes of the World Food Programme of giving food partly in lieu of wages and that too for construction of productive infrastructure is very commendable, b) agricultural inputs, like ferti-lizers and pesticides, should be made available to the developing countries at stable and subsidized prices, even if necessary by creating an international fund; c) concessional bilateral and multilateral assistance, including that given by the World Bank, IMF and IDA, should be stepped up for increasing the yield and productivity of land, man and water in the developing countries; d) transfer of technology relevant to the social conditions should be encouraged. Collective action among the developing countries would be very useful; e) people's participation in programmes of agriculture and rural development will be necessary; f) developed countries can assist a lot by encouraging developing countries to export raw, semi-processed and processed agricultural goods.

I will say a few words about the state of agriculture in India, but I shall try to be as brief as possible. India has only 10 percent of the world's cropped area but it has to sustain 14 percent of the world's population, and if I am not mistaken about 40 percent of the world's poorest people. This year unfortunately there has been widespread drought and floods in many parts of the country, as a result of which 20 million people have been affected by drought and about 26 million hectares of land in cropped areas has been affected. By floods, about 4 million to 5 million people have been affected and more than 1 000 deaths of human beings have occurred, about 30 000 to 40 000 cattle have perished and about 1 million houses have been damaged or destroyed. In spite of all these handicaps and rising population, shortage of land, under the great leadership of our Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, and our Agricultural Minister, who is himself a farmer, record food production and other achievements in the year 1981/82 have been achieved. During that year we achieved a record food grain production of 133 million tons as against 51 million tons in 1950, shortly after we attained independence. During 1981/82 we achieved a record oilseeds production of 12 million tons as against 9.4 million tons during the previous year. We also produced a record level of 8.4 million bales of jute. We achieved a record sugar-beet production of 180 million tons and this year by producing 8.5 million tons of sugar we have become the largest sugar-producing country in the world. We have achieved a record fertilizer consumption of 6 million tons as against only 0.7 million tons in 1950. We have covered about 47 million hectares which is the highest the world achieved under crops of high-yielding varieties. Under the impetus given by the Prime Minister herself personally, we planted 1 320 million seedlings for our forestation programme last year, and this year during the first six months or so we have planted more than 1.7 billion saplings in the country.

We have achieved a record milk production of 33 million tons, record egg production of 13 billion eggs and a record fish production of 2.6 million tons during 1981/82.

But having given you all those figures, our total picture in agriculture leaves yet much to be desired. Our average yield of cereals is still below the average yield of cereals per hectare so far as the world is concerned. Our average production is 1 350 kilograms per hectare as against the world average of 2 100 kilograms per hectare. We are very much concerned about the regional imbalance in agricultural development in the country. We have at one end of the spectrum a province like Punjab, which is producing 2 700 kilograms of wheat and 2 900 kilograms of rice per hectare, whereas other states are producing hardly 600 to 700 kilograms of wheat or rice per hectare. In Punjab our fertilizer consumption is 120 kilograms per hectare, whereas in the north-eastern state of Nagaland the fertilizer consumption is only 0.5 kilograms per hectare.

Even now 40 percent of the population, according to certain economists, are living below the poverty line. That comes to about 250 million people who are not having even 2 200 calories per head per day.

Seventy percent of our land is rainfed and when we say rainfed in India, it means 80 percent of the rains fall in three months, as a result of which for the remaining nine months, most of the 70 percent of the land is dry, and for the three months of the rainy season, most areas are under floods.

We are adding a population to our country every year which will need additional production of 1 million tons of food grains every 126 days of the year. Our employment also poses a great problem, 6.7 million people are added to the working population every year, and of them, 5.3 million people will have to be absorbed in agriculture. Especially our Prime Minister is very much concerned about the ecological peril which pressure of population on land may be posing, and we are taking all possible steps to save our forests. You will be glad to know, Mr. Chairman, that as a result of central intervention and central legislation we have reduced diversion of forest area from 150 thousand hectares per year in the past to only 3 to 4 thousand hectares per year at the present.

How have we achieved these encouraging performances? The first is the planned outlay that the government is devoting to agricultural and rural development. Of the total planned public outlay during the Sixth Plan of 950 billion rupees, 25 percent of that has been devoted to irrigation and agriculture. But the core of the success lies in our agricultural research infrastructure, Mr. Chairman, of which you have been one of the architects and of which we are very justly proud. We have 22 agriculture universities, 34 national institutes of agricultural research and 57 all-India coordinated research projects of various crops in various regions. We are very much concerned that the fruits of agricultural research are made available to the farmers as early as possible through laboratory to land programmes, through national demonstration, through transfer of technology centers. We have got farmers' and village level workers training centers where the latest methods of farm management are imparted to the farmers and the village level workers. Our Prime Minister has declared 1982 as the productivity year in all sectors, including agriculture. In her new 20-point programme, agriculture has received a pride of place, and she is particularly concerned about development agriculturally and economically of the backward areas of the country, especially the weakest sections of the people and the small and marginal farmers. In the new 20-point programme emphasis has been given to increase the productivity of our dry land areas, which I had stated constitute 70 percent of the total crop area, emphasis on increasing production and productivity of pulses and oil seeds has been placed, social forestry and our afforestation programme have been taken up on a massive scale, villages have been adopted for agricultural development, additional sale points for fertilizers have been opened, free distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds has been taken up, new agricultural implements of cheaper varieties and which can be manually handled or bullock driven, are being designed and made available to the farmers with subsidy and loan.

We are one of the biggest countries with irrigation potential. We are adding 2.5 million hectares of irrigated area every year, and we are very much concerned that every drop of water is properly used by an efficient system, by having a scientific cropping program and rationing of water to the farmers.

We are also very proud of the agricultural cooperatives which have developed marvellously in our country. We have about 100 thousand primary agricultural credit societies with 60 million members covering about 300 million of population. 46 percent of our fertilisers are distributed through cooperatives, 56 percent of sugar is produced by the cooperatives and 70 percent of the agricultural credit is contributed through the credit societies. Out of 300 thousand fair price shops, 81 thousand shops are run by the cooperative sector. In order to give incentive to the farmers, we have got a system of fixing support prices for the farmers every year depending upon the cost of production and cooperative and other organizations including the Food Corporation of India are harnessed to purchase food grains from the farmers at the support prices.

I will close by stating, Mr. Chairman, what you have been saying while you were in India, that Indian agriculture has got four E's in their strategy. I have added another E; now I say there are five E's: the first E is for efficiency, that is efficient use of agricultural inputs, like fertilizers, seeds, water, pesticides; second E is on ecological balance. The third is economics of agriculture by giving incentive price, and arranging marketing for the farmers; the fourth is energy, use of commercial as well as bio-energy, and fifth E is of employment.

As I have said,, agriculture has to absorb 5.3 million people every year. India remains the largest democracy in the world and agriculture remains the largest private sector enterprise in my country. To attain such a quick pace of progress in a democratic and private sector set-up is an achievement of no mean importance. We assure people's participation, and there is no compulsion or regimentation in the agriculture sector or any other sector. We are grateful to the countries who have helped and have been helping India's agriculture. This is a difficult challenge but we are facing it with hope and determination. India's story of success in the field of agriculture is a story of hope, story of progress through freedom of man, story of science in the service of man. I have narrated this story in brief so that it becomes a reality in other areas of the world, so that the success is sustained by all-out efforts and understanding between man and man in all lands, in all climates and in all times.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): The Secretariat prepared an extensive and detailed study on the State of Food and Agriculture, 1982, and my delegation wishes to thank it for this fruitful accomplishment. The overall picture of the current world food and agriculture activities seems positive, although some signs of danger are registered here and there. Production and stocks have increased in the developed areas of the world. The document points out that for the first time in three years, per capita food production in the developing world as a whole registered also an increase in 1981, but it immediately tells us that neither Africa nor the Near East have made any progress in this respect over the past five years, and the document specifies that Africa is significantly worse off than at the beginning of the seventies. This sobering fact should be enough to prevent any complacency on the part of this Organization and of its member countries. My delegation believes that the document presents a realistic and balanced view of the question of food shortages in the years 1981-82. They are less critical than in previous years but still widespread.

As regards another important element in the evaluation of the food situation, we are informed that the dietary energy supplies are still unsatisfactory in Africa and the Near East. This is a particularly disturbing situation in a period of relative abundance in the world supply of food. This abundance unfortunately is not equally shared by all countries. Even more regrettably, those who have more do not seem much inclined to share their plenty with those who have less than enough. Witness the unreachd targets approved for the IEFER.

The document under consideration is rich in data and factual analysis. There are several points of particular interest, especially Chapter III dealing with the question of resources for agricultural production, Chapter IV which discusses external assistance to agriculture, Chapter V on agricultural trade.

I would like to make some brief comments on three selected topics: agricultural research, environmental issues and agricultural trade. As regards agricultural research, my delegation agree entirely with the description contained in paragraph 82 regarding the role of research as a link between "stock" resources, on the one hand, and technological inputs on the other. The document emphasizes the importance of planned and organized research and its normal beneficial results in many developing countries.

Paragraph 87 of the document says very clearly - and I quote - that "despite the high economic payoffs that may be derived from expenditure on agricultural research, such expenditure in developing countries remains comparatively low". My delegation would like to point out the role that is incumbent on FAO in this area. Research, together with training, should be a privileged area of interest to our organization, and should be given a high priority in its Programme of Work and Budget.

Paragraph 88 underlines the fact that a number of developing countries lack the necessary research infrastructure and manpower to develop their own agricultural research systems. Others are poorly organized and managed in this field, and many countries are too small to justify a national research programme.

My delegation wishes to call the attention of the Council to the question of agricultural research in developing countries, and ask it to reserve a high place for this question for the definition of high priorities in our organization. My delegation would like the Council to indicate to the Director General and his colleagues in the Secretariat, who must soon prepare the Programme of Work and Budget, the particular importance it attaches to that question.

The next point on which my delegation wishes to comment refers to environmental issues. The Brazilian Government is particularly concerned with that problem. This topic involves different aspects, and environmental issues arise from a number of different causes, as is beautifully described in the document. Although due emphasis is placed on the question of Africa, the Latin American continent is also subjected to different forms of environmental degradation. In my country, concern for this paramount issue has caused the government to create the Federal Office for the Environment, which has the duty to coordinate and to monitor practical solutions to all questions relating to the environment, not only in urban areas but also in rural areas, particularly the zone of the Brazilian tropical forests. This is a broad field of activity which deserves the attention of the Council.

My delegation is happy to notice that the document we are discussing shows a clear understanding of the situation. The document rightly stresses the need for continually monitoring and assessing the environmental situation. We do believe these problems are becoming more and more present in the concern of our countries. My delegation would like to see these concerns developed into priorities and programmes for the Organization. We believe FAO can assist these developing countries to control problems of environmental degradation, and we express the desire to see it increase its role in this field.

Finally, at this time my delegation would like to express its views on a further topic which refers to agricultural trade. This is a short chapter in the document under discussion. My delegation understands that the Secretariat could not possibly deal with the subject in a deeper way; for instance, agricultural trade of developed and developing countries are discussed together. This does not allow for an easy understanding of the radically different pictures that arise from the situation in agricultural trade in both developed and developing nations.

If exports of cereals, which are mainly exported from developed countries, have declined slightly, foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials exported by developing countries were lowered by as much as 16.5 percent and 12.5 percent in current dollars compared with 1980.

Moreover, coffee, cocoa, sugar and rubber, the main items on the export list of most developing countries experienced marked price declines. The case of sugar may well overrun with a decline of about 50 percent in its price by June of this year. On the other hand, the document points out that as a consequence of the general strengthening of the US dollar, the cost of food importing is higher for many importing countries - especially for developing importing countries.

So we face a tragic situation imposed on the developing countries by an unjust international economic order. They are losers at both ends of the commercial flow. They earn much less when they sell their agricultural products, but at the same time the developing countries have to pay much more when they buy needed foodstuffs.

My delegation is not even going to mention imported manufactured goods, but document CL 82/2 indicates clearly the marked deterioration of the terms of trade between agricultural exports and the import of manufactured goods.

To conclude my intervention I would like to recall a few points raised by the President of Brazil when he addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations when it began its current session last September. He says: "The solution of the present crisis should lead towards cooperation among nations instead of being subject only to the uncertainties of the market. A restructuring of the international economic order should be considered within a reasonable period of time." Then he adds: "It is urgent that there be an increase in the availability of resources controlled by the international financial organizations. Only thus will the international community, particularly the developing countries, be delivered from the strait-jacket resulting from the simultaneous contraction of trade and official financial flows."

My delegation believes that FAO has a relevant role to perform in the field of agricultural trade, not only through its individual agricultural groups in different commodities of the Commodities Committee, but also as an important forum where developing countries have an opportunity to coordinate their positions and to examine together with the developed nations the best means to make international trade a valid and powerful tool to foster agricultural development.

R.B. RYANGA (Kenya): The document before us accurately describes, and Professor Islam's introduction ably amplifies, the food position today. The Director-General also gave a sobering address which gave us all food for thought.

Globally there is food, cereal supplies have risen, and stocks have also increased. But this increased production and this increased stockholding has occurred primarily in the developed countries. Meanwhile, 23 countries still face food shortages.

The first emergencies are poor growing conditions for crops. This is particularly so in Southern Africa where nine countries are reported as experiencing drought. But Southern Africa actually has only nine countries, and therefore the whole of that region is under pressure. This is all the more alarming because among the nine countries concerned one is Zimbabwe, which we had thought would assist in contributing to our self-sufficiency in the continent.

It should also be remembered that among these 23 countries we should include the countries of the Sahel and also probably one or two in Eastern Africa. This raises the number of countries experiencing difficult conditions in Africa to 17 out of 23 and that is 74 percent.

The African Regional Conference at Algiers in September recognised this and therefore passed a resolution on the Sahel. In fact, had we known at that time about the position in Southern Africa we would also have added that region to our resolution. The African food paper of the World Food Council also ably describes the difficult position being faced by African countries.

This document also reiterates the fact that the inequalities in international trade militate against the ability of food deficit countries to purchase food. Therefore, this talk about giving farmers incentive prices, would appear to us to be difficult because if the prices of the world markets are depressed it would be impossible for countries to provide incentive prices for their farmers, and consequently this would reduce the ability of those people to procure food for themselves.

The document also raises questions of environmental degradation as a result of intensified production. This is a very important issue to which the Council should give its attention, but this document appears to us to be somewhat incomplete. It would appear to be incomplete because it imposed certain references: for example, this document does not say why the number of countries fell from 31 last year to 23 this year - those countries that are now experiencing food difficulties. After all, it

may well be that the number of countries and of food shortages decline because of the programmes of FAO. If, in fact, that were to be the case we would like to know. We would also, of course, encourage FAO to continue to do the things they did to obtain this result.

If on the other hand the number of deficit countries fell because of the effect of improved weather in some countries, then we are back to square one because nobody knows what the weather will be next year. Therefore we have no protection, no insurance, we have no security.

Secondly, this document does not say what concrete programmes FAO may have in mind which are intended to eradicate this current problem of food problems in those 23 or 31 or maybe even 50 countries, most of them in Africa. There is no statement or reference to any action that the Council is required to take in respect of this. This document very rightly outlines some of the reasons for the poor food position. It talks about inputs and Africa is at the bottom in the use of fertilizers, the use of tractors, the use of oil inputs. Africa is also at the bottom in the availability of manpower at all levels.

The African Regional Conference in Algiers in September passed a resolution regarding manpower development - high-level manpower development - in Africa. The document also, of course, talks about international trade and its effects on developing countries. But what comes out as the common denominator or the factor that goes through the problems of all these countries referred to here, is drought, the lack of water. And in spite of the potential of Africa for food production, this would appear to be one area which will require attention. It therefore seems logical that our effort should start with the eradication of drought or its effects. We need to counteract the effects of drought by an intensive programme of irrigation and also dry farming techniques; specifically the FAO should select a few countries in a convenient setting such as, for example, the Sahel area or perhaps the Southern African sub-continent, in the SADET grouping, and develop with them complete programmes for food production in the teeth of an unreliable rainfall regime.

I do not intend to go into the details of such a programme which was, in any case, proposed at our May Committee on World Food Security and will no doubt crop up again under the very next item on the agenda. I would, however, like to suggest that the document The State of Food and Agriculture should in the future contain also a brief description of: (i) specific measures being taken to combat the position that the document describes, particularly in respect of those food deficit countries in Africa; (ii) a brief description of the results of earlier efforts to improve the situation. The document will also contain proposals for future action.

We are aware that the FAO is very much present in Africa and has got very many programmes there, but we believe that because of the special nature of the problem facing those 17 countries in Africa now, and the others which are in the other continents, we now need a special, specific programme directed at improving the food position of those countries, because our efforts now are concerned about general development - and they are appreciated - but they would appear to lack that specific direction at the improvement -of the food positions of those countries which we know will recurrently be coming back with food problems.

K. MATSUSHITA (Japan): First of all I should like to thank Dr. Islam for the excellent presentation of the State of Food and Agriculture 1982.

World cereal production in 1982 is expected to be over 1.5 billion tons, which is larger than the bumper crop in 1981, despite considerably poor crops in some countries. Consequently, at the end of 1982/83, world cereal stocks are estimated to be 307 million tons, representing 20 percent of annual world cereal consumption, more than the secure level equivalent to 17 or 18 percent of annual world consumption. In the long run, we have to admit the possibility that cereal supply-demand situation gradually will become tighter mainly due to a rapid increase of cereal consumption in developing countries, resulting from both their high population growth and improving food consumption level.

Thus the following two points are most fundamental and indispensable for ensuring future world food security:

Firstly, low-income food-deficit countries should make the best effort to raise their cereal self-sufficiency ration through domestic production expansion.

Secondly, main cereal exporting developed countries should increase their cereal production stably and constantly corresponding to the world cereal import demand.

Agriculture is the most important sector in the economy of developing countries which account for about 60 percent of their total employment. Yet these countries, in aggregate, are heavily dependent on food import. Particularly the total amount of cereal import of low-income food-deficit countries have been increasing rapidly. Such cereal imports require a great amount of foreign exchange resources. These resources, if diverted into a more productive purpose for development, would accelerate a great deal the economic growth of these countries.

Recognizing such difficulties of developing countries, the Japanese Government places the highest priority upon the area of food production and welfare of rural people within its wide-ranging international cooperation efforts. If our country reviews the international cooperation including both technical and financial assistance in the field of agricultural and rural development in 1981, it amounts to over 1 billion dollars. This is about 30 percent of the total bilateral ODA, equivalent to 3.4 billion dollars.

In relation to the international efforts towards world food security, it is most important to collect, to analyze, and to disseminate the world-wide comprehensive food and agriculture information. In this regard, we highly appreciate FAO's activities in the field of information service, particularly the Early Warning System.

Allow me to refer to the current Japanese agricultural situation. According to the 1982 crop forecast, the yield index of paddy is estimated at 97 percent; therefore, Japanese agriculture experienced a poor crop of paddy for three consecutive years. Although the amount of rice production this year is a little less than that of consumption, Japan will almost be able to do without rice import by making use of carry-over stock of 400 thousand tons of rice. For the purpose of contributing to both domestic and international food security, Japan continues its production adjustment policy to keep the amount of rice production just corresponding to that of the domestic consumption.

When it comes to the FAO activities in the field of fisheries development, we would like to express high appreciation of the fact that FAO has been promoting fisheries development in developing countries, as the fisheries play an important role in solving the world food problem. Japan hopes that FAO will continue to play an active role in efficient utilization of resources for fisheries within the 200-mile zones of developing countries in harmony with effective conservation of these marine resources.

Finally, the Secretariat document touches duly on environmental issues such as soil degradation, deforestation, and so on. Japan has a serious concern over soil degradation caused by erosion, salinization, etc. as well as deforestation which leads to the destruction of the living environment for human beings. We appreciate that FAO will tackle these problems more actively.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie) : Faisant suite aux déclarations particulièrement intéressantes de notre distingué Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma présentées ici et lors de la treizième Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, concernant la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale, il m'est particulièrement agréable de soutenir les opinions et les propositions exposées, en vous assurant que la délégation roumaine fera de son mieux pour que les travaux de cette session du Conseil soient couronnés de succès.

Notre session s'inscrit dans le cadre de manifestations de grande envergure, dues à l'initiative des Nations Unies, et consacrées à l'analyse des problèmes essentiels pour l'existence et le progrès de l'humanité.

La Roumanie prête une importance particulière aux questions faisant l'objet des débats de notre session et à la solution de l'un des plus importants problèmes de l'époque contemporaine : l'éradication du sous-développement et l'édification d'un Nouvel ordre économique international basé sur l'égalité complète et l'équité entre les Etats.

Comme il résulte des documents qui nous sont soumis et des déclarations de Son Excellence Monsieur Edouard Saouma la récolte de céréales a augmenté ces deux dernières années et dans certains pays d'Europe on a même réalisé une production record. Cela permettra de compléter les stocks et d'assurer une consommation plus judicieuse de produits alimentaires.

Il faut quand même tenir compte du fait que cette augmentation de la récolte ne se situe pas au même niveau dans tous les pays, que beaucoup de pays en développement souffrent de la faim, qu'ils sont atteints par des calamités naturelles et que la situation reste toujours difficile dans certaines zones du monde.

Il est en outre inquiétant que les aides octroyées par les pays développés diminuent chaque année. Les disponibilités de certaines organisations internationales (FIDA, PNUD) se réduisent. Le Programme alimentaire mondial ne peut pas atteindre l'objectif fixé, tandis que les Réserves alimentaires internationales d'urgence arrivent seulement à 80 pour cent de l'objectif minimum établi.

Selon notre expérience et celle des autres pays, pour parvenir à cet objectif il faut un effort constant de la part de chaque pays en développement, la mobilisation au maximum des ressources matérielles et humaines, l'élaboration et la mise en pratique de stratégies concrètes de développement de l'agriculture.

La Roumanie, pays socialiste en développement, a fait et fera toujours de grands efforts en vue de développer selon un rythme constant toutes les branches de l'économie et réaliser une agriculture moderne. Selon les données dont nous disposons, on estime que la récolte de céréales sera supérieure cette année à, celle enregistrée l'année passée; il en va de même pour les plantes techniques, les légumes, les fruits et les raisins.

Dans le domaine de l'élevage et du bétail, on a obtenu des surplus remarquables dans la production de viande et autres produits et on a assuré des fourrages nécessaires en vue d'une alimentation normale des animaux pendant l'hiver.

Tout ce qui vient d'être mentionné permet d'approvisionner la population en produits alimentaires de manière satisfaisante et de répondre aux besoins de l'économie nationale en matières premières agricoles, tout en ayant quelques surplus pour l'exportation.

Dans le cadre de la coopération internationale, la Roumanie a bénéficié et entend jouir encore de l'assistance de la FAO, afin d'accroître la production agricole, végétale et animale, et moderniser les entreprises pour la transformation et la mise en valeur de ces produits.

En même temps, la Roumanie entretient des rapports avec plus de 100 pays en développement, résoud avec succès les problèmes résultant de 100 accords commerciaux et de coopération technologique, réalisant avec ces pays 80 objectifs économiques importants, dont 29 dans le domaine de l'agriculture, d'autres initiatives étant encore en discussion.

Comme nous l'avons fait noter lors d'autres sessions du Conseil, dans le but de couvrir les besoins de consommation d'un certain nombre de pays en développement, l'agriculture doit participer et s'intégrer intensément aux actions entreprises dans le cadre du Nouvel ordre économique international, qui a pour but de mettre les pays en développement en mesure de mettre mieux en valeur leurs propres ressources, et leur donner la possibilité de participer à l'échange mondial de produits et de valeurs matérielles.

En ce sens, nous retenons qu'il est nécessaire de consacrer nos efforts à la création dans ces pays de grandes entreprises économiques ayant un caractère complexe pour la production et la recherche, munies d'équipements satisfaisants pour assurer une puissante base technique et matérielle qui permette l'autofinancement et attirer des moyens financiers internes et étrangers en vue de l'accroissement de leur propre production agro-alimentaire.

Afin de résoudre ces problèmes, la délégation roumaine tient à rappeler les propositions qu'elle a présentées lors d'autres réunions, en particulier que sous l'égide de la FAO on élabore un programme spécial à long terme concernant l'essor de l'agriculture des pays en développement, qui comprenne également les recommandations mentionnées dans la déclaration de principes et dans le programme d'action adoptés par la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural, ainsi que dans les documents finaux de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour les problèmes des pays les moins développés.

Selon la conception de la Roumanie, un tel programme devrait constituer le cadre des activités de la FAO à court et à moyen terme.

En ce qui concerne l'importance du commerce international des produits alimentaires, la Roumanie, retient qu'il est nécessaire de prendre des mesures en vue d'une plus large libéralisation, la diminution substantielle des obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires. En même temps, la Roumanie se prononce pour la conclusion des accords sur les produits, pour la reprise des négociations concernant l'Accord sur le blé et la réalisation de consultations périodiques entre les Etats sur ces problèmes.

Monsieur le Président, participant de manière active à la vie internationale, la Roumanie désire contribuer à l'instauration de rapports nouveaux entre tous les Etats, au développement de la coopération entre toutes les nations, à l'édification d'un monde meilleur et plus juste sur notre planète.

S.G. LODWICK (United States of America): My delegation has studied the documents on the state of food and agriculture before us very carefully, and we listened with special interest yesterday to the statement by the distinguished Director-General of FAO. We consider it particularly important that the state of food and agriculture in the world be reviewed on a regular basis in this important forum. While we recognize that the agricultural outlook must always be viewed with caution, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves that a great deal of progress has, in fact, been made. Many nations that are members of this Organization have broken through the barriers of insufficiency and are moving toward self-reliance. Notwithstanding the problems and difficulties of the past few decades, we have seen that agriculture can be transformed by research, technology and effective economic incentives. For these achievements, much is owed to this great Organization, to its Director-General, Dr. Saouma, and to his distinguished predecessors.

But much remains to be done. Some of the issues we face today are similar to those we faced when FAO was founded. All the purposes of FAO remain the same - improving nutrition and the standards of living in member nations, fostering rural development and making the production and distribution of food more efficient. But the dimensions and complexities of the problems have changed, as indicated in the document under discussion. Hunger and malnutrition still afflict many nations, but now we are confronted with new problems that complicate our task and are of a different order. Inflation has eaten into the budgets of our governments and of international organizations. A dangerous drift towards protectionism is undermining agricultural trade and development, and a worldwide recession has reduced earnings for all and threatens our effort to strengthen agriculture in the developing world. I would like to share with you the views of the United States on a number of these issues and to offer some ideas as to how we can work together to address them.

Turning first to the current agricultural situation and outlook, the productivity of U.S. farmers has given the United States unparalleled agricultural abundance - an abundance that is perhaps especially apparent this year. We have recognized the obligation to share our agricultural productivity with those who are less fortunate and always have used our abundance with great regard for the rest of the world. This attitude will continue to guide our policies. Since 1954 the United States has carried out the world's largest bilateral food aid programme. Begun by President Eisenhower, the "Food for Peace" Programme has already topped \$40 billion, more than the aid given by all other donor countries combined. As a supplement to this ongoing programme, the Reagan Administration began a new initiative just last month which will make available additional U.S. Government stocks of food stuffs for donation both to other governments and public and private organizations that assist needy people in other nations,

But our bilateral programmes are only part of the picture. We have also given strong support to multilateral organizations such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF and private voluntary organizations. Our Government announced a record pledge to the World Food Programme in October as a mark of the high regard we have for the work of that Organization. Our pledge of \$250 million for 1983-84 represents a substantial increase of 14 percent over our pledge for 1981-82. It demonstrates our confidence in the World Food Programme.

We agree with the importance of agricultural research and are a major contributor to the international agricultural research system which focuses on the needs of the Third World. But I would want to stress the need for more effective dissemination of research findings from that system for application by national research and extension services. My Government has worked both bilaterally and with international organisations such as FAO to share the benefits of U.S. agricultural research and technical expertise. The United States now has technical assistance projects in over 75 different countries and some 239 cooperative international research projects. Working with FAO and AID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided training for over 70 000 agriculturalists from developing countries. And we now have scientific and technical exchanges with more than 30 developing and developed nations to share our knowledge and experience in agriculture.

We are pleased by FAO's activities in animal and plant pest control in Africa and Latin America. My Government has joined with FAO in the design of an animal health programme in East Africa and is funding an integrated pest management programme in the Sahel. We welcome the role FAO plays in effective management of forest resources and hope FAO will continue to emphasize this important area in the future. There is also growing appreciation of the vital role that forest conservation plays in agricultural development, particularly in the tropical countries. Better forest management not only improves agricultural production, but also creates jobs, builds fuelwood supplies and helps contain the spread of serious soil erosion.

Turning next to the question of agricultural trade, we share the concerns that were expressed over the drop in trade that has occurred. United States domestic agricultural production and policies are linked to international trade. Farmers in the United States now export about half of their soybean production, two-thirds of their wheat, and one-third of their corn. The situation is similar for a number of other commodities.

The United States is pursuing international, trade policies in agriculture that will be in the long-run interests of all nations - developed and developing. One step taken recently should be of particular benefit to developing countries. Secretary Block recently announced a new blended credit programme which is directed primarily at helping developing countries to purchase more of the agricultural products they need by lowering interest costs. The programme will eventually make \$1.5 billion available and should enable developing nations to buy United States food for current use or for building their food security reserves at lower costs.

We are also working on the broader goal of liberalizing world trade in agriculture. I will be taking part in the GATT ministerials in Geneva later this week. The United States has taken the position that agricultural trade must fall under the same GATT rules that govern trade in manufactured products. Export subsidies and trade barriers must become the exception and not the rule in international agricultural trade. We believe that developing nations share our concern about how the routine use of export subsidies and trade barriers disrupts world agricultural trade and lessens the incentives for production. For our part, we do not view agricultural trade as a one-way street. The United States is the single largest market for the agricultural exports of the developing countries in spite of our large domestic production.

With respect to the problem of world food security, the United States is firmly committed to FAO's Plan of Action with its emphasis on national food reserves. Our Stocks of grain, now at record levels, serve as the primary food security reserve in the world. Moreover, we are mainly carrying the cost of holding that reserve. We believe that other large grain producing and exporting countries have an obligation to begin to share that responsibility with us by maintaining stocks as well and we urge them to move in this direction. As I said yesterday, we believe the best way to achieve food security is to build a strong and viable agricultural sector with emphasis on increasing and sustaining the rate of growth of food production. At the same time, we strongly support the establishment and maintenance of national food reserves as a part of effective food security systems.

Finally, let me turn briefly to the world-wide economic crisis with which we are all trying to cope. This is a problem that we did not seek or make, but which stems from basic asymmetries that must be brought back into line in order for balanced growth in the world economy to begin again. In the meantime, it severely limits the resources available for many worthwhile tasks that we would normally like to undertake. The United States has made substantial cuts in domestic programmes in an effort to rebuild its economy on a firmer, non-inflationary base. One of the reasons that we have done this has been to refuel our economy as an engine of growth that will enable us to assist others in their efforts to build their economies. In the meantime we believe that FAO must also work hard to control expenditures and see that its funds are well spent. Director-General Saouma recently raised this issue at the FAO regional conferences, and we appreciate the steps he has already taken. All of us must work together to help FAO focus its resources on high priority areas and control administrative costs so its work will continue to be as effective as possible.

Great strides have been made in agricultural development in many nations -India, Pakistan, Brazil, the Philippines, Niger, China- to name only a few. But there is much more to do before we can lay claim to winning the battle against hunger and malnutrition. If we are ever to make that claim, we must wage the battle together. We must appreciate each other's strengths and limitations. In that way, the progress we have made so far can encourage us to work for even greater achievements in the future.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Al referirnos al documento sobre el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación que, como siempre, presenta la Secretaría a este Consejo, deseamos expresar que contiene la información necesaria para el conocimiento y la discusión de este importante tema por parte de los Estados Miembros y que se ajusta a los objetivos de la Organización.

Al analizar el contenido del documento: "el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en 1982", la delegación de Panamá considera oportuno hacer algunos comentarios tanto de carácter general como específico. Como apreciación general sobre su contenido podemos puntualizar que en su totalidad confluye con lo señalado en el párrafo 16, capítulo primero, que expresa que el primer objetivo de la Comunidad Internacional consiste en aplicar un programa alimentario a nivel mundial, que integre el aumento de la producción en el mejoramiento de la distribución, el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria y la expansión del comercio y la asistencia externa.

Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, cualquier alivio que pueda producir el hecho que la producción mundial de alimentos aumentó en 2,9 por ciento en 1981 en relación con 1980, viene a ser anulado o contrarrestado, debido a que los incrementos, tanto de la producción alimentaria como de la producción agrícola, no llegan a repartirse equitativamente, uniéndose esto al desequilibrio existente, tanto en la composición como en la distribución de las existencias de cereales, las cuales se vienen a concentrar en algunos importantes países productores y exportadores desarrollados, concretamente Canadá y Estados Unidos, países éstos, que de acuerdo con lo señalado en el Cuadro 3 del documento CL 82/2, éstos mantendrán para 1982 más del 70 por ciento de los remanentes totales y estimados de cereales.

La delegación de Panamá no puede dejar de subrayar lo expresado en el documento CL 82/2, en el sentido de que la relación de intercambio agrícola para la economía de mercado en desarrollo, se redujo en una sexta parte en 1981, y que todo hace indicar que este deterioro se ha venido acentuando en el presente año 1982. Señalándose la disminución en los precios de muchos productos de exportación muy importantes para los países en vías de desarrollo, como es el caso del azúcar que arrojó una expansión de su producción mundial, pero que, paralelamente a mediados de 1982 los precios internacionales se habían reducido en prácticamente un 50 por ciento. Este hecho pesa negativamente en las economías exportadoras de muchos países, dentro de los cuales se encuentra Panamá.

Para añadir algo más a esta situación de injusticias y explotaciones internacionales, tenemos que a la vez que los países desarrollados aumentarán sus exportaciones en cereales en 5 millones de toneladas, más del 4 por ciento, las importaciones de cereales de los países en desarrollo disminuirán en 2 millones de toneladas. Además de estos hechos negativos para la situación mundial en general y en particular para los países en vías de desarrollo, podríamos señalar otros de igual o mayor importancia que recogen este documento sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en 1982; pero creemos oportuno y conveniente formular algunas consideraciones sobre el problema de la asistencia externa a la agricultura y al comercio agrícola, aspectos éstos recogidos en los Capítulos IV y V del documento en discusión.

Conviene hacer hincapié en este Consejo de la FAO que la asistencia financiera en general y la asistencia a la agricultura en particular, obedecen en los actuales momentos a intereses de una estrechez egoísta de las fuentes de financiación debido a que según sus estrategias globales, determinados países han saturado sus cuotas, no respondiendo esta saturación a las necesidades de los países en vías de desarrollo, sino a los criterios de compromisos económicos y políticos que están en función de intereses hegemónicos.

Esto debe obligar a nuestros países a la formulación de cambios acompañados de transformaciones independentistas de los vínculos económicos en todos sus aspectos; es decir en el campo financiero, comercial, monetario, tecnológico e integracionista. Estos cambios deberán orientarse a la ampliación y diversificación de nuestras exportaciones, acompañadas de la participación en nuevos mercados, a su vez la diversificación de los mercados de importación y exportación. Todo esto podría permitir un libre comercio exterior y obtener los beneficios de un rejuogo que de él se deriva cuando se participa sin demasiadas ataduras.

Para el logro de esto, es imprescindible el fortalecimiento de organismos regionales de países exportadores de aquellos bienes que conforman nuestras principales exportaciones, a fin de buscar medidas más proporcionadas de estabilidad y beneficio en los precios internacionales. Tal es el caso de organismos como la Unión de Países Exportadores de Banano y el Grupo de Países Americanos y del Caribe, Exportadores de Azúcar. Paralelamente igual importancia revisten las experiencias integracionistas regionales como, por ejemplo, las del Pacto Andino, ya que sobre instrumentos que pueden resultar muy eficaces para la consecución de cambios favorables en las estructuras del comercio exterior en los países en desarrollo. Sobre este particular, Sr. Presidente, la recién pasada decimoséptima Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina, celebrada hace más de dos meses en Managua (Nicaragua), se manifestó sobre la formulación de posiciones y estrategias de los países de la Región respecto al comercio interregional como medio de profundización de la cooperación regional que facilite la expansión del comercio agrícola.

Igualmente instó a denunciar el creciente reforzamiento de las medidas proteccionistas que aplican muchos de los países desarrollados a su producción agrícola y a los aspectos negativos de esas políticas en la producción y la comercialización de los productos de interés para los países en vías de desarrollo, especialmente a los países de las regiones de América Latina y del Caribe. Asimismo censuró los efectos de la política agraria de la CEE sobre nuestras economías, especialmente en los rubros relativos al azúcar, la carne y productos lácteos. Aceptó, asimismo, la mencionada Conferencia Regional de la FAO, que por sus finalidades, composición y estructura, el sistema económico latinoamericano SELA, es el organismo regional apropiado para llevar a cabo las coordinaciones y acciones conjuntas que consideren adecuadas los gobiernos a los intereses legítimos y comunes de la Región sobre temas económicos y sociales frente a terceros países.

Comentarios especiales nos merece el aspecto referente a las fuerzas motrices que aparecen en el Capítulo III: Utilización de recursos para la producción agrícola, y dentro de este aspecto resaltamos el referente a las medidas que deben fomentarse para el empleo de la fuerza motriz animal y mecánica como complemento o sustituto del trabajo humano. Señalamos esto porque es cada vez más clara y notoria la preocupación por hallar respuestas concretas a los problemas que plantean actualmente el uso de la fuerza motriz animal en reemplazo de la mecánica y humana. De ahí que venga interesando cada vez más el uso de los animales de tiro, que a la vez que prestan este uso ofrecen otros, como ocurre con el caso del búfalo, animal éste que se ha comprobado que tiene excelentes resultados en áreas marginales especialmente del trópico húmedo y con equilibrios ecológicos muy precarios,

Señalamientos en este sentido se hicieron en el reciente Congreso Internacional sobre Crianza de Búfalos celebrado hace un mes en Caserta (Italia). Por otra parte tenemos que señalar como motivo de gran preocupación el hecho de que la RAIE todavía no ha logrado su carácter multilateral, ni está libremente a disposición del PMA, al igual que siga sin responder a los problemas de la insuficiencia y la estabilidad de los recursos de la RAIE.

En torno al importante problema de la investigación agrícola que, según la información del párrafo 87, el gasto en la misma asciende a menos del 0,5 por ciento del PIB agrícola en los países en desarrollo, deseamos que este Consejo se pronuncie a fin de que prevalezca este tipo de investigación que viene señalado en el párrafo 84, como "innovadora", y "de mantenimiento" y que, en esencia, den respuestas concretas a situaciones muy localizadas y de fácil aceptación por parte de los diferentes productores agrícolas.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente sobre el tema de la ayuda alimentaria expuesto en el Capítulo 4 del documento CL 82/2 haremos nuestros comentarios durante la discusión del documento CL 82/15, que recoge el informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): This document CL 82/2 gives us a view of the world situation of food and agriculture in 1982. What worries us is that there is no balance between food production and agricultural production, especially between developed and developing countries, and that there has been a sharp drop in foreign aid allocations to agriculture. That is why we must ask the developing countries to concentrate more on food production and on agricultural production programmes, and to give a higher priority to development programmes. Investments must be made for this field, a sound research system established, while farmers must be provided with incentives and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to urge the developed countries to make available to the developing countries all the technological potential and to provide developing countries with the financial and technical support provided for in bilateral and multilateral agreements. We hope that negotiations on agricultural trade will be successful.

In Egypt, we know how important agriculture is as a source of livelihood for more than one-half of our population. It is the foundation for the achievement of food security. For this reason we have harnessed our resources and drawn up the necessary economic and social policies to increase the role of agriculture in achieving our goals.

Agriculture in our country has made progress. The increase of production is a very considerable one: from more than 4 776 million pounds in 1981 to 5 040 million in 1982. National income has gone up from 3 363 000 in 1980 to 3 569 million in 1981. We have also increased our production of fruit and vegetables due to the introduction of high yield varieties with sound genetic resources. These have enabled us to achieve a better agricultural output. This is also a result of the introduction of improved plant protection policies and the implementation of a crop rotation system that takes due account of the appropriate climatic conditions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reaffirm our belief that FAO shall continue its pioneering role in solving problems of food and agriculture in the world.

A.J.M. ISSA (México): En primer lugar, permítame, señor Presidente, felicitar ahora a los tres vice-presidente que seguramente colaborarán eficientemente con usted en la tarea de llevar a feliz término este 82° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO.

Se nos ha informado que la producción mundial de cereales tuvo un aumento importante en 1981; que las existencias en 1982 se encuentran a niveles satisfactorios; sin embargo, se nos informa que la distribución de la producción sigue constituyendo un problema básico para la seguridad alimentaria; existen riesgos de que esta circunstancia se agrave a causa de políticas que están implementando algunos países exportadores. La adopción de políticas orientadas a subsidiar la exportación de cereales aunque pareciera ventajosa en el corto plazo para los importadores, para los países exportadores en desarrollo tiene consecuencias que ocasionan mayores presiones a las ya existentes sobre los programas nacionales para aumentar sus producciones.

Es un hecho reconocido en la última reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que el aumento sostenido en la producción de alimentos es la única base perdurable para solucionar el problema de la seguridad alimentaria. Este reconocimiento político importante y cierto tiene, a la luz de los hechos, un sinnúmero de dificultades en el campo internacional para su apropiada implementación. La lucha por los mercados, en el caso de los alimentos, rebasa su propio contexto, no sólo se ubica entre quienes exportan, sino que abarca a todos los que producen; no sólo son los alimentos, sino que éstos forman parte de un proyecto amplio de estrategias.

Se sabe cómo producir suficiente; se tiene con qué; pero simplemente no se logra que todos se alimenten, menos aún que se nutran adecuadamente. Se conoce que es indispensable la voluntad política por parte de los países deficitarios para producir alimentos; se requiere, sin embargo, que en el campo internacional existan condiciones que faciliten estos intentos: eliminación de obstáculos al comercio de productos provenientes de estos países, evitar políticas cuyos resultados sean el encarecimiento del capital, la disminución de los precios de los productos exportados, y alza de aquéllos que se importan. Características todas estas de la llamada crisis económica mundial que vivimos actualmente.

Se observa que los alimentos, y particularmente los cereales, se han abaratado en términos de dólares, pero encarecidos en términos de monedas nacionales, afectando a los que producen como a los que consumen, evidentemente, en forma desigual, como desiguales son las economías entre y dentro de los Estados; las formas de producir los cereales se diferencia cada vez más; por una parte hay productores que tienen mejores disponibilidades de recursos, tierra en condiciones favorables para producir, capital financiero a coste relativamente económico y facilidad en la utilización de la avanzada tecnología moderna. Por otra parte, se tiene a aquellos que, aunque cuentan con la tierra, no tienen acceso a insumos modernos, por lo que se establecen diferencias en los niveles de ingresos, así como en las posibilidades de alimentarse. Se establece, además, el enriquecimiento y su primacía de unos sobre otros, el empobrecimiento masivo de muchos y el abandono de las actividades agrícolas por otros•

Es necesario una reordenación en la forma de producción que evite estos procesos de concentración y empobrecimiento masivo; es importante que el proceso de modernización de la agricultura sea ordenado, que se desarrolle una tecnología más apropiada, es decir, menos sustitutiva de empleos sin ser ineficiente en términos de productividad. A la diferencia en las disponibilidades de recursos se agregan políticas de subsidios para la exportación que hacen que las desigualdades se agraven.

Muchos agricultores actualmente en los países en desarrollo tienen como única fuente de sustento sus actividades agrícolas, es lo que saben hacer y lo que han hecho toda su vida; cambiar de actividad para ellos no es fácil ni rápido, y el costo de creación de empleos sustitutivos es alto. Si a estos agricultores se les diera acceso a recursos financieros y tecnología avanzada, seguramente aumentarían la producción en estas regiones, el consumo mejoraría y se contribuiría al mejoramiento en general de la distribución de productos de alimentos y de ingresos.

A lo anterior se agrega la tendencia preocupante a la disminución de recursos disponibles para préstamos en condiciones de favor en los organismos financieros multilaterales.

Las relaciones de intercambio en el comercio internacional en el pasado reciente han sido aun más desfavorables para los países en desarrollo, dificultando la obtención de divisas necesarias para financiar su desarrollo, y en particular su desarrollo agrícola.

El avance de la tecnología y las comunicaciones han hecho que el mundo parezca que se empequeñece. Todos los países son susceptibles a los acontecimientos externos; el caso de los alimentos es un ejemplo.

Los grandes productores de cereales tienen dificultades para la venta de granos por falta de capacidad de consumo de los importadores; sin embargo, esta insuficiencia tiene, entre sus causas, políticas promovidas por los mismos países productores tanto como los consumidores, que se exige por parte de ambos seguridad para producir y el abastecimiento de los alimentos.

En el caso de la situación agrícola y productiva de mi país, es alentador observar que ante estímulos dados al agricultor su oferta es altamente elástica; la autosuficiencia descansa en dos hechos: uno de origen natural, condiciones climáticas favorables; otro es la posibilidad de seguir enviando señales de estímulo al campo. Esta posibilidad depende de que las condiciones del sector externo de nuestra economía mejoren situaciones que, a su vez, dependen, no sólo de nuestra voluntad por mejorar y solucionar los problemas externos, sino también de la conciencia y de la capacidad que tengan los países del norte por visualizar y tomar conciencia de las necesidades de un reordenamiento económico internacional.

Ante un creciente abandono y una mayor pobreza el Director General de la FAO ha expresado ayer de manera contundente y elocuente la irracionalidad que se desarrolla y que conlleva a situaciones que no son aceptables para ninguna de las dos partes, tanto para países desarrollados como para países en desarrollo; creemos, con el Director General de la FAO, que la situación debe solucionarse en beneficio de toda la humanidad.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation congratulates all office-holders at this august conference and particularly the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

We must also congratulate the Director-General for his comprehensive statement on the activities of FAO, and commend his tenacity in fostering the principle of a global food programme under which food would move from areas of surplus to food-deficit areas, especially those with environmental problems, with greater facility to the mutual advantage of both sides.

My delegation would like to commend FAO for the prompt action taken with regard to the study on the production of a composite flour programme for Nigeria, even though the agreement to undertake this study was taken only a few weeks ago. The study team is already in Nigeria.

The efforts of the Nigerian government to increase food production, which received a big boost two years ago, are beginning to yield encouraging results. Food production increases have been recorded in 1981 and 1982, particularly with regard to rice and maize. However, we are learning from experience that the attack on hunger must adopt a comprehensive approach. Whereas it takes a relatively short time to attain a production increase the introduction of modern processing and storage facilities takes time, and the training of necessary manpower to handle the facilities takes even more time. Here I wish to record with gratitude the assistance of the governments of India and the Republic of Korea in training Nigerian agricultural engineers in grain processing.

I now wish to comment on the world food and agricultural situation. It is rather disturbing that while the world food situation has improved slightly in 1981 and 1982, agriculture is bearing the brunt of world-wide economic depression. In order to cushion the farmers against the very harsh agricultural terms of trade, African governments are having to pay huge sums in subsidy for export produce. It is our hope that the current meeting of GATT will make substantial progress in resolving agricultural trading problems.

In these times of world-wide economic depression it is very important that a long-term view of agriculture be taken by international organizations, development agencies, and indeed national governments, otherwise some decisions and actions taken in the face of economic difficulties might inflict long-lasting adverse effects on agricultural development.

We are informed, for instance, that assistance to agriculture has declined over the past two years, and that bilateral commitments in particular declined by 15 percent in 1981. Prices of agricultural exports have declined much more drastically.

If the laudable aims of this organization with regard to global food self-sufficiency are to be realised, external assistance to agriculture must increase rather than decrease during the current decade so that the agricultural economies of developing countries can be self-sustaining in the decades ahead.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): At the outset let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election, as Chairman to this important function - Chairman of the FAO Council. My congratulations also include the Vice-Chairmen.

My delegation has studied the report on the state of food and agriculture, 1982, with great interest. As mentioned in the introduction to the report, the food and agricultural production in 1981 provides some relief in an otherwise bleak picture.

The figures for 1982 are indeed far from encouraging, especially in Africa. It is with great concern that my delegation notes that the food production in Africa is not keeping pace with the population figures.

I would like to make some specific comments on the section on agricultural research. In our view, agricultural research is of vital importance with regard to production increases of a certain product as well as to making the different crops more pest-resistant. This will, again, lead to economies and better utilisation of limited resources. It is therefore important that the developing countries give greater priority to agricultural research. Many developing countries do not have the infra-structure in order that the resources can establish independent research activities. Increased assistance from international organizations and institutions is therefore necessary.

In this connection, I would like to emphasise the necessity for increased and improved coordination between activities on the international and national levels. Furthermore, it is in our view important for national agricultural research to give priority to crops that are essential for the individual countries' food security. In this respect, I would like also to refer to the section on research in the WCARRD programme of action. Norway has long been a supporter of the consultative group on international agricultural research, and has increased its contribution to this group considerably.

The Director-General stressed that there is a need for a global food programme. There is a broad agreement that increased investment in agriculture and fisheries is the most important measure in the fight against hunger. This was most recently laid down in the United Nations Strategy for the Third Development Decade.

A number of international fora of recent date have explicitly stressed the importance of agriculture. Norway and other Nordic countries have pointed to the study of Agriculture towards the Year 2000 as a basis for assessing the importance the agricultural sector should have in the development strategy in the various countries and in development assistance policy. However, at the same time I would draw attention to the need for carrying out more in-depth analyses. In our view, it is from analyses, studies and research that it is possible to discover relationships, underlying causes of the lack of progress, and what this means in terms of priorities, projects and changes. There is a need for a sectoral analysis such as 1980-2000, but in more depth to clarify the significance of agriculture in a wider context.

Furthermore, it is necessary to compare plans of action to state priorities in the various sectors of international strategy. There is also a need for studies of a similar type at the national level. We think there is a need to build up models and statistical material. It is necessary for the developing countries themselves to take a leading role from the planning stage of such work which should also draw upon the expertise of the UN system at the central level.

We think it is of great importance to develop the study 1980-2000 further. This would help to clarify the place that agriculture should have in the development strategy and thus help the advance to eliminating misery and poverty in the world. We have a general economic recession, and it is important to clarify more specifically the place that agriculture should have as an active motor in the strategy.

We feel a study of the various policies as mentioned by the Director-General in his opening statement can be an important part of this work.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): The world economy is now at one of its most difficult periods after World

War II. The economic difficulties mentioned in the first paragraph under discussion and in yesterday's statement of the Director-General are experienced by many developed and developing countries. They have not spared Poland either. The extent of the crisis is confirmed by all basic economic indices, decrease of the Gross National Product, inflation, and indebtedness which exceeded the admissible level. The poor economic performance has adversely affected the availability of production needs of industrial origin for agricultural production. At the same time it shows the importance of agricultural production for the functioning of the whole economy, in particular in this difficult period of time and the importance of balanced development of industry and of agriculture. Not sufficient attention given to agriculture, especially to intensification of planned production, resulted in a growing dependence on grain and feedstuff imports. In the years 1981-82 an evident growth of agricultural planned production occurred in comparison with the disastrous year 1980. This growth proves only that the Polish agriculture is fairly resistant to recession phenomena in the economy and has a considerable strength for internal development. This resistance, however, should not be overestimated. The level of agricultural production depends on the high degree of supplies of production means. The inflow of these means has been declining in recent years and that is why fears arise that we shall not manage to overcome the stagnation of agricultural production during the next coming two to three years.

An additional factor limiting production possibilities of Polish agriculture is the economic sanctions applied in relation to Poland by some Western countries. For quite some years Poland has been an important importer of feedgrains and high-protein feeds. After the sanctions were introduced, the possibilities of grain purchases on credit are minimal. At the same time the country's balance of payments renders major purchases of grain and feeds for cash impossible.

The recent taking back by the United States of America of the Most Favoured Nation clause further restricts the payment possibilities of Poland. Thus there arose in the feed balance a great gap. There is no chance of doing away with it fast for, in a country which is harvesting about 10 million tons of grain a year, it is not feasible to increase grain production to about 25 million tons from year to year. Therefore a reduction of animal production was necessary so as to adjust it to a lower feed reserve. As a consequence of this, also the consumption of meat has been reduced.

The model of economic ties with foreign countries was developed for years and cannot be changed overnight without bringing about serious economic consequences. Therefore the estimation by FAO of the year 1982 as one of the bleakest periods in international cooperation for development is considered by us to be fully justified. Though this estimation was formulated on the ground of analyzing the cooperation between developed and developing countries, it also applies to analyzing the situation of Poland. The critical situation of the country and the breakdown of equilibrium in many sectors of the food market make it necessary to change the economic priorities and main targets of action hitherto applied. In economic policy formulated for the 80's the insurance of an adequate level of food supplies is considered to be one of the most vital tasks and the food economy one of the basic sectors of the economy. We elaborated a programme of food economy development up to 1990. It is a programme of moderated promises but at the end of this period we should not only achieve food self-sufficiency but also an active balance in food turnover. We want to achieve this goal not by autarchical policy but through a large participation in the international exchange of agricultural products.

The major groups of measures provided in the Programme are the following: shifting of the national economy in favour of satisfying the needs of the food complex; creating favourable economic conditions for agricultural production; changing of food consumption structure by giving preference to products of a lower production cost. This programme results from the domestic situation of Poland. Simultaneously, however, it corresponds to the recommendation of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and it will perform a vital role from the viewpoint of world food security. Poland, which had been during all the 70's a great grain importer, is oriented to become almost self-sufficient in this respect. Grain imports should be limited only to some quantities of grain which do not thrive in our climate, such as hard wheat and maize.

J.E. MENDES FERRÃO (Portugal) : je félicite Monsieur le Directeur général pour son excellent exposé qui, conjointement au document sur la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous fait voir, d'actualité, des problèmes aussi graves que ceux qui se rapportent à la survie de l'humanité.

Mon pays est préoccupé par l'existence, encore de nos jours, de nombreuses populations qui traversent des situations de carence alimentaire dues quelquefois à des difficultés internes très diverses, et quelquefois à des causes extérieures que nous avons besoin d'étudier pour proposer des solutions.

Nous pensons, et nous ne sommes sûrement pas les seuls dans la mesure où nous restons des hommes ayant de l'espoir, que le problème du manque d'alimentation qui se rencontre dans certaines régions

du monde peut être résolu. Pour cela, il faut certainement intensifier l'aide alimentaire, mais une solution définitive ne sera trouvée que le jour où, grâce à l'aide généralisée des pays les plus riches, les pays pauvres deviendront moins pauvres.

En ce sens, je me permets de souligner l'importance de l'allocution prononcée par Son Excellence le Président de la République du Cap-Vert Aristides Pereira qui, en sa qualité de Président du Comité permanent intérêts de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, a mis toute son autorité et son prestige dans l'appel adressé à la Communauté internationale pour une aide toujours plus consistante aux pays en développement, surtout à ceux de la sous-région africaine du Sahel.

Il faut que le développement des potentialités existantes devienne une préoccupation constante.

Dans la plupart des cas, dans les pays en développement, la terre n'est pas encore un bien limité et il suffirait d'en augmenter un peu la production unitaire pour résoudre les problèmes les plus sérieux de la carence alimentaire. Cela exige un investissement scientifique et technique que les pays les plus riches pourraient aider à obtenir. L'élargissement des réseaux coopératifs d'investigation aux pays les moins riches me semble être un sujet à étudier pour le futur.

En raison de la différence des habitudes alimentaires et des limitations d'emmagasinage et de circulation des produits, les pays en difficulté ne peuvent pas toujours profiter de la totalité des bénéfices qui leur parviennent sous forme d'aide alimentaire venue de l'extérieur.

Nous soutenons que la solution de fond du problème alimentaire ne sera pas obtenue avec des aides d'urgence malgré leur importance actuelle, sauf dans les pays où elles sont vraiment indispensables. Les pays les moins développés, ou du moins la plupart d'entre eux, doivent être aidés à produire eux-mêmes les aliments dont ils ont besoin.

Nous trouvons que l'aide dans ce domaine doit prendre un caractère prioritaire, mais nous pensons aussi que ces pays ne doivent pas abandonner complètement les cultures industrielles ou d'exportation, si nécessaires pour l'acquisition, à l'extérieur, de biens d'équipement sans lesquels le développement sera retardé ou même compromis.

Je rappelle ici la déclaration de M. le Directeur général, au Conseil de 1981, dans laquelle il a attiré notre attention sur la diminution de la valeur relative de certains produits exportés par des pays en voie de développement par rapport à ce qu'ils importent des pays riches. M. le Directeur général a donné comme exemple le cas du thé ou des bananes d'une part, et de l'acier et des engrais de l'autre. Il nous a donné d'autres exemples dans son exposé d'hier, comme par exemple le sucre.

La paix et la sécurité et l'humanité reposent sur l'atténuation des différences économiques entre les peuples, et la solution du problème alimentaire mondial prend un caractère prioritaire. Comment sera-t-il possible pour les pays riches de trouver des marchés élargis pour leurs produits, si la plus grande partie de l'humanité doit penser encore à la survie alimentaire ?

Considérant en particulier la situation de mon pays, je dois avouer que le pourcentage de la population agricole au Portugal est d'environ un tiers de la population totale, et ni le secteur secondaire ni le secteur tertiaire ne se sont montrés suffisamment dynamiques pour absorber d'occasionnels excédents de main-d'oeuvre. L'émigration continue à être le destin presque fatal de la population rurale portugaise, en particulier de la jeunesse.

La production agricole dans les dernières décennies s'est montrée insuffisante pour l'approvisionnement interne, et dans des périodes particulières, comme en 1981, quand le pays a souffert de sécheresse prolongée, la production portugaise de biens alimentaires n'a pu satisfaire que 26 pour cent des besoins intérieurs.

Quoique la situation se soit améliorée cette année et que l'on puisse prévoir une année agricole presque normale, nous continuons à importer des quantités notables de maïs et autres céréales, soja et oléagineux, ainsi que des produits d'origine animale, ce qui déséquilibre profondément notre balance d'échanges avec l'extérieur.

L'agriculture portugaise s'est maintenue dans un marasme préoccupant pendant le dernier demi-siècle. Cette situation se doit, entre autres raisons, à une structure agraire défectueuse, à l'inadéquat aménagement du territoire, insuffisante préparation technologique des agriculteurs et manque d'infrastructures de commercialisation.

La production moyenne du blé est aujourd'hui sensiblement la même qu'en 1932, et nous pourrions donner d'autres exemples de la situation agricole portugaise aussi elucidatifs que celui-là.

Ayant comme base l'état des cultures et la prévision des récoltes, il nous est possible de vérifier que dans l'année agricole en cours il y a eu quelques améliorations qui sont plutôt dues à l'année météorologique qu'à l'avance technique de l'agriculture, ce qui ne cache pas la réalité du retard référé ci-dessus.

Pour 1982, on prévoit une production de blé de 444 000 tonnes, laquelle tout en étant 45 pour cent supérieure à celle de 1981, se situe seulement dans la moyenne des dix dernières années. Les productions d'avoine et d'orge doivent avoir un accroissement de 15 pour cent et 27 pour cent par rapport à 1981, mais seront inférieures de 6 pour cent et 21 pour cent aux moyennes des dix dernières années.

La production de la pomme de terre non irriguée devra constituer, avec ses 467 000 tonnes une augmentation de 16 pour cent par rapport à 1981, mais une diminution de 5 pour cent par rapport à la moyenne des années 1972/81. La pomme de terre en culture irriguée doit présenter une augmentation de 27 pour cent par rapport à l'année antérieure. Le maïs devra maintenir les productions des années antérieures. Pour la tomate destinée à l'industrie, la production moyenne par ha a été supérieure d'environ 8 pour cent relativement à l'année antérieure, le concentré obtenu étant d'excellente qualité, la plupart des usines l'ont élaboré très près de leurs capacités maxima.

Le tournesol devra obtenir une augmentation d'environ 22 pour cent. Dans les domaines de la fructiculture il faut se référer surtout à l'excellente année de production de la poire qui a eu une augmentation de 27 pour cent relativement à 1981 et de la mangue, accrue de 30 pour cent.

La production de l'huile d'olive devra atteindre cette année, si la récolte des olives est faite normalement, plus de 44 pour cent que l'année précédente, mais malgré cela elle se situera 29 pour cent au-dessous de la moyenne des années 1972/81 .

Etant donné que le Portugal est un grand producteur d'oléagineux, on porte une attention toute particulière à la reconstitution des oliveraies. On prévoit, pour la prochaine année, une reconversion de 20 000 ha. Pour la réalisation de ces travaux mon pays a beaucoup bénéficié, et bénéficie encore, du projet régional d'oliviculture de la FAO.

Devant la situation que j'avais présentée, mon pays continuera à avoir besoin d'emprunter des grandes quantités de produits agricoles et nous ne savons pas combien d'années seront nécessaires pour rééquilibrer, ou seulement réduire, l'importation des produits agricoles.

CHAIRMAN : This closes our debates for this morning. We have heard sixteen members make statements and I am grateful to all of them for being precise and concise.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 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 82/PV/3

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PIENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1982)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 14.35 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1982 (continued)

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1982 (suite)

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1982 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will resume our discussion on item 4 of the agenda. I would request the speakers to be brief so that we can complete this item today.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): First I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his excellent statement made yesterday in this room, and to thank Dr. Nurul Islam for his excellent introduction to this paper under discussion.

While recognizing the fact that food production in 1981 increased by 2.9 percent and that cereal stocks in 1982 are reasonably satisfactory, there is nevertheless no valid reason for optimism in respect of general food conditions throughout the world. The reason is that the figures presented in the document are world total enhanced and do not depict the real food situation in the larger part of the world which is home to the majority of the world population. As a matter of fact, the bulk of food production is located in a small number of advanced countries which in one way or another are able to play a significant role in the solution at least partly of the longstanding problem of hunger and malnutrition in many countries and regions in the world.

The global situation, however, presents a gloomy picture. There seem to be more problems today which preoccupy both developed and developing countries. As clearly stated on page 1 of this document under discussion, international cooperation for development in 1982 is at one of its bleakest periods due to recession, inflation, unemployment, monetary and exchange rate instability and rising trade protectionism. To this unfortunate fact should be added man-made disasters which continue to cause damage to food storages and hamper the growing of food crops. This is a situation which should be deplored.

Speaking in terms of reality, it should be recognized that in the present world economic situation the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, are worse off. The increase in the number of early deceased has justified this statement. Conditions vary from country to country depending on the availability of natural resources, the climatic conditions, the scale of people concerned, so that there are many degrees of under-development, poverty, hunger and malnutrition which have been existing among hundreds of millions of people in the developing countries of the world.

There is no doubt that the developed countries too have their own problems. The nature of their problems, however, is different. While developing countries, or many among them, have problems of food shortages or cannot produce their staple food in sufficient quantities, several among the developed countries have the problem of overproduction of various kinds of food to such an extent that they have problems in selling their produce in the world market. Under such circumstances the countries concerned are confronted with the prospect of less income, which is quite different from the problem of having no food at all.

In this connection it is worthy to note that at the same time many developing countries who are in need of food are too poor or do not have sufficient means to buy food which is already available. In order to cope with this problem of falling prices certain countries have embarked on programmes of reducing acreage on a voluntary basis.

The document before us deals also with a wide variety of efforts being made by developing countries to increase food and agricultural production and elevate the nutritional standard of their life.

It is of course the responsibility of individual developing countries to increase food and agricultural production while others provide assistance. Although there are various degrees of development it can be said that in many cases it is more a matter of devising basic policies, programmes, infrastructure and technology related to land and water use and supply and distribution of farm inputs. At the same time a farming system should be introduced or implemented that absorbs the rural labour force and improves the incomes of the groups concerned. The use of improved seed, the application of the right fertilizers in adequate quantities, improvement of irrigation works, should be regarded as essential in the development of food production in most developing countries. The findings of agricultural research which are of practical value should be transferred to the rural people who actually do the farming. Cooperation among the research stations of countries with common physical and climatic conditions should be strengthened in order to accelerate the process of the transfer of technology. Investment of this programme should be implemented on the largest

scale possible, and the same applies to the effort to reduce the damage to the crops caused by pests and diseases. By the application of these measures on a national scale, substantially larger harvests can be obtained from the same acreage of land. Moreover all possible effort should be made to reduce post-harvest losses arising from improper handling, and processing and storage. Effort of the last-named measures should not be undervalued, since a proportion ranging from 12 to 20 percent could be saved if efforts were made efficiently to the reduction of losses.

Food security is of vital importance to every country. As far as Indonesia is concerned, increasing food production is aimed at both achieving self-sufficiency and developing ability to build up enough national food reserves. Since 1978, rice production in Indonesia has risen by 36 percent on an average of 7.2 percent per annum, even though the government is trying further to increase food production, bearing in mind the large increase in the number of the population every year. I should like to inform the Council that according to the census carried out in 1980, the Indonesian population is about 147 million now; it may reach 150 million people.

After having dealt with the problem of food production in developing countries, allow me to say that in order to eliminate world hunger and malnutrition, all countries should cooperate in matters pertaining to food and agriculture. This ideal is not new. To what extent it has been materialized is not easy to assess. While recognizing the merit of what has been achieved in the past, my delegation is of the opinion that much more should be done from now on in the field of international cooperation, in the field of agriculture and food, in food production and in the field of agricultural products. My delegation feels that the developed countries could do more to assist the less fortunate countries in the world in their effort to free themselves from hunger and malnutrition. In the spirit of international cooperation and still by humanitarian considerations, advanced countries, fortunate countries are expected to channel larger contributions to the existing international bodies, which would then be placed in a better position to utilize the accumulated resources according to the needs of the various developing countries. This is a matter of political will, however, a matter to be dealt with by the most competent authorities of the countries concerned.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I wish to express how happy we are, Mr. Chairman, to see you in the Chair and also wish to extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen who have been elected to assist you. I wish also to express my gratitude to the Ambassador of Congo who proposed me and to the Council for electing me to chair the Drafting Committee. I can only promise that with the support of the other members of the Committee, I shall be able to justify the honour you have bestowed upon me, my delegation, and upon my country.

Regarding the documents before us, CL 82/2 and CL 82/2 Sup.1, I navel just a few comments to make, because I think Professor Islam has made an excellent introduction and the Director-General in his opening statement yesterday touched upon the vital issues which are placed before us today.

First of all, my delegation is happy to note that food production increased globally by 2.9 percent in 1981 and that there are enough stocks around the world for those who can afford to buy. I say for those who can afford to buy because the stocks are not evenly distributed; they are concentrated in a few countries and many of the developing countries are having serious financial difficulties owing to the problems of the deteriorating terms of trade for their agricultural products.

I am sorry that my delegation, while rejoicing in the greatly improved food production conditions in the world, has its enthusiasm dampened by the fact that in some parts of the world, particularly Africa, food production per capita continued its backward march or backward retreat, or whatever it can be called, which can be traced to the early 70s, especially when we had devastating drought conditions in Africa. As has become customary, we have a litany of African countries suffering from food shortages. Although some of the shortages are imposed by man-made conflicts which have led to the displacement of a large number of persons, the overall deteriorating food situation in Africa is a result of a deteriorating environment and the absence of adequate infrastructures, resources and technology which could enable Africa to overcome its environmental difficulties.

I think a lot of the time undue emphasis is placed on the temporary, human-caused problems, while actually the long-term problems of Africa are a deteriorating situation and the environmental conditions.

Rather than speaking in general terms, let us look at the document that is placed before us, that is CL 82/2. In paragraph 19, we see that the per capita production in Africa and the Near East

declined in the last several years. In paragraph 22, we see the longer-term perspective, particularly for Africa, is rather serious. Let us refer to the tables. Tables 1,2 and 4 bring out I think, the picture very graphically. Let us look at Table 2. Table 2 shows that, using 1969 to 1971 as 100 percent base year, Africa in 1979 had 89 percent of production; for 1980, 90 percent; for 1981, 90 percent. I do not think there is much rejoicing which one can do about that. In Table 4 we see the calorie requirements that apply for these countries. In Africa it went from 95.5 percent

in 1969-71 to 94 percent in 1980. I guess in percentage terms, 6 percent shortfall might not look so drastic, but when we know that in many of those countries, as in any country around the world, it is the poorest of the poor who suffer from any shortfall in production. A 6 percent shortfall in production would mean that for the poorest of the poor it might be probably 30 percent shortfall in their calorie intakes, and that I think is what should concern the Council.

Paragraph 41, gives the usual litany again: This year there are 23 countries which are suffering from food shortages. Last year, if I remember well, as Kenya pointed out, I think there were 31; next year we can only guess since this year it is 23, last year 31; maybe next year it will go to 40. A large part of all these countries, of course, are in Africa.

On emergency, my delegation cannot over-emphasize the importance of the International Emergency Food Reserve and the need to have these resources placed on an adequate and reliable level. Many proposals have been made in this regard and I do hope that the Council in due course will come up with some final and definite conclusions on strengthening the International Emergency Food Reserve, because food shortages which are due to natural and manmade causes are not likely to disappear in the near future. I think they will be with us for some time.

A major section of the document is devoted to resource availability and the means of increasing food production. The document shows that Africa has a relatively abundant plant resource which could be further developed, that land productivity is lowest in Africa, that the use of modern inputs is very low indeed on the African continent, that irrigation is least developed in Africa. Indeed, this document contains enough elements on the agricultural situation in the least developed region, the region needing greatest assistance from the international community to justify a section giving an indication of what the Organization proposes to do or some recommendations placed before the Council so that we could have some directions on future actions.

My delegation regrets that in the light of the serious food situation in Africa and other developing countries, the flow of external resources from the international community has tended to stagnate, indeed declined in real terms. There are of course some isolated actions being taken by some countries, especially the recent Italian initiative to aid countries of the Sahelian sub-region, but was it not just last year that this same Council applauded the Paris Conference on the least developed countries? If I am not mistaken, I think so. I looked with great enthusiasm to the outcome of that Conference. What has come of it so far? I think I also remember that this Council also rejoiced about the Cancun meetings. I do remember that a lot of statements have been made in international fora about aid to the suffering regions of the world, especially Africa. This brings me to the conclusion that any form of international assistance should be within the framework of a well worked out program with an executing mechanism-established international organization. I think all of us here would know where such an action should be coordinated -which would allow good coordination of all the diverse international activity. No-one is saying that bilateral action should be replaced, but I think when in international fora, major countries make commitments, I think there should be some well thought out or well structured mechanism for implementing these various resolutions and various commitments into appropriate actions. My delegation therefore supports the conclusion made by Kenya that this document is a little incomplete and that it could have been more complete if it elaborated a little bit more on the kind of mechanism or the kind of programmes which could be elaborated to take care of the immediate problems of the suffering parts of the developing world, because clearly, as was stressed by Romania, and which was elaborated again by Portugal, I think there is clear need for some action to be taken instead of trying to avoid the problems which exist. I think if we continue to do this till doomsday, we shall all continue to say how serious the food situation around the world is without actually taking immediate action. In short, I would have wished there to be a section calling for a recommendation by the Council so that this Council could have made a firm recommendation commending the Director-General for his active efforts and asking him to carry out a definite programme which would be aimed at solving the serious problems in Africa.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Si j'interviens à ce moment de la discussion, c'est pour donner quelques éclaircissements.

Le document qui est en ce moment discute par le Conseil est un document descriptif. Il décrit la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Ce n'est pas un document destiné à concevoir des programmes et des projets et à les discuter. Il donne des informations sur les intrants agricoles, qui sont très importants pour la production, sur la variation des prix; il évoque aussi le commerce agricole des pays développés et des pays en développement.

Le contenu de ce document a été décidé par le Conseil. Il nous a été suggéré ce matin et cet après-midi d'en faire un document qui serait non seulement descriptif mais qui proposerait des programmes. Ce serait vraiment en changer la nature. Evidemment le Conseil est souverain pour en décider. Pendant des années nous avons discuté à plusieurs reprises du contenu de ce document et telle a été la forme définitive qui a été arrêtée.

Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec les représentants du Cameroun et du Kenya. Il faut accorder dans nos programmes une attention encore plus grande à l'agriculture africaine, surtout dans les pays à déficit alimentaire chronique. C'est d'ailleurs à la demande du distingué délégué du Cameroun que nous allons soumettre à la prochaine session du Comité d'aide alimentaire un document à ce sujet.

Comme je l'ai indiqué à plusieurs reprises, plus de 40 pour cent des crédits du programme ordinaire sont consacrés à l'Afrique. Je compte bien, dans le prochain programme de travail et de budget, conserver cette priorité qui convient aussi à plusieurs pays développés. En effet, ces derniers accordent eux-mêmes une priorité élevée à l'Afrique dans leurs programmes bilatéraux.

Je retiens donc les recommandations de MM. les délégués du Kenya et du Cameroun. Cependant, elles trouveront leur place non pas dans ce document mais dans le programme de travail et de budget. C'est là le lieu où on peut traiter des programmes.

Par ailleurs, je fais remarquer que le document sur la situation mondiale vient d'être publié. Il n'est pas discuté ici mais il est extrêmement intéressant. J'en recommande la lecture car il contient énormément d'informations et peut servir de source de référence sur plusieurs sujets.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this useful intervention about the nature of the document which has been provided.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): Since for me also this is the first occasion on which I have been given the floor after Ambassador Arosemena of Panama and Mr. Grabisch of the Federal Republic of Germany were elected, as two Vice-Chairmen out of three for the Council, may I utilise it to offer them my compliments on their election? I also offer my compliments to Mr. Namanga of Cameroon who has been elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee and to all the other members of his committee, who have a very difficult task ahead of them but who I am sure will discharge it effectively.

Allow me now, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for presenting us with documents CL 82/2 and CL 82/2-Sup.1 which by any standards, I would like to say, are remarkable examples of report presentation. Factually accurate as they must be, the brilliant analysis that accompanies it provides us with an excellent basis for discussion of the world food and agricultural situation. If there was something wanting in it, it has been amply provided by Professor Islam, who while giving a clear and comprehensive introduction to the subject matter has amply summed up the world food and agricultural situation. My compliments to him also.

What we learnt from the documents can only be viewed with the greatest of concern. The world economic situation has been superbly epitomised in the statement made by Dr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO. In his statement he laid bare the stark realities which confront the world today in its fight against hunger and poverty, reminding simultaneously of our inadequacies in coming to grips with the challenge we face. I would most humbly and sincerely congratulate the Director-General for his most illuminating and informative speech, and for bringing into relief those factors which hold the key to the future of the food and agricultural situation around the world.

It was very disappointing to hear and to learn that a number of factors have reinforced each other negatively, so much so that for the first time in thirty years the per capita GNP of the developing world as a whole last year experienced a decline.

The very poor Third World seems now to have become even poorer than it was a generation ago. Despite an overall increase in food production, there are pockets of inadequacy, and mismatch between the growth rates of food production and population. The list of dismal narratives could be prolonged, but they are all there in cold print, and I will not repeat them here. What with food aid commitment, replacement target of IEF, unfavourable terms of trade for the developing countries, falling export earnings, rising import bills and flagging levels of external assistance, the overall picture that emerges is a rather gloomy one in which the gap between what we wish to be and what we are becoming gets wider rather than narrows down.

We share with the Director-General his legitimate concern over the world economic situation, and hope that this realisation of the realities would lead to more substantive action by way of correcting it.

It is heartening to note in this otherwise bleak scenario that in the field of agricultural production things have improved. The overall position in relation to developing countries is better than before, although the gains are not quite evenly distributed. It is particularly pleasing to note that for the first time in three years per capita food production in the developing countries has increased in 1981, and cereal production in 1981 was actually up by 7 percent over the previous year. It is also gratifying to see on record that cereal carry-over stocks are expected now to rise to about the required 18 percent level of annual world consumption.

All these must have been the result of determined efforts on the part of the international community, the developing and developed world taken together, and basically the developing countries themselves. In this improvement of the agricultural scenario FAO has also made a significant contribution, and I would like to compliment the Director-General for the sustained efforts his Organization has made in making agriculture more productive globally.

In assessing the situation there is no doubt that we have to take all factors into account. As far as the developed countries are concerned, which as the Director-General himself said and as we quite understand are not without their problems. Bitter effects of inflation, recession and high unemployment levels continue to afflict them, limiting the capacity for them to go as far as they could go in making things easier for the developing countries. There may be a difference in the perception of the mechanism that could more effectively contribute to the resolution of these problems, or at least in easing them. It may be a question of being convinced about the efficacy of one approach to the exclusion of another, and certainly there is need for greater appreciation of the points at issue. In this, FAO for example could undertake studies to demonstrate in convincing terms to the developed world that further liberalisation of trade with, and greater volume of imports from, accompanied by an increased volume of assistance to, the developing countries may prove more helpful than protected or insulated domestic markets, for the former will help expand their economies, create increased purchasing power and additional effective consumer demand for their own marketable surpluses, thus easing the way for them to tackle, or at least absorb better the effects of inflation, recession and unemployment.

It is also recognised that the primary responsibility of developing their own lot rests on the developing countries themselves, and it has now been widely demonstrated subject to the limitation imposed by unfavourable external economic forces affecting their economies in ways over which they have little control, developing countries have taken active steps to re-order priorities and have ever since been making relentless efforts to increase food production nationally in a bid to be self-reliant. Some countries have even done better than the recommended growth rate of 3.5% to 4% in the FAO study AT 2000.

Perhaps even better results could be achieved were it not for certain other sets of circumstances many of which again may have often been outside their control. One such thing, for example, is the weather or rainfall. In Bangladesh where weather heavily influences the crop production, it was largely responsible for crop losses in 1979 and 1980. However, 1981 saw production increase of the order of about 11% over the average of the previous two years. Part of this was due undoubtedly to favourable weather conditions but certainly not all. The rest was the result of determined efforts on the part of the Government to attain food self-sufficiency by 1985 and the resultant adoption and implementation of what is known as the medium-term food production plan.

The strategy in this connection addresses three main areas: first, efforts to reduce farmers' risk associated with unpredictability of water supply through development of irrigation facilities; second, efforts to increase both cropping intensity and productivity through adoption of HYV technology and third, efforts to reduce the economic risks faced by the farmers in an environment of price uncertainty through adoption of adequate output price support measures.

In 1982 production fell due to somewhat adverse weather, but was still about 6 percent higher than that of the year before, which in effect means that production over the last two years increased at an annual average rate of 8.8 percent over the average of the previous two years. The effect of deliberate planning would be evident if this is viewed in the back-drop of production increase over the twelve years from 1970 through 1981 during which period growth rate averaged 2.6 percent. About 25 percent of this was due to increases in acreage sown while the remaining 75 percent was achieved through higher productivity. A dramatic increase averaging 32 percent per annum has taken place in the last two years in the production of wheat although it still represents only 7.5 percent of total foodgrains output.

The Secretariat document deals with a number of other aspects connected with agricultural production - things like land use, agricultural labour, agricultural research, use of inputs like improved seeds, fertilizer, power, pesticides, etc. I may have missed it but I did not notice agricultural credit, which is one of the important inputs, discussed in the documents. The Secretariat may like to consider its inclusion for future analysis.

As regards the other factors, we feel a brief reference to individual country experience may help the total picture by bringing out the problems. Bangladesh being a land-scarce country, almost all arable land is under the plow and the recent real increases have resulted from an intensive use of land, the cropping intensity reaching as high a level as 153 percent. Significant improvements have been taking place in food grain production in Bangladesh, mainly due to input-based production strategy. There has been a steady growth of fertilizer use over the last few years. Some recent dampening in the growth rate has been there, but that is considered a temporary phenomenon caused by a substantial lowering of subsidies. Steady agricultural policy, however, continues to be hampered by the year to year variations in production prospects arising from changes in weather conditions. Highly vulnerable as Bangladesh agriculture is on weather variations, this dependence becomes overwhelmingly important if moisture stress due to inadequate rainfall occurs during certain critical stages of the crop's growth cycle. Yield differences of as much as up to 20 to

25% may result from this. In order to avert a major food crisis, it is necessary that additional imports be arranged in time but, to facilitate that, a more precise estimate of yield decline is needed than is possible to obtain now. More detailed weather-based crop forecast is now seen in Bangladesh as the basis of an early warning system that needs to be evolved. This is an area where FAO could help in a great many ways. Such an early warning system would also be relevant to many other countries similarly placed as ourselves.

Self-sufficiency in food must be preceded by placement of increasingly greater emphasis on intensification of research with a view to both adaptation of transferred technology as well as improving local production technology, on wholesale improvements in the extension services and integration of extension with research, on action programmes designed to bring about rural development as a whole and providing incentives to farmers to invest more in the production process. Bangladesh has a modest but comprehensive base of research institutions and programmes but to cope with the situation that base had to be broadened. Attention has to be focussed on the crop dynamics of deep water paddy, the effects of continued mono-culture, cropping patterns and of the virtual absence of growth in the production process of non-food grain crops and non-crop agricultural activities. The cost-efficient development of animal draft power to complete the necessary harvesting and subsequent field preparation work between two successive crops within the very short time available in a cropping intensity scenario of over 150% is a case of second generation technological constraint to further rapid increase of cropping intensity. These aspects of productional problems may be found elsewhere also and hence there is a strong case for joint collaboration in agricultural research. Fortunately, the foundation of such a regional collaboration in agriculture has been laid in South Asia between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with Bangladesh as the coordinating country. It is considered an important step forward in the TCDC concept and certainly much greater use of TCDC could be made to increase productivity and minimize cost of production.

We notice from the document that to reach the normative growth rates proposed in the FAO's study of AT 2000, fertilizer use in the developing countries would rise from four to five fold. Along with the quantitative increase, the question that will assume increasingly greater importance, in view particularly of its rising cost, is its efficiency of use. Unless this is grossly increased and wastage as is currently reported is avoided, fertilizer use may even lead to yield instability. With HYV technology, irrigation and disease resistant varieties when considered independently are yield stabilizing. But these changes also demand a higher quantum of recurring inputs like fertilizer. Upward fluctuations of fertilizer prices, particularly for a country with unfavourable balance of payment position and in a low level external assistance scenario, would tend to exercise a destabilizing influence on crop production. Stabilizing technology often tends to be accompanied by destabilizing factors and on balance absolute variability tends to increase. To minimise this trend, efficient fertilizer use is a must. TCP - type projects designed to educate the farmers on the efficient, balanced and soil-relevant use of fertilizer should be increasingly implemented on a wider scale than is the case at present.

I would now like to take a few more minutes to go briefly over some aspects of food security mentioned in the Director-General's statement in the context of increased food production. We entirely agree with the Director-General in his view, as we heard him say yesterday, that there is as yet no internationally agreed scheme of world food security through which supplies would be guaranteed on a concessional basis in time of need. As a matter of fact this is directly demonstrated by our present day experience. For had there been such agreed principles the world would have benefitted much more from the present global agricultural production situation. At the moment there is no absolute correspondence between increased production globally and increased food security.

Production in 1981 was better than before and yet it does not appear to have made much of a difference to the world food problem. The world as a whole is now not short of food. World supplies of dietary energy are now even said to be about 10 percent more than the nutritional requirement of the population. The developing countries as a whole are food-deficit in relation to the developed countries, no doubt, but even among them there are many with enough food. The root of the hunger problem seems therefore to lie in distribution. More than food, what is scarce in today's world is the purchasing power. The problem needs coordinated action at the global and the regional level, and the national level. At the national level access to food is as much a function of national income, particularly its export earnings, as total global availability. Similarly at the individual's level this access is conditioned as much by his income as total national availability. In fact chronic hunger is also rooted in poverty and food security is inextricably linked with the well-being of the inarticulate and voiceless small man of the village, the small farmer, fisherman, etc. His real income must be augmented, more gainful employment must be found for him and he must be given adequate access to land and other inputs to increase production or to produce food for himself. Fortunately for us, as the last FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Jakarta where the emphasis was on equity considered, this fact has been receiving increasing recognition. FAO has been doing an excellent job focussing progressively greater world attention to this aspect of agricultural development vis-à-vis food security but obviously more remains to be done.

The Director-General has mentioned that the present is surely the time to search for a decisive breakthrough in achieving better world food security. While the search goes on, a number of ways to attain better food security could be suggested. One for example could be that high - income food deficit developing countries could think in terms of investing in food production in low-income developing countries with identified potential to grow more food grains. FAO in its catalytic capacity to banish hunger could help in a big way by undertaking studies in this regard on economic as well as technical feasibility.

There could be a realistic exercise also in diversifying food habits by undertaking studies for the production and/or improvement in production and popularisation of non-traditional food. For example, in Bangladesh, the contribution of crops other than cereals to food availability has been relatively small. Pulses and oilseeds are important calorie and protein sources and potatoes can potentially make a significant incremental contribution to bridge a part of the caloric deficits. Assuming a 4:1 ratio in the caloric/unit - weight between rice and potatoes, a doubling of the potato harvest at the present level of 1 million tons can in principle substitute for the calorie deficit caused by a 200,000 ton deficit or decline in rice production. As it is now, a bumper crop directly contributes only to the lowering of market prices leading to further disincentive for the farmer. Pulses have roughly the same calorie content per unit-weight as food grains; therefore a doubling of output of pulses - not an overambitious objective from the existing rather modest level - can imply an impact on calories similar to that in the case of potatoes. The combined effect would be to reduce import of food grains by about 30 percent. Such could be stated also about other non-cereals, vegetables, fruits, sea-food, fisheries, etc.

Before I conclude I would like to say that as the Director-General indicated, it is not merely a hope but there is ample evidence to support it that it is possible to end world hunger and to nourish all the world's people and its children by the year 2000. We, meaning the world as a whole, have the necessary technology and also the necessary resources. What may be needed is the determination and the will. The gloomy picture that we have of ourselves today cannot, we hope, fail to galvanize the international community into having that necessary will and determination to have a brighter and more stable future. Given that, we should not take very long to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

F. PAJENK (Yugoslavia): It is indeed difficult to qualify the current world food situation. If one were to take into account only the production side and commercial aspects, in isolation of the trends, especially recent ones from 1977 onwards, the situation could be assessed as satisfactory. If, however, the current situation is considered in proper perspective, if the overall economic situation is taken into consideration, if we paid due attention to the clear fact that international cooperation for development has been deteriorating for years, we would know that it is, in fact, at the moment worse than ever. The food situation gives much cause for concern. Of course I will not go into details; suffice it to say that my delegation is in full agreement with the overall assessment of the Director-General as expressed yesterday in his opening address.

Now a couple of specific issues. I doubt that I have to add much to the excellent document prepared by the Secretariat, in fact two documents, as far as commercial aspects are concerned. However, allow me to make a brief comment on the cereal price levels. This aspect seems to be very strange. The price levels are low by all standards in real terms; indeed, very low from the point of view of main exporting producer countries, which are faced with a substantial relative increase in input prices. I am the last one to underestimate the potential consequence of low cereal prices on production. On the other hand, due to the strengthening of the dollar vis-à-vis other currencies, the price level is not low for importing countries, especially developing ones which are facing a hostile external environment, especially in the area of trade.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, it seems that cereal prices are at the moment simultaneously low and high depending on the view angle. Paradoxical situation indeed, with gloomy potential impact. Another more general aspect of prices I believe also deserves our attention. I am referring to what the Director-General said yesterday. He was quite right in emphasizing, to say the least, the oversimplified thesis according to which developing countries tend to discriminate against their own agriculture through low price levels. The thesis has been initiated in academic circles, as usual. However, it is now becoming even a precondition for development assistance which is in our view another symbol of Donor-Bias. I will not go into arguments, though I might. It will not be too difficult to show that the thesis is overly simplified, as compared with the complex and highly varying situations. However, at the moment it seems to me enough to indicate full support of the Yugoslav delegation to the intention of the Director-General to undertake a thorough study on price levels. It should be done for all countries, not only for developing ones.

Official external assistance to agriculture in 1981 was at the level of 60 percent of the annual requirement of \$8 300 million in 1975 prices. The declining trends have continued in 1982.

The crisis of the multilateral financial institutions whose resources are based on voluntary contributions has reached a critical level notwithstanding the highest priority assigned to food and agriculture by many international fora, and notwithstanding the merits, qualities and importance of the activities of these institutions. Let us just mention IFAD, UNDP, WFP, IEF, whose resources in real terms are cut for the current or next biennia causing serious reduction in their development and humanitarian assistance.

The growing trend towards bilateralism can have serious political implications, which of course do not pertain to this body. But the first victim of bilateralism would be the agricultural sector - that is the achievement of the growth in food production, development of agricultural infrastructure, training, small - scale projects for rural development, etc.

The political declarations should be transformed into practical actions and highest priority accorded to food and they should be reflected in adequate measures including sufficient support to the multi-lateral institutions.

RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): It is apparent by now that the item under consideration is a matter of great concern to all of us as it has always been to the Director-General of FAO and other institutions dealing with food and agriculture. The importance of food, or the lack of it, in many parts of the world has been high in the agenda of gatherings of world leaders in recent years. There appeared to be a widespread global, political and technical appreciation of the significance and implication of the food situation on the people of the world. Endless discussion on the subject by various fora had brought forth regional and national concern and also had raised hopes for a better future to the millions of hungry people of the developing countries. It is sad however to note that these hopes are still devoid of complete result and that the world continues to face a bleak future. The efforts of world communities, the international organizations, and those of the donor nations themselves in the past have enabled many developing countries to make substantial progress in food production. We were encouraged in the fact that many of the developing countries were now close to food self-sufficiency. This showed that increased food production was a real possibility in many developing countries of the world, if there were the will and the means to concentrate on the development of the agricultural potentials of our countries. It is Malaysia's belief that the will already exists but in many countries the means are still by and large non-existent due to a number of factors. These means include capital and the technical know-how to develop and increase food production. In many of these countries the means required for the development effort is large and extensive and unless this is made available the magnitude of poverty, hunger and malnutrition will continue to persist and in fact expand. Much more, therefore, remains to be done by all of us. Developing countries, in spite of the progress that has been made, continue to become increasingly dependent on external subsistence in their efforts for agricultural development. This is a challenging time, but unfortunately international cooperation is at one of its bleakest periods. The flow of development funds is lagging, the terms of agricultural trade had worsened and the prices of agricultural productions had declined. The agenda which the international community wanted to put into operation with regard to the world food programme to bring about in an integrated way increased food production, better distribution, improved food security, expanded trade in agricultural commodities and external assistance had been greatly affected by the current recession.

The repeated plea by the Director-General of FAO to developing countries to make all possible efforts to increase domestic food production should be heeded more now than ever before. The reality is that our Government will need to organize and provide the necessary prerequisites for agricultural development. Each one of us in our respective country has to address these problems with a sense of urgency because, as it has been repeatedly said, the basic solution to the problem would be to increase food production in the developing countries themselves at an ever accelerating pace. However, the efforts to increase food production still require technical and financial resources which are lacking in some of the developing countries. The importance of continued assistance from international organizations like the FAO in the efforts to increase domestic food production in the developing countries cannot therefore be overemphasized. Depending on the natural resource endowment and the state of development, food and agricultural development in a country could be achieved in a number of ways, either through extensive use of land resources with little technology, or through highly intensive systems that involve modern input to farming. Through whatever systems one chooses, resources must be made available to see some farm families improve their productivity. Most of the developing countries of the world share common characteristics in a farming problem associated with the predominance of marginal farmers and fishermen. Improving and stabilizing the productivity would be a prerequisite to improve food production improvement in the country. The follow-up of WCARRD Programme of Action could provide the basis for this development. There are also the problems related to uneven regional development in a country and also the question of inequitable distribution of farm income.

As emphasized in the Jakarta concensus adopted at the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Equity, Growth and Stability in Development "the attainment of production targets is not enough. They should be unequivocally geared to the objective of social equity and justice. More equitable participation of the rural poor in the benefits of growth providing solid foundations for national, regional, as well as global stability".

My delegation is glad this meeting is considering the resolution adopted by the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on the establishment of a regional commission for world food security for Asia and the Pacific. We will touch more on this when the item is discussed but suffice it to say that since food security is of paramount importance in our efforts to overcome poverty and hunger there is a need for closer cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels to complement the development of contribution global activities to food security.

C. NTSANE (Lesotho): The state of food and agriculture has been eloquently depicted, and in fact as the Director-General indicated yesterday, this is not the first time that the gloomy situation has been brought to the attention of the world community. The factors responsible for the deterioration of the scenario have been clearly identified in many studies and analyses. Possible practical solutions, at least in theory, have been worked out. These extend all the way from review and reformulation of food strategies through rational mobilization and redeployment of the necessary resources, including interim interventions of food aid sensitization and mobilization of political will to buttress the technical programmes. The gravity of the situation has left political leaders no choice but to articulate their commitment to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, such as we had from His Excellency the President of Cape Verde yesterday. The collective expression in this regard has been exemplified by the agriculture chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action in Africa, written with the help of our organization and the Food Security Programme and the Southern African Development Coordinating Council. Therefore broad objectives and guidelines are available. There is the political will, but what requires serious attention is the expert technology to mobilize and deploy available resources. In this connection, the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme was in recognition of this dimension. The positive results and growing demand bear testimony to the need to augment greatly this service. In the view of the Regional Conference for Africa, the most practical way would be to allocate specific resources for the training of personnel to the highest level in order permanently to cater for the need which is temporarily filled by TCP. We emphasize training because the consistent failure of the international community to reverse the declining trends in food and agriculture is an indication that the matter is a complex one, so complex that without the full understanding of the network of social, economic, political and cultural factors, external efforts to help may make little difference. I believe this is one reason why the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was held. This whole paper in front of us tells us that Africa is the hungriest continent, the least developed and the most seriously affected by current recession, inflation and negative balance of payments and yet paradoxically one with the highest potential. There is nothing wrong with the soil, the wind, the sun and the water in Africa. What is wrong, though, seems to be the management of these resources. We are calling on this Council to endorse heavy and massive training of planners and managers of resources in Africa.

It was interesting to note from Dr. Islam's introduction that in the Asian region it was only in China that marked production increases were experienced. Perhaps their unique style of resource management is mainly responsible. Unique resource management styles can only be invented by children of the soil.

Having indicated the weakness and responsibility of developing countries I would like to be specific on what we require FAO to do. We wish FAO to continue monitoring the world food situation, but more than that it should now help to document and interpret local efforts of developing countries. We make this specific point because sometimes one gets the impression that international development assistance declines because donors get tired of endlessly pumping in resources without significant effect. The truth of the matter is that there is wastage in the manner in which it is used. In many cases the conditions set by donors are responsible for inefficient use of aid resource, in other cases application of resources to aspects that are not crucial to development programmes. The net effect, however, is that not enough resources go into direct production of food. Therefore in this period of declining development aid FAO should strictly monitor the efficiency with which resources are applied to food production and agriculture. This we would hope should constitute a section of this document in future. Let me emphasize here that when we speak about monitoring efficiency in the use of resources we are not only referring to the resources available to FAO but even those of other donors applied in developing countries. In Lesotho we face a difficulty of disagreement with donors over what we believe our priorities are and what they think should be our priorities.

I should conclude by saying that more than ever before developing nations have become much clearer about their problems, their potential and possibilities. While we remain grateful to our Organization and to the generous donors, if however we sometimes seem to be nagging and pushing or screaming, it is only because we want to maximize on the benefits from goodwill and the united effort of the world community to reverse the deplorable trends in food and agriculture.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Ante todo queremos saludar a usted, señor Presidente, y felicitar a los delegados de Bangladesh, Panamá, y a la República Federal Alemana por la elección de que han sido objeto en este Consejo.

Nuestra delegación ha estudiado con detenimiento el documento CL 82/2 que nos ha proporcionado la Secretaría para el análisis y discusión de este importante tema. Al respecto, quisiéramos plantear que nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con la evaluación general que se hace al inicio del documento y que fue complementada por el Director General en su intervención del día de ayer y por el señor Islam en la presentación del tema, salvando, a nuestro entender, la relatividad de algunos conceptos optimistas y el carácter global de la situación mundial.

Consideramos muy acertada la afirmación que se hace en el párrafo 8 en el sentido de que la recesión económica, la limitación de presupuestos estatales y especialmente, a nuestro modo de ver, la actitud de algunos gobiernos en los problemas mundiales han afectado directamente a las perspectivas agrícolas de los países en desarrollo.

El hecho de que las asignaciones de asistencia externa a la agricultura en los últimos años sean cada vez menores y la disminución del volumen del comercio agrícola en comparación con el comercio de otros sectores son buena muestra del deterioro continuado de la situación agrícola y alimentaria en el mundo. A esto tenemos que añadir el descenso de los precios de muchos productos agrícolas, especialmente de productos de exportaciones muy importantes para los países desarrollados.

En América Latina, que está considerada en algunos párrafos de este documento como el área menos afectada, podemos decir que de acuerdo a un análisis reciente hecho por la CEPAL acerca de la evolución económica de la región en 1981 el resultado fue negativo totalmente, y en 1982 no hay indicios de que la situación haya mejorado.

El ritmo de crecimiento de la región en su conjunto fue solamente de 1,2 por ciento, tasa inferior a todas las registradas en los últimos 35 años. El ritmo medio de la inflación alcanzó un 60 por ciento, que es el más alto jamás registrado excepto sólo un año, 1976, ya que alcanzó un punto más.

El sector externo se vio gravemente afectado, entre otros factores, por la acentuada baja sufrida en los precios de los principales productos básicos que exporta la región, los cuales, por ejemplo el azúcar, sufrió una reducción de un 38 por ciento en aquel año y que en la actualidad es del 50 por ciento; el café, el cacao, el cobre, el estaño alrededor de un 20 por ciento; el trigo, maíz, carne vacuna y mineral de hierro entre un 10 y un 14; mientras el precio de las importaciones aumentó en un 7 por ciento.

En otras regiones del mundo, como la de África, a pesar de los esfuerzos que han hecho en muchos países y en el ámbito regional en su conjunto, la situación sigue siendo más desfavorable aún, se puede considerar de catastrófica en algunos países.

Consideramos, señor Presidente, corroborando lo expresado por el excelentísimo señor Presidente de Cabo Verde, que los problemas alimentarios están hoy en el centro mismo de la problemática internacional contemporánea, tanto en lo que compete a los problemas políticos como a los problemas económicos actuales.

Tradicionalmente uno de los elementos más problemáticos para los países en desarrollo ha sido precisamente las dificultades para el acceso a la totalidad de la población a los alimentos que requiere y en la actualidad los efectos de la crisis económica internacional se abaten con mayor fuerza también sobre las economías de los países subdesarrollados, provocando una exacerbación de las condiciones de miseria, hambre, subalimentación y salubridad, desempleo, por solo mencionar algunas de las más significativas.

Una vez más tenemos que declarar con honda preocupación, instando además que este Consejo medite profundamente, que la crisis económica mundial se empeora día a día por el incremento de la carrera armamentista que constituye una grave amenaza a la seguridad internacional, a la estabilidad económica mundial, sobre todo al desarrollo de los países subdesarrollados. Nuestra delegación considera que es innegable la vinculación entre la paz y el desarrollo, siendo necesario que se liberen los valiosos recursos que se destinan a la guerra y se destinen al desarrollo de los países, contribuyendo al bienestar y a la prosperidad de todos.

En realidad la profundización de la crisis económica exige la búsqueda concertada y sistemática de soluciones verdaderas y perdurables; sin embargo, me parece necesario resaltar que a pesar de esta íntegra realidad algunos países desarrollados persisten en recurrir a decisiones unilaterales arbitrarias negándose a llevar a cabo auténticas negociaciones. Como ejemplo palpable podemos citar las demoras y trabas para iniciar negociaciones globales unido a la grave disminución en el nivel de los recursos de las diversas instituciones financieras y de desarrollo intermultilaterales, en las cuales sus decisiones tienen un peso importante.

La actitud negativa de estos países está dirigida directamente en contra del espíritu con que se concibe la cooperación económica multilateral y las metas que se había fijado la Comunidad Internacional mediante la declaración y programa de acción sobre el establecimiento de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, la Carta de los Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados, las Estrategias Internacionales del Desarrollo para el tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas, aspectos en los que la FAO se ha pronunciado en abundancia.

A todo esto habría que agregar la reiterada utilización de los alimentos como arma política. El señor Director General, al intervenir en la Conferencia Interparlamentaria celebrada recientemente en Roma planteaba, con mucha razón, y cito: "Ejemplos recientes han demostrado que el hambre puede hacer peligrar regímenes, aumentar las tensiones sociales, comprometer la independencia de los países más vulnerables; el arma de los alimentos es más que una tentación".

Con relación a los aspectos específicos contenidos en el documento CL 82/2 mi delegación quisiera expresar su preocupación referente a lo planteado en el párrafo 44 sobre la contribución a la RAIE, la cual en julio de 1982 ascendió sólo a unas 404.000 toneladas de cereales. En este sentido consideramos que además de reiterar la necesidad, cada vez más apremiante de cumplimentar la ya escasa meta de 500.000 toneladas de cereales anuales para la RAIE, debemos recomendar una vez más la necesidad que la misma tenga un carácter plenamente multilateral y esté totalmente a disposición del PMA para que garantice esta multilateralidad y sobre todo la universalidad para cumplir los principios programáticos por los cuales surgió este programa. La forma de poner en práctica éste y otros aspectos importantes directamente implicados en el incremento de la producción, están contenidos en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, cuando se dice, cuando se plantea la necesidad de establecer sistemas agrarios que creen puestos de trabajo y hagan aumentar los ingresos de los grupos rurales desfavorables a la relación que tienen con el aumento de la productividad. Nosotros insistimos en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, o sea, que existen los mecanismos; solamente nos hace falta que los mismos sean puestos en práctica por los Gobiernos. Es una decisión política, además de que los países subdesarrollados deben contar con la ayuda financiera necesaria. Estas dos cuestiones son fundamentales.

Pensamos que los países que tienen excedentes de alimentos pueden jugar un importante papel. Asimismo, la distribución equitativa de lo que se produce ha sido un elemento que nuestra delegación ha considerado siempre fundamental. Consideramos también que en la difícil situación en que se encuentra el problema alimentario, resulta más que necesario aumentar la afluencia de recursos y de todo otro tipo a la agricultura. Por consiguiente, nuestra delegación quisiera exhortar al Consejo a que se pronuncie por una administración mayor de recursos que permita incrementar la producción en el sector agrícola. Especialmente nos preocupa la disminución de las contribuciones de organismos, e igualmente, nos parece una ocasión apropiada para que el Consejo solicite a los países donantes que hagan esfuerzos por cumplimentar los objetivos del Programa Mundial, y se repongan en su momento también los recursos del FIDA, resultando éste también un marco idóneo para destacar, como lo han hecho otras distinguidas delegaciones, los efectos negativos que para nuestra economía tiene la política proteccionista que aplican algunos países de economía de mercado industrializados a los principales renglones de exportación de los países en desarrollo, productos que en su mayoría son la espina dorsal de nuestros ingresos.

Estos problemas quedaron perfectamente enmarcados en algunas resoluciones aprobadas por la 17. Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina celebrada en septiembre pasado en Managua.

Esperamos con optimismo que la reunión del GATT logre resultados satisfactorios aunque sean modestos. Hace apenas un mes se pronunció la Declaración de Roma sobre el Hambre en ocasión del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Estamos convencidos de que en la misma primó la necesidad de realizar un gran esfuerzo mundial para lograr el crecimiento de los países en desarrollo y que todos los países deben priorizar la producción y la distribución de alimentos. Confiamos en que esta declaración quede presente en todos y que la realización de esfuerzos sostenidos para lograr una mayor equidad constituya el centro de nuestras conclusiones en este Consejo. Sobre los aspectos específicos de Montes, Medio Ambiente, Pesca, Investigación Aplicada, nuestra delegación se pronunciará dentro del Programa de este Consejo.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Hemos analizado con mucho interés el documento CL 82/2 y su suplemento. Su estudio nos ha dado una visión global de la coyuntura en materia alimentaria y agrícola. Quisiera felicitar por su intermedio, señor Presidente, a la Secretaría por la preparación del mismo.

Por nuestra parte, quisiéramos presentar en esta ocasión los resultados de la preocupación argentina en aumentar su producción de alimentos que se traduce para el año 1982, en condiciones climáticas normales, en las siguientes cifras estimativas:

La producción de granos aumentará en un 22,4 por ciento respecto a la campaña anterior, esto es, siete millones y medio de toneladas por encima del récord de 33 millones y medio de toneladas de la campaña anterior. Este incremento de la producción permitirá elevar las exportaciones de 22 millones de toneladas en 1982 a 30 millones en 1983.

La primera estimación de producción de trigo permite esperar una exportación de entre siete millones y medio y ocho millones de toneladas contra los casi cuatro de la campaña anterior.

La exportación del resto de cereales se podría aumentar en dos millones de toneladas sobre los casi trece millones de la campaña anterior. En cuanto a las oleaginosas, la exportación podrá incrementarse en 1,3 millones de toneladas en 1982. Todos estos logros mencionados resultan fundamentalmente de la introducción de tecnología, que se ha traducido en un significativo incremento de la productividad. Podemos decir que somos optimistas respecto al futuro en materia de producción agrícola interna, ya que el volumen físico global de la cosecha creció a la tasa acumulativa anual del 3,9 por ciento en el año 1982.

Dentro de este marco global, los avances logrados para el mismo período en el trigo es el de un rendimiento de un 47,5 por ciento mayor por hectárea, y en los casos del maíz y del sorgo, para el mismo período, los rendimientos por hectárea crecieron en 133 por ciento y 132 por ciento, respectivamente. Por su parte, los volúmenes de exportación durante los últimos 10 años han crecido a una tasa anual del 8 por ciento anual acumulativo.

Con todo lo dicho hasta aquí, sólo queremos hacer notar las características expansivas de la actividad agrícola argentina que testimonia nuestra decisión de continuar efectuando significativos y crecientes aportes a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Ahora bien, viendo esta última cuestión desde una perspectiva global, existen otras variables a tener en cuenta, y que afectan al desarrollo agrícola y alimentario. Me refiero a lo dicho ya en otras oportunidades, y esta es la influencia limitante que ejerce sobre nuestras aspiraciones y posibilidades productivas la política proteccionista que aplican la mayoría de los países industrializados. Sus efectos perniciosos anulan las ventajas comparativas, impidiendo el desarrollo de la potencialidad productiva de los países con probada eficiencia agrícola.

Estas prácticas de mercado que aplican la amplia mayoría de los países industrializados contra los países en desarrollo, por conducto de un sistema de barreras comerciales y subsidios a las exportaciones impiden la plena utilización de la capacidad de producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, a la vez que ocasionan, en general, una grave disminución en su producción.

La Argentina en los últimos años, ha sido particularmente afectada en materia de productos cárnicos. Los subsidios a la exportación que otorgan los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea vienen desplazando a la Argentina de terceros mercados, repercutiendo en las perspectivas de nuestra producción ganadera.

Sabemos que no existe solución al creciente proteccionismo comercial fuera de su contexto global. Los países industrializados sufren recesión con inflación, desempleo, inestabilidad monetaria. Así mismo, tratan de solucionar sus problemas de estancamiento y desocupación interna, imponiendo barreras comerciales. Por su parte, los países en desarrollo enfrentan su principal problema en el fuerte endeudamiento externo que solamente se puede superar aumentando sus exportaciones, que son principalmente agrícolas.

No obstante, existe una tendencia de aminoración en su comercio y un aumento del deterioro de los términos de intercambio. De esta manera, nosotros, los países en desarrollo, cada vez tenemos menos alicientes para extender nuestra frontera agrícola, ya sea vertical u horizontalmente, así como también nos enfrentamos a una situación donde no podremos hacer frente a nuestros pesados servicios de deuda externa.

Si a esta situación de índole estructural le agregamos la tendencia decreciente que muestran las cifras de la asistencia oficial externa a la agricultura, como resultado de la situación antes descrita, nos enfrentamos ante un cuadro difícil, y donde el norte ya no tiene casi nada que ofrecerle al sur, en su estancado dialogo. Resultado de todo ello es que cada vez los hechos mencionados, entre otros, nos llevan a alejarnos más del programa de acción que plantea el Programa de Estudio: Horizonte 2000, el cómo duplicar la producción agrícola del mundo al comenzar el próximo siglo, lo cual también es un importante elemento que nos indica que también nos alejamos de la posibilidad de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición del mundo, con todo lo que ello implica.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Je voudrais avant tout présenter mes félicitations à M. Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation qui, dans son intervention d'hier après-midi, nous a dépeint avec objectivité et courage, comme à l'accoutumée, la situation réelle actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Les documents soumis à notre examen sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, et dont je salue en passant la clarté et la richesse, sont les vivants témoignages de cette préoccupation à propos de la situation.

L'année 1981, nous le savons, a permis d'excellentes récoltes dans les pays développés, mais aussi dans nombre de pays en développement. Mais nous n'ignorons pas que cet accroissement de la production agricole et alimentaire n'a pas atteint tous les pays. Mieux, beaucoup d'entre eux ont été en proie à de graves pénuries alimentaires et de situations d'urgence. Il est donc temps de garantir un rééquilibrage de la répartition de la nourriture dans le monde.

L'humanité ne peut tolérer la pérennité actuelle, où la nourriture est abondante dans certaines parties du monde, au point que l'on organise parfois sa destruction, cependant que d'autres contrées manquent atrocement de quoi se nourrir.

Devant une telle situation, la solution la plus facile consisterait à déverser ces surplus alimentaires dans des régions insuffisamment pourvues.

Nous pensons que cette conception de l'assistance doit être dépassée, et l'on ne doit y recourir que pour des situations d'urgence reconnues et qui ont pour objectif de sauver des vies humaines menacées par la mort. Mais, même ici, cette solution doit être perçue comme provisoire et se muer rapidement en aide au développement.

Malheureusement, cette aide au développement susceptible d'accroître le potentiel de production emprunte depuis quelques années une courbe dangereusement descendante qui nous inquiète et qui incite à penser que les pays donateurs ne sont guère suffisamment préoccupés par l'actuelle situation.

Certes, nous vivons aujourd'hui un monde en crise. Les pays développés eux-mêmes ne sont guère épargnés. Mais nous devons également reconnaître que, malgré la crise, des ressources importantes sont distraites dans la course aux armements et l'on sait qu'une infime partie des budgets consacrés aux arsenaux militaires suffirait pour renverser la tendance actuelle et créer les conditions d'un monde où la faim serait proscrite.

M. le Président, la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique nous a permis de constater que nombre de pays de notre région ont conçu des plans et stratégies d'autosuffisance alimentaire pour répondre aux préoccupations du Plan d'action de Lagos, mais que dans la phase exécutoire ces plans et programmes se heurtent à une insuffisance notoire de moyens tant humains que financiers. Il s'agit là de freins sérieux qui ne peuvent se desserrer sans le concours massif et généreux des pays donateurs, ainsi que des programmes de la FAO.

La crise économique internationale comme on le sait, frappe avec plus de rigueur et d'ampleur les pays économiquement faibles qui, de ce fait, manquent des moyens pour accroître les investissements dans l'agriculture en vue de la moderniser et risquent des situations d'urgence qui continuent à préoccuper les responsables chargés d'y remédier. Il est, à ce sujet, inquiétant qu'après avoir, pour la première fois, atteint l'objectif minimum de 500 mille tonnes en 1981 les perspectives de la RAIU redeviennent sombres et menacent en conséquence les ressources ordinaires du PAM dont on n'est pas encore assuré qu'elles atteindront l'objectif même au prochain biennium. Nous pensons que devant une telle situation les appels lancés hier par son Excellence M. Aristide Pereira, Président de la République du Cap-Vert et Président en service du FISE, ainsi que la plaidoirie du Directeur général de la FAO seront entendus et amèneront les grands contributeurs à oeuvrer pour que le FIDA, le PAM et le PNUD bénéficient de ressources suffisantes pour aider à la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'accroissement de la production agricole et alimentaire de chaque pays, seul moyen d'enrayer la faim et éloigner les situations d'urgence imprévisibles.

Je voudrais ici exprimer le soutien de ma délégation aux propos tenus ce matin par mon éminent collègue et voisin l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos à propos de l'aide alimentaire qui doit être désintéressée. C'est pour cette raison que notre délégation pense que les pays donateurs attachés à la liberté et soucieux du caractère humanitaire de cette oeuvre devraient privilégier l'aide multilatérale au développement, exempte de considérations politiques et idéologiques. A ce sujet comment ne pas citer l'exemple de notre pays hôte qui vient bousculer les tendances rétrogrades actuelles qui voudraient voir l'aide bilatérale prendre le dessus sur l'assistance multilatérale et qui fait confiance aux organisations internationales créées à cet effet.

En outre, la situation qui nous est décrite dans le document soumis à notre examen, notamment pour la région africaine, appelle les responsables politiques de cette région à créer un programme de coopération économique intégrée et s'assurer que la mise en oeuvre d'un tel programme demande des ressources importantes qu'un seul Etat, aussi pourvu soit-il, ne peut assurer. C'est pourquoi l'aide multilatérale semble la seule appropriée. L'examen de la situation en Afrique au cours de la Conférence régionale tenue à Alger en septembre dernier a permis de se rendre compte que du fait de la réduction des ressources du PNUD plusieurs projets de coopération inter-Etats, étudiés avec l'aide de la FAO, restent en souffrance et dans l'état actuel des choses rien ne permet d'indiquer qu'ils seront mis en oeuvre dans un avenir prévisible.

Enfin, la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ne peut pas s'accommoder d'une faible production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et dotés d'un niveau d'endettement bien au-dessus de leur capacité de remboursement.

Cependant, une sécurité alimentaire viable exige la mise en place d'un système agricole et alimentaire vigoureux à l'abri des aléas climatiques mais cette voie ne semble pas être celle qu'empruntent ces secteurs dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, en raison de la faiblesse des investissements dans ce secteur, faiblesse qui favorise l'insuffisance de devises, conséquence d'un commerce largement déficitaire pour ces pays, en raison entre autres, des termes de l'échange défavorables. Il convient donc que l'humanité entière se ressaisisse à temps et les moyens existent pour ce faire; seule la volonté politique manque. Nous sommes sensibles aux efforts que déploie le Directeur général de la FAO pour faire connaître la situation catastrophique de l'Afrique, immobilisant ainsi les ressources internationales. Nous émettons l'espoir qu'il tiendra compte des résolutions adoptées par notre Conférence régionale d'Alger, notamment en ce qui concerne les programmes de formation car l'Afrique manque de main-d'œuvre qualifiée et de cadres de niveau supérieur, condition qui à nos yeux constitue un préalable pour un déploiement véritable de notre région.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): First of all, we wish to congratulate the Director-General, Professor Islam, and his colleagues for the document CL 82/2 and Supplement 1 thereof. Both the documents most comprehensively provide the assessment of the world food and agriculture situation.

In this context, we also wish to convey our appreciation to the Director General who in his statement yesterday provided the analytical perspective to the descriptive wealth which these documents provide.

We do not wish to make a lengthy statement, particularly in view of the fact the delegates from other member nations have already highlighted various important aspects of the state of food and agriculture. We only wish to concentrate on issues emerging from these documents which are of great concern to us, and, we are sure, to other developing countries.

The current world food situation is a frustratingly complex panorama with islands of plenty surrounded by vast oceans of hunger and poverty. The harvests of 1981 and 1982 were good though that by itself does not assure food supplies for all nations and for all nations and for all people.

The 2 percent general increase for 1981 and 1982 is unequally and unevenly distributed over different regions of the world. The overall increase in cereal production is concentrated in developed countries. The improved situation in world carry-over stocks is also concentrated in one region of the world. In the absence of reliable global food security systems, the developing countries remain at the mercy of vagaries of the weather and the market instability. They continue to suffer from adverse changes in their agricultural and food trade. While inflation remains high the production costs in the developing countries are constantly rising, more often than not as a result of external factors. Their total export revenue stagnate and decline in real value. To restrict agricultural inputs and equipment at increasing prices, the developing countries have to sell more and more raw materials at lower and lower prices. The situation is particularly serious for the poor food deficit countries who are tightly squeezed between rising import costs of food and fuel and the decline of prices for their exportable agricultural products.

We readily agree with the Director-General: "the question of price policies is a vital but complex one", and we commend the Director-General's initiative regarding major study of this question.

In view of this situation, we cannot but be concerned with the declining trend in international assistance, particularly through the multinational channels as highlighted in Paragraph 41 and 42 of document CL 82/2 Sup. 1. We are gravely concerned with the stagnation in development assistance. The reduction or stagnation in the flow of resources from multilateral agencies will have a disproportionately serious effect on the food and agriculture sectors. It will affect both the low income food deficit countries and those developing countries who have achieved some progress in their agricultural sectors during the past few years.

The claim by some that long term solutions lie only in the market economy and private enterprise has to be viewed with caution. Investment in the poorest countries, particularly in the food and agriculture sector where a great deal of investment is needed in physical and social infrastructure such as research and training, can hardly be attractive to private investors whose motives are predominately commercial. In this context the most urgent issue is not only to prevent the imminent decline in the field of external resources for agriculture but to ensure a significant acceleration to achieve the target of annual average increase of 4 percent in the agricultural production in developing countries.

We recognize that the solution to the problem of world food and hunger cannot be found in a year or two. It is a complex multi-faceted problem which needs continuous and consistent effort on the part of national governments and the international community. Over the past decade the complexity of the world's hunger problem has become increasingly apparent. However, no one can deny that hunger is largely caused by poverty and under-development. It is not because of an overall insufficiency of food in the world as is apparent from the good harvests of 1981 and 1982, but because millions of people throughout the world have neither the ability to grow food nor the money to purchase the food they need. Their sufferings are not merely a harmless by-product of a permissible omission on the

part of others but is a wrong committed against them. It is violation of their basic moral right. The right to be saved from hunger and starvation is at the core of the more general moral right of human beings to be saved from preventable death due to deprivation. This right has been affirmed repeatedly by both national and international institutions.

Just to cite an example, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states: "everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate to the health and well-being of himself and his family including food, clothing, housing, etc."

I mention this affirmation of human rights to highlight the fact that elimination of the world's hunger is not a matter of charity, but of justice. Life below a certain specified level of sustenance cannot and should not be tolerated.

While concluding, I am constrained to point out that even if the good harvests of 1981 and 1982 cannot assure food to all the hungry people in the world it is time that the world community had another look at the global economic and agriculture system.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for being so helpful in making a short and precise statement.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Could I first on behalf of my delegation and the countries of the South West Pacific region which New Zealand represents welcome you as Chairman of the Eighty-second Session of Council. We look forward to working under your guidance I would also like to record our congratulations to the Vice Chairmen on their election for this session.

New Zealand takes this opportunity to re-affirm its support for the work FAO is doing in this most important area of increasing food production. Although Agenda Item 5 addresses FAO's work in the area of food security in detail it is appropriate to record under this item that New Zealand supports the efforts being made by FAO to promote the development of world food security where food shortages are a real threat not only to development generally but also to the improvement of living standards in many parts of the world.

New Zealand represents on this Council a number of countries including the small Island States of the South Pacific. As a consequence we are devoting the majority of our assistance efforts to these Island countries which are also our nearest neighbours.

In general these countries are small economic units which are isolated from the rest of the world. They are subject particularly to economic forces outside their control. Therefore, we are watching with interest the development of FAO programmes for agriculture which can be adapted to help these countries.

It seems to my delegation that in looking at some of the techniques being developed to promote world food production, FAO needs to continue to give emphasis to helping countries to promote increases in their own food production rather than their having to rely indefinitely on food supplies from buffer stock schemes or from donor countries. We also welcome the fact that FAO is now able to give more attention to the South West Pacific in this context.

We feel that it is possible to transfer food production techniques from one country to another to help the development of food production. This transfer of food production techniques is being used by FAO and it is to be commended.

In his review of the State of Food and Agriculture the Director-General has highlighted a number of problems currently facing the world today. He noted, that notwithstanding, increases in food production, for example 1981 global agricultural production increased by 2.9 percent. The current world economic situation manifested by high unemployment, high interest rates and high levels of inflation in a number of countries has never-the-less placed a much greater strain on the ability of many countries to pay for essential imports including food imports. Mr. Chairman, this makes it even more important that FAO continues to try and assist countries to develop their own food production. In this connection also, Mr Chairman, it is New Zealand's belief that food producers in developing countries should be given sufficient financial incentives to stimulate the development of food production. We welcome along with other delegations, therefore, the Director-General's proposal announced yesterday to examine the complex area of pricing policy in agriculture.

New Zealand as an agricultural producer is aware of the serious problems being faced in achieving the necessary development of agricultural production and the stability and expansion of trade in this sector. We are concerned about current production surpluses in some parts of the world and critical shortages in others.

The problems of agriculture are of course not isolated. Most nations, as the Director-General mentioned, are faced with wider and longer term structural problems. The recessionary effects on agriculture are the most important. In particular world economic problems, and measures to react to these such as tight monetary policies, have been accompanied by a fall in commodity prices to their lowest level in three decades and to a halt in the growth of international trade volumes. These conditions have exacerbated the problem of many developing countries by increasing their interest payments on already large debts, prompting further deterioration in their terms of trade and reduced export volumes.

The crucial question is of course how lower-income and food-deficit countries can continue to improve their own food production.

New Zealand along with many other agricultural producers remains very concerned about policies of agricultural protectionism which make it very difficult for producers of agricultural products to maintain and develop sales of these products to industrialised countries. We look forward to the current meeting in Geneva of Ministers of the GATT in the hope that a workable system leading to an international trading system which reflects the needs of exporters of agricultural products can be developed.

New Zealand adheres to the principle that trade is the engine of growth. We should all look seriously at the right ways of realising this objective. Bilateral and multilateral initiatives should be towards greater awareness and accommodation of agricultural trading problems and we hope that the GATT meetings will hopefully arrive at ways of solving these problems.

New Zealand is an agriculturally based economy - 75 percent of our export income derives from sales of primary products. We therefore have a real appreciation of the difficult problems faced by developing country producers.

Increased production in food in the developing countries themselves and a climate for economic growth including trade growth in the international community as a whole complement each other. But this trade growth must of course enable agricultural producers to participate in it.

This Eighty-second Session of Council has a number of important items to be addressed which complement the principle problems which face us and we will be considering them as we work through our agenda.

On behalf of the South West Pacific region New Zealand would like to reiterate its congratulations to you and to the Vice-Chairmen. We would also like to congratulate the Director-General and his hard working staff for the part they have played in the making of this Council session the success we know it will be.

F.M. MBEWE (Zambia): The document which is under discussion has highlighted the deteriorating situation in food and agriculture in the world generally, but in particular in Africa. Among the problems which are thus indicated there is the bad situation caused by drought and climatic conditions. Unfortunately, the document does not mention even very briefly what measures have been taken or ought to be taken by this Organization to combat the situation. It is felt by my delegation that since FAO was created to assist its Member States to try and improve their food production, the document should have mentioned its activities in this area which I think are quite numerous.

One of the problems mentioned as a cause of low food production in 17 countries in Africa is drought. We feel that this problem should be tackled by improving irrigation networks and that FAO should therefore emphasize its work in this area. We have been encouraged to hear the statement by the United States Delegation in which that country has pledged support to FAO in implementing programmes and projects aimed at increasing food production in developing countries. We say this because our experience has shown that policy incentives alone are not enough to encourage farmers to produce more food. We had in Zambia tried to provide a number of incentives including pricing, accelerated depreciation, tax rebates, etc. The efforts of the farmers to respond to these incentives have not been blessed with adequate rainfall. Therefore the food shortfall cannot be attributed to lack of proper policies.

It is for this reason that I would like to echo a number of Member States' statements that there is a need to develop agricultural infrastructure capabilities. This is a paramount area of attack. I wish specifically to refer to irrigation networks, agricultural research, extension training, marketing and credit. In our opinion a proper mix of these has a higher impact on increasing production than pricing policy alone, and it does facilitate the pricing policies work to their full capacity.

FAO should therefore intensify its efforts in assisting Member States, particularly those in the developing world, to try and prepare programmes and projects in these important areas of development and donors, particularly major donors from the Western group who tend to play a bigger role in bilateral and multilateral operations, to try and support to bring about these programmes to reality.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): First of all, let me add my congratulations to those of my colleagues for your appointment, Mr. Chairman, and to those of Bangladesh, Panama and the Federal Republic of Germany on their election to the position of Vice-Chairmen, and my colleague from the Cameroon as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

We would like to commend the Secretariat for their efforts in the preparation of these interesting documents. I would also like to thank those delegations who had already spoken on this item for their particularly insightful remarks about the successes as well as the difficulties that some countries still may face in their struggle to conquer hunger and malnutrition and to achieve food self-sufficiency. While the problems and difficulties abound, the situation is not entirely bleak. If we were to review the objectives and targets that we set before ourselves 10 years ago, we would be agreeably surprised to discover that in spite of these obstacles and difficulties, many countries have made remarkable progress. The statements that we heard this morning from India and China are eloquent testimony to this fact. Other countries have also experienced similar successes. Excessive gloom can sometimes lead to despair and we feel that what is required in this struggle is the conviction that our continued and, hopefully, increased efforts and resources will lead to the attainment of our collective objectives.

The documents that we have before us contain not only instances or descriptions of difficulties; they have also pointed out to us eloquently that we have achieved some successes, and I think in the search for balance that perhaps recalling some of these might be useful.

In Table 1 there is an indication that the rate of food production in many parts of the world has shown a marked increase. Table 3 suggests some concern about projected low-reserves for the 1980/81 period and this is interpreted as endemic to the system and requiring basic reforms. Yet the system, while far from perfect, is correcting itself. The 1982 forecast of reserves at 18 percent now and perhaps higher in the future, points in that direction.

In this context, we welcome the Director-General's announcement yesterday in his speech of a study on the effects of pricing policies. Table 10 tells us there are now available \$7 billion in multilateral assistance for agriculture, a figure that, while understandably probably far short of the real needs, is nonetheless not negligible in these difficult times.

Table 12 shows us that reliance on traditional donors is declining and that there are more donors coming forward to assist. This is certainly a trend to be encouraged as is that of the neediest countries getting an ever-increasing share of the available resources.

Paragraph 41 of the study points out that the number of emergencies has declined and that the food shortages are somewhat less critical. What is unfortunate behind these figures is that many of these emergencies which still remain are man-made. In paragraph 44 we are pleased to note that more donors are joining in a joint WFP/IEFR pledging conference. We remain convinced that this will be a successful technique for the announcement of donor contributions.

Canada for its part has given the primacy of place in development assistance to agriculture.

At present approximately 35 percent of our total ODA resources goes to agricultural and we estimate that by 1985 this figure will be 40 percent.

This Council can also claim successes. Many members here will recall the discussions we have had in the past, both in FAO and IFPI, WFC, on the IMF facility. This is now a reality. We had similar debates on food sector strategies and now many countries, donors and recipients, in international organizations such as the FAO support this technique. We applaud, therefore, the efforts made by developing countries to give agriculture and food production its proper place and we encourage them to utilize the assistance available from both bilateral and multilateral sources to the best possible uses.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom) : We are glad that despite world recession, agricultural production rose in 1981 and that harvests are expected in 1982 to be equally good, as the Director-General told us in his important address yesterday. However, the decline in prices will act as a disincentive to producers and this may be reflected in reduced production from annual crops in future seasons. We support the cautionary note struck by the document that there is no room for complacency, but at the same time there are some grounds for optimism, as has been said so eloquently by the delegate of Canada who has, in fact, taken a large part of my speech away!

We are, of course, concerned, along with many other delegates, that the poorest growth rate figures in terms of production and some of the highest in terms of population growth come from sub-Saharan Africa. African food production therefore remains a problem, but it is worth noting that a growth rate of 3 percent per annum was achieved from 1977-1981, which is a considerable improvement over past performance. The fact also that five African countries, mentioned in paragraph 20, have had good increases indicates, or seems to us to indicate, that suitable domestic policies backed up by international assistance, can bring about significant improvement in the short and long term.

I would now like to turn to comments on individual sectors of the report. First of all, on land, we find it encouraging that land productivity is now rising more quickly in developing countries. Increasing the intensity of land use is a necessity now, but it does bring in train problems associated with soil erosion and declining fertility.

We also noted a mention of land abundance in Africa, in paragraphs 71 to 72. Much of this land is under valuable forest cover, and we have heard a lot about deforestation and desertification; and some of it has relatively poor agricultural potential and would be very costly to develop. There is, we think, still considerable potential to improve the productivity of land already cultivated, and especially the development of existing irrigation schemes.

To turn now to Agricultural Research; the importance of this research is not disputed; indeed we agree strongly with a number of other delegates on this point. It is important especially that developing countries make effective systems of their own, and that the research is appropriate to the needs of the country. Where countries depress the price of their agricultural products, this not only acts as a direct disincentive to production, but also tends to distort research priorities by under-valuing the benefits of research into those products. Over pricing can also lead to excessive research whose social value is doubtful. It also appears to us that there is still inadequate research into technological improvement of materials like cassava, for example, as compared with the success stories of wheat, rice, and to some extent maize.

We note that although paragraph 83 emphasizes that agricultural research, both promotes and economizes in the use of inputs, the conclusion in paragraph 89 suggests increased use of inputs is essential for achieving production objectives. We believe, however, that research can lead, and is leading, to sustained and increased output without necessarily requiring increased inputs.

Then on the question of seeds; we support, of course, fully, the important role that improved seeds can play, but we must sound a cautionary note, that the development of full potential depends also on better management and input. In the absence of these vital components anticipated improvements sometimes do not materialize and injurious side effects can result if insufficient attention has been paid to the reliability of yield, storage quality and palatability.

Now to turn to environmental issues, we support very strongly the need to protect the environment to which many delegates, especially the delegate of Brazil, referred, and see a role for developing more permanent systems in the areas under shifting agriculture. The international research institutions have an important role to play in this. We feel that environmental issues are inherent in the total resource use for agricultural production. Policymakers therefore have to ensure that the different environments within each country are considered most carefully, including the application of lessons drawn from some traditional systems. Research under practical farming conditions on changes in the microenvironment has been, in our view, given too little attention.

Finally, on External Assistance; the Report stresses the fact that real aid flows to agriculture fell in both 1979 and 1980 and probably also in 1981. However, it is perhaps worth noting that the share of aid to agriculture in total ODA from the DAC and multilateral agencies has risen steadily from 12 percent in 1973 to 23 percent in 1979. The problem of decreasing absolute amounts of aid to agriculture is more a problem of declining total aid flows than a lack of donor perception of the needs of agriculture. In the United Kingdom we are taking such steps as we can to ensure that a satisfactory proportion of our bilateral aid is devoted to agriculture.

S. BELLETTE (Ethiopia): According to our agenda the Council is called upon to examine several problems of global importance, the most important being the state of food and agriculture and in particular the problem of deteriorating per capita food and agricultural production of the developing countries that we are presently discussing.

By and large my delegation concurs with the sober assessment of the food and agriculture situation of 1982 presented in document CL 82/2 and its supplements.

We recall the statement made by the Director-General yesterday indicating that the present decade started with a multiplicity of crises that call for great concern of the world community. Hunger still looms a large peril in food-deficit low-income countries of the world. Persons who are classed as refugees or those who are displaced from their normal mode of life due to natural disasters or

man-made causes still claim high doses of international assistance of all kinds, especially of food, and in the Africa region neither in food nor in agriculture, as it has been indicated in the document and as mentioned by several delegates, has shown sufficient growth. In fact most sources of global information indicate that the current decade has been perhaps the bleakest to date in terms of development and in the face of all these anomalies, developing countries are forced to carry an unfair burden of trade relations with developed countries, that is developing countries must pay many times more for what they must import compared to what they can earn by exporting raw materials to developed countries. To this must be added the negative effect of the high cost of fossil fuels.

As has been mentioned numerous times by delegates this morning and this afternoon, this forum is not the most appropriate to render a balancing account of the complex ramifications of the unjust international economic order that prevails today. My delegation considers, however, that outstanding global failures vis-a-vis past decisions and resolutions for collective action should be examined at this forum.

Socialist Ethiopia considers food self-sufficiency or self-reliance in agricultural and food production an essential part of overall development. Thus, great emphasis is being placed on such strategies for development as conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources, such as land, water, plant and animal resources, with major focus on enhancing the welfare of the community and productive employment of the human resources certainly increased food production for domestic consumption through concentrated efforts of potential productive areas and also in such strategy as increasing production of agricultural commodities to increase the foreign exchange earning capabilities. All such strategies are founded on the radical re-structure of the social economic system relying on peasant participation and organization in all spheres of activities whether political through peasant associations or economic, through establishment and expansion of the producers' cooperatives and other social activities from the grass-root level to the national level. This we realize cannot be done by relying on domestic resources alone. Consequently we attach great importance to the rationale behind the past decision of the world body that developed countries ought to make over 0.7 percent of their GNP every year to developing countries for the purpose of expediting the realization of an overall development. Up to now only one or two donor countries may have reached that level in that kind of contribution. The global call for real increase in food and agricultural production stands at 4 percent. The performance so far appears to be dismal in general; also earlier reports for 1982 indicate an encouraging relief in the otherwise bleak picture. This target itself may not invite a call for revision but the means that can be mustered by the developing countries to achieve a 4 percent annual rate of growth in food and agricultural production are not only meagre but also subject to many uncertainties, most of which are beyond the control of the developing countries.

Turning to regional matters, Ethiopia finds cause for satisfaction that FAO pursues Africa's interests in food and agricultural production in the agricultural segment of the Lagos Plan of Action. I am also glad to acknowledge that the Lagos Plan of Action was given by African states, members of FAO, the high consideration that it deserves during the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Algiers from 22 September to 2 October 1982.

At this juncture my delegation wishes to expand on a constructive suggestion expressed by the delegates of Kenya and Cameroon and others on how the state of food and agriculture can be further elaborated and improved, especially in Africa, for a better understanding of this complex issue.

It is indeed gratifying to note the seriousness that the Director-General attaches to the problem of food and agriculture in the African continent and his determined efforts to devise concrete programmes of action to combat this problem of hunger in the less developed countries.

I shall wind up at this point by promising the fullest cooperation of my delegation to assist in the search for possible and practical solutions.

E. HARAOUÏ (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. La déclaration du Professeur Islam, lors de l'introduction du point relatif à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1982, a été excellente et mérite tous nos remerciements; elle s'est distinguée par le courage, la franchise et la clarté de vues. Ceci nous amène à remercier le Secrétariat dans son ensemble pour l'effort déployé afin de préparer les deux documents que nous sommes en train d'étudier, le CL 82/2 et le CL 82/2 Sup.1 relatifs tous deux à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1982. Ces documents prouvent que notre monde connaît une phase très critique. En effet, l'économie mondiale connaît la récession, l'inflation, le chômage et l'instabilité financière, ainsi que des politiques protectionnistes exagérées.

Nous enregistrons avec beaucoup de plaisir ce qu'a déclaré M. le Directeur général (repris d'ailleurs dans le document de travail) au sujet de l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire et agricole en 1981. En effet l'augmentation de la production au cours de l'année 1981 a été supérieure à celle enregistrée au cours des années 70, et bien meilleure que celle des dernières années.

Mais si cette situation pousse à l'optimisme, nous ne devons pas oublier la situation véritable qui fait apparaître la différence de plus en plus grande en matière de production entre pays développés et pays en développement, entre telle région et telle autre. C'est le cas du Proche-Orient par exemple, de l'Amérique latine où le taux de croissance de la production est supérieur à la moyenne mondiale.

Dans la région du Proche-Orient à laquelle appartient le Liban, l'augmentation de la production agricole annuelle n'a pas dépassé 1,9 pour cent. C'est là une situation très préoccupante. C'est ce qu'a déclaré le Directeur général en disant que bien qu'il y ait une augmentation globale de la production alimentaire et agricole, il y a encore des pays en développement où les populations sont victimes de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Cela ne nous pousse-t-il pas à nous poser des questions ? Comment pouvons-nous accepter qu'il y ait une augmentation globale de la production alimentaire et agricole et en même temps une situation dans laquelle la malnutrition et la faim continuent à faire des victimes ?

Nous constatons une diminution des prix agricoles sans que cette diminution profite dans la même proportion aux pays consommateurs et importateurs des produits agricoles, malgré cette diminution relative des prix. De même, les agriculteurs des pays en développement et même des pays développés ne peuvent tirer un profit raisonnable de leur production, surtout si l'on tient compte de l'augmentation des prix des intrants, engrais, pesticides, machines agricoles, etc. alors que les prix des produits agricoles que perçoivent les agriculteurs baissent de plus en plus.

Ceci nous amène à exprimer également notre préoccupation pour la baisse des ressources allouées à l'assistance technique et l'aide alimentaire aux pays en développement.

Face à cette situation, ma délégation et mon pays ne peuvent qu'appuyer les efforts déployés par la FAO pour apporter de l'aide aux pays en développement et pour inciter les pays capables de le faire à augmenter leur participation à la RAIU et augmenter leur participation aux ressources du PAM. Nous sommes donc tout à fait d'accord avec l'appel du Directeur général lorsqu'il dit qu'il est impossible que notre monde soit incapable de corriger les tendances actuelles et d'adopter des politiques de nature à distribuer ses ressources de façon plus juste et plus rationnelle.

De même, nous appuyons les efforts de l'organisation en vue d'augmenter les ressources prévues pour l'assistance technique et les investissements nécessaires au développement agricole. Nous vous parlons ici plus particulièrement de la situation de la RAIU. En effet, bien qu'il y ait eu une amélioration de la RAIU pour 1981 tel que cela apparaît dans le paragraphe 44, pour 1982 il sera nécessaire d'en appeler aux pays donateurs afin qu'ils augmentent leur participation à cette Réserve, tel que cela a été recommandé par le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire (CPA) au cours de la session d'avril 1982. Cette recommandation nous paraît très raisonnable, d'autant qu'elle intervient au moment où la production alimentaire et agricole est en augmentation.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, en parlant de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde, de pouvoir jeter un peu de lumière sur la situation agricole de mon pays, le Liban, ce pays qui a vécu une guerre et des événements catastrophiques depuis 1975, ce pays dont l'agriculture a énormément souffert, ce pays dont les zones rurales ont besoin d'une aide énorme pour que l'agriculture libanaise retrouve sa croissance. Ce que demande le Liban dans ce contexte c'est de trouver l'aide et l'assistance, dans la situation difficile qu'il connaît, pour retrouver la stabilité, afin que le Liban puisse jouer son rôle dans l'augmentation de la production agricole;

Je me dois, Monsieur le Président, de rappeler la visite effectuée par le Président de la République, M. Amin Gemayel, tout de suite après son élection, à cette Organisation, pour reconnaître le rôle qu'a joué notre Organisation dans l'aide apportée au Liban durant ces sombres années et pour rappeler également que le Liban a besoin de toutes les formes d'aide afin de redevenir ce qu'il était avant la guerre : le Liban était au Proche-Orient un exemple, que ce soit sur le plan agricole ou sur le plan du développement en général.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne) : Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président de me permettre d'intervenir au nom de la Communauté économique européenne et de ses Etats Membres,

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour le rapport qu'il nous a remis. Ce document nous donne à la fois un excellent tableau de la situation globale en matière alimentaire et agricole et une analyse minutieuse des grands problèmes auxquels se heurte la Communauté internationale dans ses efforts pour assurer une sécurité alimentaire globale.

La Communauté européenne croit profondément que l'amélioration substantielle des disponibilités des réserves alimentaires mondiales, enregistrée au cours des deux dernières années, ne devrait pas inciter la Communauté internationale à l'autosatisfaction. En effet, la Communauté européenne considère que le manque de progrès dans la lutte contre la faim rend indispensable d'accroître l'efficacité des politiques de développement et de coopération.

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Bien que nous reconnaissons que la production agricole des pays industrialisés et la coopération internationale visant à l'établissement de réserves suffisantes continueront à jouer un rôle important pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, nous sommes convaincus que la garantie d'une sécurité alimentaire satisfaisante implique l'intensification des efforts visant à accroître la production agricole, et notamment la production de denrées alimentaires destinées à la consommation intérieure des pays en voie de développement. A cet égard, nous estimons que le rapport du Secrétariat constitue une contribution importante grâce à son analyse des régions clés dans lesquelles les efforts de développement devraient se concentrer, l'établissement de centres de recherche agricole, la mise en place de systèmes efficaces de vulgarisation des connaissances techniques et une série d'autres suggestions importantes contenues dans le rapport. La Communauté estime également qu'il est absolument vital pour l'expansion de la production agricole des pays en voie de développement d'accorder aux producteurs nationaux des prix d'un niveau suffisant pour constituer une incitation. On constate souvent que certaines politiques privilégient l'approvisionnement des populations urbaines en aliments à bas prix aux dépens des producteurs agricoles du pays, ce qui a des effets négatifs sur la production agricole en cause. Nous sommes heureux de constater que, de plus en plus, on reconnaît la nécessité d'accorder aux producteurs agricoles du pays des incitations suffisantes, comme l'a exprimé de manière si éloquente le représentant du Zimbabwe lors de la récente conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique : "Une politique d'approvisionnement en denrées alimentaires bon marché n'est pas une politique alimentaire."

L'affirmation selon laquelle les politiques en faveur du développement du secteur agricole et, notamment, de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement qui n'est pas assez avancée pour résoudre les problèmes de l'approvisionnement alimentaire, a conduit la Communauté à chercher une meilleure intégration de son aide alimentaire propre et des politiques des pays receveurs. On peut considérer comme allant dans ce sens la décision de la Communauté créant la possibilité de fourniture d'aide alimentaire sur une base pluriannuelle aux pays receveurs qui ont mis au point une stratégie alimentaire cohérente dans laquelle l'aide alimentaire communautaire peut constituer un élément, à condition que ces stratégies soient destinées à améliorer de manière substantielle l'approvisionnement alimentaire intérieur dans un délai donné.

L'importance que la Communauté européenne attache au développement de la production agricole dans les pays en voie de développement ne signifie pas que nous manquions d'un intérêt tout particulier pour la coopération internationale visant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire.

Il est notoire que la Communauté européenne attache une grande importance à l'organisation d'une conférence en vue de négociations globales et a toujours insisté pour que les questions relatives à la sécurité alimentaire constituent un point important de l'ordre du jour de cette conférence.

La Communauté continue à soutenir le fonctionnement de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. En effet, quoique les engagements pour 1982 aient été inférieurs de 20 pour cent à la réserve de 500 000 tonnes qui avait été fixée comme objectif, nous espérons que de nouveaux engagements pourront être faits avant la fin de la présente année. En outre, en 1981, les engagements ont dépassé l'objectif de 20 pour cent et une partie des engagements de 1981 ont été reportés sur 1982. Nous espérons que la Communauté internationale garantira que cette réserve permettra de remplir ses objectifs.

La Communauté européenne partage l'avis du Secrétariat selon lequel la situation actuellement satisfaisante des réserves globales de céréales pourrait bien être de courte durée. Le faible niveau des prix actuels sur le marché mondial et le programme de gel des terres adopté par les Etats-Unis vont entraîner inévitablement une diminution de la production mondiale. La Communauté européenne estime que la constitution des réserves de céréales appropriées reste essentielle pour la sécurité alimentaire et doit être assurée au mieux dans le cadre d'un nouvel accord international sur les céréales.

Aux paragraphes 48 et 50 le rapport du Secrétariat contient certaines informations sur les prix à la production agricole dans la CEE. Nous en partageons l'analyse. En ce qui concerne les échanges agricoles, nous espérons avec les autres délégations qu'un consensus pourra être trouvé

lors de la prochaine réunion du GATT. A cet égard, la CEE considère que le débat agricole doit prendre en compte le particularisme de l'agriculture par rapport aux autres secteurs et doit être vu non plus sous le seul angle de la compétition entre exportateurs des pays développés mais aussi en prenant en considération les intérêts des pays importateurs et exportateurs des pays en voie de développement. Par ailleurs, je rappellerai que la CEE est le plus grand importateur de produits agricoles; 46 pour cent de ses importations agricoles proviennent des pays en voie de développement, soit 30 pour cent des exportations agricoles desdits pays.

En ce qui concerne la pêche, le rapport du Secrétariat souligne les difficultés d'adaptation de la structure de l'industrie de la pêche à la nouvelle juridiction en vigueur. Le rapport indique notamment que les Etats riverains du nord-ouest de l'Afrique n'ont pas encore pu utiliser les ressources des zones économiques exclusives qu'ils ont récemment acquises. Il est évident que des pays qui ont récemment été reconnus compétents sur de larges zones maritimes n'ont pas encore été en mesure d'augmenter leur flotte de pêche et l'infrastructure nécessaire à l'exploitation des ressources halieutiques de ces vastes zones. Cependant, le rapport omet de signaler que plusieurs de ces pays ont toutefois tiré un bénéfice de l'extension de leurs zones en concluant des accords aux termes desquels ils autorisent des bâtiments étrangers à pêcher dans leurs zones en échange d'une compensation financière. C'est ainsi que la communauté a conclu des accords de pêche avec un certain nombre de pays d'Afrique occidentale, aux termes desquels ces pays reçoivent des compensations financières très importantes et bénéficient d'une coopération dans le domaine de la formation des pêcheurs et des experts et techniciens de la pêche, ce qui, à plus long terme, permettra à ces pays de développer leurs propres industries de la pêche.

Voilà, les éléments de réflexion que la Communauté et ses Etats Membres voulaient développer sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. En concluant, j'aimerais rappeler l'importance que la Communauté a constamment attachée au développement de politiques internationales visant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Elle continuera à donner son appui actif à toute coopération internationale à cet objectif.

MAI LUONG (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): Merci d'avoir donné aux pays observateurs du Conseil la parole devant cette importante session du Conseil. Puisque le temps presse nous serons très brefs en souhaitant que les travaux de cette quatre-vingt-deuxième session du Conseil sous la direction éclairée du Président et des trois vice-Présidents, du Président du comité de rédaction nouvellement élu et avec la participation des Etats Membres ici présents, seront couronnés de succès.

Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour avoir présenté un excellent document, CL 82/2 qui embrasse tous les points cruciaux de la situation actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et qui est presque un tableau concret de ce qui a été dit en partie dans la brillante allocution du Directeur général de la FAO, le Dr. Edouard Saouma hier après-midi au moment de l'ouverture des travaux du Conseil.

Le contenu très varié des interventions de nombreux pays qui ont déjà pris la parole devant ce conseil nous intéresse vivement et nous suivons avec beaucoup d'attention ces débats.

Ainsi nous nous joignons aux six propositions contenues dans l'intervention ce matin du distingué représentant de l'Inde dont la plupart tendent à élaborer une collaboration étroite, active, positive et surtout durable entre les pays sur le plan de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Beaucoup de pays avant nous ont abordé l'importance et les effets positifs de la recherche agricole dans les paragraphes 82 à 88 de ce présent document. Certes ce document a donné une place importante à la recherche agricole qui, avec des programmes bien planifiés et organisés, ont amené à des accroissements spectaculaires de la production céréalière dans de nombreux pays en développement, comme pour le blé en Inde, au Bangladesh, au Mexique, au Pakistan; pour le maïs au Kenya, au Mexique, en Thaïlande; pour le riz en Birmanie, en Inde et aux Philippines, etc.

Mais c'est avec regret que le document constate que l'investissement réservé à la recherche agricole soit encore faible dans les pays en développement dont la majorité a une infrastructure de recherche inadéquate par manque de personnel nécessaire.

Notre délégation partage le désir exprimé par de nombreuses délégations qui ont pris la parole avant nous que la FAO ne négligerait aucun effort dans l'avenir pour promouvoir la recherche agricole surtout dans les pays en développement, par la vulgarisation, le transfert à temps des résultats acquis, la formation des cadres. Nous espérons aussi que l'importance de la recherche agricole sera mise en relief dans le prochain budget biennal de la FAO.

Enfin et surtout la délégation du Viet Nam est particulièrement sensible au point important souligné ce matin dans l'intervention du distingué ambassadeur de la Colombie, qui est : 'l'emploi de l'arme alimentaire'. Ceci a été repris aussi tout récemment par les distingués représentants de Cuba. Il en est de même pour les 'sanctions' que le distingué délégué de Pologne a soulignées dans son intervention.

J. GLISTRUP (Observer for Denmark): I wish to apologize for asking for the floor as an Observer at this late hour of the day and following such an elaborate discussion on this agenda item. The reason is that my government, which traditionally is using the document concerning the State of Food and Agriculture as a very important reference document, is considering the present one, CL 82/2, an excellent document with the exception of the text in paragraph 40 referring to the unfortunate outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Denmark and in the German Democratic Republic in March, 1982. With respect to the further outbreaks and the control methods applied in the two countries mentioned in the document, my government would have preferred that the text would have reflected the situation in my country more correctly by stating that from March 18th until May 4th, 22 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, type 01, were reported in Denmark. Strict control methods were mounted and the disease was kept under control and eradicated by means of total stamping out of all susceptible animals in the infected holdings without recourse to vaccination. By June 4th 1982, Denmark was declared free from the disease.

I shall take the liberty of submitting in writing more elaborately our point of view to the Secretariat to save time.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this clarification. Is there anyone else who has been left out that had wanted the floor? If not, we have so far heard 35 speakers, 32 Members of the Council and three Observers. They have covered a wide ground.

Before I make a few concluding remarks, I shall give the floor to Professor Islam and to Mr. West for brief clarifications of some points.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): May I thank the distinguished delegates for many helpful comments and suggestions they have made on the Secretariat document. We are happy to note that the Council in general agreed with the Secretariat appraisal and analysis of the world food and agriculture situation. We have taken note of the analysis and comments which the distinguished delegates have provided regarding their own country situation and experience, which will help us in the preparation of the enlarged and full report on the State of Food and Agriculture.

Questions have been asked about the nature and causes of year-to-year changes in food shortages as reported on the Secretariat document. In a number of countries, food shortages usually reflect declines in production due to weather rather than effects of national policies. Such policies take more than one year to show the noticeable effects. This is not to say there is no general progress in any of these countries in the short term.

The number of countries suffering from food shortages, as indicated in the Secretariat document, is therefore not indicative of the trends. We may have a larger number of emergency situations in future years if global conditions turn out to be less favourable. Moreover, the countries suffering from food shortages this year are not identical to those of last year.

With reference to the comments on the Secretariat document relating to resource use and input in agriculture, I would like to say that people undertake from time to time more intensive analysis of this issue. However, at the same time, I may emphasise that lack of data and information does hamper a satisfactory treatment of this issue. For example, detailed data on the use of all inputs is not available. This is true of such things as the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds, changes in irrigation areas and crops and effectiveness of the facilities, the use of power including animal power, etc. Many countries do not collect such data and many others, if they collect them, do not have access to them in a comprehensive manner all the time.

A comment was made specially on the inadequate treatment of agricultural trade issues, particularly of developing countries in the Secretariat document. The supplement to the document CL 82/2 Sup.1 does indeed give very detailed treatment of agricultural trade issues and developments. It does point out that the divergence in experience of developed and developing countries in terms of agricultural exports emphasises that in 1981 the developing countries exports value fell by 4 percent, while developed countries' exports remain unchanged. The net affect of these adverse developments was that developing countries for the first time had a negative trade balance in respect of agricultural products.

A few delegates have referred to the need for in-depth analysis at the global level on the lines of Agriculture: Towards 2000, and also at national levels in terms of agricultural sector analysis. I would like to remind delegates in this connection that the full and enlarged State of Agriculture which is published every year does contain special chapters every year, thus in 1981, survey analyses of rural poverty had a special chapter. In 1982 which will be published early next year

neither stock production, especially in developing countries, nor the group of perspectives constitute a special chapter. Also may I inform the delegates that in our recent work in a few countries on sector analysis we have used data, analytical framework, and preliminary findings for Agriculture: Towards 2000, and undertaken a more general analysis and policy recommendations at the country level.

These are the few remarks I have to make.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I just wanted to clarify again one point that was raised again this afternoon. That was the form of the document, in relation to the suggestion that it was lacking in information about programme activities or implementation. This is a misunderstanding of the nature of the document. It is a major analytical document, and always has been. In fact, you can say it is our major document, because it forms the centrepiece of Council and Conference discussions. It is the first item to be discussed and it receives a lot of attention in academic circles because; of its analytical content, and it is one of the few publications, to receive extensive publicity in newspapers.

For this reason the Council has always been very careful about making changes in it, and the changes it has made have been entirely in the direction of making it even more analytical and policy orientated.

It is not even necessary to include in the State of Food and Agriculture information about programme activities or implementation because these are to be found in other documents, for example, of the Regional Conferences which have been held this year. There have at each regional conference been documents on the State of Food and Agriculture within the region and the FAO activities which have been related thereto, as well as papers for the programming for the future.

Then in the Council and Conference you have medium-term objectives as well as the Programme of Work and Budget coming before you next year, plus the reviews of the regular and field programmes which describe our activities in relation to policies and plans, such as the Lagos Plan of Action.

So while I sympathise very much with the views of the delegates who expressed this idea, particularly those from Africa, I trust there will not be any suggestion of changing the format. Their impatience is understandable, and I think everybody sympathises with it. It is a matter of common accord that Africa should receive the highest priority, and therefore their concerns must be reflected in forthcoming FAO programming, planning and policy making and be reflected as appropriate in the documents on the subject. So it is with no lack of sympathy that I make the remarks I do, and I do hope there is no suggestion or misunderstanding now about the need to keep the State of Food and Agriculture in its present form as approved by Council and Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. West, and Professor Islam. After such a long and intensive discussion it is not possible or necessary to try to make any summing up, but nevertheless it is my duty as the Chairman to pick up a few of the points made by different delegations and underline them, because as Mr. West said, the very idea of putting this at the top of the agenda is to try and give us a back-drop on which priorities, thrusts and strategies can be developed. It was clear from the interventions of 35 delegations that the paper can be more appropriately termed "The State of Food and Agriculture in an unequal world".

We had various kinds of pictures, but I would like to support those who said we must build on success, because nothing succeeds like success. Having heard the data given by several delegations here if you analyse it in an historical perspective, you will find that the progress made in the last twenty years in many developing countries in food production is quantitatively of a greater dimension than the one made during the previous ten thousand years since the time agriculture started. This is a matter for hope, and I think we should build on results of this kind, and in this context I am happy that we started our discussion with China where there are a billion and eight million people, according to the latest census. The success of their country and many other densely populated countries provide us with optimism.

Nevertheless, regional disparities in growth rates particularly with reference to sub-Saharan Africa and difficulties like the ones in Lebanon, have been underlined. I am happy the FAO document has clearly placed the state of food and agriculture in an ecological perspective. 1982 also represents the 10th anniversary of the Stockholm conference on human environment, and those who have read the documents put out by United Nations Environment Programme with the help of FAO know they only show in the last ten years that although awareness has improved, commensurate action in arresting local disasters and ecological damages had not been forthcoming. Consequently, the ecological scenario is getting less optimistic and more dismal, and hence it is important to consider questions of food security in a background of ecological security; otherwise sustained agriculture advance will not be possible.

Various delegates' comments have fallen into five categories. The first group relates to the research and development strategies; I am glad many emphasise the need for building up the infrastructure for location of specific research, because we all know research becomes more important when agriculture starts moving. Under conditions of a static and stagnant agriculture research has no place, but once we start provoking change, many changes occur - something which we desire, something which we do not anticipate. Hence the importance of having a research and training infrastructure cannot be overemphasised.

As far as strategies are concerned, from the interventions it is clear five or six major areas require attention in our subsequent discussions.

Number one is sustaining and expanding the gains in irrigated areas with reference to production, because irrigation investment is high and heavy and, as many studies indicate, investments are not paying the dividend which was expected from them.

Number two, expanding the frontiers of applicability of new technologies to ecologically handicapped regions - that is handicapped either by moisture-stress or moisture excess - that is drought or flood prone areas. Sometimes both co-exist in countries like Bangladesh, with drought and flood during the growth of the plant itself.

Thirdly, increasing the production potential of problem soil areas, soils affected by salinity, alkalinity, acidity, or other production constraints. This has become particularly important in the context of shrinking land resources for agriculture. For example, calculations have shown that in south Asia alone about 85 million hectares can be made more productive if one or other of the soil constraints can be attended to.

Number four, the importance of the energy used through integrated systems of energy and nutrient supply and pest management have been emphasised both in the document and by the speakers.

Number five, increasing the income and employment potential of agriculture through attention to the entire farming system, and to improved post-harvest technologies and effective use of the entire bio-mass.

I entirely share the view expressed by some delegations that the famine of work or jobs is going to be even more important than the famine of food during this decade in many countries. We have seen the beginning of this in the developed and developing countries, and therefore the employment assessment of new technologies, particularly in countries where very large numbers of people are depending on land and water-based agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry are important.

It is necessary to assess the impact of new technology on women's occupations, as there is growing evidence that in many cases technologies can replace rural women from their traditional occupations without any substitute occupation being provided.

The next group of issues refer to the organization and management of agricultural occupation. This extremely important area, input production systems, technology, transfer systems, and above all the whole area of small farm management, have not received the attention they deserve.

The delegate of China made a mention of the approach in China where under social ownership of land steps have been taken to combine cooperative work with individual initiative. That is what he called the household responsibility system which tries to marry individual peasants' initiative with social ownership and cooperative management. Under individual ownership of small farms it is equally important that management issues of this kind are considered, particularly in areas where an entire watershed will have to be managed by the watershed community.

The next group of issues referred to by members relate to public policies that can simultaneously stimulate production and consumption because most developing countries have to, in their policies, try to stimulate both consumption and production simultaneously. It is obvious - as Prof. Islam said - that among the three major groups of factors which cause instability in production, namely weather, pest epidemics and public policies, public policies become important when the process of modernization of agriculture sets in. In other words, modernization implies the use of purchased inputs or cash inputs and then public policies really find the key to stability of production. I am therefore glad that all members have welcomed the initiative announced by the Director-General yesterday on making a study on input/output pricing policies, because we cannot divorce the two. It has to be an integrated strategy of input/output prices.

The storage and distribution problems have been mentioned and these are exceedingly important as a part of the public policy strategy because both distress sale on the one hand and panic purchase on the other, are the twin evils of an aberrant distribution system, this can be avoided if there are suitable public policies. Contingency planning to suit different weather probabilities had also been referred to and I wholeheartedly agree it is a matter for national governments to give a good deal of attention in relation to their own food and agricultural policies. Contingency

planning in areas characterized by chronic droughts or periodic floods will have to take into account two aspects of the problem. One is how to improve production in the most favourable areas and the second is to help to provide appropriate relief and rehabilitation in the most seriously affected areas. In other words, two sides of the problem: you may use the word MFA and MSA within a country, most favourable area from the point of view of production and most seriously affected area from the point of view of relief and rehabilitation measures and develop a package of measures which will minimise production losses and provide the needed alleviation of human distress.

In relation to regional and local action, I do not want to repeat the many important points which have been made on trade protectionism, IDA and concessional assistance, input pricing, fertilizer pricing, global food security and pricing of primary agricultural commodities, intended for export and so on; but what is the role of FAO? After all we are a Council here to guide FAO in its policies and not merely talk about national policies, and this is where I think a number of useful suggestions have been made. What are the advantages of FAO in this global scenario of agriculture? Many member nations have pointed out where the comparative strengths of FAO lie. The whole area of statistics and information, analytical papers, early warning, timely action through the TCP programme, the human resources development programme and mobilization of additional resources through the investment centre and the calculation of the resources needed for modernization of agriculture, the regional cooperative programmes such as locust control, integrated pest management and above all the food security system, these are all areas where FAO can continue to render invaluable service.

May I conclude by giving my own assessment as a person who has been studying, working and participating in the agricultural scenario of India in particular, and now in other countries. I feel that as the growth of population presses hard on limited land resources under constant technology, we find all the time cultivation getting extended to more marginal areas and greater amounts of labour are being applied per unit of cultivated land. The real income of labour therefore goes down while land prices go up. Thus we find a very anomalous situation of high land prices in many developing countries, low labour wages and low productivity. This belongs to the classical world of Riccardo, the great economist and the only way to escape the Riccardian trap of low labour income, low productivity and high land price all co-existing at the same time is to intensify work on technologies which can help ensure that the demand for labour increases faster than its supply and that food supply increases faster than its demand. There is thus no time to relax. We must all help FAO to improve and enlarge its catalytic role in achieving accelerated agricultural advance.

These are some of the points which struck me as I was listening to the last six and a half hours of very valuable comments. Again I want to thank the 35 speakers who spoke because you have really set the stage for our discussion tomorrow on the issues of food security, international agricultural adjustment and so on. I thank you very much and I apologize to the interpreters for keeping them 20 minutes longer. We will meet tomorrow at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 82/PV/4

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1982)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la
presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

5. Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 31 March - 7 April 1982)

5. Rapport de la septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 31 mars - 7 avril 1982)

5. Informe del séptimo período de sesiones Comité de Seguridad Mundial (Roma, 31 de marzo - 7 de abril de 1982)

- Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security

- Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale

- Progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción para el Fortalecimiento de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial

CHAIRMAN: We shall first take up Item 5 on the Agenda, the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, the document CL 82/10. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the statement made by the Director-General on the opening day that he is now under-taking a major study of the whole concept of world food security and that he is likely to come with the report soon. So in today's discussion what would be of value would be some concrete suggestions by members which would be helpful to the Director-General and his staff in terms of the study they are conducting. First the Director-General wants to say a few words and afterwards Professor Islam will introduce this particular paper but what I wanted to emphasise was that during the intervention, if members could be rather precise in their suggestions rather than go over the entire field of the need for world food security and so on, it would be very helpful because I think nobody denies the need for a world food security system.

I recall in 1974 at the World Food Conference held in Rome all the member nations assembled there passed unanimously a resolution that by 1984 - that is within a decade from 1974 - we should have such a system of world food security, that no child, woman or man would go to bed hungry and no human being's physical or mental potential will be stunted by malnutrition. We are only two years away from that particular deadline.

The point I want to stress is, we are all agreed on the need for insulating mankind from the ravages of hunger, but what would be of interest is in relation to the document we have and which will be shortly introduced. Members would offer some additional and precise additions which could be of help in furthering this cause of development of world food security that the time would be very well spent during the day.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I hope there will be no misunderstanding between you and me because what we are discussing today is the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security. That's the item on the Agenda, not what the Director-General will prepare in his report for next year's session of the Committee on Food Security; nor am I asking for the views of the Council. We have had a number of discussions during the last session of the Committee on Food Security on the content of my report and it was decided that I should prepare it under my full responsibility. Some suggestions were made about what subjects I might cover and I have taken note. The decision remains, of course, with the members of the Committee on Food Security and ultimately with the Council to which they report.

On this issue I want to add that my report will not end the problem. It will indicate that there will be a need for further discussion in the 1984 Committee on Food Security. I am just touching on the topics, and would not be putting an end to the study of the problems of food security. I therefore repeat that it is not the Director-General's report for 1983 which is under discussion today, it is. Item 5 of the Agenda, the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action the latter of which has been approved by the FAO Conference as well as by the United Nations General Assembly.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this statement and clarification. I am sure the document, as I announced, under discussion on the Agenda Item is CL 82/10 but nevertheless all I intended was that if members have some suggestions which are of use to you I am sure they will be taken into full consideration. We do not know what document you are going to come forward with. In as much as you are good enough to make an announcement that you are working upon it, I thought that in order to get the value for the time here, during the discussions if there are some suggestions you might like to consider them.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am sorry to disagree with you. The forthcoming report of the Director-General in 1983, is not on the Agenda and is not under discussion now. Anybody may make suggestions but the Committee on Food Security decided that the Director-General should prepare a document in the most independent manner, as you expect him to do. I will certainly listen to whatever proposals are made but I will feel free to write what in my conscience I think I should put forward as proposals, and ideas. Delegates are free, of course, to make comments, but you seem to be inviting them to discuss something which is not on the Agenda.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is any disagreement between you and me. I think all I said, if there are some useful ideas which come out of today's meeting, it will certainly be an input to the working of this Organization.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It gives me great pleasure to report to the Council on the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome in April of this year which has been circulated as a document CL 82/10.

The Committee met at a time when the world food security situation and outlook presented a mixed picture. The Committee welcomed the improvement in the global world food security situation, but expressed concern that the improvements have not been shared by all countries, and that the food situation remains precarious in many low-income countries. Even more disturbing was the continuing and long-term nature of the food problems which remained in the low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa where the food gap is widening and cereal input requirements continued to rise.

The Committee expressed concern that in about two thirds of the low-income food-deficit countries per capita production of cereals had actually declined during the 1970's. It recognised that these countries faced a great number of difficult problems in increasing food production and that in particular the low-income food-deficit countries could not hope to meet the required investment needs unaided. The national investment efforts should therefore be supplemented by international assistance. In this connection a number of delegates expressed their regret that there are no indications that official development assistance would increase to the extent required. In view of the very grave situation in many of the low-income food-deficit countries in Africa the Committee decided to give special consideration at its next Session to the constraints on food production of low-income food-deficit countries of Saharan Africa and discussed possible follow-up actions by the Committee on World Food Security itself and other FAO committees.

The Committee stressed that adequate growth and food production was the only permanent solution to the problem of food security, particularly in the low income food deficit countries. At the same time it agreed that until these countries achieved satisfactory and sustained growth in food production, food aid remained essential to ensure world food security.

While welcoming the increased food aid commitment by some countries the Committee expressed concern that total food aid allocations in 1981/82 were below the quantities allocated for the previous year. It expressed its disappointment that the 10 million tons minimum target of total food aid in cereals had not yet been reached. It was noted that the food aid requirements and targets would be reviewed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its Fifteenth Session.

The Committee discussed sub-regional and regional food security schemes. It reiterated its support for the concept of collective self-reliance and agreed that there was considerable scope for regional cooperation in strengthening food security such as promoting food production through sharing of technology and joint agricultural research programmes, the development of complementary infrastructure, early warning systems, as well as inter-regional trade.

The Committee emphasized the regional food security schemes should supplement and strengthen, rather than replace existing national or global arrangements. They should be flexible and within the financial and administrative capacity of the countries concerned. The need to establish linkages among the regional schemes was also stressed.

In its review of the regimes for food security assistance the Committee noticed with satisfaction that the annual target of resources through the food security assistance scheme, as recommended in the FAO Conference Resolution 3/79 had been reached in 1981.

It welcomed contributions for 1982 announced at this Session. The Committee nevertheless stressed themselves that there is a backlog of food security projects still awaiting funding and recommended that donors should consider funding bilaterally the investment needs for larger-scale construction projects in close coordination with FAO, which would help in initiating contact between potential donors and recipients.

In his address to the Committee on World Food Security the Director-General surveyed the limited progress made in the seven years since the world food crisis. He suggested that the committee should take advantage of the breathing space provided by the current more comfortable global food supply situation to review the whole concept of world food security in general and the Committee's own role in particular on the basis of a report which he intended to prepare. In his view such a reappraisal was necessary to establish new approaches towards solving food security in the 1980's.

The Committee noted that it was the only intergovernmental body in the United Nations system which is exclusively charged with monitoring, evaluating and consulting on world food security situations. The Committee accordingly welcomed the Director-General's proposal which met the concern shared by many governments about the persisting world food security problems even at times of plentiful global supplies and above all the overlapping of various fora about the issues.

It was agreed that the Committee should review these matters in its next session based on the report to be prepared by the Director-General.

The next Committee on World Food Security will be held in April 1983.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): My delegation supports the recommendations made by the Committee on World Food Security. I will not go into details of the problem of food insecurity that is growing in the world. It has already been elaborated in the document and elsewhere that in the whole game of food security it is the developing countries who are getting more and more vulnerable. In these countries population is outstripping the production. The import needs of foodgrains has been increasing. It has been indicated somewhere that in the last 10 years the import of foodgrains in the developing countries has gone up by 41 percent. On the one hand while import needs are increasing for developing countries their exports and return from exports are falling due to recession in other countries, due to trade barriers and lower prices in the international market. It has been pointed out that food allocations are still below the target fixed. Carryover of the wheat stock has gone down. In some countries the rate of growth of foodgrain production has been negative. To cap it all the prices of agricultural inputs, vital and strategic agricultural inputs, like fertilizers and pesticides, are going up. Finally, and most importantly the international financing agencies, including the World Bank, IMF and IDA are tightening the conditions under which these loans for productive purposes - I repeat even for productive purposes - are getting more and more inaccessible to the developing countries. It is therefore very urgent that serious consideration should be given to strengthening the institutional arrangements on a continuing basis for ensuring and guaranteeing food security.

You pointed out just now, Mr. Chairman, that we are still at the level at which we were eight years ago, perhaps we have slipped back a little. There is no dearth of concern being expressed by all the countries, but my feeling is that our concern while increasing at the intellectual level, in actual operational level has not been reflected proportionately. I have a feeling that while on the one hand we are increasing the number of resolutions, determinations, pious hopes, the number of organizations at the world level, regional level, country level, at the grassroot level nothing much is done. If I may quote a formula, action is inversely proportional to the number of organizations and resolutions passed. The more we multiply resolutions and organizations I am sure the less will be the real action taken at the ground level. Perhaps the passing of resolutions and the creation of more organizations and committees gives us a psychological satisfaction, a false sense of satisfaction to salve our conscience that whatever is possible to be done has been done. But that precludes us from going further and deeper at the ground level for implementing the various resolutions and actions that need to be implemented. Therefore I have a feeling that from now on we should pass fewer resolutions and create fewer committees and have a larger number of projects and a greater number of actual schemes to be implemented. This is the first feeling or thesis that I would like to place before this august body.

I have this to say, and I will say it most urgently and emphatically, that after all is said and done production remains the root of world security. Unless we have more production our discussions on world food security improvements will be academic. Therefore we should never lose sight of the responsibilities both of the donating countries and the recipient countries never to overlook the need to increase production in all manners, in all respects. I think it would be criminal on the part of any country in the world at this stage to think in terms of reducing production, reducing the area under foodgrain crops when large and vast areas of the world and millions of people are not having two full meals a day. Research in agricultural production, investment in agriculture, irrigation, power, and proper direction and political will at the national and international level, and all these supported by a conscious sympathetic and understanding world aid through various institutional arrangements, both grants and loans, will be the minimum unavoidable steps that mankind has to take at the present juncture.

I am conscious of the fact that so far we have been adopting what I call a firefighting approach: whenever there is starvation or earthquake or drought or floods in one part of the world we rush in foodgrains and other help. That is very well done. Perhaps for some time to come this firefighting approach has to remain one of the basic steps that we can take. But this firefighting approach will have to be supplemented continuously by a medium-term and long-term approach to ensure that the production potential of the developing countries is fully utilised and tapped and developed.

I entirely agree with the recommendations of the Committee that bilateralism should be in big durable projects by direct contacts between the recipient countries and the donor countries. I would add that for short-term projects and for emergency relief multilateralism must remain the most supreme method of assisting countries or areas which are afflicted by natural calamities or shortage of food grains because it is through multilateralism that politics can be set aside so far as this humanitarian task is concerned and it is through multilateralism that the self-respect of the receiving country is protected.

I support that there has to be a regional approach in cases of food security, but that should not to my mind in any way dilute the need to have a national effort by the countries concerned on the one hand and a global effort made by world organizations to reduce hunger and distress in the world.

At the national level emphasis should be on production, stocking of foodgrains, their proper distribution, export of agricultural produce and earning of foreign exchange, nutrition standards and, what is very important, population control.

At the regional level collaboration amongst the regional countries on land and water management, exploitation of, complementarity of, production and infrastructural assets of one country by neighbouring countries so that the total benefit in that region is maximized, export/import among the regional countries and the establishment of an early warning system at the regional level, will be some of the areas in which the regional efforts will be very beneficial.

At the world level the flow of funds from the developed to the developing countries, emergency food aid, supply of loans for production purposes, stabilisation of prices of foodgrains on the one hand and, what is very important, stabilisation and availability of agricultural inputs, stabilisation of prices and availability of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, channeling of multilateral aid, establishment of a world development fund, would be very useful at the global level and perhaps to a large extent inescapable.

My delegation would like to emphasize that at the world level food and agricultural organizations should remain the nodal agency and all organizations, whether within the United Nations system or outside, should work through or in coordination with FAO.

At the regional level, and perhaps at the global level also, India can offer a lot of technical help and training in food management. At present we have a very well established food distribution system through 300 000 distribution points. We are procuring annually about 14 million to 15 million tons of foodgrains. We are storing them scientifically and distributing them in a proper manner. At present we are distributing to our population about 1 million tons of foodgrains every month. We have a public policy of increasing foodgrain production and giving help to the small and marginal farmers. We are developing our fisheries and animal husbandry resources also, and in all these respects, especially in the agricultural research extension and training, India can offer considerable technical assistance to the neighbouring countries.

I would close with the statement and hope that from now onwards we shall be more and more concerned with identification of specific action points, location specific and region specific action points, which should be supported by a time bound programme, and we will ensure through FAO and its committees that these programmes are fully, adequately and effectively implemented.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): The Thai Delegation has very carefully studied the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security and wishes to make a few comments. First we would like to inform them that Thailand has participated in the Committee on World Food Security since the first session. It is rather disappointing to say that though we have this Committee, we still cannot solve the food security problems of the world, especially in the low-income -food-deficit countries in Africa. We wonder how long we have to wait for this problem to be overcome. There was a question in our mind: is the Committee on World Food Security working in a dark room? For this reason we were happy to note that the Committee agreed to the Director-General's proposal to review the concept of World Food Security and the role of the Committee within the broad framework of the activities of the various international institutions dealing with food issues. We believe that this proposal is timely and look forward to the Director-General's report. Let him feel free to make this report. We also support the Committee's decision that the Committee should review the food production and food security problem of low-income, food-deficit countries in Africa, as

indicateci in paragraph 34 of the Report. We do agree that FAO should continue to play an active role through the Food Security Assistance Scheme and urge new donor countries to do their utmost to increase the flow of financial resources to this scheme.

Sra. Doña D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Sobre este tema la delegación de Colombia se referirá únicamente a los asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo enumerados en la página II del documento CL 82/10.

Pensamos que en su informe el Consejo debe reiterar la preocupación que causa el hecho de que parte desproporcionadamente de las reservas de cereales continúen y aumenten su concentración en unos pocos países exportadores y que es necesario una mejor distribución geográfica para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial, según se afirma al final del párrafo 24.

Nuestra delegación opina que el Consejo debe hacer un llamado más a los países desarrollados para que estos ofrezcan a los países en desarrollo asistencia técnica, financiera y de todo orden, en forma que permita a los Estados del tercer mundo adquirir reservas, establecer instalaciones de almacenamiento y sufragar los gastos de transporte. Esa necesidad está justificada por el párrafo 25 en el cual se afirma que la mayoría de los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos no han podido constituir reservas ni alcanzar sus objetivos de existencias, no sólo por la insuficiencia en la producción, sino también por la falta de recursos financieros y de instalaciones de almacenamiento.

Acerca del párrafo 30 la delegación de Colombia va más allá de lo que allí se expresa. Creemos que no sólo en los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos, sino en todos los países en desarrollo el aumento de la producción alimentaria es el elemento esencial, la clave insustituible para lograr la seguridad alimentaria mundial a largo plazo.

La delegación de Colombia comparte plenamente las preocupaciones que se expresan en los párrafos 31 al 37 sobre la gravedad del problema de la producción alimentaria en África. Apoyamos toda medida que se adopte en favor de la solución de ese inquietante problema.

La Secretaría deberá preparar el examen provisional que el Comité le ha solicitado; naturalmente en esas actividades será conveniente proceder con criterio pragmático para evitar duplicación de esfuerzos, concentrándose en casos específicos con medidas concretas, sin largos e inútiles estudios generales que ya se han hecho en el pasado.

La delegación de Colombia espera que la aplicación del Plan de Acción siga realizándose con buenos éxitos, y a tal efecto apoyamos la preocupación del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial por el hecho de que el valor de los proyectos, ya identificados pero todavía en espera de financiación, aumentaban a un ritmo mucho más rápido que los recursos que se ponían a disposición del Plan.

Este Consejo deberá hacer un llamado para que aumenten los recursos y se puedan llevar a cabo los proyectos.

La delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente la valiosa labor que en el campo de la seguridad alimentaria mundial viene realizando el señor Director General de la FAO. Nuestra Organización debe seguir recibiendo todos los recursos y medios necesarios que necesita para seguir ofreciendo estos importantes servicios a los países en desarrollo.

En su afirmativa declaración inaugural el Director General anunció la presentación de un estudio sobre la seguridad alimentaria. En la próxima reunión del Comité estudiaremos ese informe que, como lo ha dicho el Director General, será presentado bajo su propia responsabilidad. Tenemos plena confianza en él y sabemos de antemano que ese informe abarcará los aspectos fundamentales de la seguridad alimentaria mundial que particularmente tengan relación con los problemas y las dificultades que afrontan los países en desarrollo para alcanzar esa seguridad; en todo lo cual la asistencia de la FAO seguirá siendo siempre muy valiosa.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): The Italian authorities have examined in depth the Report of the Committee on World Food Security, and with this short statement we would like to point out some aspects of the Report that we consider of special interest.

The Italian Delegation wishes particularly to express its satisfaction for the general improvement of the world food situation, even though it shares the widespread worries concerning specific situations in some countries which are still seriously threatened by food deficits.

We fully agree with the remarks contained in paragraph 14 of document CL 82/10, in which the increase of local food production in low-income, food-deficit countries is indicated as the only way of achieving an effective food security. We recall that this fundamental concept and the other one, whereby food aid has to play only a temporary role, have been extensively referred to in the declaration at the end of the meeting on world hunger held in Rome in April of this year.

The conclusion of a New International Wheat Agreement, which Italy considers favourably, is indeed a way of reaching these aims. Meanwhile, my country stands ready to examine and to look into all realistic proposals which will tend to build up stocks in developing countries.

My delegation would like to briefly touch upon the paragraphs of the Report dealing with the Plan of Action for World Food Security. Italy wishes to express its interest in the proposal put forward in the Committee in April and supported by many delegations which drew the attention of the international community to the real problems of food production and security in low-income African countries. My Government for its part has decided to commit itself on these problems with the greatest dedication. Meetings at the highest level between CILSS are currently taking place in Rome in order to draw global and concrete lines of action. These lines, according to the proposals of the Director-General, are intended to offer a special contribution to the development of the Sahelian Region. The Report of the Committee on World Food Security stresses in paragraphs 40 and 44 the importance of programmes that can be instrumental toward achieving world food security. We refer in particular to the programme of prevention of food losses and to the Food Security Assistance Scheme, and we wish to re-confirm the increasing Italian Commitment to those specific programmes of FAO.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Food security is one of the priority areas of common interest and also of common policy of the ten Member States of the European Economic Community. On behalf of these countries, I therefore should like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to give the floor to the representative of the Commission of the European Economic Community.

CHAIRMAN: We will do that immediately after all the members of the Council have spoken.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We would rather prefer if you could give the floor first to them, because otherwise members of the Community would have to repeat quite a few things if we were to speak individually. We feel that the representative of the Commission here expressing views on behalf of the EEC Member States on the topic before us should give his view right at the beginning so that we would just complement then his statement by our national views.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos apoyar la propuesta que ha hecho el distinguido delegado de la República Federal de Alemania. Consideramos oportuno escuchar ahora la intervención del representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea, sobre todo a la luz de la intervención que hizo ayer, que ahora la encontramos serena y objetiva y nos evitará problemas en el futuro.

CHAIRMAN: In view of the report, I give the floor to the representative of the European Economic Community.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): En ce qui concerne ce point 5 de l'ordre du jour, voici quelles sont les réflexions de la Communauté économique européenne dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire.

La Communauté économique européenne est d'avis que l'élément principal de toute amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire des pays en voie de développement est l'augmentation de la production vivrière dans ces pays. C'est pour cette raison que la Communauté européenne, dans le cadre de son plan d'action de lutte contre la faim dans le monde présenté lors de la dernière Conférence de l'Organisation en novembre 1981, a prévu un volet d'appui à la mise en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires.

La Communauté économique européenne offre à ses partenaires d'entrer dans un processus de mise en oeuvre de leurs politiques de développement rural et de sécurité alimentaire comportant des obligations mutuelles. A cet égard, certains pays africains ont manifesté leur intérêt pour entrer dans une telle coopération.

Dans ce domaine, la Communauté européenne se félicite de la décision du Comité - je fais référence au paragraphe 37 du document du Secrétariat - à l'initiative des pays africains, de discuter lors de sa prochaine session des obstacles qui empêchent d'accroître la production alimentaire intérieure dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire en Afrique. Cet examen devrait se concentrer en premier lieu sur les difficultés que rencontrent les gouvernements dans la mise en oeuvre de politiques de développement rural, notamment celle relative au coût et à la production et au revenu réel des agriculteurs.

Dans les paragraphes 9 et 26, le document du Secrétariat analyse les possibilités de stockage dans les pays en voie de développement. La Communauté économique européenne considère que le moyen le plus efficace pour réaliser une sécurité alimentaire extérieure accrue des pays en voie de développement est un nouvel accord international sur les céréales instituant un système de stockage approprié.

En attendant un tel accord, la Communauté est prête à discuter de solutions alternatives, comme par exemple celle de constituer des réserves de céréales dans les pays en voie de développement, éven-tuellement avec l'appui du Fonds monétaire international proposé lors de la huitième session ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Cependant, il est important que des propositions pour un plan de sécurité alimentaire basé sur le stockage prennent en considération non seulement les principes, mais aussi les problèmes pratiques concernant, d'une part le coût d'un tel programme, d'autre part la gestion des stocks et les relations entre les stocks et le fonctionnement de marchés nationaux.

Pour ce qui est de la question du rôle du comité de la sécurité alimentaire dans le contexte des activités des diverses institutions internationales s'occupant de l'alimentation, question évoquée aux paragraphes 52 à 56 du Rapport, la Communauté économique européenne considère très opportune l'initiative du Directeur général de préparer un rapport à ce sujet.

La Communauté espère par ailleurs que les discussions qui ont lieu dans le cadre de la trente-septième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, au sujet de la coordination des activités des institutions multilatérales opérant dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, aboutissent à des conclusions constructives.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): It is now seven years ago that the Committee on World Food Security began its work. This caused our Director-General to study the activities so far. We are looking forward with interest to his report.

We agree with the Director-General that quite a number of important recommendations made by the CFS have been realized in the course of talking and put into operational methods. This applies, for example, to the adoption of the international undertaking on World Food Security, together with the Early Warning System, the implementation of the emergency reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals, the launching of the Food Security Assistance scheme with 52 projects so far, the funding of US\$ 45 million, the conclusion of the Food Aid Convention work on implementing the Five Point Plan of Action of FAO, and last but not least, the creation of the new IMF Food Facility.

Each of these instruments has made a contribution to making the world food situation somewhat more reliable. But we also regret with the Director-General the fact that it has not yet been possible to negotiate a new International Wheat Agreement.

We believe that such an agreement could be an effective instrument to improve world food security and market stability. If the CFS could not fully meet all expectations and not all aims were achieved, the reason for it should also be seen in the extraordinary complexity of the problem and its global dimensions.

At the suggestion and proposal of the Director-General, the CFS decided to reappraise the present concept of world food security, and the role of CFS, at its next session in April 1983, and to carry out a thorough review. This could be useful in the light of experience gained so far and the somewhat less tight supply situation with problems persisting simultaneously for many developing countries to finance their imports.

In its consideration about a re-definition of the functions of the Committee, the FAO Secretariat should continue to take the consultation and coordination functions of the CFS into account. This seems to us absolutely compatible with the principle of observing the independence of other bodies and other organizations such as the IMF and the IWC.

In view of the great importance of the food security problem, we await with interest the ideas of the FAO Secretariat, and are prepared to examine these in a constructive way. We attach personal importance to the food problems, in particular in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa. We therefore welcome the fact that the CFS will focus its attention at its next session on the causes of these problems and the possible approaches towards their solution.

With regard to paragraph 28 of the document before us, I can state that my country, like the EEC, although not having a special food security stock-holding policy, is in a position to meet its

international commitments in this crucial area at any time, relying on the instruments of their common policies and the market organization on grains.

A. FEQUANT (France) : Monsieur le Président, abordant le thème de la sécurité alimentaire au titre du point 5 de l'ordre du jour, je ne peux que souligner le caractère fondamental de cette question, voire même son aspect prioritaire, si l'on en juge par les premiers éléments qui se dessinent d'ores et déjà du futur programme de travail de l'Organisation.

En tout état de cause, le problème de la sécurité alimentaire a servi de toile de fond à plusieurs interventions. Il figure expressément à notre ordre du jour sous plusieurs rubriques. Le Conseil examine le rapport du comité de la sécurité alimentaire et est saisi d'une proposition formulée lors de la conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, visant à la constitution d'une commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire pour cette zone. Le Directeur général lui-même a décrit cette insécurité alimentaire, qui est à la fois la cause et la conséquence des insuffisances du développement et qui se traduit notamment, a-t-il souligné, par la dépendance à l'égard des importations alimentaires.

Les carences de la production, comme cela a été également souligné, ne sont pas seules en cause. Les phénomènes commerciaux, tels que les fluctuations de certains produits de base, voire les tendances persistant à la baisse des politiques internes des prix, méritent également d'être pris en considération. Conditions particulières de la géographie et du climat, cadre des échanges, poli-tiques économiques internes, sont ainsi fréquemment évoqués lorsqu'est formulé le diagnostic.

Si la thérapeutique que l'on peut imaginer et mettre en oeuvre ne saurait se limiter, compte tenu de la dimension du problème, à des applications homéopathiques, il convient néanmoins d'en définir les limites. Dans cette perspective, l'étude à laquelle le Directeur général a fait référence dans son allocution, qui sera soumise au conseil de la sécurité alimentaire, est attendue par nous avec un vif intérêt.

En ce qui concerne les efforts déployés par mon pays, j'indiquerai tout d'abord, au titre de l'aide alimentaire, élément constitutif de la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire, que la France a décidé d'accroître en 1983 sa participation au Programme alimentaire mondial. La procédure budgétaire est actuellement en cours au Parlement français.

D'une façon plus durable, la sécurité alimentaire doit procéder de la croissance de la production vivrière, ce dernier résultat s'inscrivant lui-même dans des stratégies alimentaires auxquelles mon pays, ainsi que d'ailleurs ses autres partenaires de la Communauté économique européenne, a déjà exprimé son attachement. Quant à la dimension commerciale du problème qui nous préoccupe, la négociation d'un nouvel accord international sur les céréales, assorti de clauses économiques, serait susceptible de fournir une réponse appropriée.

C'est une satisfaction pour ma délégation de noter que certaines des idées que je viens succinctement d'exposer figurent dans le document CL 82/10 soumis à notre examen. S'agissant tout particulièrement de la reconstitution de réserves, ce même document a le mérite de souligner les difficultés, parfois techniques, souvent financières, et j'ajouterai économiques, liées à la réalisation des politiques de stockage correspondant à l'objectif recherché. En effet, les stockages des grains et la gestion des réserves, s'ils se réalisent, nous semblent d'abord devoir s'organiser à partir de la production locale, et il convient de fixer avec réalisme le seuil en deçà duquel il convient de demeurer.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais conclure sans faire référence aux paragraphes 35, 36 et 37 du Rapport qui nous a été transmis. Ma délégation est favorable à l'étude qui sera réalisée par le Secrétariat pour le comité sur la sécurité alimentaire, en ce qui concerne les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire de l'Afrique, étant entendu qu'il serait souhaitable de concentrer les efforts sur des problèmes spécifiques et concrets, et sur les mesures pratiques destinées à des pays déterminés dont la situation est particulièrement grave.

Sra. Doña G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación cubana no tiene objeciones al informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en el cual participo activamente. Por consiguiente, se referirá a los aspectos fundamentales que según la orientación expresada en el documento CL 82/10 deben ser objeto de análisis de este Consejo.

Con relación al examen de la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y su intención de ocuparse en el próximo período de sesiones de los problemas de seguridad alimentaria que deben afrontar los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos en Africa, nuestra delegación considera que, si bien el aumento de la producción alimentaria en los países subdesarrollados con déficit de alimentos, y en todos los países en general, es el elemento esencial para lograr la seguridad alimentaria, a largo plazo, estos países no pueden disponer de los recursos financieros necesarios sin la asistencia financiera externa, siendo por lo tanto necesario que los esfuerzos nacionales se complementen con la asistencia internacional.

En este aspecto, tienen especial obligación los países desarrollados, muchos de los cuales, como es conocido, han acumulado sus riquezas a costa del trabajo de los países pobres, donde han adquirido materias primas y mano de obra barata.

Nuestra delegación apoya la idea de que en el próximo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se examinen los problemas de la producción de alimentos y la seguridad alimentaria de África, teniendo especial cuidado en prestar atención a los aspectos específicos que se presentan en esa región. La labor que en ese sentido viene realizando la FAO está muy bien explicada en el informe preparado para la octava reunión ministerial del Comité del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, documento WFC/82/4 (Parte I), al analizar el problema alimentario africano, y la función de los organismos internacionales.

Coincidimos con el distinguido delegado de la India en que la FAO debe ser el centro de la actividad en los aspectos de seguridad alimentaria, en coordinación con otros organismos que pudieran prestar su ayuda. En ese sentido, como conocemos, en esta empresa el Director General de la FAO siempre ha puesto empeños de primer orden.

También consideramos de mucha utilidad que la Secretaría prepare para el próximo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial un examen provisional basado en los estudios existentes sobre la producción de alimentos en la región africana, indicando además la labor que se está realizando, tanto por la FAO como por otras organizaciones, así como las dificultades que han impedido acelerar la producción de alimentos en esa región.

Relacionado con el examen de las disposiciones para prestar asistencia en materia de seguridad alimentaria, nuestra delegación apoya las disposiciones vigentes, y quisiera resaltar la necesidad de una capacitación más sistemática, profunda y a largo plazo del personal nacional en cuestiones técnicas y administrativas relacionadas con las reservas nacionales de alimentos. Al mismo tiempo, exhortamos a que en los programas y proyectos de seguridad alimentaria de la FAO continúen vinculándose la ayuda del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Asimismo, estamos de acuerdo en que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es el único órgano en el sistema, de las Naciones Unidas encargado de vigilar, evaluar y realizar consultas acerca de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. La delegación cubana reafirma su apoyo a la propuesta del Director General de reconsiderar el concepto y funciones del Comité, si bien este informe se preparará bajo la sola responsabilidad del Director General, aunque corresponde al Comité examinarlo, como bien se expresa en el párrafo 55, Nuestra delegación considera útil y tal vez dignas de ser tenidas en cuenta, las sugerencias que aparecen en el párrafo 54 del documento CL 82/10.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): In addressing this item the point should be made that New Zealand is not a substantial grain producer, nor are we a substantial importer of grains; but nevertheless we are very well aware of the need for more stable access to food supplies and certainly agree on and support the high priority that is attached by FAO to this important issue of world food security. We agree with the comment on page 5 of the report of the Committee on World Food Security in document CL 82/10 that adequate growth in food production, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries is the only permanent solution to the problem of world food security. However, this objective needs to be supplemented as necessary by consideration of national, regional and sub-regional stock schemes. In working towards this objective of adequate growth in food production to help achieve food security, it is very clear from the Committee's report that there are a number of problems that need to be addressed. These problems include policies to provide essential agricultural inputs on reasonable terms, and this has been referred to by a number of delegations. They include an approach to pricing agricultural products that will help encourage food production, hopefully allied to increases in the food purchasing power of developing countries.

Indeed, in New Zealand's own experience, profitability is one of the mainsprings of agricultural development since, unless food production is profitable, the economic potential of agriculture cannot be realized.

Further, as a number of delegations emphasized in their interventions under Item 4 of the Agenda, improvements and access to markets for agricultural products will constitute one effective means of encouraging agricultural development and thus an improvement on the world food security situation. Of course, an improvement in world economic conditions generally will help to facilitate more lasting increases in food production where they are needed.

Also, we feel greater productivity through applied agricultural research and adaptation of and transfer of improved production techniques to developing countries will assist food production development materially; and we note the Committee's conclusions on this issue. New Zealand is putting considerable efforts into this aspect of the problem, particularly in conjunction with the countries in our Region, but it can be submitted that we have no quick answers to all the complex issues that surround the achievement of adequate world food security, and this certainly is reflected in the report of the Committee which is now before us.

We therefore welcome the Committee's decision that on the basis of the report which will be prepared by the Director-General it is to review the concept of world food security and the role of the Committee for World Food Security. We welcome the fact that the Director-General's report is to be available soon and we hope in good time before the next meeting of the Committee, so that members of the Committee will be able to give it the very full consideration which it will warrant in advance of the next meeting. Some countries are a long way from Rome and the sooner we get copies of important reports such as this, the better they can be giving it the attention and consideration that is due.

Sra. Doña M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, hacer unos breves comentarios de mi delegación sobre el documento 82/10: Informe del Séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que coincide con lo expuesto en el documento CL 82/2, en el sentido de que si bien el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria acogió con satisfacción el mejoramiento de la situación en 1981/1982, expresó igualmente su preocupación por el hecho de que estas mejoras no hubiesen beneficiado a todos los países, y que la situación alimentaria siguiera siendo precaria en muchos países de bajos ingresos, especialmente en África.

Por otra parte en su Séptimo período de sesiones, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria hizo hincapié en la necesidad de una mejor distribución geográfica de las existencias remanentes mundiales de cereales. Se insistió, y mi delegación insiste nuevamente, en las repercusiones negativas de las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, así como las subvenciones a las exportaciones, tienen para los incentivos a la producción alimentaria, particularmente en los países en desarrollo.

Como lo expresamos al comentar el documento sobre El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en 1982, la falta de una adecuada financiación externa para la implementación de políticas nacionales sobre reservas de cereales, se convierte en un obstáculo y se llega a la falta de solución a los problemas, tales como el de la asistencia técnica, la falta de infraestructura y almacenamiento, la falta de insumos agrícolas esenciales, así como la no solución de los denominados costos de priorización de las reservas. Todo esto viene a ser efecto y no causa.

Nos referiremos a la atención de los programas de seguridad alimentaria de los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos en África, y aquí nuestra delegación incide en lo expuesto en los párrafos 34 a 37.

En cuanto a lo expuesto en el Capítulo IV del documento: examen de las dificultades para prestar asistencia en materia de seguridad alimentaria, queremos subrayar lo referente a la importancia de una capacitación más sistemática, profunda y a largo plazo del personal nacional en cuestiones técnicas y administrativas relacionadas con las reservas nacionales de alimentos, tal como está expuesto en el párrafo 46 del documento 82/10. Este es un aspecto muy importante y merece tenerse en cuenta prioritariamente.

Igualmente queremos destacar lo señalado por el Comité en el sentido de que sería conveniente dar mayor prioridad al Programa de la FAO para la Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos e integrar mejor sus actividades con la del Plan de Asistencia para la Seguridad Alimentaria (PASA).

En otras reuniones hemos constado el impacto negativo que se tiene para lograr la seguridad alimentaria de las pérdidas de alimentos producidos después de las cosechas.

Finalmente nos referiremos a la propuesta formulada por el Director General de la FAO en su discurso de apertura del último período de sesiones del Comité y que consiste en reconsiderar el concepto y el planteamiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Sobre este aspecto, creemos que toda reconsideración al concepto y al planteamiento de la seguridad alimentaria debe darse sobre la base de consideraciones realísticas y que excluyan todo aquello que signifique o conlleve duplicidad de funciones en los organismos internacionales, que a nuestro juicio son problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie) : La délégation roumaine a examiné très attentivement le rapport de la septième session du Comité pour la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, présenté dans le document CL/82/10, de même que l'exposé de Monsieur le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, prononcé lors de l'ouverture des travaux du Comité et elle est tout à fait d'accord avec les orientations promues en vue de la solution de ces problèmes.

Il est vrai que la sécurité alimentaire se soit améliorée ces dernières années, cela dû à de bonnes récoltes obtenues, mais ce progrès ne se fait pas remarquer en égale mesure dans toutes les zones du monde. De nombreux pays, spécialement ceux en Afrique, n'ont pas réussi à redresser la production agricole, cela dû à leurs conditions climatiques, aux calamités naturelles, aux maladies dangereuses qui déciment les effectifs d'animaux.

Relativement au Plan d'actions pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le document met en évidence le fait que de nombreux pays en développement n'ont pas la possibilité de mettre en pratique les programmes liés à la constitution de stocks, dû au manque d'entrepôts, à l'insuffisance des investissements, au manque de personnel spécialisé, etc. Ces pays doivent être soutenus afin qu'ils puissent résoudre ces problèmes maintenant, quand la récolte mondiale de céréales est bonne et quand il y a les conditions appropriées pour l'acquisition des stocks nécessaires, au moins pour ce qui concerne l'assurance des situations d'urgence.

Au sujet des mesures pour l'assistance de la sécurité alimentaire, nous sommes d'accord qu'il existe encore des lacunes dans l'octroi des aides et que la FAO continue à jouer un rôle actif, en vue de la coordination des efforts nationaux dans ce domaine.

Ces mesures pourraient être complétées par des actions vouées à mener à la mise en valeur des terrains qui ne sont pas utilisés, à la réalisation de systèmes modernes d'irrigation, à la lutte contre l'érosion du sol, à l'accroissement de la fertilité du sol, à la vulgarisation dans la production des variétés et des hybrides végétaux et des races d'animaux ayant un potentiel de production élevé et adaptables aux conditions locales des pays.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les recommandations faites par le Directeur général concernant la nécessité de réexaminer la notion de sécurité alimentaire et du rôle du Comité dans le cadre des activités multilatérales internationales pour les problèmes de l'alimentation.

K. MATSUSHITA (Japan): Japan would like to extend its appreciation to the Committee on World Food Security for its constructive work. We also would like to thank Dr. Islam for the excellent presentation of the report.

In the document the Committee welcomed the improvement in the global food security in 1981-82 but expressed concern that the improvement has not been shared by all countries, especially in Africa.

The Committee also stressed the need for developing countries to adopt appropriate policies, including incentives to encourage agricultural production. The Committee also reiterated that increasing food production in low-income food-deficit countries was a critical element in achieving long-term food security. Japan fully supports the conclusions of the Committee.

The Committee review on progress in implementing the Programme of Action on Food Security underlines the fact that a large number of countries adopted cereal stock policies but the majority of low-income food-deficit countries has not yet been able to build reserves or to implement their stock targets. Our country supports the Plan of Action and expects that these countries should take early action to establish and implement national stock policies.

Concerning the setting up of regional food security schemes, we would like to support the Committee report that regional food security schemes should supplement and strengthen, rather than replace existing national or global arrangements.

Finally I would welcome the proposal of the Director-General to review the concept and approach to world food security.

JIN XIANG-YUN (China) (original language Chinese): We have studied the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security and have listened to the statements by previous speakers. I would like to make a few remarks on this issue.

First, the past two years witnessed fairly good harvests in the world grain production and the situation of world food security has taken a turn for the better. However, such a development is far from being steady and many food-deficit and low-income developing countries still face food problems. Food situation in Africa presents a particularly critical picture which has caused our deep concern and sympathy. Therefore, we support the appeal issued by the Director General and by the President of Cape Verde, for the expansion of food aid to Africa.

We feel that it is highly necessary to provide food security assistance for food-deficit and low-income developing countries so as to help them establish adequate food reserve and related infrastructure. We have noted that the Food Security Fund, proposed by FAO, has reached the originally-set target of ten million US dollars. Although many donor countries have made their efforts, the fund raised still falls short of the requirements of food security assistance. Consequently, we endorse the idea in the report to call for increased financial resources to food security projects by strengthening the Food Security Programme or through bilateral assistance.

To better utilize limited resources for food security assistance, we share the view in Paragraph 49 of the report, that is, the fund for food security assistance programme should be concentrated on relatively more pressing technical assistance and on projects with smaller-scale investment.

As we know, the Director General has proposed that the guidelines for World Food Security and the role of the Committee on World Food Security be further examined. This will be conducive to the strengthening of future work, to the coordination of policies adopted by the international community to guarantee world food security, and to the avoiding of unnecessary duplication of work. Since the concept of world food security was introduced, many countries have done a great deal to this end. It is high time for us to sum up the experiences so as to find out generally acceptable guidelines.

A. JUAN MARCOS ISSA (México): Nuestra delegación desea reiterar su total apoyo a la propuesta del Director General de la FAO para reconsiderar el concepto de seguridad alimentaria mundial; es claro que corresponde al Director General la responsabilidad de este trabajo y la preparación del documento correspondiente, como queda sentado en el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Solo deseamos destacar la importancia que nuestra delegación concede a estos trabajos.

La dinámica de los acontecimientos de la producción y el consumo mundiales de alimentos demandan la necesidad de uniformar criterios y objetivizar las causas de la problemática alimentaria. El conocimiento preciso de las causas contribuye en gran medida a encontrar la búsqueda de su solución. Redefinir el concepto de seguridad alimentaria mundial dentro de un contexto en que estén incluidos los principales agentes que afectan y modifican las tendencias de la producción y consumo de alimentos a los diferentes niveles, regionales, mundiales y nacionales, constituye en sí un gran avance.

Evidentemente, no se parte de cero, se cuenta con la experiencia de reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y con la de otras instancias donde se ha debatido sobre este particular.

Se está también de acuerdo, por ejemplo, en la necesidad de aumentar la producción de alimentos y mejorar la distribución entre quienes lo producen a través de incrementos en la producción de los países deficitarios.

El problema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial está íntimamente ligado a otros problemas de origen financiero, comercial y tecnológico, por mencionar sólo algunos de los más importantes.

Nuestra delegación apoya todos los esfuerzos que realiza la FAO encaminados a auxiliar las acciones que sobre seguridad alimentaria regional se están desarrollando. Las medidas complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y las actividades realizadas a través del Programa Ordinario en materia de planificación y políticas constituyen dos formas concretas en que la FAO contribuye a acciones sobre el particular que realizan los Estados Miembros.

La cooperación regional para la producción de alimentos mediante la participación en la tecnología y programas de acciones conjuntas encaminados a la autosuficiencia regional forman parte de las acciones que nuestra delegación desea destacar por su importancia, y considera necesario que se continúe fomentando dichas actividades. En este contexto México ha prestado apoyo y orientación para la implementación de estrategias nacionales de desarrollo agrícola en nuestra región.

Señor Presidente, apoyamos firmemente la propuesta del Director General de elaborar un estudio detallado y profundo sobre la cuestión de las políticas de precios. Comprendemos que se trata de un asunto complejo, sin embargo necesario y prioritario en los asuntos relativos a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Consideración similar a ésta fue hecha por el Comité de Productos Básicos durante el 21 período de sesiones del Grupo Intergubernamental de Cereales.

Nuestra delegación apoya asimismo la propuesta de que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria examine los problemas de la producción de alimentos y la seguridad alimentaria en los países de bajos ingresos y deficitarios en alimentos. Esperamos que la propuesta tenga el apoyo financiero externo que requiere, ante todo que exista la voluntad política para apoyar a los países deficitarios en sus tareas hacia el aumento de la producción local, que significa mejorar el ingreso y el consumo de un sector importante de quienes padecen hambre. Estamos convencidos que apoyar a quienes más necesitan de apoyo es apoyarse a sí mismos, es cumplir con un principio elemental de justicia universal.

SYED AHMED (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation has studied with interest and eagerness the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, as given in Document CL 82/10. We would like to congratulate Professor Islam for so beautifully presenting this paper.

The report has drawn the attention of the Council to three major issues and we wholeheartedly support the recommendations and findings of the report and, what is more encouraging, is the call by the Director-General for a reassessment and review of the whole approach to the concept of world food security, the need for redefining and the need for finding new approaches to solve what he called in his report the apparently insoluble problem.

The concept of world food security encompasses a very broad spectrum. It is a production problem; it is a management problem. But it is not a subjective concept; there is not much subjectivity involved as in many other problems. It is amenable to quantification; it involves production quantity, distribution, storage, movement, procurement and finally consumption, which are all quantities. These are all quantifiable variables in an integrated system.

The decade of the 1970s witnessed several important initiatives in this direction, primarily at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization. They include the international undertaking on world food security, the FAO early warning system on food and agriculture, the food security assistance schemes, the Action Programme for Prevention of Losses, negotiations on a new international grains arrangement, the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security, the International Monetary Fund compensatory cereal financing facility and the emergency food reserve among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian nations as well as other bilateral and multilateral investment assistance for the food security infrastructure development.

These initiatives did make some progress and they provided a framework for future concerted action. But more resources are needed for these programmes to alleviate the regional food security problems, the world food security problems. But at times it appears that the efforts and sacrifices of the past are in danger of being wasted and unfortunately one of the major issues of the World Food Day that we celebrated only recently was how to revive the interest of the peoples and governments of the industrialized nations in helping to eliminate hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Today we are talking about reviving the interest, whereas the decade of the 70s witnessed a lot of important initiatives in this direction. That is why the call by the Director-General of FAO to have a reassessment of the situation, the need for redefining the whole concept, is highly appropriate and we most wholeheartedly welcome it. This has been in conformity with the abiding interest and the missionary zeal with which he and his Organisation have been pursuing this objective of attaining world food security and finding some solution to a problem of such vital interest to all of us.

Another important aspect to which he has drawn attention, and it was also mentioned by the distinguished Delegate of India, is the need for avoiding overlap and duplication because it is a problem of such enormous magnitude that the question of duplication or overlap need not and should not arise. Efforts made by various organisations can at best be complementary to each other, but never competitive. So on the initiative taken by the Director-General and the actions that will be taken by the Committee on World Food Security and the deliberations which will follow on the basis of the report are things we are eagerly and expectantly looking forward to.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that pending the development of an integrated world food security system we in Bangladesh have been receiving generous assistance both in aid of foodgrain cereals and in assistance in our infrastructure and other related storage building programmes. I would like to mention here that besides the commercial imports that we are making in our development programmes for building the storage and infrastructure, and the fact that over the last few years we have increased our storage capacity from 1.1 million tons to about 1.8 million tons it has become possible with the assistance of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the EEC, DANIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Netherlands, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. In matters of food assistance the World Food Programme has been a major donor to Bangladesh and we are one of the largest recipients of the Title II wheat of the PL 480 from the United States Government. Then recently we have had a big consignment of wheat under the United States PL 480 Title III. Other donors, Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, EEC, the United Kingdom and Japan through the long-term credit and also grants under the Kennedy Round have helped us a lot in building up our security reserve.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my delegation's heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our friends. In the region also, whether it was a commercial purchase from Burma and Thailand, we have very good treatment. The prices have been what are called special friendship prices at concessional rates, and the recent example of the ship diversion from India to Bangladesh at the instance of the World Food Programme. We also gratefully recall the gesture of this shipment of wheat, which was commercially purchased by India, to Bangladesh at a time when we

needed it, and also the diversion of a shipment from India to Bangladesh of the loan that we negotiated with them with the help of the World Food Programme. These are all brilliant instances of regional food security, and these could be further enhanced and more systematically taken advantage of with the help of a regional commission, which we will be discussing very soon.

We wish FAO godspeed, sir, and I am sure with the blessings of the countless millions of the hungry and impoverished around the world their efforts will be crowned with success.

Ms. M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): The Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security as presented in the document before us, CL 82/10, in our view represents a fair summary of the proceedings of that committee. Since that committee met earlier in the year we have of course seen the outturn figures for the 1982 world cereals harvest, which have been encouraging and have brought the estimated stock levels in 1982/83 up to 20 percent of world consumption, well above the minimum safe level of 17 to 18 percent. Nevertheless we agree that there is still no room for complacency, and particularly disturbing is the position of the low-income food-deficit countries.

In this connection we were most encouraged by the unanimous agreement of the Committee on World Food Security, as recorded in paragraphs 34 to 37 of the report, to study the problems of the low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa, and more specifically the reasons why so many efforts directed towards the improvement of food security in these countries have apparently not met with success. We would like to ask the Secretariat if they would give us more information as to how this study is progressing, although the contribution of members of the Committee can be sharply focussed in order to have as valuable a discussion as possible at the Eighth Session. The Director-General has expressed the hope that members of the Council will not discuss the forthcoming report to be presented on his own responsibility at the next session of the Committee on Food Security. It is not my intention to discuss this, however, and I believe a number of suggestions were put forward at the Seventh Session to assist the Director-General. However, again so that discussion next year will take matters forward and not simply be another hand-wringing session, I would be grateful to know how this study is progressing. In this connection, the Director-General will no doubt be looking for efforts in other fora to put forward workable proposals on world food security.

We support earlier speakers who have warned against unnecessary duplication. We would like to stress the need for the fullest cooperation in the endeavours of all institutions and countries in order that real progress can be made, as India has pointed out, at the grass roots. The welfare of human beings is what we are discussing here and I do not believe that, removed as we may be in this body, we can allow ourselves to forget it.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRY (Indonesia): Allow me to make a brief statement. It is not surprising that Indonesia agreed with the Report and supported the recommendations and findings of the Committee on World Food Security, since Indonesia is a member of that Committee and participated in the Seventh Session of the Committee. Despite the fact that the global food security situation in 1981-1982 seems to be rather encouraging about food conditions in many low-income developing countries, it still remains precarious. My delegation entirely agrees that increasing food production in the low-income food producing countries is the key element for solving world food security problems. The international community and international financial institutions are expected to give more assistance to these countries in order to strengthen their capability to develop agriculture and to increase food production. Food aid is highly required by the low-income developing countries in order to enable them to cope with food problems. In this context, my delegation regrets that the food aid target of 10 million tons of cereals has not been attained so far. We observe that many developing countries have implemented their national food reserve policy, especially in cereal commodities, in line with the Plan of Action of the International Undertaking of World Food Security, and we know that some of them really need external assistance, financial and technical, as well as skills. It seems there is no other option than to encourage donors, international organisations, developed countries as well as developing countries, who are in a position to provide assistance to these low-income developing countries. On this particular deliberation, Indonesia once again would like to support the concept of collective self-reliance. In this context, Indonesia fully supports the establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific, as recommended at the FAO Regional Conference held recently in Jakarta. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the projects through the Food Security Assistance Scheme have been well implemented. We also agree with the Committee on World Food Security that the Food Security Assistance Scheme should focus its attention on the Technical Assistance Projects as well as to small-scale investments. Large-scale investment could be done hopefully through direct cooperation between developed and recipient developing countries.

In conclusion, my delegation does hope that FAO will play a more important role in the field of project identification and in initiating contacts between potential donors and recipients.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): Developing countries have to grapple with a myriad of insurmountable problems in their attempt to build national grain stocks and reserves. To cite but one problem among the many which are well-documented in this paper, we may mention the fact that climatic conditions preclude us developing countries from predicting any season's crop harvests.

It may be asked why we do not use the seemingly successful Early Warning System now used by developed countries and some of the developing countries. Our difficulty is that the Early Warning System is a relatively new concept to us, and some of us are still struggling to understand how it works and how it should be taken advantage of. Maybe in two or three years time we shall have marshalled all the necessary resources required to implement it, and probably by that time we shall have trained adequate personnel who will master and know how it should be used to predict climatic dangers to crops and prescribe the appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner in order to safeguard our food stocks.

We really look forward to receiving the assistance of FAO to help us further in setting up our own ad hoc Early Warning System. In fact, the Committee on Food Aid has clearly shown that in certain areas, food aid can be used to set up national food reserves in countries that must be assisted because they cannot produce enough food due to natural factors such as drought. This assistance is greatly appreciated by all the food-deficit developing countries that are being helped by FAO to set up their own food reserves. Our support goes to the Food Security Assistance Scheme because this is the area where FAO has been helping needy developing countries on their food security.

As was rightly said yesterday by Bangladesh, there is a lot of food in this world. What we, however, see as our cause for concern is the non-existence of a satisfactory mechanism to safeguard international world food security. We fully realize that food security is a lengthy process which involves production, consumption, technical inputs, etc. and that there are several documents in which production and consumption data exist, such as the World Food Outlook, food balance sheets, and so on. Therefore, we feel that food production should not be made a main issue at this Council,

Permit me to express our gratitude to the Republic of Italy which has made such a commendable contribution to the Sahelian Region where brothers and sisters have pooled their brains, energy, technical expertise and their meagre resources to wage a war against the vagaries of nature with a view to producing food for people in that area. We strongly hope that in undertaking the in-depth study on food prices in terms of agricultural sectoral analysis, the Director-General will give priority to the proposal contained in paragraphs 34 and 35 of document CL 82/10 for a study of the problems of food production in the low-income food-deficit countries in Africa. This proposal calls for an action programme to review agricultural policies to stimulate agricultural production.

Considerable assistance is needed to assure the availability of adequate financial assistance to ensure the success of the programme. We shall be more than pleased if the greatest bulk of the Italian financial contribution to the Sahel Region can be ejected into this action programme. The proposal solicits FAO to undertake a study of those countries in Africa which have experienced negative food production in the past decade in line with the WCARRD Plan of Action. The terms of reference of this study as proposed were clearly articulated. If my memory serves me right, they were: 1) to identify food production constraints of these countries. I would like to add "with special reference to the Sahel"; 2) to identify measures necessary to provide essential financial aid. In regard to these terms of reference, we have already requested that the bulk of the contribution made by the Government of Italy be channelled to this study; 3) to identify the financial implications of regional programmes; 4) to determine needed technical assistance. I may add that the concerns and requests made by Kenya yesterday, agreed to and supported in various ways by Cameroon, Zambia and Lesotho, calling for the assistance of FAO in developing high-level manpower, that is planners and managers of resources in Africa, find direct application in those terms of reference; 5) to propose alternative mechanisms to provide the assurance of food security needs.

I shall not identify and mention all the terms of reference as contained in the proposal, but I presume that this is a sufficient list.

We fully recognize that this work is considerable and that the Secretariat will not like to issue a paper based on journalistic impressions or judgements, but will like to produce a paper that is the product of work done professionally by experts. In our opinion, a period of ten years is long enough for really committed experts originating mostly from the developing countries like Latin America, Asia and Africa itself to come up with a workable programme as well as action can be taken immediately following a decision to implement the proposal.

In regard to paragraph 13, our delegation entertains the same view and is in agreement with the colleague from Bangladesh that in most developing countries there is a lot of food available but the difficulty is how to circulate it. For these countries the difficulty stems from lack of domestic processing and transport facilities. Some developing countries have indeed made a deliberate effort to attain food self-sufficiency by implementing appropriate national food production programmes. They simply do not possess a large enough army of well trained planners and managers of their resources. This lack of manpower is prevalent in most of the African countries.

It is often said that some of the recommendations dished out to governments by our Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank and other financing institutions, have not been implemented in developing countries, and therefore the governments of these countries have failed to implement them. We are convinced that FAO and others concerned will try all they can to successfully pressurize the members of the Sahel region to implement these recommendations once these governments have clearly understood in which areas they are weak and how they should strengthen themselves to remove these weaknesses.

Furthermore, there is an almost incessant mention of cooperation among developing countries to stimulate self-reliance. In our opinion this action programme will strengthen regional cooperation if it is undertaken. We are very much disturbed by the sluggish progress of establishing a New International Economic Order. The salvation of the developing world is found in this order. Ever since I started attending CFA and CCP meetings the concerns on the NIEO have been expressed by delegate after delegate several times but we see absolutely no headway whatsoever. There is no positive change in protectionism, tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers, subsidies, terms of agricultural trade, prices of raw materials produced and exported by the developing world. For how long must this state of affairs be allowed to continue? If the developing exporting world does not possess a legal power to set prices of its raw materials, if it cannot manage to set up its own manufacturing plants within its frontiers, if it does not control the supply of its own resources, this world will continue to face high unemployment rates, shortages of food, high interest rates, spiralling inflation rates, bloated negative values of payments, high debt services, and costly imports of manufactured commodities. The ultimate consequence of all these forces will be an uncontrollable social disorder leading to revolutions, civil war, and an unhappy world.

This world is full of a catalogue of Plans of Action. What remains to be seen is what they will yield in the short term and in the long term. My delegation considers the world fails to implement some of these matters because it has ushered aside a fundamental issue of a policy among all nations and species of man. We therefore request FAO to do all it can to pressurize all relevant world institutions to pay attention to and recognize this basic fact in their debates.

To close our intervention, our delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on producing a comprehensive, concise precis of the deliberations that took place in April this year during the CFS session and has well taken into account all the comments of the delegates during that time. We fully support the recommendations and comments contained in this report.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the report of the Seventh Session of the CFS (Committee on Food Security). My delegation completely agrees with the content of paras 14 to 18 of this document which state that the consolidation of food security depends necessarily on the availability of information, on an adequate level of food production and on an open international economic system.

My delegation agrees with para. 36 which stresses the need to concentrate on the solution of specific problems.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has always welcomed regional and sub-regional cooperation in programmes aiming at the promotion of food production and participates in joint agricultural research programmes.

Moreover, my delegation supports the active and efficient efforts made by FAO in the field of food security at both national and international levels.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): Norway has taken an active part in the meeting of the Food Security Committee. We are therefore in general agreement with the report before us.

The Norwegian delegation wishes to express its disappointment at the stagnation in the international cooperation in the field of food security. Neither the International Wheat Council nor the World Food Council have yet been able to agree on any complete measures. In view of the lack in political will at present to come to an international agreement, we feel it is important to give international support to efforts at the international level to strengthen food security, free building of stocks, especially of grain, etc.

Consequently, we would fully support the activities of FAO in this field such as the Five-Point Plan. In particular I would like to mention the Food Security Assistance Scheme, FSAS, as a means of giving assistance to the developing countries' own efforts and activities. Norway has participated in the FSAS and has gradually increased its contributions to the scheme's activities. The Norwegian contribution to FSAS was doubled in 1982, and subject to parliamentary approval will be kept at the same level in 1983 - namely 4 million Norwegian kroner or approximately US\$ 550 000. We hope that even more countries will contribute to FSAS.

At the last session of the Committee on Food Security the Director-General initiated a review and re-definition of the concept of world food security and as a concept of role of the FSAS. As mentioned by the Director-General in his opening statement, this study will be presented at the next session of the CFS. My delegation is looking forward to taking part in the forthcoming discussions.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): With your permission I would like to touch on two issues in connection with the problem of food security which have been mentioned only briefly by other delegations.

First, with regard to the assessment of the world food security situation and adequacy of stocks, I would like to mention some of the factors which have been referred to by the International Group on Grains meeting which was held early this year. Unfortunately, the report of this meeting does not go directly to this Council, but passes through the CCP. Nevertheless, some of its findings have a close relationship with the problems of food security, and the orderly development of supply and demand and the adequate flow of grains to the developing countries.

First of these is the cyclical shift in supplies and surpluses, and the attendant fluctuations in prices which create problems both for producers and importers. As you know, Mr. Chairman, right now there is an improvement in World Food supplies. Current stocks are at a satisfactory level, but this is not shared equally by all. At present current prices of grain are at their lowest for 21/2 years, and in real terms are at their lowest for 30 years. While this situation should bring some benefits to importing countries, at the same time it leads to disincentives to production. Many countries are now complaining they do not even meet the production costs. This could lead again to another shortage, and then the cycle would again repeat itself. It is just an alternation of a boom and bust supply. I think this is totally connected to the problem of food security.

The other problem which was mentioned by this group was the continuous rise in import requirements of developing countries which as a result of the balance of payment difficulties and other problems are not always translated into effective imports even in terms of low prices. As a result, annoyance in many countries is increasing.

The other factor is that stocks are limited in a number of countries, particularly in North America, which in times of market surplus places the burden of the world food security reserve adjustment on a few countries, but nevertheless we know that these stocks, while they represent an important defence against future shortages, place an unduly heavy burden on these few countries which could lead to new policies which would tend to reduce the supplies in these very same countries.

A further issue which I would like to refer to is in connection with the sub-regional and regional food schemes aimed at strengthening collective self-reliance of developing countries. This is referred to in paragraphs 38-42 in the report.

Following the request of the Council the Committee discussed ways of facilitating regional and sub-regional food security schemes aimed at strengthening collective self-reliance of the countries. The Committee noted there was increasing interest amongst governments in such schemes, and that there was a variety of proposals presently under consideration in a number of regions and sub-regions, including South Africa, America, etc., the most prominent of which was the Sahel, which held a meeting a few days ago.

Mention was also made of an experts' meeting on the subject within the framework of economic cooperation among developing countries, which was held in Manila in August of this year.

In this connection I would like to refer to the main findings of that meeting. While there were no spectacular conclusions that were reached during this meeting, I think nevertheless a few conclusions could be of interest to this meeting. Some of these are as follows: one, that the basis for cooperative action and establishment of sub-regional or regional food reserves is the national reserve policy and practice under which their group have the possibility of establishing regional or sub-regional food reserves. Second, that a scheme of acquiring and maintaining food reserves of developing countries should be composed of a network of regional and sub-regional food reserves and financial arrangements; that there could be no standard format for those sub-regional and regional schemes as this would depend on the particular conditions and circumstances of the different regions. That among the more critical factors that would determine the viability of the regional and sub-regional food reserve schemes are the size, scope, financial requirements, supply-demand situation

in the participating countries and existence of a regional body. That the regional and sub-regional reserve scheme should first of all begin with a modest scale; then at a later stage they can be increased in size and expand in scope as experience and confidence are attained.

In this connexion the meeting took note that of the initial successes obtained by the Asean countries in establishing an Asean food security reserve scheme. While the size of the Asean reserve was only a modest one, the replenishment proviso in the agreement implied that in any given year the size of rice reserve could be considerably larger.

The scheme also included coordination of national stock policies, cooperation in the reduction of post-harvest losses and in other technical fields, as well as a regular exchange of information, and food supply and demand situation.

The political and economic-social considerations were also of vital interest to the regional and sub-regional reserve schemes. On the issue of financial arrangements it was pointed out that as much as possible the scheme should be self-financed and at most should involve minimal financial implications to the participating countries. Right now the ways and means are being studied for promoting regional consultations with a view of arriving at specific recommendations on the establishment of schemes for arriving at and maintaining food reserves at the regional and sub-regional level.

Finally, let me conclude by expressing the hope that FAO will continue to help in facilitating regional and sub-regional food security schemes in line with the resolutions of the FAO Conference and of this august body.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays, qui a pris une part active à la 7ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, voudrait apporter son appui au rapport soumis à notre examen. Nous avons ici un document complet et fidèle qui touche les points névralgiques de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale: que le Secrétariat en soit remercié. Cependant notre délégation voudrait souhaiter que les idées mises en exergue dans ce rapport suscitent plus de volonté politique pour une application effective. La sécurité alimentaire mondiale préoccupe l'Afrique plus que toute autre région et beaucoup de bonnes paroles sont prononcées et écrites à ce sujet dans tous les forums internationaux.

Cette proposition d'améliorer la situation de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique existe sans qu'il soit possible à présent de percevoir le moindre signe d'amélioration. Aussi est-ce sans réserve que nous avons accueilli l'annonce faite par le Directeur général lors de la dernière session de notre Comité, et renouvelée à l'ouverture de cette session, visant à réexaminer le concept et l'approche de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale sous sa propre responsabilité.

Cette étude, pensons-nous, s'inscrit parfaitement dans le droit fil de l'étude que le Comité avait demandé et qui concerne le recensement et l'évaluation des contraintes qui empêchent l'accroissement de la production alimentaire et la mise au point d'un programme d'actions sur dix ans pour assurer une production alimentaire accélérée et soutenue en Afrique. De même nous avons appuyé la proposition faite par le Directeur général tendant à reconsidérer le concept de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de même nous sommes partisans du renforcement du rôle du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale comme principal organe chargé de cette question.

Comme nous l'avons dit hier, la solution fondamentale pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale reste celle d'accroître la production alimentaire et non d'apporter l'aide alimentaire chaque fois que cette situation d'urgence se produit. L'aide au développement doit constituer le principal souci des pays donateurs car, pensons-nous, ces situations d'urgence sont pour la plupart, et c'est le cas pour la majorité des pays d'Afrique, les conséquences directes du manque ou de l'insuffisance des investissements susceptibles de garantir à long terme une production agricole et alimentaire accrue et soutenue. Celle-ci reste trop soumise aux aléas climatiques. Le problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale reste donc fondamentalement un problème de manque de ressources dans les pays en déficit alimentaire et à faible revenu. Un appel doit donc une nouvelle fois être lancé en direction des pays développés pour une aide accrue en rapport avec l'ampleur des situations prévalant dans ces pays. Nous pensons que la relance économique internationale en dépend.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): My delegation has studied with care the document before us, CL 82/10 which accurately summarizes the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security. My government supports the FAO plan of action on food security, particularly its emphasis on enhancing the productive capacity of Member States and the building of national reserves. Reserve stocks held by farmers in the United States are expected to exceed 100 million metric tons by the end of the 1982/83 marketing year. This compares with reserve stocks of 69 million metric tons for the 1981/82 marketing year and 27 million metric stock tons for 1981. The estimated level for 1982/83 is excessive and represents a very high proportion of total reserve stocks held in the world.

In this regard most of the other large grain-producing and exporting countries have not, in our view, taken action to build stocks commensurate with the level of their production. Further action by these countries is therefore warranted in view of their support of the plan of action.

My government shares the views expressed by others today with respect to the desirability of the study being done by the Director-General on world food security. So that this study may receive our most careful consideration, we urge that it be made available to Member Governments as far in advance as possible of the meeting early next year of the Committee on World Food Security. We share with others the concern for the tendency of work to be duplicated in the international system.

We would like also to enquire about the status of the Secretariat's report on food production problems in Africa. This is an area where our assistance and support is critical and we believe that the Secretariat's report can help to shape our future activities in helping to build productive capacity on this important continent.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): We consider the Committee on Food Security as one of the more important committees of FAO and the fact that 79 out of the 89 members attended its last session is indicative of the importance that others also attach to it. We look forward to the Director-General's study which is to be prepared prior to the next session of the CFS and we trust that the Secretariat will distribute this document well in advance of the session, so that capitals can give it the review and the importance it deserves.

As Canada has been and will continue to be an active member of this Committee and has also served on the drafting committee for this report, we do not intend to re-examine the issues specifically raised at the last session of the CFS. We would like to recall, however, some of the points which the Canadian delegates to that meeting made. We continue to support the view as noted in paragraph 14 of the document before us, that adequate growth in food production is the only permanent solution to the problem of food security. No one here, I think, argues with this principle but what is still in question, however, is how to go about it. We believe that the food sector strategy or overall rural development strategies are the most logical and scientific way of tackling this problem. The actual content of these strategies may vary from country to country but utilizing the overall framework of a food sector strategy can be of great assistance.

Today we do not really have an overall supply problem. Production and stocks are high in many areas of the world but there are national and regional distribution problems. These can be adequately addressed under the food sector strategy approach. The building of national food reserves as a cushion against poor crop years or against high international prices is obviously one element of the food sector strategy. Remunerative pricing to farmers or other socio-economic rewards to stimulate production and encourage further agricultural investment are also important aspects of any overall rural development strategy.

Some 2,000 years ago Caesar Augustus ruled over the Roman Empire from this very city. Augustus is reported to have stated the following: I had a good mind to discontinue permanently the supply of grain to the city, reliance on which had discouraged Italian agriculture, but I refrain from doing so because some politician would be bound one day to revive the dole as a means of ingratiating himself to the people. Nevertheless, in his handling of the food problem he now began to consider the interests of farmers and corn merchants as much as the needs of the city dwellers. History has shown us that governments which shortsightedly ignore the interests of the farmers do so at their peril. How times have changed, or have they really? It has been all through history and will continue to be, a short-sighted and disastrous policy indeed that forgets about the producers and the farmers. We continue to hold the view that food aid when properly deployed remains an essential but interim measure to ensure world food security. This point, of course, is stressed in paragraph 18 of the document.

We often hear concern expressed over the fact that a great percentage of the stocks of food grain are being held by a few major producers, a good percentage of which are in North America. This certainly has not prevented massive amounts of food from getting to the hungry millions of the world. Nowadays it appears fashionable to criticise the major producers but one really has to consider where the world would be without their general provision of food aid, both in the short-run through alleviation of emergencies and in the long-term through its development applications. Sometimes targets are not met, announcements are slow and progress seems doubtful, but let us continue in our efforts at building on our successes, as our Chairman has counselled us yesterday. We know there is disappointment over the apparent failure to reach agreement on a new International Wheat Agreement and the associated food aid commitments, but let us remind ourselves that even without this new agreement food grains continue to move, food aid continues to be provided.

Canada has already announced its contribution to the WFP 1983/84 biennium target at the pledging conference last March. We raised our pledge from Canadian dollars 190 million to Canadian dollars 250 million, of which \$40 million was in cash. Our response to the WFP and the response of other donors is the eloquent testimony I believe of our support to the WFP and we are particularly pleased at the leadership which is being provided by this important development institution by its Executive Director.

Paragraph 34 of the report provides a very brief summary of the intensive discussions which took place on a proposal which was made by Cameroon. We were pleased to see the strong support given this proposal by many members at the time and urge fellow council members to support this initiative. We in this Council have heard and have spoken often of the necessary political will being a prerequisite to the achievement of agricultural development plans. A development strategy does not have to be initiated or envisaged by bilateral donors or by an international organization before it can be considered as viable or successful. In fact it is likely to have more potential if it comes from the government and the people themselves. This certainly has been the testimony of China and India and of others who claim progress in agricultural production and food security. What is needed now is an indication of support for these types of efforts, support from both bilateral as well as multilateral donors.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): There is always a good part in listening to other speakers before taking the floor and I would say that I have been very much encouraged by what I have heard in this Council today. There seems to be a unanimous agreement that the food situation should go away from just talking and documents and platitudes and political will into some form of action requiring a mobilisation of resources. For this knowledge my delegation is very grateful.

Will you let me say, first of all, we are most grateful for the initiative taken by the Italian Government. I think we mentioned this yesterday. I think this is the kind of initiative which when adequately tackled by organizations like the FAO, can lead to some lasting results.

Let me refer to some statements which were made. A few developing countries have already given some positive aspects of their production efforts and the results which they have received. If my memory serves me right I remember very well that in the 1960's, when I was much younger than I am now, I read in the newspapers some of these countries being described in very unfavourable terms in the international press. I think they were also not only pushed to take action on their own and received help from this kind of organization. Very valuable and I would say, timely, adequate support. What was in the 1960's an aid programme to help some countries stand on their feet, today in the 1980's we are getting positive results from some of these countries which were described in very derogatory terms, if I can remember what was written in the 1980's. What we are saying now in the 1980's then should be that those other countries which are now being looked upon as the replacement of those countries which in the 1960's were at the end of the bottom of the pit, that these regions of Africa today, if given this kind of assistance in the 1980's would also maybe in the year 2000 be making such favourable reports to this Council. Probably that sums up in a nutshell what most of the African delegations are talking about.

Concerning the report I cannot say very much because my delegation was very strongly associated with this work of this committee and we support generally the recommendations which have been made.

Food security, in the conception of this delegation, has to base its foundation on production and I think that this is what was brought out in the Committee on World Food Security and just in passing

I should stress that Cameroon is taking an active part in this debate, not because it is today one of the most food-deficit countries of the world. It happens to be one of those which in the last several years has been self-sufficient in food. But our actual production effort cannot last if we do not have continuous input from the international community in form of research, in the form of new ideas, in the build up and in the highlighting of our environment which is continually being destroyed by desertification. So we look on the food production effort of countries as the foundation of food security and I think the Committee on World Food Security stressed that very much and we also supported it. We feel that in the international communities contribution to this kind of effort is like the initiative being taken by Italy but in the short-term, before food self-sufficiency is attained, food aid has major role to play. This is why we deplore the non-attainment of the food targets which have been set for so long. That is why we join the Committee on World Food Security in deploring that the International Food Council has not been able to negotiate a new wheat agreement. I think that one is the preoccupying factor in those countries which in the long term should have attained self-sufficiency but which have many problems today.

It is not that we criticize the major donors for not being very generous. I think they are, to some limits, generous, and I think amongst them there are some countries which have even exceeded the minimum target of .7 percent of the GNP in donations. What we feel is many more should join that kind of group.

We come to the Action Programme. I think many details have been given by the Delegate of Lesotho and there is no need to go into them in more detail but I do think some eight months after this debate took place in the CFS, probably by now there are some more elements of the basis of this report, maybe in the summing up, or in the end when the Secretariat is answering questions, probably some indication of what is being done in the handling of this report would be most welcome so that we can also have our thinking, our re-orientation, some anticipation of our participation in the next session of this Committee, could be valuable.

We do welcome the proposal of the Director-General to write a report and to present it to the next session of the CFS on the whole concept of world food security and the role of CFS and of the FAO in the whole mechanics of it, but I do think the Director-General has the right to write his report and to present it to the CFS and I think that the report will get to the Council eventually, without overburdening it with too many of our own conceptions. I think we all look forward to the report and we shall be prepared to make our contributions when it is received.

On the whole, I think I would say that this delegation agrees with the recommendations of the report of the Committee on World Food Security; appreciates the support which has been given to the proposal which was raised by the African delegation and given the overwhelming support of the Committee on World Food Security and we look forward to the continued help of this Council on the mobilizing of the international opinion for the assistance of this, today, depressed continent.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La seance 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 82/PV/5

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1982)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

5. Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security - Rome, 31 March - 7 April 1982 (continued)

5. Rapport de la septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Rome, 31 mars - 7 avril 1982 (suite)

5. Informe del séptimo periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Mundial - Roma, 31 de marzo - 7 de abril de 1982 (continuación)

- Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security (continued)

- Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (suite)

- Progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción para el Fortalecimiento de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (continuación)

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): Document CL 82/10, the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, draws attention to a number of achievements and issues on this challenging subject. My delegation is very grateful to the committee for the diligent work which evidently went into its deliberations resulting in the report before us.

The proposal of the Director-General to review the concept of and the approach to world food security is readily supported by my delegation. We value the Director-General's commitment to this subject and look forward to receiving his report.

The three-fold approach at the national, regional and international level outlined by the committee to deal with the problem of food security is one which is fully endorsed by my country. We feel that food production at the national level must first be improved and be complemented by action at the regional level and be supplemented by the financial and technical assistance at the international level.

The Delegate of India gave us in his statement the areas of operation at these three levels which will work towards improvement without duplication of efforts.

My delegation supports the views expressed in paragraph 30 of the report that increasing food production in low-income food-deficit countries is a crucial factor in achieving long-term food security.

Small developing countries like Barbados and other small Caribbean states face the problem of rising costs of production, lack of infrastructure, lack of adequate agricultural inputs, and investment capital, as set out in the document.

My delegation feels that the matter of food security has to be approached in a pragmatic manner, and while much emphasis has to be placed on increasing production, a corresponding degree of focus has also to be placed on distribution and prevention of food losses. This is particularly applicable to small states in the Caribbean where with medium scale levels of strategic financial and technical inputs the production capacity of these countries can be stabilised at acceptable levels. Perusal of the Report draws attention to the need for action in the area of distribution and prevention of food losses.

Finally, my delegation supports the proposals contained in paragraphs 34 to 37 for a review of food production and food security problems of low-income food-deficit countries in Africa.

R.B. RYANGA (Kenya): A national food policy or strategy can have several elements. These elements include trade, stocks, a food reserve and so on, but in the final analysis, food security for Africa must be rooted squarely and very deeply in local production, and African countries cannot compromise on this. We cannot compromise on this because while we appreciate the fact that food production and stocks have both increased globally and that the world as a whole is not badly off, we know that this production and this stockholding are both in the developed countries, which should be commended for their efforts in food production and also in world food security, and we take this opportunity to do so now.

We also know that our own access to supplies is to be limited, first of all by physical and political problems, and secondly by our inability to purchase sufficient amounts. We know and our people know that they can only be sure of eating if they themselves produce the food.

We support and encourage the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security and in fact are ourselves involved in the implementation of some of the elements of the Plan. We support also the strengthening of the Food Security Assistance Scheme. We would, however, like to see production given more emphasis in all discussions on food security, particularly why is production in certain parts of the world not increasing fast enough? The Committee on World Food Security at its meeting earlier this year recognized the plight of the low-income food-deficit countries, especially those in Africa, and decided that the Committee would at its next session next year review the food production and food security problems of low-income food-deficit countries in Africa, and recommended an action programme of up to 10 years' duration which would ensure accelerated and sustained food production in these countries. We appreciate the wide and public support that this proposal is receiving from the Council and hope that this support will be translated into action.

We should like to join Cameroon in noting and appreciating and encouraging the current efforts of Italy in collaboration with the FAO. We would also at the same time like to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of all the other countries. The details to be covered by the review are adequately outlined in the document at paragraph 34 and will cover the constraints faced by these countries, and we support them.

We support also the elaboration of these terms of reference by the eloquent delegate of Lesotho. In fact, we should like to take this opportunity to support the main thrust of his intervention. We look forward to the interim review and analysis that the Secretariat is going to prepare for discussion at the next session of the Committee on World Food Security. Owing to the extensive interest which has been shown by delegates here, perhaps it would be beneficial to have a progress report on the Secretariat's efforts so far.

We welcome the Director-General's assurance that he will continue to give programmes in Africa increasing attention during the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We hope that these African programmes designed to assist the chronically food-deficit countries will receive the widest possible public support. We support also and welcome the Director-General's intention to prepare a paper on pricing policies.

We also welcome the increased prominence that these African programmes are due to receive in the future work of the Programme Committee. We support the suggestion made by several delegates beginning with India and Colombia that our attention should now be directed to programmes with deliberate and specific objectives at the country, sub-regional or regional level. We should concentrate somewhat less on general programmes. This kind of action will enable African countries, as Cameroon said, to join the ranks of those now reporting satisfactory progress in food production. Our preoccupation so far with production is actuated by the central nature of this element in any viable food policy, but we are also concerned that it has not been possible so far to conclude a grains agreement and the targets to assistance programmes are not being met.

In conclusion, we support the intention of the Committee on World Food Security to consider at its next session the food problems faced by the low income food-deficit countries in Africa. We note the review of arrangements for food security assistance and support the Committee's recommendations. We believe that global and regional stocks can only supplement national stocks. We support the intention of the Committee to appraise at its next session the whole concept of world food security and the role of the Committee on World Food Security, and look forward to the report on this subject to be prepared by the Director-General.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): We have taken good note, Mr. Chairman, of your request. Accordingly, we are going to be brief and try not to repeat what has already been said. However, since this is the first time we are speaking, we wish to congratulate all office holders.

Allow me to compliment those who have taken part in the preparation of document CL 82/10, which is a good one, and hence facilitates our work. We wish also to express our wholehearted support of the Director-General of FAO for his relentless efforts to achieve global food security and to render the question of food security more dynamic and germane to the needs of the African countries who have to face not only natural constraints but also man-made ones, especially in southern Africa. In this regard, at the national level, our Government is giving high priority to agricultural training and research, the results of which are made available to the farmers to encourage them to grow more food which is being priced at higher level, which stimulates more production.

At the regional level, Angola is playing an active role within SADCC, that is Southern African Development Coordinating Conference, to set up a regional food security in Southern Africa. Indeed, at the recent meeting of heads of state and the ministers of agriculture of SADCC, important decisions were taken to expedite the execution of the Regional Food Security Scheme.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to the Director-General of FAO for his timely action and to our multilateral and bilateral donors who have helped the Government of Angola mitigate the suffering of the victims of South African governments' aggression against the front-line states.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Mucho me temo, Sr. Presidente, que los magníficos documentos que nos han sido entregados y que hasta el momento hemos analizado, puedan quedar flotando luego en una situación de estancamiento y de recesión que está caracterizando a todas las actividades que se desarrollan actualmente en el mundo. Tanto es esto verdad, que el Sr. Director General propone al final la revisión de un enfoque sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Porque viendo las cifras, que no son otra cosa que el resultado o la radiografía de una realidad, nosotros debemos concordar en que realmente muy poco se ha hecho y no deberíamos contentarnos con señalar que se ha hecho conciencia sobre este problema, puesto que no se ve que haya un desarrollo conjunto en relación a la solución de problemas tan graves como la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Hay, efectivamente, esfuerzos unilaterales, plausibles, dignos de recomendación y aplauso, de países que por su cuenta han realizado estos esfuerzos; pero estos esfuerzos perfectamente podrían inscribirse dentro de otro tipo de políticas que necesariamente no son las que se relacionan con la seguridad alimentaria; podrían inscribirse dentro de las políticas que inundan los medios de comunicación social, es decir el problema de la guerra y otra serie de problemas. Precisamente por eso yo temo mucho que con el análisis de estos informes y de los siguientes, a mí me da la impresión de que estamos haciendo bioxias a un canceroso, y me preocupa mucho que llegemos a hacer en algún momento la autopsia porque, realmente, son reporters de un enfermo y luego al final se concluye que el enfermo va a seguir enfermo; es decir, es un canceroso.

Yo pienso que para poder superar esta situación penosa es menester en primer término apoyar lo que dice el documento, apoyar la recomendación del Director General de un nuevo enfoque, pero simultáneamente con esto, si es que no se adopta por parte de este Consejo una recomendación, en el sentido de adoptar una posición más agresiva de la Organización respecto a los postulados de erradicar el hambre, la cual constituye una vergüenza como bien lo dice el documento de la Declaración de Roma sobre el Hambre, que dice exactamente: "que los datos reunidos por la FAO en su valioso estudio. La Agricultura, Horizonte 2000, así como otros estudios autorizados, nos han convencido de que si se mantienen las políticas y actitudes actuales, la vergüenza del hambre continuará en pleno siglo XXI, es decir, definitivamente estamos ante esta situación. Sin embargo, se gastan al año 650 000 millones de dólares en armamentos y el presupuesto de esta Organización yo no creo que sea insuficiente, es irrisorio, ya que con un presupuesto de esa categoría, que es inferior al de, creo, casi todos los Estados Miembros, con excepción de muy pocos, inferior al de miles y miles de grandes empresas, se puede realmente realizar una labor más efectiva. Por ello me permito sugerir como apoyo al planteamiento del Sr. Director General, que en su oportunidad se establezca una decisión referente a la estrategia para estimular y exhortar a los Estados Miembros a que la práctica realmente acompañe a todas las buenas intenciones que se dicen tener, porque de buenas intenciones está empedrado el camino del infierno y, realmente, hay que demostrar la voluntad con hechos prácticos.

Al respecto, otros delegados han expresado algo similar, entre ellos el del Congo, y esta voluntad debe ser expresada en este terreno, así como se lo expresa en otros terrenos como el de las armas. De manera que yo propongo que se establezca una estrategia de estímulos y exhortaciones para que estos enfoques tengan la suficiente difusión mundial, para que realmente llegemos a tener conciencia sobre esto.

En otros aspectos, como en la educación, sólo se ha hecho lo que yo digo puede parecer una utopía más de las tantas que a veces se oyen en otros foros. Pero realmente no es así; por ejemplo en educación se hizo una campaña sostenida durante muchos años, gracias a la cual en las Constituciones de muchos países se llegó a consagrar un porcentaje obligatorio para educación, alrededor del 30 por ciento en mi país. Una vez consagrada una norma de esta índole, aunque luego haya cambios de gobierno o de sistemas políticos, sin embargo ya eso es una realidad que queda consagrada, que queda institucionalizada en el país.

En consecuencia mi intención es precisamente recomendar esto porque si no, realmente, seguiremos nosotros con la bioxia y, realmente, me parece a mí muy desagradable.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de la Haute-Volta appuie l'initiative du Directeur général de la FAO tendant à redéfinir le concept de sécurité alimentaire. Nous attendons avec espoir les propositions qui seront contenues dans ce rapport. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord sur le contenu du rapport CL 82/10 dans ses grandes lignes. Nous accordons une grande importance à la constitution de stocks de sécurité à différents niveaux: niveaux international, régional et national. Nous tenons cependant à exprimer un souhait tout particulier afin que l'accent soit mis sur les stocks régionaux et nationaux dans les zones continuellement menacées par la crise alimentaire et de faible revenu. Nous ne sous-estimons pas les problèmes de structure et de gestion que cela pose mais nous pensons que c'est la meilleure solution qui permette une rapidité d'intervention en cas de calamité. C'est également une occasion pour les pays qui seront concernés d'être initiés aux aspects ardues en matière de gestion. Cela constitue également une garantie pour les populations que de pouvoir compter sur des stocks situés dans leur région.

La délégation de la Haute-Volta rejoint tous les pays ici représentés qui ont pertinemment affirmé que la véritable sécurité alimentaire passe forcément par une augmentation de la production des pays concernés, d'où la nécessité de ces pays à augmenter leur capacité de production.

Avant de terminer, la délégation de la Haute-Volta tient à remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents qui nous ont été présentés.

F.M. MBEWE (Zambia): My delegation would like to echo the points made here by many delegations, and that is that the permanent solution of food security problems can be assured by increasing food production in food-deficit countries. Unfortunately many, if not all, food-deficit countries, especially in Africa, lack resources to enable them to achieve their goals. Some of the problems faced by these countries are mentioned in paragraph 30 of the report which we are now discussing.

After taking note of these problems, it was proposed that the Committee at its next session should review the food production and food security problems of the food-deficit countries of Africa, since it is in that continent where the situation is now most acute.

Such a review would help the Committee to identify the restraints of food production in those countries. It is only with the problems clearly identified that appropriate measures may be taken to improve the situation. After identifying the constraints and proposing the correct measures, all countries should play their part to implement those measures which are required. Countries of goodwill should not just end by making nice-sounding statements but should take steps to assist the needy countries to increase their food production capabilities.

This is why we commend the action taken by Italy in assisting the Sahelian region. The action of Italy would have little impact on the involvement of those countries if it was not followed up by similar action by other donor countries. Sahelian countries are a good example of what needy countries can do if there is a reasonable length of time provided.

We have been talking of FAO playing a leading role in food security. This role would only be meaningful if help from various quarters is forthcoming in good quantity. This is our view.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation joins similar speakers in supporting the proposal contained in paragraphs 34-37 of document CL 82/10, with particular reference to the plan of the Committee on World Food Security to devote its next session to specific problems of low-income, food-deficit countries. We ask the Secretariat as a matter of urgency to undertake a review and analysis of situations in each country, and if necessary to bring to the attention of national governments policy changes and actions which would dramatically improve the food status of those countries.

Although the regional and sub-regional food security may be difficult to obtain in the near future, particularly in Africa, nevertheless it should continue to engage the attention of the Committee, and also as much of the support of the Secretariat as is possible.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I will make a very brief intervention, as most of my colleagues have already highlighted the most important issues on this subject.

My delegation feels that the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, as contained in document CL 80/10, brings into more precise perspective the state of food and agriculture of the world which we have been discussing in the last two days.

Despite the improved supply situation of the cereals in the world, the basic problem of world food security remains unsolved. Paragraph 9 of the report highlights the fact that though carry-over stocks of cereals in the 1981/82 season are at an adequate level, the vulnerability of the developing countries remains a matter of concern. The improvement in the global situation cannot obscure the long-term nature of the food security problem. Many countries of the world, especially in Africa and Asia, are still affected by food shortages, and unfortunately nothing tangible or concrete has been achieved to provide these countries or their people with a sense of security.

The financial and physical constraints do not allow most of these countries to maintain reserve stocks or to build necessary infrastructures required for these reserves. Many developing countries, like my own, are making attempts and are achieving some progress in this direction, but they need assistance - technical assistance from FAO and financial assistance from international communities.

In Pakistan we are aiming at a national food reserve requirement of 2 million tons of wheat out of which we have already achieved a reserve of 1.5 million tons. However, the financial implications of maintaining such a reserve and building the requisite infrastructure is a formidable task, particularly in view of the limited resources, and urgent multi-sectoral demand on these limited resources.

We recognize that in the long term world food security can only be achieved by increased food production, particularly in the developing countries. Recognizing this imperative, we in Pakistan have been making efforts in this direction and have achieved substantial progress. In the past few years we have achieved 4 percent annual growth rate in our agricultural production, and we intend to maintain this momentum. However, we cannot help but highlight the fact that the current world food supply is adequate to feed all the hungry in the world provided there is willingness to do so.

We recognize that the problem of world food security cannot be completely divorced from the question of food production but we wish to emphasize the fact that it is not production alone which will solve the problem and provide food to all the hungry in the world. The world community has to devise ways and means of ensuring food security within the current supply situation.

During the Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, our delegation pointed out that making world food security entirely dependent on increased production tends to cloak the immediate problem and postpone the possible solutions available to the world communities for solving the immediate world food security problems. It is with this in view that we welcome the Director-General's initiative to review the concept of and approach to world food security, which is most timely in view of the fact that the problem of world food security persists despite plentiful global supplies.

We therefore look forward with great anticipation to the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and hope that there will be more concrete and tangible solutions.

S. SAKO (Côte-d'Ivoire): Prenant la parole pour la première fois au cours de cette session, la délégation ivoirienne tient à joindre sa voix à celle de nombreuses délégations qui vous ont félicité de votre élection à la présidence du Conseil; qui ont apprécié le travail du Secrétariat et qui ont loué le Directeur Général pour sa clairvoyance et sa franchise.

Concernant le point sous examen, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire a reconnu entre autres que dans la plupart des pays en développement et particulièrement en Afrique, le déficit alimentaire s'est aggravé parce que la production vivrière n'a pas progressé aussi rapidement que les besoins de consommation. Les réserves alimentaires n'ont pas été constituées et les objectifs de stockage n'ont pas été atteints. Le manque de ressources financières et d'entrepôts empêche la constitution de réserves alimentaires. L'accroissement de la production vivrière est un élément essentiel de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous voudrions insister sur le fait que les prêts consentis aux pays en développement pour qu'ils importent les produits qui leur manquent ont leur limite. Par ailleurs, ils créent de nouvelles habitudes alimentaires qui rendent ces pays des importateurs permanents. L'essentiel, comme le dit le Comité, est de les aider à produire eux-mêmes ce que leur sol et leur climat peuvent leur offrir. La solution de la faim dans le monde ne saurait être trouvée en dehors de cette voie. Comment peut-on aider les pays en développement à produire? d'abord par la formation des cadres à tous les niveaux. En effet, sans formation, il n'y aura pas de vulgarisation et sans vulgarisation, il n'y aura pas d'agriculture moderne. On a voulu trop souvent que nos paysans soient pragmatiques. Ce qui compte pour eux, c'est l'exemple, ce qu'ils voient. Ensuite, on peut aider les pays à produire par la recherche. La recherche dans les pays en développement a été centrée sur les produits d'exportation, en un mot, sur les produits qui intéressent les pays industrialisés, tandis que les recherches sur les cultures vivrières traditionnelles ont été quasi-inexistantes.

Comme on peut le constater, pour sortir les pays en développement, et singulièrement ceux d'Afrique, de cette situation, un effort massif et une mobilisation générale sont nécessaires et cela ne peut se faire sans reconversion des mentalités.

H.H. CAKABAÑO (Venezuela): Quiero que mi delegación se sume a todas aquellas otras que se han referido a este documento, y en orden a la brevedad no voy a insistir en los puntos que ya antes han sido expuestos. Sin embargo, quiero destacar de manera especial la complacencia con que vemos la promesa del Director General de ampliar y revisar este concepto de la seguridad alimentaria.

Piensa mi delegación que con el concepto de la seguridad alimentaria está aconteciendo lo que hace algunas décadas acontecía con la conservación de los recursos naturales o con el desarrollo rural, que fue preciso que FAO hiciera una conferencia especial para centrar y definir estos conceptos en toda su amplitud.

La seguridad alimentaria podría ser definida como la responsabilidad que tiene un país, una región o el mundo de garantizar de una manera sostenida la producción y el abastecimiento de alimentos en forma tal que haga posible la materialización del derecho que asiste a toda persona y a toda familia a un nivel adecuado de alimentación, tal como está consagrado en la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos. Ella constituye un sistema coherente de principios y de acciones que permitan encarar el problema alimentario en toda su complejidad; es una filosofía que conduce necesariamente a los pueblos a la adopción de una actitud y a la aceptación, en este campo, de un compromiso moral y ético. La seguridad alimentaria rebasa los límites meramente nacionales para trascender a la región y al mundo. Es un problema de la humanidad que debe ser encarado solidariamente.

La seguridad alimentaria supone, ciertamente, el desarrollo de una agricultura moderna capaz de aumentar la producción y la productividad agrícola en función de la demanda creciente; todo ello con salvaguarda del patrimonio ecológico y sin menoscabo de la justicia social. Exige la existencia de una infraestructura que permita la movilización de los insumos y de las cosechas, así como el almacenamiento de éstas y su conservación con capacidad de reservas para períodos críticos. Requiere también mecanismos de distribución y de comercio con precios justos para el productor y accesibles a los consumidores. El sistema debe proveer, cuando sea el caso, subsidios u otras formas de ayuda que garanticen a los sectores más desvalidos su acceso a los alimentos. En suma, se trata de un sistema que se inserta en el contexto más amplio del desarrollo económico general; por eso el mundo está esperando que un organismo que tiene la rectoría en los problemas alimentarios, como es la FAO, haga esta definición y cree en torno a él el compromiso de la humanidad para encararlo con decisión.

Me llama también la atención, y quiero subrayarlo, el interés que ha puesto el Director General en coordinar acciones con otros organismos que se ocupan del problema alimentario. Yo creo que es necesario decir que hay una hermosa y valiosa iniciativa tomada por el Consejo Mundial al hablar de las estrategias de seguridad, pero deberían ser estrategias de seguridad alimentaria no para ser desarrolladas por el Consejo Mundial de Alimentación sino que deben ser realmente soportadas por la FAO que es el organismo que tiene la rectoría en el seno de Naciones Unidas de todos los problemas de la alimentación. Si el Consejo Mundial de Alimentación pretendiera por sí mismo desarrollar y guiar estas estrategias, o el FIDA pretendiera a su vez hacer los programas que deben ser financiados, cometeríamos un grave error porque los recursos son pocos, las necesidades son muchas y el mundo nos está pidiendo a gritos la necesidad de potenciar esos esfuerzos; de manera que esta iniciativa del Director General debería dar pie para que organice una conferencia especial, si es que ello no es muy costoso, o el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria presentara a la Conferencia decisiones, recomendaciones para que en este sentido se coordinaran las acciones que son necesarias a nivel mundial, pero siempre bajo la rectoría de FAO para que este concepto de la seguridad alimentaria verdaderamente pueda contribuir a la solución de los problemas en cada uno de nuestros países, a potenciar la colaboración recíproca entre los países y poder resolver, entonces, el problema a nivel regional y mundial.

ABDUL WAHID bin ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia): My delegation must apologize for taking the floor at this very last moment. However, we have listened with interest to the views expressed by the various delegations who have spoken before on this very important issue of world food security. We agree with the various views expressed and with the recommendations and conclusions of the report of the Committee on World Food Security as contained in the document. Food security issues of developing countries and measures to overcome them have been discussed and adopted since the world experienced the widespread food shortage in the early seventies. Various institutions and plans of action were created and implemented to ensure that the world would not again experience the agony of the prospect of having no food. The results, however, seem to be very elusive. Indeed, there had been progress made but the situation was still uneven and to some extent disappointing.

The insecurity of food supplies in developing countries, especially the low-income food-deficit countries, continue to cause grave concern amongst all of us. Even though there has been progressive improvement in cereal production in some developing countries, we find many of these countries, especially in Africa and Asia, are still experiencing food shortages under normal conditions, and more so in times of crop failures and emergencies. We were told that no less than 37 countries of the developing world recorded a negative rate of growth in their cereal output on a per capita basis during the last decade. 19 of these countries experienced an actual decline in their total cereal production. While conditions in some low-income countries of the world continued to require attention of the world community the deteriorating situation in some food-deficit low-income countries of Africa caused great concern. My delegation therefore supports the proposal for a review and action programme of the constraints and measures needed to improve the food production capabilities of these countries, as mentioned in paragraphs 34-37 of the document.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to the Director-General of the FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, for his untiring efforts in the search of a world devoid of hunger, poverty and malnutrition. For a man dedicated and fully committed to this mission I am sure the failures and non-effectiveness of the various measures and undertakings for a workable system of world food security has given him further strength to strive for further efforts to achieve this noble goal. The Director-General can be assured of the support of my government in all his endeavours. Malaysia therefore supports and welcomes the initiatives of the Director-General to renew the whole concept of world food security and the role of the Committee on World Food Security in order to establish more approaches towards a more effective system towards world food security.

E. HARAOUÏ (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais commencer par présenter mes félicitations au Dr. Islam pour l'exposé extrêmement clair et intéressant qu'il nous a fait. Pour commenter le point 5 de l'ordre du jour concernant le rapport de la septième session de la Commission de la sécurité alimentaire qui s'est tenue du 31 mars au 7 avril 1982, la délégation du Liban voudrait souligner les points suivants:

Premièrement, le Liban est d'accord avec le rapport et les conclusions auxquelles la Commission a abouti et qui sont contenues dans le document de travail CL 82/10. En particulier, nous enregistrons avec satisfaction ce qui est dit dans les par. 8, 9 et 10 sur l'amélioration significative de la production agricole mondiale en 1982, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les céréales de base et les céréales secondaires. Nous espérons que les projections pour 1982, comme cela était prédit, vont être optimistes; il semble que les campagnes agricoles pour cette année répondent à ces projections. Mais cet optimisme pour la production alimentaire et agricole, et cette amélioration dans la production agricole pour les années 81/82 ne doivent pas cacher, comme nous l'avons dit hier et comme cela est dit dans le par. 11 du présent document, une disparité dans la production d'un pays à l'autre.

Dans la région du Proche-Orient à laquelle appartient le Liban, il apparaît que cette amélioration de la production agricole et alimentaire ne se manifeste que dans un très petit nombre de pays de la région.

Nous sommes d'accord avec ce qui a été dit par le Directeur général adjoint et que l'on retrouve dans le document, à savoir que les capacités personnelles de chaque pays et la coopération interrégionale sont le dernier recours pour la production agricole et alimentaire. L'assistance alimentaire complète et renforce les possibilités de production de chaque pays, et à notre avis, cette assistance alimentaire ne doit pas être inférieure à 17 millions de tonnes de céréales.

Nous sommes préoccupés par ce qui est dit dans le par. 19 à propos des négociations concernant la convention mondiale des céréales qui n'a abouti à aucune conclusion, bien que ces négociations soient en cours depuis de nombreuses années. Cela prouve à notre avis que la résolution qui a été adoptée par notre Conseil concernant l'accord sur la proposition faite par le Directeur général pour adopter les cinq points concernant le développement et le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est tout à fait juste. Nous sommes en particulier satisfaits de ce qui est prévu dans la troisième partie du document, aux par. 23 à 42, concernant l'amélioration des stocks de céréales mondiaux et le déblocage du plan d'action visant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La délégation du Liban voudrait exprimer sa gratitude pour l'assistance technique offerte par la FAO au Liban, notamment pour l'élaboration des projets de sécurité alimentaire et les études détaillées concernant le projet de stockage des céréales au Liban pour lui trouver des sources de financement. Nous saisissons l'occasion pour dire, à travers notre expérience dans ce domaine, que les services offerts par la FAO en matière d'assistance et de conseils aux pays membres représentent une contribution très valable, en particulier dans le domaine de l'élaboration des études techniques destinées à trouver les financements nécessaires.

Le point le plus important du rapport qui nous est soumis est la proposition faite par le Directeur général et présentée à la Commission de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale au cours de sa septième session, visant à réviser le concept de sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la manière de le traiter, est une proposition pertinente et nécessaire pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous appuyons cette proposition adoptée par la Commission et nous espérons que le

Conseil l'adoptera à son tour. Il n'y a pas de doute que le rapport que le Directeur général présentera sur ce sujet important répondra aux aspirations et aux vœux des pays membres. Il est indéniable que toutes ces questions touchant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale sont parmi les questions les plus importantes qui sont traitées par la FAO et le Conseil en raison de leur utilité.

En souhaitant plein succès au Directeur général et à la FAO pour réaliser les objectifs fixés, nous vous remercions M. le Président de nous avoir donné la parole.

P. O'DONOGHUE (Ireland): I have nothing really to add to what the EEC representative said this morning. He reflected the views of my country in his intervention. I can only add that we fully support the report before us and with particular reference perhaps to the proposals for the review of the special problems of the food-deficit countries in Africa, problems which seemingly so far have defeated all attempts at solution at international and national levels.

G. TULAY (Observer for Liberia): We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for the splendid work done in preparing the document. We, however, would like to express the view that like our other African countries have expressed, what we need most urgently are plans of action that will enable the low-income countries to achieve their targets.

In the document we have, paragraph 14, great mention has been made of the fact that in order to be self-sufficient in food production the countries should be assisted to attain self-sufficiency.

We commend the Secretariat for their splendid work in preparing the document. We believe that what is most urgent is to assist, these countries in carrying out their plan of action, so instead of stating for ten years or so the problems that we already know, like my colleague has expressed from India, what we need is a working committee if we are not really only to give lip service to this cause which concerns humanity. As expressed by the delegate from the United Kingdom, it is most urgent that a working committee be set-up to work with the countries that already have these problems. In many instances the problems are already known. What is most needed is to assist them in either identifying the exact strategies that will make them self-sufficient, like in my country where a lot of strategies have been worked out, but the lack of funds to carry out these ideas is really most unfortunate. I should reiterate that we get assistance from the United States of America, Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany, but these are only on a limited basis because they have other obligations. In order to make these aims of ours accomplishable it is necessary that another effort be given to the strides that we have taken.

My other proposal should be the possible setting-up of a committee within the plan of action, that a fund for food security be set up whereby direct assistance can be given to the countries that are already making some effort to be food-sufficient. In this way I believe that we shall have done service to humanity and given them cause to be alive.

M.M. HAQUE (Observer for Commonwealth Secretariat): The Commonwealth Secretariat as a voluntary association of 47 member countries and financed by its own members serves a clientele spread all over the globe. While almost a quarter of the world's population lives within the Commonwealth, half of the world's total disadvantaged living below subsistence level are situated in our less fortunate member nations. The Secretariat therefore has deep concern with the state of world food and agriculture and with the world food security.

We have listened with keen interest to the excellent and inspiring statement made by the Director-General. He has rightly pointed out that there is no scope for complacency by member nations at the slightly improved global food situation, because the situation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa continues to be precarious. In many of the developing countries weather and population explosion have played havoc with the efforts to produce more food towards attaining a higher national food sufficiency and food security.

Dr. Saouma's statement has set the tone for the deliberations of the Session and would provoke the thought amongst those who are involved in making this world more secure through greater food production and its greater availability to the poorest and the most disadvantaged.

Permit me also to congratulate Professor Islam for his brief but excellent exposition of the current state of world food and agriculture and the state of world food security. This has given us a clearer picture of the dimensions of the problems we are facing.

We are told there is enough food in this world for all but even then we face hunger in pockets of scarcity, we face famine or near-famine conditions through natural and sometimes man-made disasters. The tensions created through hunger, malnutrition and poverty could pose a serious threat to the world order.

The international community has contributed towards the alleviation of these situations, but as documents CL 82/2 and CL 82/10 clearly point out, there is a need for a lot more to be done through more food aid and greater investment in agriculture and rural development in the developing countries which are in greatest need of such assistance.

The Commonwealth in their various fora, including the Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne in 1981, have consistently supported the FAO Plan of Action on World Security. We look forward to the preparation of the report to review the concept of and approach to world food security. We also join the call for replenishment of IFAD and for meeting the annual target of international emergency food reserve as well as the biennial target of the World Food Programme, in particular the target of US\$ 1,2 billion for 1983/84. We consider that these actions by the international community will strengthen their hands in the struggle for the eradication of hunger from the face of this planet.

While assistance from the international community is crucial in the achievement of the goals set by FAO there can be significant results emerging out of the national plans of action for increased food production and by supportive action through TCDC and economic cooperation amongst the developing countries. We are sure that FAO, as in the past, will lead the way to greater use of technical cooperation and economic cooperation amongst these developing countries in solving their problems in the relevant fields.

We could not agree more that Africa should receive priority attention in its attempts to produce more food for its burgeoning millions. The Secretariat in this context is providing assistance to member countries of Africa at their request as well as to the island member countries of the Caribbean and the South Pacific in their attempts to achieve higher national sufficiency in food.

It was heartening to hear from the Director-General that he is commissioning a study of the effects of price policies with a view to increasing production and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers. I am happy to inform you that on request from the Heads of Government the Commonwealth Secretariat is organising a Consultative Meeting on Food Price Policy and Marketing in the spring of 1983 in London with support from FAO, the International Food Policy Research Institute and other organisations. We have plans to bring policy makers and resource persons from selected developed and developing Member Nations and relevant organisations for exchanging information and knowledge, particularly in the context of technical cooperation among developing countries, which we hope will lead to concrete actions. The situation of low-income food-deficit countries of Africa is foremost in our mind in this respect.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting when they met in Suva last October have set up a Consultative Group on Agriculture for the Asian Pacific Commonwealth with Sri Lanka as its host country. We are grateful to the Sri Lankan Government for offering themselves to act as the convening and host country. The main objective of this Group, consisting of senior policy makers, will be to strengthen and ensure better utilisation of existing agricultural and research institutions and their results and findings through upgrading of professional skills, through exchange of scientists and other personnel and through training in the field of their perceived needs. This would be another step towards greater technical cooperation amongst developing countries, with the region trying to help itself.

These activities I am sure will complement the global FAO efforts and plans of action. But may I mention the Commonwealth's contribution to the promotion of regional food security through assisting the SADCC in the preparation of several of their relevant studies. We believe that increased national food sufficiency and security through increased production will lead to a more viable regional food security system. The Commonwealth will always be ready to provide all possible support in achieving these objectives in the context of world food security. We are also helping two small island countries, Grenada in the Caribbean and the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, in their preparation of national food policy outlines.

Our previous and current work in the prevention of food losses, small farm extensions and credit, transfer of appropriate technology, small holder livestock production and better management of fishery resources, including the Exclusive Economic Zone management had received FAO's collaboration. I am sure that similar support and assistance from FAO will come in our future work as well, which is mandated by the Commonwealth Heads of Government and the Agriculture Ministers. We are in constant touch with FAO to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of resources.

May we offer our sincerest thanks and gratitude to FAO, and particularly to Dr. Saouma, for the unstinted support and collaboration that the Commonwealth Secretariat have always received from them.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department) : We are very happy to note that delegates attach great importance to the problem of world food security. All the delegates have endorsed the report and its conclusions and recommendations.

As delegates are aware, this is a subject of the highest priority to the Director-General. In every speech, every statement he makes in FAO and other fora, in every interview with the press, he has been focussing on the necessity of establishing an international food security system and urging repeatedly the need for concerted national and international efforts for its promotion. Because he is concerned about the slow progress achieved so far, because he is aware that time is running out, because open action is needed soon, he decided to carry out the review that delegates have been referring to during this debate.

In this context we are happy to note that the Council welcomes the Director-General's initiative to present such a report on the world food security and that they are looking forward to this report which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on World Food Security.

It is very heartening to note also that delegates have repeatedly emphasized the importance of similar lines in food production as a central component, a most important component of world food security. This is precisely the emphasis that the Director-General places as a principal component of food security.

In this connexion reference was made by many delegates to the importance of pricing and incentive policies for promoting agricultural production and they welcome the study which FAO will be undertaking during the next biennium on this very complex and vital subject.

Many delegates regretted the absence of an international grains arrangement for promoting market stability and food security. In the absence of international arrangements they emphasized that national food reserves assume central importance, and this is indeed the thrust of the Five-Point Plan of Action. It does require however both domestic efforts and international assistance to build up food security infrastructure and to acquire stocks of food reserves.

Many delegates have strongly supported the efforts of FAO in promoting such national efforts, especially in terms of food security assistance schemes of FAO.

Delegates have drawn repeated attention to the importance of regional and sub-regional food security schemes. In fact reference was made to the recently held meeting of the Group of 77 in Manila on this subject among others as areas of cooperation among developing countries and it was emphasized that regional stocks were to supplement and not supplant national stocks and that efforts should be made starting from modest beginnings to link up regional and sub-regional food security measures.

Delegates emphasized that food aid remains a critical component of food security until national efforts to increase food production succeed in closing the food gap or until the developing countries' economies are sufficiently diversified to enable them to make adequate commercial purchases in the world market. Therefore the attainment of food security is dependent on the ability of the developing countries to attain stable and expanding export earnings. In this connexion many delegates referred to the danger to world food security posed by the rising protectionism in the world.

The debate, it appears to us, emphasized once again the multiple facets and aspects of world food security, ranging from increasing production, national and regional stocks, access to supplies on the world market, food aid, international emergency food assistance, especially the need for a stable and enlarged international emergency food reserve as well as stable and expanding export earnings for developing countries.

The problem of stagnation and slow growth in food production in Africa attracted a great deal of attention in the discussions and reference was made to the work under way for the next meeting of the CFS on constraints of food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa.

I would like to refer to the report itself as to the nature and content of this study which is under way in order to clear up any possible misconceptions about the nature of this report. It is clearly stated there that this report is an interim analysis based upon existing studies. It will indicate available gaps in information and on the basis of this interim report the next meeting of the CFS will consider possible follow-up action. The preparation of the report is under way. I may inform the delegates that we have already reviewed about 50 reports selected from a much larger number of studies and reports which are available on African food production. The work is proceeding and it is too premature at this stage to discuss any conclusions of this report. Therefore this report is not a programme of action, as the CFS Committee report emphasizes. There is a Lagos

Plan of Action which is a kind of programme of action for the African Region as a whole, and progress on the implementation of this report was discussed at the last FAO regional conference on Africa. Those are all the comments I have to make.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you for this very complete summing up and also for the information you have provided.

Like yesterday, we had a very large number of speakers, forty today, thirty-seven members of the Council, and three Observers, and I want to thank all of them. I am sure we will all wish the Director-General great success in the two tasks which have been mentioned, the report on Food Security and the interim report on Africa. I think members of the Council as well as members of the Committee will look forward to reading these reports, which I am confident will become significant landmarks in the whole evolution of food security systems.

6. Revision and Up-dating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment

6. Revision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation et objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international

6. Revision y actualización de las orientaciones y los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department) : The introductory note to the document CL 82/29 does describe briefly the background of this Report. The FAO Conference at its Twentieth Session in 1979 had agreed that the Guidelines for the International Agricultural Adjustment should be reviewed and revised as appropriate in the light of developments in world agricultural production, consumption and trade, taking into account developments in world agricultural development and objectives of the New International Development Strategy, and the recommendations and conclusions reached in WCARRD, UNCTAD, the World Food Council and other relevant fora. It decided further that the draft revisions emanating therefrom should be presented to the Conference. A government consultation was held in March 1981 to consider the proposals for the revisions and updating of the Guidelines of International Agricultural Adjustment.

Some progress was made towards agreed formulations. In some instances, however, a consensus could not be reached and various alternative formulations remained without agreement.

In response to the above-mentioned Conference decision, the full report of the government consultation of March 1981 is submitted to the Council. It is hoped that it will provide the basis for a consensus, which in turn will permit the submission of an agreed revised text and the Guidelines to the Conference for adoption at its forthcoming Twenty-second Session.

If we go over the draft Guidelines one by one, we find that the full agreement was reached in the March 1981 consultation on revised texts for Guidelines Nos. 5, 6 and 7. We can therefore assume that these formulations are acceptable. There was one reservation on each of Guidelines 4 and 9, neither of which seems to us to affect the text. These texts might therefore be also agreed to by the Council either with the reservations retained or if the countries concerned feel that these reservations are no longer necessary, the reservations can now be dropped.

It appeared that a consensus was already very, very close in the meeting last year on Guidelines 2 and 3. The remaining five proposed Guidelines are therefore left for substantive consideration by the Council if the interpretation given above is acceptable, and these are numbers 1, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

Finally, I may emphasize that the Guidelines are meant to be statements of principles. In the areas concerned they embody quantitative targets where these have already been agreed to in other international fora.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Professor Islam, for this very clear statement of the present position.

R. A. SORENSON (United States of America): The Guidelines as agreed upon in 1975 represented an international consensus on the universally applicable policy changes needed to achieve an orderly and balanced increase in world food production and trade benefiting all countries. The Guidelines which are universally applicable were designed to reflect a balance of obligations between developed

and developing countries. While it was recognized that national agricultural policy is necessarily a function of national priorities, it was hoped that Guidelines would serve as signposts to policy makers and promote harmonization of national policies bearing on agricultural adjustment. However, in the seven years since the finalization of the Guidelines, it would be difficult, I think, to argue that any significant policy changes at the national level can be specifically attributed to the Guidelines or the monitoring work taken. Some may argue that the lack of influence of the Guidelines reflects a failure of political will. In the view of my delegation, it would be more accurate and realistic to conclude that governments in weighing the various considerations that go into the formulation of agricultural policies, both domestic and external, do not give much weight to such set of Guidelines. It is unrealistic to believe that these circumstances can be changed by re-writing the Guidelines. The United States believes the existing Guidelines as agreed on in 1975 are adequate for the purposes for which they were conceived. Given the very limited impact of the existing Guidelines on the adjustment of policies of governments, we question the value of investing the time and resources of Member States and FAO staff in extensive revisions.

Even in five days of work by experts, the FAO Intergovernmental Consultation on International Agricultural Adjustment failed in its attempt to work out revisions to the existing Guidelines. We see no need for continued efforts to revise these Guidelines at this time. Certainly the Council is not the body, in our judgement, for seeking to reconcile the extensive differences on a number of highly contentious issues which are included in the heavily bracketed text we have before us.

We believe the Council should reaffirm the existing Guidelines and consider that the mandate given at the Twentieth FAO Conference has already been carried out, as far as is practicable, and that no further efforts should be made to revise the Guidelines at this time.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): At the time when the Conference decided to undertake a revision and updating Guidelines, existing Guidelines were already in practice for some five years, and as it appears from the introductory note and as we all know, the Conference asked the Council to draft a new proposal for revision, particularly taking into account developments in international and national policies. Since that time, an international development strategy for this decade has been adopted with, international consensus and new targets and tasks as well as political, in a way, Guidelines have been set up in this document which was adopted by consensus and by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

My feeling is that I am more optimistic than Professor Islam, and I think that probably only three major issues are to be solved in Guidelines 10, 11 and 12. The rest are more or less reductions and consensus can easily be reached, particularly on 4, 9, 2, 3, even 1 and 8. This is one thing.

The second thing is that we spent five days from 2 to 6 March 1981 and with the very active participation of representatives of all governments, particularly the representative of the country that spoke just before me was very active in this exercise of revision, and it has submitted some very useful and important amendments which at that time seemed to be unacceptable on the part of the participants, but since the time has come and following changes and adjustments in national and international policies and the international situation, at least some of us who posed those proposals are now ready to at least go half way in an attempt to find a consensus and an agreed formula, so my feeling is that first of all, we have a clear mandate by the Conference, and second, our task does not seem so tremendous and so much above the intellectual forces and political will concentrated in this body. Of course, if there is a political will and decision, and if we all agree that these Guidelines should be revised, the practical application of this decision could seem to be drafting business, and I doubt that it can be completed in such a large forum. Probably some more practical and technical proposals with a view to making our work easy could be found in the form of a contact group, but we really would like to know if there have been any further reflections or changes in the substance of the content of the Guidelines.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): International Agricultural Adjustment is without any doubt an interesting issue, and it is a continuing process. It deserves our attention. Some Council members may recall that the foundations to FAO's Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment were laid down at the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in 1972 in my country in Munich. The International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines adopted later by the Conference can be considered as a first approach to an international agricultural policy. We participated actively in shaping these Guidelines, and feel that they are still of value. So much

for the past. On behalf of the EEC member states, I should like to state that they are prepared to continue participating in the process of revising the international agriculture adjustment guidelines. But how can this be achieved in a practical manner. The report before us on the action taken by the Ad Hoc Group contains, unfortunately, a lot of unresolved issues. It was presented to the Council without previously having charged the CCP or the Agricultural Committee to go into the matter. The options for handling the issue before us in a practical and pragmatic way would be transmitting the unfinished work to the next CCP session in the autumn of next year, or as an attempt to see how far we could go during this Council session to set up a contact group which would try to find out whether some or all of the brackets could be removed.

I think this was the intention, also, of the intervention of the delegate of Yugoslavia. He proposed such an action.

Something which we would not like to be done is to convert the Council into a drafting and a negotiating body on this unfinished work. We do feel that this probably would not be very helpful.

To conclude, the EEC Member states of this Council are prepared to cooperate in this issue also in future.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would just like to support the views expressed by the delegate of Yugoslavia on this issue.

First of all, I would like to say that the alternative of dropping the discussion on the guidelines is not within our competence, because I think we have a clear mandate from the 20th Session of Conference that these should be reviewed and revised. We cannot disregard the mandate. I believe in the light of the previous interventions there is a good chance we might be able to arrive at something which could be presented to the Conference in the form of agreed guidelines.

With the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany we believe the Council cannot be turned into a drafting group, but the idea of a contact group which would thresh out the difficulties of the various guidelines is not a very bad idea at all. If this contact group then fails, I would say the other alternative which has been given by the delegate of Germany could probably be accepted, but in the meanwhile it is incumbent on us to seek whether it is possible for us to arrive at an agreement on the various guidelines which have hitherto been under discussion.

I would therefore submit the proposal that there be a contact group that would study the various guidelines that still have brackets, and that this contact group after the time you specify would report to this Council without further delays, and then I believe that we cannot really discuss the various guidelines here in the Council. I believe the idea of a contact group which would try to thresh out all the differences would be a good idea and a possible solution to our difficulties.

A. NAGA (Japan): I would like to thank Professor Islam for the excellent presentation of the report, document CL 82/29.

The government consultation was held in response to the Conference decision and some progress was made towards agreed formulations. However, consensus could not be reached. The report of the government consultation on the revision and up-dating of guidelines of international agricultural adjustment in document CL 82/29 gives a clear description of the process of discussions. Existing guidelines reached a consensus with the greatest efforts of member countries, and the guidelines contained the necessary elements for international agricultural adjustment with great delicacy.

Other consultations emphasize that the objectives should be limited to the mandate given by the Conference in 1979. This mandate is not the substantial re-writing of the existing guidelines, but some up-dating to reflect a new consensus reached in international fora since the introduction of the existing guidelines in 1979. We believe that the quintessence of the international agricultural adjustment is spread throughout the member countries. We recognize that the sustained economic growth implies constant adjustment of policies. International agricultural adjustment is a continuous process which takes place at national and international levels.

Concerning the revision and updating of the existing guidelines, the draft text before us still contains many critical and controversial issues.

My delegation believes that it is not appropriate for this Council to proceed to discuss the contents of these guidelines paragraph by paragraph. I would rather suggest that the Secretariat drafts a new page with the minimum necessary revision of the existing guidelines, and submit it to a forum such as the Committee of Agriculture or the Committee of Commodities, which are more appropriate to discuss these issues.

A. FEQUANT (France): La delegation française s'associe entièrement aux conseils de prudence qui viennent de nous être donnés par la délégation allemande. Nous estimons qu'il s'agit d'une question fort importante, qui ne devrait pas être examinée à la hâte au cours de notre présente session.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): On behalf of my delegation I would like to say that we associate ourselves completely with the views expressed by the delegations from Yugoslavia and the Philippines. We fully share their views that no further time should be lost in formalizing the revised guidelines. After all, the existing guidelines were formulated in 1975 consistent with the understanding, appreciation and requirements of the international food and agricultural situation at that time.

Since then, as we all know and as we all have been seeing from the deliberations in the various fora, including the Council and Conference meetings, things are changing and a lot of international developments have been taking place. As we have just heard from the delegate of Japan, growth does mean continuous adjustment, and as I understand from this document, the guidelines in the first place are supposed to provide a short, comprehensive statement of consensus arising from the considerable number of international discussions and decisions on food and agriculture.

In the second place, they are supposed to be benchmarks for monitoring progress on the basis of which the Director-General is supposed to submit this report to the Conference, and unless the guidelines are updated they would not continue to serve the purpose for which they are meant. That happens to be our view, and we would emphasize the importance of having the guidelines formalized before this Council session is over.

Secondly, as we have heard, the differences have indeed been narrowed down, and there are only Guidelines 10, 11 and 12 which really need some sort of serious reconciliation.

I would also agree with other delegates, including the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany, that we should not convert this Council into a kind of debating forum, and as proposed by the delegate of Yugoslavia and supported by others I would also opt for having a contact group established which could resolve these differences quickly.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Listening to the interventions that have been made already, it seems to me that we are searching for a solution, but at the moment we are not searching in the same direction.

First, I should make it clear that New Zealand, as was evinced by our participation in the 1981 group, is of course very much prepared to work towards this revision, but I think it does seem to be difficult to be precise as to how it might proceed from here on. We have had a number of suggestions ranging from the CCP as a possible forum or consideration of the setting up of a contact group which I guess could be a sort of a committee of the whole.

I would like to raise a couple of questions on both of them, and have not formed an official view on either.

The contact group that has been suggested, what would be its terms of reference? Who would be members of it? I think it was said by one or two earlier speakers that the expert group back in 1981 spent five days addressing this issue and still, as is evidenced by the document in front of us, left a lot of square brackets around. With the contact group in a definitive period we might not be able to do much better.

Secondly, the CCP, as I understand it, is a technical body and - again, as I understand it - it is appropriately set up to consider some of the guidelines, but perhaps not others.

So really, is it a requirement that we need to do more work on the concept of the form or whatever, under which the matter might be progressed, before we actually progress it?

R.B. RYANGA (Kenya): I was only going to suggest that since the revision and the updating of the guidelines are not themselves in question, what we require now is to work out a procedure for doing this and, as possibly the Council itself might not be able to do it in Plenary, we might wish to perhaps establish this contact group to look at it at this Session and come back to us; and if the contact group is unable to arrive at some kind of an agreement, then we would come back and work out how we can proceed from there. But I agree with some of my colleagues that the areas which require a lot of heavy work are only three or four at the end, 10, 11 and 12, and I think even in those, once we know the broad objectives we are trying to achieve, we should be able to work out a text.

The thing is that in all those things there will have to be some compromise and sacrifices, and if we bear this in mind we should be able to arrive at a text which is suitable to everybody and which also embodies the aspirations of all our peoples.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): I would join the other delegates - Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Kenya and Bangladesh - who have spoken: I do think, looking at this, it tends to frighten a lot of people.

I went through this document and I saw that in fact a lot of the square brackets did not really mean much. It is merely a matter of semantics, just some fancy words that we could eliminate in a very short time; we can eliminate the square brackets. As was pointed out by the delegate of Yugoslavia, clearly the last three of these guidelines require some substantive work but this can be done with some give and take from both sides; and I am very sure even if the contact group were not able to resolve the points and present a very neat document to the Council, at least the number of square brackets would be greatly reduced by the time the document is sent forward to the next level higher than this Council.

I therefore think that the idea of creating a contact group is very welcome. This group should be created by the Council at this Session so that we can solve these problems.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): I would like to join previous speakers in supporting the view expressed by the delegates of Yugoslavia and the Philippines. I think this is the appropriate time to look at the draft guidelines as proposed by the consultation. I myself took part in this consultation a year and a half ago and I remember that we generally agreed on the substance of the revised guideline but we had only some problems of language and also there were some words in brackets. I think this can be solved if we are willing to do it. Some of the language means nothing at all but if we are willing to have a good guideline so that every country can get the benefit, then I think we should set up a contact group or some other kind of group and I would join it; for example, in the way that it was expressed by the delegation of New Zealand, I could go along with that.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I thought I was perhaps the only optimist sitting here, but I am so glad that my distinguished colleague from Cameroon appears as optimistic as I am, that we can actually arrive at a consensus. I was reminded of the story that a glass is either half empty or half full, whichever way you look at it. To me it seems half full; to some other delegates it seems half empty and I want to assure them that it is half full.

It has been mentioned that the consultative group sat for five days and could not reach a final decision. I would say that the group sat for five days and came up with a text; and most of the guidelines, if you look at them even from distance, though there are one or two brackets, most of the texts seem clear. So if we make a little effort within this Council, and since we have arrived at a consensus, we could go ahead with it, there should be no problem in removing these brackets, that we could agree on a consensus formula on these guidelines and take it as a challenge that all members of the Council sitting here have ultimately arrived at a consensus.

I therefore strongly support the proposal of Yugoslavia that there should be a contact group - not necessarily a big one - a small contact group of interested countries who, within a day or two, would come back to the Council with an agreed formula; and, being a great optimist, I think it can be done.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Après tout ce qui vient d'être dit, je n'ai plus grand chose à ajouter si ce n'est appuyer la proposition faite par l'honorable délégué de la Yougoslavie et soutenue par bien d'autres délégués.

En effet, nous avons fait partie de ce groupe consultatif qui a eu à examiner ces lignes d'orientation. A l'époque, les discussions étaient telles qu'à un moment donné nous avons failli arrêter notre travail et créer une commission. J'avais personnellement pris la parole pour décourager ce système, parce qu'à mon avis créer une commission, cela signifie abandonner une partie du travail; c'est lorsqu'on ne veut pas résoudre problème que l'on crée des commissions.

Cela se passait dans le cadre du groupe de travail. Mais ici nous sommes en session plénière de notre Conseil. Il va de soi que le nombre de lignes d'orientation qui nous préoccupe en ce moment n'est pas considérable et par conséquent pourrait faire assez rapidement l'objet d'un consensus.

Pour cette raison, j'appuie fortement l'idée de créer un groupe de contact qui pourrait nous proposer, au cours de cette session, des textes sur lesquels nous pourrions nous mettre d'accord.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Yo pienso que el asunto fundamental aquí es de simple procedimiento, puesto que aquello de los corchetes o de que está más lleno o más vacío, realmente se tendrá que resolver en su momento oportuno. El momento de resolver este asunto definitivamente será cuando lo haga la próxima Conferencia, puesto que fue la Conferencia la que aprobó estos puntos, y es así que la Conferencia es la que resuelve que se estudien y se revisen estos puntos. De modo, entonces, que si estamos a un año más o menos de la Conferencia, debemos entender que si ahora el Consejo resuelve algo, en todo caso estará siempre sujeto a que sea luego aprobado por la Conferencia. Si la Conferencia se va a reunir después de un año, y si el Consejo se vuelve a reunir nuevamente antes de la Conferencia, yo sí pienso que lo más apropiado sería que se nombre un grupo de contacto para que entregue un informe completo para la próxima reunión del Consejo, y de esa manera, pienso yo, que sería lo más práctico y lo más adecuado para no dilatar esto en estas discusiones, puesto que de alguna manera no va a haber consenso en ciertos puntos.

S. SAKO (Côte d'Ivoire): Je voudrais simplement appuyer les délégations qui proposent de confier les points en suspens à un groupe de contact pour examen et rapport au Conseil.

P.S. MCLEAN (United Kingdom): I have listened very carefully to the remarks that have been made on this item. I believe we have at least reached one point on which we do have a consensus and that is that this is a matter which cannot be dealt with in the Council as such, or the Drafting Committee. So we are really left with a procedural point essentially and, as the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany said, the Community is very willing to take part in further discussions if we can find a way of doing it that might in the end lead to the desired objectives. And I believe that with the best will in the world, if we establish a contact group and attempt to try and resolve this in the matter of a few days we have in this Council, we will not get very far. It will be necessary to have contacts between various views and it may not be easy.

I believe that the proposal made just now by the delegate of Ecuador is the only practical one, that there should be convened a meeting of what one might call interested country representatives, which would consider whether it was possible to reach an accommodation on the various square bracketed portions, possibly even thinking about new or totally revised guidelines, because quite a lot has happened even since we had the consultation early in 1981.

I therefore believe that the most practical solution is in fact the one proposed by Ecuador, which is to agree that we should try to set up some very informal machinery which would allow an exchange of views with the objective of bringing - we hope - back to the next Council a text on which conceivably there could then be a consensus.

P.O. DONOGHUE (Ireland): I think the United Kingdom delegate who has just spoken has said exactly what I was going to say. From long experience in various fora, I think it would be rather optimistic of us to expect to come to some conclusion in the few days we will be here. It seems to me first of all that what the German delegate has proposed might offer the best prospect of a solution. But then one must consider also what the delegate of Ecuador has proposed, supported by the United Kingdom. I think we cannot hope to solve it, even with the best will in the world, here in the few days that we are here; from my own experience at least, I do not think we could manage it.

WU TIANXI (China) (Original Language Chinese): We did not take part in the intergovernmental consultation held in March 1981 but we believe the existing Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment should be revised and supplemented due to the recent developments in recent years. Therefore we support the idea put forward by the Yugoslav delegation, supported by other delegations, that a contact group should be established to take up the work of the actual revising and report back to the next session of the Council and we would like to submit our revisions in writing to the contact group.

G. KELLEY SALINAS (México): Mi delegación pone un énfasis muy especial en la revisión y la actualización de las orientaciones para el reajuste agrícola internacional. Es un tema central en todo lo que se refiere a la lucha y al debate que libramos por mejorar la situación del hambre en el mundo, y también un paso pequeño pero de grande importancia en lo que se refiere a la trayectoria para un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. En este orden de ideas y en este espíritu, mi delegación se quisiera consolidar con la propuesta de que se cree un grupo de contacto durante este Consejo, y que durante el período de este mismo Consejo, se proceda a tratar de llegar a un acuerdo en virtud de que consideramos que éste es efectivamente el foro adecuado para discutir este tan importante tema.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSAMENA (Panamá): Mi delegación también desea apoyar la propuesta de que se establezca un grupo de contacto que llegue o que trate de llegar a un texto único, y que este texto sea propuesto a este mismo Consejo.

S.P. MUKERGI (India): I share the optimism of the delegate from Pakistan that we should see the glass as half full rather than half empty, but my problem is that having filled up the glass the question is whether anybody would drink it or not.

The Guidelines have been there and we will revise it, we will perfect it with all the consensus that we can obtain, but the guidelines are no better than the extent that they are implemented by the countries concerned, so therefore I would very earnestly suggest that the Guidelines should be revised with unreserved consensus and a commitment on the part of the countries to promote the spirit behind the Guidelines.

I would therefore support the proposal that a contact group should be immediately established to complete the work which has been partly done by the consultation group and the contact group should report to this Council in this very meeting and hopefully, if they are able to resolve all the differences, this Council can ratify and submit it to the Conference, but should there be a possibility of some differences still remaining I would suggest that the remaining differences should also be further processed by the same contact group and returned to the subsequent meeting of the Council, so that before the Conference meets we are able to sort out and iron out all the differences. We have to go step by step, very cautiously and very gingerly because the path is slippery, very sensitive, but nonetheless we have to progress and see that the Guidelines take a shape which is acceptable to all concerned and then having got the Guidelines ready we should be very serious in getting them implemented.

H.H. CARABAÑO (Venezuela): Mi delegación desea intervenir por una cuestión de principio. Estamos de acuerdo en que no debe discutirse el asunto en Plenaria, porque la naturaleza breve de las intervenciones puede llevarnos a formular planteamientos que resulten polémicos, pero creo que este Consejo no puede declararse incompetente para conocer de esta materia, porque eso afectaría muy seriamente su mandato en el futuro. Por lo tanto, sí es éste el foro indicado para discutir esta materia; ahora, por lo mismo que ha dicho el Representante de la India de que estamos frente a una materia muy resbaladiza y que debemos, por tanto, hacer que prevalezca el buen juicio, yo creo que este grupo de contacto no va a crear mayores dificultades, sino que, al contrario, pondrá de manifiesto la magnitud de los escollos que hay que salvar para que en ulteriores reuniones se lleguen a esos acuerdos que todos estamos buscando.

Mi delegación se pronuncia por la idea del grupo de contacto dentro de los términos que acabo de decir; es decir, si tuviéramos la fortuna de que se llegara a un acuerdo, magnífico, sino, evidente-mente, ya sería el Consejo quien debería pronunciarse acerca de la magnitud de las dificultades que se confrontan.

Por otra parte tengo entendido que esto ha sido un punto también apoyado por el Grupo de los 77, que está sumamente interesado en persuadir a los grandes países de la necesidad de actualizar estas orientaciones, porque es cierto que desde 1975 a esta parte ha pasado mucha agua bajo los puentes y, por lo tanto, es interesante, aunque no son si no orientaciones indicativas, que ellas dejen constancia de la angustia y la preocupación que tienen los pueblos del Tercer Mundo.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): My delegation associates itself with the views by many delegations who insist on establishing, a contact group to complete the work. If my understanding is correct, I observe that there are those who are ready to cooperate to solve the problem, but when? I do not know yet. I should apologise to the delegation from Ecuador that perhaps the problem should be solved in the coming FAO Council meeting, but it seems to me that if the contact group can solve and complete the work right now, I think it is appropriate to solve the problem during this discussion.

I support what has been expressed by the delegate from India, if we cannot solve the problem, if there is still remaining or pending a problem, we can solve it in the coming FAO Council Session.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The proposal made by the Representative of India is very objective and we think that this august Council can set up a contact group that would review and update the Guidelines and the objectives of the International Agricultural Adjustment and the group would report to this Council and if differences still remain then these could be solved by the same contact group on condition that it reports to the next session of the Council who will report to the general Conference.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Un ou deux délégués ont indiqué que ce document aurait pu ou dû être renvoyé - parce qu'il s'agit de repasser ce bébé, dont certains ne veulent pas - au Comité des produits ou au Comité de l'agriculture plutôt que de l'envoyer au Conseil.

Je voudrais expliquer pourquoi ce document a été placé devant le Conseil. Le Comité des produits est un comité technique, le Comité de l'agriculture également, et ils font rapport au Conseil; c'est-à-dire que l'un ou l'autre de ces Comités vous aurait renvoyé le document. Le Conseil, lui, discute des aspects politiques, il est l'organe principal de la Conférence et toutes les questions importantes qui sont soumises à la Conférence doivent obligatoirement passer par lui. C'est l'antichambre de la Conférence. Donc - et je m'y suis pris à temps - il était tout à fait normal que je ne le soumette pas au Conseil en juin 1983, car à ce moment-là il n'y aurait vraiment pas eu assez de temps pour s'en occuper.

Je veux également donner une seconde information; l'année dernière, le Secrétariat, sur la demande de certains pays, a essayé de préparer un texte de compromis (et nous avons ce texte) pour remplacer les passages qui sont entre parenthèses. Nous avons suivi minutieusement les discussions l'année dernière au cours de la réunion, et nous connaissons les points de vue des uns et des autres. Nous avons donc essayé de trouver un texte qui puisse satisfaire tout le monde, et nous pensons qu'il n'est pas difficile d'arriver à un accord. Malheureusement, le groupe informel de contact qui devait s'établir entre les parties les plus intéressées n'a pas pu en définitive se réunir parce que certains pays très importants n'étaient pas en mesure à ce moment-là de participer à des discussions informelles avec le Dr Islam et les représentants qui l'avaient souhaité; nous sommes donc restés avec notre texte, et nous ne l'avons même pas soumis pour ne pas vous compliquer l'existence. Mais si le Conseil décide de créer un groupe de contact, nous sommes prêts. Nous avons un texte que nous soumettrons à ce groupe, s'il est créé. Ce travail est fait depuis l'année dernière. Il a été révisé. C'est tout ce que je voulais dire.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): All I would like to register is the fact that we are supporting wholeheartedly the suggestion and proposal made by the delegate of Yugoslavia and supported by more than 5 delegates that a contact group should be established to deal with this matter.

CHAIRMAN: Four major options have been suggested. Number 1 is to let the 1975 guidelines remain as they are, we report to the next Conference that no further improvements or amendments are possible, that we stick to the guidelines of 1975 - in other words, no further time need be spent on this item.

The second was suggested by Yugoslavia and supported by many members, that we establish a contact group at this meeting and that contact group should report back to us sometime next week before we adjourn.

The third option is a variant of number 2, namely to have a standing contact group which might continue its work beyond this session of the Council and come back to us at the next Council meeting with an agreed version.

The fourth suggestion is that FAO may organise another meeting of interested countries and groups and formulate agreed guidelines and put them up at the next meeting of the Council.

These are the options and I take it that almost everyone is agreed that we should not accept defeat in the sense that after four years we go back to the Twenty-second Conference and say that we have not been able to do anything other than repeat the 1975 guidelines. I think all members are agreed that we are in a dynamic world and that additions and alterations are possible and may be necessary and in fact, as Professor Islam said, there has been near agreement in almost all cases, except having some quantitative figures. I will however not undermine the importance of that. But obviously in the case where there is genuine difficulty, we have to face it. Therefore I take it that the consensus here is that we make an effort to try to understand the nature of differences, because a considerable amount of work has already been done by the secretariat, and let there be a small contact group which could sit with Professor Islam and go through the different versions and at least narrow down the further points which ought to be decided by governments concerned, and report to us. I will not at the moment say that it may be a standing contact group. Let us see how far we make progress. There may be points which ought to be resolved further, in which case this same group, or some modified version of it, depending on the interested parties, could continue the work between the two sessions of the Council and come up by the next Council meeting with agreed views.

I entirely support the delegate of India, and the delegate of the United States who said that if you have guidelines they ought to be observed and there must be some value to it and it is not a piece of rhetoric for our own satisfaction but serve as operational guidelines which all countries should

respect. So there is a need for commitment for the implementation of the guidelines which should not be taken lightheartedly and we should not prepare some document which later on is observed more in the breach than in the follow-up.

I would therefore request your concurrence to the setting up of a contact group which could sit with Professor Islam and his officers and then they could report to us next week what progress has been made and at least make a tabulated statement. It looks as though there will be no difficulty with seven or eight of them but there are the remaining three, 10, 11 and 12. Then we could decide next week whether we request the same contact group to continue between sessions of the Council or request the Director-General to take some other steps which may be more appropriate in the light of the kinds of issues which are to be resolved once they are articulated. Then we will need an appropriate mechanism to get those points resolved. Therefore I suggest that we should move in two steps. First we set up a small contact group to discuss the issues and report to us next week and on that basis we take a decision on what further steps are necessary.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I have listened with some fascination to the metaphors used. I always find myself differing from the delegate of Pakistan, who sees the glass half full. Another way of looking at it would be that a distinguished group should meet in an intergovernmental meeting for five days and they pour half a glass out so that only half a glass remains. I agree with the delegate of India that whatever we do with this glass full of liquid we should drink it if we are going to have it full and then I learn from the Ambassador of Venezuela that all the water had gone under the bridge. Anyway, even if we are able to fill this glass up I must inform the Council that it is the view of my government that in revising the Guidelines it was never the intention to negotiate new Guidelines, it was the intention to incorporate into revised Guidelines a consensus that had already been arrived at in other fora. So it is our view that the task is not an extensive reshaping of the existing Guidelines but rather an updating to reflect any new international consensus on the relevant issues specifically in the IDS, WCARRD and areas like that. The United States would not be prepared to support revisions which go beyond this consensus that has already been arrived at in other fora. So in making any revisions we believe that we should adhere to the Secretary's guidance that the Guidelines should be a succinct statement on a major principle involved and not a detailed blueprint or shopping list.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I want to make it clear that when I suggested that a contact group could be established and report to this Council itself I meant that on the basis of the report and on the basis of whatever consensus has already been reached until today and whatever consensus can be reached until we meet in this session on those points at least this Council should take a decision and only on the remaining balance points where a consensus could not be reached by then ought the same standing committee or another one, or the same committee or another contact group, deliver it. My feeling is that we should not reopen issues on which a consensus has already been reached or can be reached during this session. Otherwise we will be undoing what has been achieved so far. So I support whatever has been suggested by you.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we then proceed with the setting up of a small group? I would like from the chair to make a suggestion of members I would like to participate in the group, which would not be a very large group, but I think there are some deeply interested parties who might like to participate in the contact group - United States, France/EEC, Yugoslavia, Philippines, Colombia, Cameroon, New Zealand and Norway with Professor Islam to help them. They could meet and then give us a report. But if there are countries or groups here who would like to participate in the work of the contact group we would enlarge it, but my feeling is it should not be too large a body if it is to be meaningful.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I very much appreciate your interest in having us participate. I think at least for the time being I would have to reserve on whether we would be able to do that as a matter of principle. If it is the decision of the Council to establish a contact group we would be happy to look at whatever they produce and consider it in the light of the statement that I just made. Whether we would be willing to participate in a group is something that I would have to take advice on because it involves us in negotiation and as a matter of principle we do not feel that we should have a negotiation on this issue at this point.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your clarification. We hope very much that you can help because it is only a contact group of the Council. We are not setting up a separate body. We are just requesting a few members of the Council to sit with Professor Islam and the Secretariat to take stock of what has been done and to articulate the issues which are yet to be resolved and then give us a report in the Council next week. The United States delegate has already made the point that their interpretation is updating the guidelines and not a complete revision. We are not asking them to commit themselves to anything except to give time to sit with a group as a member of the Council and try to help us on deciding on the next step which ought to be taken. Are there any other comments?

A. NABA (Japan): If possible my delegation would like to join this small contact group.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your offer. I am happy that someone is willing to give his time. We are very grateful to you.

Let me now read the list: United States of America, subject to the comments made by the delegate because I cannot commit him, he has to commit himself; France, with such support from the EEC representative as may be necessary; Yugoslavia, Philippines, Colombia, Cameroon, Japan, New Zealand and Norway, with Professor Islam serving as your contact point and helping you.

I would request Professor Islam to contact the members to decide on time of meeting, place of meeting and so on, but I hope by next Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest we will have a Report as early as possible, so that the Council can then decide in its wisdom as to what further action is called for.

The Secretary-General informs me that in the case of this meeting, if interpretation is necessary, some kind of coordination will be called for. I would request Professor Islam to work out the logistics, whether a Council meeting room with interpretation facilities is needed or broken English or broken French or whatever is an international language will be used so that one can try to get a consensus.

A. FEQUANT (France): Le Groupe de contact aura besoin d'interprétation.

CHAIRMAN: That means then that there has to be some coordination, in terms of the meeting time, etc. It imposes a certain restriction in terms of facilities. The Secretary-General says that the Drafting Committee will be meeting, but this we will leave to Professor Islam's resources to decide.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 82/PV/6

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SECTA SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1982)

The sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

8. World Food Programme:

8. Programme alimentaire mondial:

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:

8.1 Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

8.1 Septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

8.1 Séptimo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume consideration of the items on the agenda. I am happy to welcome in our midst Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the UN/FAO World Food Programme, and I now give the floor to Mr. Ingram.

J.C. INGRAM (World Food Programme): I welcome this opportunity to speak, for the first time, to this important body and to present to you the seventh annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for 1981.

That report has already been distributed to you and I would like merely to underline and update some of its major features, before passing on to some of the issues which confront not only WFP but all those involved in food aid. In brief: some of the highlights of the report are as follows:

- for the second year in succession WFP shipped over 1.5 million tons of food in 1981;
- WFP made new development commitments of \$543 million in the same year; this level has increased to \$591 million in 1982;
- the greatest part of our assistance - approaching 80 percent - is directed to agricultural and rural development projects;
- geographically our concentration is on Africa, which now attracts over half our annual commitments; all told, over 80 percent of our assistance is directed to low-income food-deficit countries and 35 percent to least-developed countries;
- these development commitments have been supplemented by emergency assistance amounting to \$178 million in 1981 and to \$148 million so far in the current year;
- the International Emergency Food Reserve exceeded its target for the first time in 1981 to reach 632 000 tons, but so far contributions in 1982 at 455 000 tons remain short of the target;
- in a noteworthy contribution to economic co-operation between developing countries, WFP, with the support of sixteen donor agencies and governments as well as some non-governmental organizations, has arranged the purchase and distribution of 300 000 tons of maize from Zimbabwe for use as food aid in fifteen African countries;
- pledges for the 1981-82 biennium, which were about 77 percent of the billion dollar target at the end of 1981, have increased only a little to reach 83 percent;
- encouragingly, however, pledges for the coming biennium 1983-84 already amount to the same proportion - 83 percent - of the \$1.2 billion target.

In the current international economic climate pledges at this level before the biennium commences indicate the confidence of the international community in WFP. Some donors have not yet announced contributions and I am optimistic that the target will be reached. As a voluntary programme, we know that it is essential to sustain and strengthen the confidence of participating governments. Among United Nations development institutions our administrative overheads are, I believe, the lowest and we intend to keep them that way. Our projects are subject to thorough appraisal before approval and to careful evaluation, fully reported to our Governing Body. Nevertheless, improvements in both processes are possible and we are currently looking at some changes. We welcome inspection

of our projects by representatives of contributing governments, so that they can see at first hand the way in which their assistance is used. May I suggest also that on occasions developing countries would find value in being well informed about our activities in neighbouring countries to help them to frame requests which take account of lessons learned from projects undertaken in circumstances similar to their own. Through our network of field officers in 80 countries and through frequent visits by headquarters staff, we have established the basis for understanding the needs of recipient countries. We seek to strengthen our dialogue with their governments so that we can make the best use of food aid to assist their development.

The year 1983 will be marked as the twentieth anniversary of WFP operations. Twenty years of food aid - made necessary by hunger and poverty and always insufficient to meet growing needs - is not a cause for celebration but rather for reflection and self-examination. That reflection must inevitably begin with the concept of food aid and its contribution to development.

At the outset, let me repeat that one basic advantage of food aid is that it is frequently additional to other forms of development assistance. Much of the current argument about the relative efficiency of food or financial transfers misses this point. There is nothing to indicate that most donor governments would be willing to replace food aid by an equivalent increase in their financial allocations. Indeed, the current situation of the world grain market emphasizes anew the original orientation of food aid - making surplus production available to meet the needs of developing countries. No one would, of course, wish to revive the problems which crude surplus disposal policies may have caused in the past. WFP, in particular, is concerned not with surplus disposal but with the systematic use of food as a carefully planned resource for development, supplementing financial resources and with the particular advantage that it can be targeted to reach the poor and hungry.

We should nevertheless see the positive side of the current surplus situation. It could facilitate an increase in food aid, which is still well below the internationally accepted target, let alone the needs of the poor and hungry. It is also, of course, much lower in volume, and as a proportion of total development assistance, than it was twenty years ago, when the United States alone shipped over 17 million metric tons. In short, in a time of stagnating development assistance, growing economic problems, increasing agricultural surpluses in a small group of countries and reduced grain prices, it may be easier to achieve an increase in food aid than in other forms of assistance. Moreover, increased food aid is particularly needed, now, at this time, when more and more low-income countries are faced with balance of payments problems which make it impossible for them to meet their growing food needs by commercial imports.

It is all the more urgent, therefore, to think constructively about the best ways to use food aid to achieve the dual objectives of meeting the needs of the hungry, and contributing to development.

If food aid is to be used constructively to meet these objectives, it is vital that it be managed in such a way as to avoid any disincentive to food production. This is a difficult but by no means insuperable problem. WFP, for its part, has developed an approach to food aid which not only avoids disincentive effects, but actually promotes food production. This is done, for example, by projects which are concerned with soil erosion and desertification control, land development and settlement, irrigation and flood control, forestry development, and so on.

Projects of this nature are essentially based on using food as part-payment for labour intensive work or sometimes as an incentive to voluntary community development activities. Food-for-work projects not only improve infrastructure and thereby increase production but they also provide desperately needed employment opportunities in labour surplus countries. The immediate beneficiaries are clearly and almost of necessity the poorest section of the country's population, for the fact is, no one works for food unless he really needs to.

Such projects are not without their problems. Good design and careful management are necessary if their advantages are to be maximized; particularly in the least-developed countries there is a clear need to accompany food aid with enhanced technical and other assistance. Food needs to be supplemented with cash wages, with tools and even simple machines and sometimes with capital.

Desirably, therefore, food for work should be provided as part of a composite project in which all the necessary inputs are carefully integrated. Co-operation between agencies may be essential to put such a project together. In practice, achieving such co-operation is not easy because it makes large demands on the good will, time and administrative skills of officials who are frequently already hard pressed. But the effort is worthwhile if it can increase the development impact of the resources available - the impact of food by linking it with the complementary inputs required and the impact of financial assistance by substituting food for scarce funds. Maximizing the return from scarce resources is more than ever necessary today, when development assistance is simply not keeping pace with burgeoning needs.

Concern with development, however, should not make us forget the humanitarian impulses which were part of the origins of food aid. These impulses will remain valid as long as surpluses continue to co-exist with widespread hunger and malnutrition.

The humanitarian aspect of food aid has been seen most clearly in mother and child feeding projects. The time has perhaps now come for such projects to be integrated into a broader effort to meet the needs of the hungry. In the long run, the solution to the problem of hunger is economic growth and higher incomes. But for millions of people in developing countries, that will be a very long run indeed. In the meantime, the right to food, in a sense the most fundamental of human rights, has to be made a reality.

Some countries have already demonstrated what can be accomplished by policies designed to hold down prices paid by poor consumers. But such policies must not deny remunerative prices to producers, or agriculture will languish and food become even scarcer. Some element of subsidy is, therefore, essential, but financial as well as equity considerations suggest that subsidies should be limited to the poor who need them. This can be done by targetting assistance to the poor by measures such as rationing, food stamps, fair-price shops and the concentration of subsidies on foods consumed largely by the poor, such as coarse grains and root crops. Mother and child feeding projects then fall into place as one element in a larger policy framework which recognizes and meets the universal human right to food.

Food aid must I believe increasingly be seen in the context of that framework. Substantial conceptual and operational problems will have to be overcome, but the effort must be made if food aid is to be directed more purposefully to meet the needs of the hungry. Such an effort does not represent a diversion of attention from development - nothing after all is more fundamental to development than a well-fed and healthy population. Nor is it impossible - although it will certainly be difficult - to link a "right to food" approach with the stimulation of increased food production and the achievement of other development goals.

The Challenge is, therefore, to articulate a new policy orientation for food aid so that it can make a more effective contribution to achieving the interlinked development and humanitarian goals. Meeting this challenge will call for a concerted effort to which the United Nations system, bilateral agencies, voluntary organizations and developing countries must all contribute.

We in WFP will be giving intensive thought to how we can contribute constructively to this effort. We recognize the need to ensure that new policy orientations do not become counter-productive by diverting attention from established, effective and necessary programmes - of which there are many I am pleased to say. We are conscious of the need not to add to the burden of administration and management which is already a substantial problem in development assistance, both for developing countries and, in this time of staff constraints, for agencies themselves. We are aware of the danger of expecting developing country governments to undertake policy changes which could strain the consensus on which government necessarily rests; and, of course, we recognize their sovereign right to determine their own policies and also that they have a better understanding of their own problems than any outside agency, no matter how professional and well-motivated.

But these are constraints - and there are many others - within which the effort to develop new policy orientations must proceed; they are not an excuse for inaction. The effort is urgent if we are to make the best use of food aid to assist developing countries in their endeavours to meet the needs of their hungry people and to achieve their development goals. I intend to ensure that WFP participates fully in that effort.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Ingram for this very informative, thought-provoking, hopeful statement, this very concise and valuable statement.

A. FEQUANT (France) : Au nom de la délégation française je voudrais exprimer notre satisfaction à la lecture du rapport du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial qui est soumis à notre examen. En effet, nous avons pu constater que dans un environnement économique défavorable et en dépit des difficultés rencontrées pour atteindre le niveau des ressources fixées comme objectif, le Programme alimentaire mondial a réussi à maintenir et à développer ses activités. Que ce soit dans le domaine des urgences ou dans celui de l'aide au développement, auquel la France est particulièrement attachée, le niveau des engagements a progressé, notamment en faveur des pays les moins avancés qui doivent demeurer prioritaires dans l'action du Programme alimentaire mondial.

A cet égard, le paragraphe 38 annonce que 35 % des ressources du Programme ont été consacrés en 1981 sur les 11 % de la population vivant dans les 31 pays les moins avancés. Nous avons fortement apprécié qu'en 1981 la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence, et pour la première fois depuis sa création, a dépassé cet objectif. Mon pays est particulièrement heureux d'y avoir contribué par l'intermédiaire de l'aide communautaire. Ma délégation souhaite féliciter le Programme alimentaire mondial de son activité. Ainsi que j'ai eu l'occasion de le signaler lors du débat sur la sécurité alimentaire, la France augmentera sa contribution au PAM en 1983 et s'efforcera aussi, comme elle l'a fait par le passé, d'apporter une aide complémentaire dans le domaine des articles non alimentaires qui sont essentiels pour la bonne exécution des projets de développement.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Food aid is an area of individual national action of the Member States of the European Economic Community but it is also an area of common policy and common action. I therefore think it would be appropriate for the council's deliberations on the issue before us if you would concede the floor to the European Economic Commission, not at the end of our debate but rather now. I thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Is it the will of the Council, because normally, under the rules, the Observers' interventions will take place in terms of precedence after the Council members, but if the Council has no objection, then I shall give the floor to the EEC representative.

I see no objection so may I request the EEC representative to take the floor.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne) : Nous vous remercions pour le rapport de 1981 du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire (document CL 82/15) qui nous paraît bien présenté et documenté. Les tableaux figurant à la fin du rapport nous semblent particulièrement précieux et constituent une excellente présentation des réalisations et des résultats obtenus par le Programme alimentaire mondial ces dernières années.

Tout en appréciant que l'aide alimentaire globale sous forme de céréales se soit élevée à 9,2 millions de tonnes en 1980/81, soit une augmentation de 200 000 tonnes par rapport à 1978/79, nous regrettons que l'objectif minimum de 10 millions de tonnes n'ait pas été atteint. Rappelant que l'article premier de la Convention sur l'aide alimentaire de 1980 précise que cet objectif d'au moins 10 millions de tonnes par an doit être réalisé grâce à un effort conjoint de la Communauté internationale, nous invitons instamment de nouveaux donateurs à se présenter pour combler la différence.

Nous nous félicitons de ce que le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire ait recommandé que les pays bénéficiaires établissent des politiques et des programmes liant l'usage de l'aide alimentaire à l'augmentation de la production alimentaire et à la sécurité de l'approvisionnement (je fais référence au paragraphe 3 f) du document). Nous sommes convaincus que l'aide alimentaire sera d'autant plus efficace qu'elle se situera dans le cadre d'une stratégie de développement global et intégré. A cet égard, la Communauté enregistre avec satisfaction qu'en 1981, comme l'indique le paragraphe 91, le PAM a effectué 80 pour cent des nouveaux engagements à des politiques de développement agricole et rural, ce qui constitue un chiffre record. Etant donné qu'à l'époque l'objectif annoncé de un milliard de dollars pour les deux années 1981 et 1982 n'a été réalisé qu'à concurrence de 77 pour cent, il pourrait sembler quelque peu ambitieux d'annoncer pour 1983/84 un objectif de 1,2 milliard de dollars. Néanmoins, grâce à deux annonces de contributions particulièrement généreuses lors de la quatorzième session du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire au mois d'octobre, les perspectives se sont sensiblement améliorées, le montant total des annonces de contributions passant à 90 millions de dollars, soit environ 83 pour cent de l'objectif général pour 1983/84.

En ce qui concerne la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence, la Communauté se félicite d'avoir pu contribuer (référence paragraphe 17) à ce que, pour la première fois, l'objectif de 500 000 tonnes ait pu être atteint en 1981. Pour que cette Réserve continue à être alimentée la Communauté européenne a donné suite à la proposition qu'elle avait soumise au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire lors de sa douzième session, en annonçant, pendant la Conférence de mars 1982, qu'elle contribuerait à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence pour les deux années 1983/84.

Puisque nous parlons de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence, je souhaiterais également attirer l'attention sur les données figurant au paragraphe 45 et indiquant que la part des dépenses annuelles du PAM consacrée à des actions d'urgence est passée de 8 pour cent en 1976 à 29 pour cent en 1980. Ce n'est pas sans une certaine préoccupation que la Communauté européenne constate une telle évolution puisque à notre avis le PAM est appelé avant tout à promouvoir, par la fourniture d'une aide alimentaire, des projets de développement.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne l'aide d'urgence, la Communauté européenne considère que le PAM devrait essentiellement jouer un rôle de coordination dans les situations d'urgence à grande échelle. Le paragraphe 24 se réfère à la possibilité de distribuer les céréales fournies au titre du PAM par l'intermédiaire d'agences gouvernementales du pays bénéficiaire en cause qui s'occuperaient de la vente et contribueraient au coût du transport intérieur, du stockage notamment. Ce sujet a été largement débattu à la fois au Comité des politiques et programmes alimentaires et au Comité des surplus de la FAO. La Communauté estime pour sa part qu'il convient de ne prendre aucune décision de principe tant que l'évaluation de certains projets pilotes actuellement en cours ne sera pas terminée. Il se trouve qu'une étude portant sur de tels projets doit être soumise au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire lors de sa session du printemps prochain.

En conclusion, nous tenons à féliciter à la fois le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire pour le travail réalisé et le PAM pour la manière dont il s'est acquitté de ses tâches et obligations toujours croissantes.

En outre, c'est avec plaisir que je vous annonce que le Conseil des communautés européennes vient de décider d'allouer un complément de 73 000 tonnes de céréales au titre de l'aide alimentaire dont une partie sera accordée par le canal des organisations multilatérales, ce qui portera sa contribution annuelle à un million de tonnes de céréales au lieu des 927 000 tonnes des années précédentes.

MRS. M. RAVN (Norway) : On this occasion I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. Our delegations have studied with interest document CL 82/15, and would like to compliment the World Food Programme on the excellent work it is carrying out. The Nordic countries are traditionally strong supporters of the programme, and in rendering our support to the pledging target for the period 1983-84 we would like to underline that this target of US\$ 1.2 million will only be reached if potential new donors will join. With stressed resources it is even more important that these be utilised in the best possible way.

The Nordic countries are of the opinion that it could lead to a better utilisation if food aid to a greater extent was channelled through the World Food Programme. In this connexion, we feel it would be of importance if increased quantities of grain from the Food Aid Convention were to be placed at the disposal of the WFP.

In order to ensure the maximum flexibility for the WFP in utilising these regular resources, the Nordic countries would like to underline the importance that new as well as traditional donors comply with the Programme's general regulations which stipulate that donors should aim to contribute cash and service components amounting to at least one-third of the total contributions.

Due to the large number of emergencies that have occurred, a considerable proportion of the Programme's total resources has been utilised for emergency operations. In this connexion, we welcome the decision to have joint pledging conferences giving the opportunity for pledging both to the regular resources and to the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR). The joint pledging conference in March this year was successful, and we are confident that this common pledging will be more successful in the future.

The Nordic countries hope this will lead to an improvement of the level of stability and continuity of IEFR resources enabling the programme to improve its response to requests for emergency operations. We will also participate actively in future operations in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes concerning the aims of the Programme's emergency operations.

With regard to the Programme's development assistance, Nordic groups have noted with satisfaction that increasing resources are being allocated for projects in the least developed countries (LDCs). These also earn our full support.

Furthermore, by earmarking for agriculture and rural development more than 80 percent of the World Food Programme's total new commitment to development projects, the programme sets a new record for 1981. We are looking forward to the continuation of this trend.

In concluding, I would like to express our satisfaction with the work carried out by the Executive Director of WFP, Mr. Ingram, and his staff, and assure them of the continued support of all the Nordic countries.

S. S. BALANZINO (Italy) : The Italian delegation wishes to express its deep satisfaction and appreciation for the quality of the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which is in front of us. In our opinion it provides a comprehensive description of the positive course of action undertaken by the World Food Programme. However, if we focus our attention on the first part of the report, it is in the more specifically relevant food policies and programmes we have to note with regret that the target of 10 million tons envisaged by the Food Aid Convention has not been reached. A strong common effort must therefore take place without delay.

The Italian delegation believes also that the same dedication is necessary to achieve the target of 500 000 tons set for the International Emergency Food Reserve which we were informed could not achieve its goal in 1982, despite its vital importance.

We would like to seize this opportunity to ask the Secretariat of the World Food Programme to make available the most recent data concerning the quantities reached by the International Reserve in 1982.

As regards the pledging target of \$ 1.2 million for the period 1983-84, the Italian delegation wishes to point out that it can only announce its pledge for this year. The Italian pledges for the biennium 1983-84 can be announced only after parliamentary approval of the National Budget for the years 1983 and 1984 respectively. The Italian delegation appreciates the efforts made by the World Food Programme to ensure the priority of the developing projects which correspond to experimental and institutional tasks of the Organization.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that these projects are especially concentrated in food-deficit low-income countries, as referred to in paragraph 37. It also wishes to praise the management of WFP for the quality of its action in large-scale emergency operations which have absorbed increasing resources of the Organization. In a number of cases the World Food Programme has taken up the role of coordinator.

We wish to commend the Secretariat for its success in those major operations. Furthermore, my delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of the initiative taken by the Programme to offer its logistic support to bilateral donors on purchase and transportation of foodstuffs.

To conclude, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the support of triangular operations which can usefully back production and exports in developing countries. Let me just mention the case of Zimbabwe to which it will pledge its support in 1982 by purchasing 30,000 tons of maize, the equivalent of US\$ 5 million to be donated to Tanzania. Indeed, we believe these operations are of special positive value, especially if we consider the number of developing countries who can draw benefits from them.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): El informe que tenemos ante nosotros mereció por nuestra parte un profundo estudio; el mismo es un resumen de las políticas de programas de ayuda alimentaria y recursos y del programa de alimentos. Es sobre este último punto que quisiéramos detenernos, y en particular en lo que se refiere a la asistencia para el desarrollo.

Vemos que, por una parte, las asignaciones totales del PMA para proyectos de desarrollo se han incrementado, tal como consta en el cuadro A del documento en cuestión; ello es realmente importante y alentador, pero, por otra parte también notamos que la proporción correspondiente a América Latina y el Caribe de la asignación del Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha disminuido notablemente, y lo seguirá haciendo de no revertir en el corto plazo al tendencia existente, como consta en el Cuadro B del documento.

América Latina y el Caribe forman parte del mundo en desarrollo y la asistencia otorgada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos a través de sus proyectos juega un rol importante para superar algunas trabas que afectan al desarrollo de la producción de alimentos.

Los diversos países que conforman la región adoptan políticas de desarrollo encaminadas a conseguir la autosuficiencia alimentaria, reducir la pobreza y mejorar las condiciones nutricionales de la población, especialmente en las zonas rurales. No obstante, estos esfuerzos, que deberían servir como indicadores al programa para seguir impulsando proyectos con el fin de superar definitivamente la problemática alimentaria, parecen inútiles. La política que las cifras que este documento muestra en forma fría es que se está dejando de prestar atención a una realidad, castigando a quienes administran bien sus recursos, ya que se disminuye la proporción de la asignación para sus proyectos; ello aún es más perjudicial ya que la región está lejos de cumplir el objetivo fijado por la estrategia para el desarrollo para la tercera década de las Naciones Unidas que fija un crecimiento anual de la producción que tiene que aumentar en un 4 por ciento anual.

No queremos ser reiterativos en una cuestión que es evidente, pero sí queremos advertir que de continuarse esta tendencia no sólo se está atentando contra el desarrollo agrícola de América Latina y el Caribe, sino que el Programa perderá el criterio de universalidad que ha tenido hasta el presente como orientación y lineamiento para su acción.

Finalmente, queremos reiterar lo ya dicho en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina celebrada en Managua acerca de una adecuada representatividad latinoamericana en el plantel de funcionarios del Programa. Mi delegación conoce el alto nivel técnico de sus funcionarios y de su eficiencia y dedicación, pero no puede dejar de manifestar su preocupación ante esta situación que entendemos puede dificultar la correcta comprensión de la problemática regional propia, nuestra, latinoamericana.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We have with great interest read the document and the annual report of the WFP and we wish to convey our appreciation for the commendable manner in which the Report brings out the activities of the Programme. We also wish to convey our great appreciation at the most eloquent and articulate introduction by Mr. Ingram which was not only factual but conceptual and thought-provoking. We have been traditionally great supporters of the Programme because we have benefited tremendously from it, both in its development aspect, and more recently through the emergency aid which we have been receiving for the Afghan refugees. For this we are most grateful and wish to convey our appreciation not only to the WFP and FAO but also to other bilateral donors who have helped us in looking after this large humanitarian problem. We are gratified to learn that both the donors and recipients have by and large always supported the activities of the World Food Programme and have praised its delivery.

It is therefore with some surprise that we notice that the targets for both biennia, 1981-1982 and the next one, have not been achieved. We would join the WFP in urging the donors - present ones as well as potential donors - to come forward to meet these targets because everybody does recognize that WFP is doing tremendous work for developing countries.

In this context, it was gratifying to learn that in 1981 for the first time the IEF target was not only met but was surpassed. However, we again are a little concerned that for 1982 perhaps we are not reaching the target. We would join the delegate from Italy in requesting the WFP Secretariat to provide for the information of the Council a little more detailed figures as to who were the donors, who contributed to the 1981 target and how much and what is the present precise position of donations for the 1982 target.

We also join our neighbour, the delegate of Norway in urging the donors to ensure that the cash and service component of the contributions be at least one third, because we do notice that the limitation of cash resources or cash flow has been hampering some of the activities of the Programme, though we do wish to put on record here that WFP's efforts at circumventing this constraint have been excellent so far, but we do wish that this constraint could be removed and WFP could have more flexibility in its operational programmes.

Before concluding, we would like to support very strongly the triangular transactions which the WFP has been entering into, particularly in Zimbabwe. We are in agreement with the comments in paragraph 26 and we feel that these triangular transactions should go a long way in supporting the TCDC and would also be an economically funded programme and would be more efficient in cases of emergency in other land-locked countries. We would wish to see this effort duplicated, not only in the African region but also in the Latin American and Asian regions.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): As one of the oldest and biggest associates of the World Food Programme, on behalf of my delegation, and my country, India, I welcome Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of WFP, to the task that he is handling in the WFP. We have great hopes that the task that he has in hand will be completed, and completed excellently. I feel that the task of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme is a very delicate one. He has to enjoy the confidence of both the donors - that is the developed countries - and the beneficiary countries, neither of which two will be at any point of time completely satisfied. The donors will have a tendency to give less and less, and the beneficiary countries will demand more and more. We will perhaps not be able to satisfy both the parties one hundred percent but we are sure that his persuasive personality and his compassionate approach to the World Food Programme schemes will be able to attract unprecedented resources both in cash as well as in kind from the donor countries, and will be able to get maximum mileage out of every grain of food or every dollar that he gets, for the benefit of the hungry and the deprived. I congratulate him on the WFP's noteworthy achievements which have been cited by a number of my predecessor speakers. We are very much gratified that the Emergency Food Reserve target was not only achieved but exceeded in 1981. We have great hopes that this performance will be repeated year after year under his stewardship.

May I suggest for the consideration of the Council that the target of the Emergency Food Reserve should be considered to be increased from 500 000 tons to 650 000 tons which I think would be achievable with a little bit of will and determination because a figure of 632 000 tons has already been achieved in 1981. I would solicit Mr. Ingram's most earnest attention for fixing this target and achieving and even exceeding this.

We are also very much satisfied that the pledges for 1983/84 have been achieved to the extent of 83 percent. I presume that 83 percent is of the revised target of \$ 1.2 billion and not the unrevised target of \$ 1 billion.

We are very much satisfied by this. We are also very happy to learn that 80 percent of the WFP aid has gone for agriculture and mostly to the Least Developed Countries.

The WFP is to celebrate its twentieth anniversary in 1983. It is now switching over from being a teenager to a mature person on its twentieth anniversary and we have great expectations that the

WFP will be functioning as it has been doing already in a very mature and resourceful fashion. The target of food aid of 10 million tons is yet to be achieved and I will join the other delegates of this Council in extending our earnest request to the donor countries to make all-out efforts to achieve this target.

As regards the IEF target of \$ 1.2 billion, India has increased its contribution from \$ 1.3 million to \$ 1.5 million for the biennium 1983/84. I feel that the WFP's prime consideration should be to give aid to end aid; that is, we give aid to a country for developing its productive infrastructure in such a manner that its need to get more and more aid in future is progressively reduced. This we are very happy to see the WFP has already been following, but this should be followed more seriously by directing the WFP employment generation programmes to productive projects like those of irrigation, land development, afforestation, soil conservation, deepening of tanks and so on and so forth, which are of strategic importance so far as increasing agricultural production is concerned.

I would also suggest for Mr. Ingram's consideration that the funds that are generated by the sale of commodities in the developing countries should be recycled in a very meaningful way for agricultural development purposes like projects for processing of seeds, supply of fertilizers at subsidized rates, designing and supply of agricultural implements which have a great importance so far as the African region is concerned. We have at present a number of hand-driven and bullock-driven small agricultural implements of low cost which will be of great assistance to the developing countries.

Also, development of poultry, fisheries and animal husbandry should be taken up which will complement the cereal crop. Perhaps another look at the policy as to how the commodity funds are recycled may be necessary. I have the feeling that by restricting the use of commodity funds to the same number of people who are already being given employment, we are unduly restricting the coverage of the commodity funds for more productive schemes. Perhaps relaxation and deviation from this policy would be called for.

And finally, more attention should be given through WFP aid for nutrition and education of the children and women who are the bricks of the developing societies. But I am sure WFP is already doing something about it. Monitoring and evaluation of schemes at random should be taken up so that the lessons that are learned in one region can be made use of both by the WFP Headquarters as well as other beneficiary countries for launching similar schemes in their own area. I also have the suggestion that the procedure for granting of emergency relief should be made easier and less complicated by delegation of powers to the field agencies, so that at the time of impact calamities like earthquakes or floods, the time-lag between the calamity and the access to the WFP's emergency relief resources is reduced to the maximum extent possible. My feeling is that in developing countries for preparation of the development projects there is some need for the WFP to come to our help. Many countries' cases go by default merely because they are not able to give shape to certain projects which are of vital importance to them. I know for certain that in the case of World Bank assistance they insist that the beneficiary countries should establish a project formulation and project preparation cell in the country so that the projects are prepared in a meaningful way and they can be monitored and implemented in a more effective manner. Perhaps a similar exercise from the WFP will be necessary by taking the help of the experts in FAO or experts in other developing countries or some organization for helping the developing countries or Least Developed Countries to formulate the projects for maximum benefit. I think in this direction some effort by the WFP would bring good dividends in favour of the Least Developed Countries.

In the CFA meetings which I have been attending in the past the members have been voicing the suggestion very often that in their operations the WFP should give priority to the developing countries, both in the purchase of cereals and in the shipment so that the ships of the developing countries are used to the maximum extent possible and even for services. As I mentioned, consultancy services, in project formulation and project implementation and project operation could be available from one developing country for giving benefits to another developing country.

My colleague from Pakistan has mentioned about triangular transactions to be encouraged. This we also very heartily endorse and we recommend that this should be done in a manner which would be beneficial to the developing countries.

Insofar as India is concerned we have got a surplus of sugar this year and we would be prepared to offer this commodity for the WFP in a manner which will help the WFP, as well as my country, in meeting the needs of other nations. The modalities of the transactions can be sorted out by mutual discussion.

I will close by again congratulating the WFP, the FAO and Mr. Ingram for the excellent achievements and the prospects of better performance that are very evident and manifest in the report.

A. JUAN-MARCOS ISSA (México): Deseo expresar la satisfacción de mi delegación al constatar que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en esta etapa difícil caracterizada por una disminución en la ayuda del desarrollo, ha demostrado con firmeza su voluntad de encaminar sus esfuerzos hacia la asistencia para el desarrollo y hacia la solución de problemas alimentarios urgentes.

Asimismo, mi delegación se complace al escuchar, por parte del Director Ejecutivo del PMA, que las condiciones para lograr el cumplimiento de promesas para el próximo bienio son favorables. El PMA se inspira en una vocación de universalidad que no puede ser desconocida, y que mi delegación desea especial y enfáticamente reafirmarla en estos momentos. Consideramos que de ella se debe desprender un tratamiento equitativo para las diferentes regiones geográficas.

De la misma manera, consideramos que el criterio para otorgar la ayuda no debe basarse solamente, por ejemplo, en conceptos como el del ingreso per capita, sino que debe mirar hacia las condiciones reales de la población a la que se destina la ayuda. En este contexto, apoyamos plenamente y con firmeza lo declarado por la distinguida delegación de Argentina.

No queremos dejar pasar esta oportunidad sin mencionar el agradecimiento y la admiración que mi delegación siente por la labor que, durante tantos años, el señor Juan Felipe Yriart dedicó a los países en desarrollo. Ahora que está a punto de abandonar la Organización, permítame augurarle toda clase de suerte y parabienes para el y su familia.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I was very pleased to hear Mr. Ingram's introduction on the work of WFP and to note that its overall resources have been increased in 1981 and that aid is aimed at the further development of the countries who really need aid the most. We would nonetheless like to ask the management of the Programme to try and make sure that this aid be granted as fully as possible and to avoid any disruption of supplies of the grain element, for example.

We hope to see that pledges and the targets for the next financial period should be reached in the coming years and we would like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction in seeing that there are new donors such as Argentina and OPEC in addition to all the other donors who have always helped the WFP since its setting up.

In regard to the bilateral agreement we are also very pleased with the increase because for the first time we have been able to reach the minimum figure of 500,000 metric tons. We have even been able to go beyond this figure and this is indeed very satisfactory.

We feel that the World Food Programme has been playing a very important role. In Egypt the World Food Programme has been giving us a great deal of aid in the various projects which have been implemented in my country since 1963. It has also answered any appeals which have been made, for example in regard to the area of Marsa Matrough as well as the problems we had in this area in regard to drought and so we would like to thank the WFP once again and congratulate it.

Sra. Doña G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad a nuestra delegación le parece muy completa la exposición hecha por el Sr. Ingram, la cual consideramos que será de gran utilidad para nuestras deliberaciones. Consideramos que él mismo ha hecho y ha tenido en cuenta los puntos claves que son preocupación actual del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Tanto en la ayuda al desarrollo como en las operaciones de urgencia, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha jugado un papel fundamental; el hecho de que se haya dado prioridad a los países más gravemente afectados, siempre ha contado con nuestro apoyo, aunque se tengan en cuenta también los países que hacen grandes esfuerzos internos, para lograr su desarrollo.

Confiamos una vez más en que los criterios de universalidad sigan primando en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, ajenos, como es natural, a otro tipo de criterios políticos.

El aspecto humanitario que ha primado en los criterios de ayuda alimentaria y mediante el cual los países con excedentes de alimentos ayudan a los más necesitados, deben estar unidos, a nuestro entender, a la obligación moral que tienen los países desarrollados a contribuir a que los más necesitados tengan pleno acceso a los alimentos. No hay que olvidar que muchos países desarrollados han llegado a serlo, además de por sus esfuerzos, por la contribución involuntaria de los países menos desarrollados, ya que se han nutrido de mano de obra y de materia prima barata. Desafortunadamente, Sr. Presidente, como Vd. conoce, hay países que nunca podrán saldar la deuda que en ese sentido tienen con la humanidad.

Quisiera referirme también, a la necesidad de que las reservas alimentarias alcancen nuevamente las ya escasas metas fijadas en 1974, que se ha alcanzado y superado solamente en 1981. Asimismo insistimos en que las mismas deben de estar totalmente a disposición del Programa Mundial de Alimentos e igualmente deben darse cumplimiento a los objetivos propuestos para el presente bienio y que al parecer se prevén favorables.

Mi delegación quisiera expresar, una vez más, la confianza que nuestro Gobierno tiene en la gestión del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y le da gran aprecio a los esfuerzos del Programa en favor de la solución de los graves problemas del hambre. Confiamos, asimismo, que nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe se tenga debidamente en cuenta la escasez de recursos y se atienda plenamente el cumplimiento de esos objetivos; esto garantizaría el criterio de unidad que caracteriza la línea de acción del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

W.A. COCHRANE (New Zealand): We are glad to express in very brief terms our great sense of satisfaction with the report before us. Particularly because it is a time of considerable economic strain and uncertainty. I join other speakers in saying that it was most encouraging to learn at the 14th Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes that pledges for 1983/84 have already reached over 80 percent of the target of 1.2 billion dollars.

The Committee's meeting was very pleasing in other respects as well. Many good projects were approved and we are happy to note the Committee's action to strengthen the Programme's capacity to handle emergency aid work. On the point of emergency aid work I simply want to note here the great satisfaction and gratitude with which the Programme's emergency aid work in Tonga, following a very devastating hurricane there this year, has been received.

Other worthwhile decisions were taken at this 14th Session. All in all, as the report shows, it was a positive and businesslike meeting. This result we believe was due in considerable measure once more to the skill and hard work of the WFP Secretariat. We congratulate the Executive Director Mr. Ingram and his staff.

As other speakers have already mentioned there are difficult problems to be resolved and intricate aspects of policy still to be worked through. There certainly could be no sense of complacency. Mr. Ingram's statement to us today was an excellent reminder of all this.

May I conclude simply by assuring the Executive Director of New Zealand's continuing firm support for the Programme's work.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): My delegation of course has studied the 7th Annual Report of the CFA to the Council, ECOSOC and the World Food Council with care. Since my country was represented on the Drafting Committee we shall refrain from specific comments on the document itself. As the United States delegate noted during our intervention on the state of food and agriculture, we were pleased at the 14th Session of the CFA to announce our pledge to the World Food Programme of one quarter of a billion dollars for the 1983/84 biennium. This was a 14 percent increase over the previous biennium in normal monetary terms and a substantial increase in the terms of the commodities it will buy. Notwithstanding the monetary problems that confront us on all sides, we have made this increase in our voluntary contribution because of the high regard we have for the excellent work, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme. The pledge was an emphatic reaffirmation of our commitment to the fight against hunger. It was also our recognition of the promising start made by Mr. Ingram as the new head of the World Food Programme and the confidence we repose in him together with his excellent staff.

With respect to the IEFR, my government will continue to consider requests for assistance under this programme. In 1981 our contribution totalled 197 000 tons. So far this year in 1982 we have designated 263 000 tons. We anticipate our future participation will continue to be substantial as specific needs arise.

AKLU GIRGRE (Ethiopia): My delegation finds the Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes quite informative and adequately complete. It is satisfying to learn from the report that a lot has been done and is being done in the area of coordinating and administering food aid by WFP, although a few things still remain outstanding. For example, quantities pledged and shipped could not keep up with the growing requirements of low-income food-deficit countries, as expressed in paragraph 3 of the report.

My delegation fully supports the views expressed by the report in paragraph 3 (f), which states that food aid should be used to support activities designed to increase local food production and food security in recipient countries.

On the question of emergency assistance my delegation fully supports the position taken by the Committee for a joint pledging conference of WFP resources and International Emergency Food Reserve, whereby pledges made to IEFER should be in addition to those contributed to the regular resources of WFP.

It is gratifying to note from the report in paragraph 11 that the total resources of WFP in 1981 have shown an increase over the previous year and that out of a total commitment almost 78 percent has been allotted to agricultural and rural development.

My country has benefited immensely from the WFP development projects, especially in the areas of soil and water conservation designed to rehabilitate highly neglected regions of the country. On behalf of my delegation and myself, I would like to express my gratitude to WFP. The result of these WFP-assisted projects has been very satisfying.

As mentioned in paragraph 23 the sale of additional grain supplies to help offset internal costs in the least developed countries has been tried on an experimental basis in my country, but still the burden of transporting foodgrain in areas with poorly developed transport systems is prohibitive. I suggest that the Committee in its future deliberations should pay special attention to this issue of internal mobility of food grains from the ports to the destinations requiring the food aid and similar consideration should also be given to the warehousing facilities.

In paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report, in the WFP's commitment to the developing countries, and the least developed countries in particular, it states that 35 percent of WFP's development resources is devoted to the least developed countries which comprise a total population of 270 million, or 11 percent of all low-income food-deficit countries. This statement and the figures seem a little misleading, since not all the population in the low-income food-deficit countries is in need of food aid as badly as the least developed countries. In my opinion this does not strongly underscore the pressing need of the least developed countries. Thus we suggest that the report should reflect this impression. I would like to add also that more should be done in the development activities of WFP in the least developed countries to have a meaningful impact on increased food production and food security.

JIN XIANG-YUN (China) (Original language Chinese): The Seventh Annual Report of WFP and the introduction by Mr. Ingram told us of the progress on food assistance in 1981 and summarized the implementation of food aid policies and programmes in 1981. Thus the report helps us to learn about WFP's activities and provides guidelines for strengthening the operation between WFP and the recipient countries so as to improve food aid in the future.

Document CL 82/15 points out that when demand to import food in developing countries is increasing day by day, stocks are being built up and acreage is reduced in developed exporting countries. Taking account of the population growth and the ever increasing food demand of developing countries to provide them with substantial assistance in various aspects aiming at increasing production will continue to be a long-term task for the international community in the days to come. Therefore we give our support to the Director-General's proposal to re-examine the needs and targets for world food assistance on an appropriate future occasion.

In recent years the World Food Programme has made remarkable contributions in formulating and implementing food aid policies and programmes. The World Food Programme has also made achievements in assisting the low-income food-deficit developing countries to increase food production and in this way to help them raise the level of food self-sufficiency and in carrying out emergency food assistance. Hence the work of the World Food Programme deserves the support of all countries.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Canada as a member of the Governing Body of the WFP gave its approval to the Seventh Annual Report of the CFA when it was submitted to the Thirteenth Session in April 1982. In October 1981 the CFA approved a pledging target of 1.2 billion dollars for the regular resources of the programme for the biennium 1983/84.

The Canadian delegation is very pleased to note that with the contribution announced during the last CFA session by the governments of the Netherlands and the United States, the total pledges have now reached 990 million dollars, or 83 percent of the target. This is very encouraging and we would like to invite all donors, traditional and new, to make a contribution to the WFP. We believe that Canada's pledge of 250 million Canadian dollars, of which 40 million dollars are in the form of cash, which represents a substantial increase of roughly one-third of our pledge for the current biennium, clearly demonstrates our desire to see that the target is met through action by the international community. Since its creation in 1963, our total contribution to the WFP now exceeds 1.1 billion dollars. This clearly demonstrates, as the Minister of Agriculture for Canada said at the pledging conference, our confidence in and satisfaction with the WFP record in

using food aid as a development tool. We are particularly encouraged to note in the annual report that a new record of 80 percent of WFP's development commitments was earmarked in 1981 for projects in support of agricultural and rural development. We strongly support this emphasis, as we support the concentration of allocations towards low-income food-deficit countries.

The year 1981 has been characterized at the CFA by useful discussions on ways to improve the emergency operations. We believe that the international community made progress assuring the predictability and continuity of resources available for emergency operations when the CFA at its Twelfth Session accepted a proposal put forward by Canada for a joint pledging conference for voluntary biennial pledges for WFP regular resources to the IEFER.

We are particularly pleased to note that although the decision to hold such a conference last March was announced only a few days before several countries, including Canada and the European Economic Community, made pledges for the 1983/84 period. Considering the newness of the technique and the time available for preparation, the first joint pledging conference was very encouraging. It demonstrated that voluntary arrangements can work for the IEFER and it has served the inter-national community well. Again we would like to invite new and traditional donors to announce their pledges soon in order fully to ensure the recognized predictability and continuity requirements of the IEFER resources and at the same time to protect the developmental aspect of the World Food Programme.

In 1981 the CFA examined a report evaluating WFP Emergency Operations. Canada and other donors expressed concern over the marked increase in emergency allocations in the past ten years and suggested that the emergency resource allocation process be strengthened. Various ideas have been proposed in recent CFA sessions, including a proposal made by Canada to establish a standing committee to assist the Executive Director of the WFP in reviewing requests for emergency assistance. We look forward to further discussion on this matter and also to the study that the Executive Director has undertaken to produce on the sale of commodities. In this context I would like to join with my colleagues from the European Economic Community in urging caution in the use of this technique until the CFA has had an opportunity to examine the results of certain pilot projects.

Finally, my delegation would like to join its colleagues in congratulating the WFP on its past efforts and to encourage them to continue their valuable work in this field, also to commend the Executive Director on the leadership that he has been giving to the WFP.

A.K. KUOL (Sudan): As this is the first chance that my delegation has had to take the floor, I would like to take this opportunity to join the voice of my delegation to the voices of other delegations in expressing compliments and best wishes to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the newly elected officers.

My delegation has studied with care and attention document CL 82/15, the Seventh Annual Report of the CFA. In the light of the valuable and comprehensive introduction made this morning by the Executive Director of the UN/FAO World Food Programme, allow me to express my delegation's support and appreciation of the proposals and recommendations contained in the report.

It is with great satisfaction that my delegation notes that the majority of food aid goes to the low-income food-deficit countries, and the least developed countries in particular, both for humanitarian aspects and for promoting rural development. Considering the economic situation of my country and its geographic situation with extensive boundaries, my delegation appreciates very much the efforts made, not only by the UN/FAO WFP but also by other bilateral donating countries. However, we would like to join the CFA and others to urge for new donors and for the increase of contributions by present donors in order to attain the minimum target of 10 million tons. We note with satisfaction that pledges made for the 1981-1982 biennium have increased by 83% and that prospects are forthcoming, as we have heard this morning from the representatives of both the EEC and the Nordic governments, among others, which my delegation hopes will be highly appreciated by the developing countries and especially the least developed ones.

The distinguished Executive Director has rightly informed us this morning the challenge for the recipient countries of food aid is to make new policies to meet development and human aspects and also, as recommended by the CFA in paragraph (f), section 3 of the report before us, my delegation would like to assure the Committee and the WFP that my country will always act in accordance with that recommendation. It is the opinion of my delegation that in the final analysis, one's own needs and demands can only be satisfied and well-suited through self-reliance.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): First let me express my delegation's support to the activities of the World Food Programme. We believe that these activities should receive the support it deserves from the international community.

Let me make a few specific comments on parts of this report. My delegation would like to generally endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes held in May 1981. It was encouraging to note the success attained by some low-income countries in food production in 1981. It is, however, deplorable that the situation in some low-income countries remained bad and some persistent food shortages continued unabated. As usual, sub-Saharan Africa was most affected. We hope that what this Council has been discussing in the past few days will be put into practice so that alarmist food shortage signals do not always come from this part of the world.

It is encouraging to see the World Food Programme purchase food from regions for use in these same regions. This *inter alia* saves transport costs, and as a policy measure it receives our full support. Contributions to the International Emergency Food reserves have passed the targets of 500,000 tons of cereals. We commend donors for this achievement and wish that this continues year after year.

My delegation also wishes to underline the need for cash contributions to the resources of the programme and the need for a reasonable portion of all contributions being made on a cash basis. This point has been elaborated in paragraphs 16 and 23 of the Report and we fully support it.

I now turn to non-food items and resources of the programme. Non-food items, like simple agricultural tools, warehouses, etc., are a component which should always be included in rural development projects. Many projects which did not cater for this aspect sufficiently have ended in problems.

Finally, on emergency operations, the programme's role in providing emergency food aid and in coordination of supply operations is commendable. My delegation wishes to urge all those involved in the emergency operations, including recipient countries themselves, that all efforts should be made to ensure that the shortest time possible is taken between requests for food aid and the receipt of the same by the victims or those for whom it is meant. We consider this to be vital, as a delay of one day can mean more misery and death.

ABDUL WAHID bin ADBUL JALIL (Malaysia): It was very satisfying for my delegation to hear Mr. Ingram's introduction of the excellent work of the WFP. We note the real benefit developing countries have obtained from the various programmes of the WFP. In their own effective ways, WFP had created and left an impact on LDCs' efforts to improve their food production capacity. We therefore would like to express our full support for the effort of the programme for its commitment to concentrate and allocate the highest possible proportion of its development assistance to low-income food-deficit countries.

Also we would like to commend WFP for its quick response to the request of the Conference of LDC to provide assistance to these countries which have now come into the priority category. Mention had been made that projects in- these low-income countries are less cost effective and more expensive, but it is in these countries that the aids are greatly needed. My delegation would further like to compliment the effort of WFP Secretariat to get new donors, including those of the NGO's, to increase and to ensure that the minimum target is obtained.

We are happy to note the effort of WFP to commit its programme to agriculture and rural development and the feeding programmes more than any other projects.

Touching on emergency assistance, we would like to join the other delegations to commend donors for increasing their contributions to this reserve, although it has for the first time achieved and surpassed its target, but in view of increasing emergency occurrences and the less than ideal conditions for planning commitments and distribution, my delegation supports the preference that pledges made to IEFER should be additional to those contributed to regular programmes of WFP.

M. NKAKE NDOLO (Cameroun): Ma delegation se joint également aux autres délégations pour renouveler ses félicitations et ses encouragements au Programme alimentaire mondial. En effet, il est certain que le travail effectué par le Directeur exécutif ainsi que toute son équipe permet une meilleure compréhension et un meilleur suivi des activités multiples du Programme alimentaire mondial. Les politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire jusque-là élaborés et exécutés tant bien que mal selon les vicissitudes de la conjoncture mondiale et autres ont une résonance positive au niveau des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire tel qu'il est impossible d'imprimer un élan de régression à cette oeuvre de solidarité internationale. Ce vibrant appel s'adresse aux donateurs additionnels dont les efforts sont d'ores et déjà très louables ainsi qu'aux nouveaux donateurs qui, en soutenant et en améliorant leurs contributions, doivent et devront à coup sûr permettre à l'homme concerné de devenir réellement et effectivement sujet et partenaire actif de son propre développement, donc de sa propre alimentation; car un dicton dit "ventre affamé n'a point d'oreilles"!

La progression tendancielle déjà amorcée devra donc être soutenue afin que les objectifs du PAM soient absolument atteints.

S'il fallait insister sur cette progression, nous ne citerions, comme l'a déjà dit le Directeur exécutif d'ailleurs, que les résultats obtenus grâce à l'intervention du PAM au niveau de réalisations d'un grand nombre de projets et surtout ces exemples concernant mon pays: la lutte contre la désertification, la lutte contre l'érosion, la réhabilitation des pistes rurales de collecte, les colonisations rurales dans le cadre des projets intégrés ainsi que les aménagements de points d'eau et autres infrastructures communautaires et ce dans le cadre des programmes d'investissements humains.

C'est le lieu de saluer et d'encourager l'initiative du Canada qui répond opportunément aux soucis du Programme alimentaire mondial en ce qui concerne les dons en nature et en espèces, compte tenu que ces derniers dons risquent des mésaventures, qu'ils connaissent d'ailleurs souvent, c'est-à-dire des pertes, des avaries, des reventes, des détournements, que sais-je encore, chez certains bénéficiaires, dons comparables aux dons de voitures ou d'engins sans service après-vente sur place et qui deviennent des monuments historiques.

Il y a lieu également d'insister sur l'intervention de la FAO par le truchement du Programme alimentaire mondial auprès de gouvernements de pays bénéficiaires, de l'assistance alimentaire mondiale, en vue de la conception et de la mise en place d'un dispositif de gestion, d'administration, en un mot de fonctionnement simple et efficace de cette assistance.

S'agissant de la remarque faite par la délégation de l'Argentine au sujet de la régression du montant des contributions du PAM en faveur des pays latino-américains, tendance qui selon lui doit être inversée, il convient d'insister sur le fait que le Programme alimentaire mondial n'intervient que là où les besoins se font sentir et selon un certain degré d'urgence.

Enfin, ma délégation se rallie également au souhait formulé par l'Italie et le Pakistan quant au complément d'information à fournir sur le niveau des contributions atteint au cours de l'exercice 1982, et à atteindre, si c'est possible, au cours du prochain exercice biennal, s'agissant tant du programme ordinaire que de la RAIU, bien que quelques chiffres fournis par la Communauté économique européenne apportent certains apaisements à ce sujet.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : La delegación de Colombia piensa que el PMA se ha consolidado como un válido instrumento para el desarrollo; particularmente en los últimos años creemos que ese fortalecimiento del PMA se debe de manera esencial a la acción del señor Saouma, Director General de la FAO, quien ha sabido cumplir con inteligencia y eficacia las responsabilidades interinstitucionales que en el PMA corresponden al Director General de la FAO, no solo en la autorización de las ayudas de emergencia, sino también en lo que es más importante: la orientación social, humana y prodesarrollo que debe caracterizar a los proyectos del PMA.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que los proyectos del PMA deben ser adjudicados con base en las necesidades, sin discriminación política, porque, como dijo recientemente en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia, los alimentos no deben ser utilizados como arma política.

Como es obvio, señor Presidente, nuestra intervención se hace exclusivamente bajo la responsabilidad de la delegación de Colombia; sin embargo, pensamos que a través de las intervenciones que se han producido ya aquí esta mañana de algunos colegas de la región de América Latina y el Caribe y de los contactos que, como es natural, existen entre representantes de gobiernos de una misma región, pensamos, repito, que las relaciones entre el PMA y América Latina no son satisfactorias, desafortunadamente, y creemos, lo decimos con la franqueza que nos caracteriza, que el nuevo Director Ejecutivo del PMA no ha hecho nada para mejorar esas relaciones. Naturalmente, seríamos injustos si pretendiéramos condenar de antemano al nuevo Director Ejecutivo del PMA; sabemos que está relativamente reciente posesionado de ese alto cargo y tal vez por ello no ha tenido tiempo de entender bien cuáles deben ser las relaciones existentes entre los funcionarios de la secretaría, cualquiera que sea su grado, y los representantes de los gobiernos que hemos creado, y seguimos sosteniendo y apoyando esos organismos, pero sobre eso volveremos al final de nuestra intervención.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que en relación con el párrafo 12 sobre recursos y actividades del PMA convendrá incluir en nuestro informe el reconocimiento a países que como Estados Unidos han contribuido para el período 1983/84 con 250 millones de dólares, al Canadá con 190 millones de dólares canadienses, a Países Bajos, a Francia y también a la Comunidad Económica Europea cuyo portavoz nos dijo esta mañana que ha designado 73 mil toneladas de cereales, de las cuales 20 000, me aclaró, se-rán canalizadas a través del PMA.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la propuesta del observador de la CEE en el sentido de que, al hacer este reconocimiento a los países donantes se inste a los nuevos donantes y a los donantes tradicionales a que sigan contribuyendo al PMA.

En relación con la propuesta para mejorar la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia, dudamos de la eficacia que pueda tener una sola Conferencia conjunta de promesas destinadas tanto a los recursos del PMA como a la RAIE; tal vez aun desde el punto de vista psicologico no sea el medio más indicado para que los países donantes en una sola ocasión sean generosos con ambas opciones; sin embargo, queremos apoyar lo que ha dicho nuestro distinguido colega del Canadá en el sentido de que vale la pena esperar los resultados de la experiencia.

Agradecemos al colega canadiense las informaciones que él nos dio sobre esa Conferencia Conjunta celebrada el 2 de marzo de 1982 y pensamos que en adelante conferencias como esa deberán ser mejor organizadas, informando con anticipación a los donantes porque de lo contrario se desestimula completamente la participación necesaria en esas Conferencias. Tal vez esa misma forma desordenada como fue organizada esta primera Conferencia Conjunta justifica lo que dice el párrafo 8 del documento, que dice que se celebró una Conferencia Conjunta de Promesas el 2 de marzo de 1982 y que de los resultados de la misma se informará en el 8° Informe Anual del CPA. Nos preguntamos si esa Conferencia se celebró en marzo de este año y el documento CL 82/15 tiene fecha de junio en la portada y de abril en el interior, o sea cinco u ocho meses de haber pasado esa Conferencia, ¿por qué no se incluyeron los resultados en este documento y por qué deberemos esperar hasta el 8° informe para conocer esos resultados si ya estamos en noviembre, diez u once meses después? Suponemos que existirá alguna razón, seguramente tradicional, para proceder así, porque entendemos que en una Conferencia de Promesas no se ponen los alimentos sobre la mesa, sino que hay desarrollos posteriores; pero de todas maneras deseáramos una aclaración, y creo que el Consejo merece por lo menos una indicación de lo que pasó en esa primera Conferencia Conjunta y de cuáles han sido sus desarrollos posteriores.

La delegación de Colombia opina que deberá reforzarse siempre más la afirmación al comienzo del párrafo 25, donde se dice que las compras de productos deben hacerse a los países en desarrollo siempre que resulte posible y económico. El ejemplo de la compra de maíz a Zimbabwe sigue vigente, y creemos que también en América Latina hay países eficientemente productores, y en otras regiones de países en desarrollo, y esas circunstancias favorables se pueden aprovechar.

A la delegación de Colombia le crea cierta inquietud el párrafo 39 y también el cuadro B sobre Distribución de los Compromisos por Regiones. El porcentaje de América Latina y el Caribe que es del 6,6 por ciento apenas representa la tercera parte del otro más bajo que es el 20,1 por ciento de los porcentajes correspondientes a otras regiones. Está muy bien que se beneficie preferencialmente a los países con menores ingresos y déficit de alimentos y a los menos desarrollados. Nadie puede discutir la solidaridad colombiana con esos países, pero en América Latina y el Caribe hay todavía estados que pueden beneficiarse del PMA, sobre todo en proyectos que generen empleo y desarrollo en general.

En el párrafo 40, en la primera frase, se ensaya una débil defensa de esa desproporción. Creemos que para evitar la confusión a que pretende hacerse referencia en el párrafo 40, convendría en adelante que la descripción de la distribución de los productos por regiones se hiciera en forma bienal y no anual; se hiciera por aquellos períodos que abarca cada una de las conferencias de promesas.

La delegación de Colombia aprovecha esta oportunidad para expresar nuestra inconformidad por la discriminación y persecución a que se ha sometido recientemente a los funcionarios de América Latina y el Caribe en el PMA. En sólo tres meses, nuestra región perdió los dos más importantes, las únicas posiciones de cierto nivel político que teníamos en el PMA. Hace tres meses, el Director de Administración de Proyectos de la Subdirección de América Latina y el Caribe, es decir, quien se ocupaba de los proyectos para nuestra región y quien, como es natural, era un latinoamericano, fue reemplazado por un europeo. Y ahora, hace apenas pocos días, conocimos la noticia de que el Director Ejecutivo Alterno del PMA será un representante de otra región.

Durante más de ocho años, hasta principios de 1976, América Latina y el Caribe tiene la posición del Director Ejecutivo del PMA. Desde 1976 hasta el 31 de diciembre del presente año, hemos conservado, como consuelo, la posición de Director Ejecutivo Alterno, y ahora se nos barre por completo. Quedamos sin ningún funcionario a nivel político en el PMA. Sin ningún funcionario salvo que el Director Ejecutivo nos demuestre lo contrario. Los cambiaron a todos en sólo tres meses. Creemos que ya no hay ni siquiera latinoamericanos y del Caribe en funciones administrativas; ni siquiera secretarías, no obstante ser tan simpáticas, agradables y bonitas las niñas latinoamericanas que suelen trabajar en organismos internacionales.

Esperamos que a los pocos sobrevivientes latinoamericanos que hasta ahora se les ha permitido ejercer su función de representantes del PMA en los países, se les conserven esas posiciones. Al hacer estos comentarios, señor Presidente, hacemos abstracción de las personas designadas y no queremos hacer preguntas al Director Ejecutivo del PMA para colocarlo en situación incómoda. Pero nos queda la inquietud, la curiosidad de saber por qué se ha procedido así. ¿Son antipáticos los latinoamericanos, o por el contrario, no muy simpáticos y extrovertidos? ¿Son incapaces los latinoamericanos; no hay personal competente y capaz entre los representantes de nuestra región?

No sabemos realmente lo que sucede. Algunos de nuestros colegas han hablado de un concepto que para la delegación de Colombia es fundamental; se trata de la universalidad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Pero al paso que vamos, si se suprimen todos los funcionarios latinoamericanos y del Caribe

del PMA, y si se nos deniegan los recursos de ese Organismo, pues entonces ese programa no va a poder seguirse llamando en el futuro Programa Mundial, más bien podremos llamarlo programa antilatinoamericano de alimentos. Decimos esto con desaliento y con tristeza, pero nos conforta el hecho de que ya el ECOSOC ha elegido a Colombia como miembro del CPA, a partir de 1983. Entonces, el año entrante, desde esa posición, nos ocuparemos de este y de otros asuntos que nos vienen preocupando en el funcionamiento del PMA.

Sra. Dra. M. IVANKOVICH de AROSEMENA (Panamá): Deseo hacer algunas consideraciones sobre el documento CL 82/15, no sin antes felicitar a la Secretaría por la presentación del mismo. Se trata de un documento completo y de gran utilidad. El séptimo informe anual del PMA al ECOSOC, a la FAO y al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación nos dice que el Comité, al analizar el sexto examen anual llegó a las conclusiones que se describen en la primera parte, Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Las conclusiones no son muy alentadoras, sobre todo cuando las necesidades de importación en los países van aumentando, y la relación de intercambio agrícola para las economías de mercado en desarrollo, como ya lo manifestamos, se redujo en una sexta parte en 1981, y se acentuará su reducción en 1982.

Consideramos que el PMA debe seguir su política de una eficaz utilización de sus recursos empeñándolos en programas de ayuda alimentaria que vayan de acuerdo con las necesidades de los países en desarrollo y que asistan a los grupos vulnerables, mediante proyectos, y que estimulen la producción de alimentos y desarrollo rural de los países.

Estamos de acuerdo en que se deben seguir aumentando las transacciones triangulares que entrañan compras en los países en desarrollo distintos de los receptores no sólo en las cooperaciones de emergencia sino también en los proyectos de rehabilitación, y en la medida de lo posible, en acuerdos cooperativos para aumentar las reservas de seguridad alimentaria. Mi delegación considera que es necesario mejorar y reforzar la RAIE, sobre todo ante los cada vez mayores pedidos de ayuda.

En este sentido, consideramos que será conveniente seguir en la búsqueda de un denominador común y que los Gobiernos puedan llegar a un consenso sobre las promesas voluntarias bienales destinadas a los recursos ordinarios del PMA y de la RAIE.

Mi delegación apoya la especial atención que el PMA da a las prioridades de acuerdo con las orientaciones y criterios para la ayuda alimentaria, que este Consejo ratificó hace dos años, concentrando la asistencia para el desarrollo en los países en desarrollo de bajos ingresos y con déficit alimentarios.

Mi delegación desea referirse a la distribución de los compromisos con relación a América Latina. Sobre este particular, el párrafo 40 nos da una explicación sobre la desproporción en cuanto a la distribución de los compromisos por regiones, al cual se refiere el párrafo 39 y el Cuadro B, al señalar que en la proporción de los compromisos puede influir el hecho de que en un determinado año se aprueben unos pocos proyectos desproporcionadamente grandes. Por otra parte, creemos muy conveniente señalar con satisfacción, que durante 1981 se estableció un nuevo récord al asignar para proyectos de desarrollo agrícola y rural, incluidos proyectos de asentamiento de refugiados, más del 80 por ciento de los compromisos totales, para nuevos proyectos de desarrollo efectuados por el PMA. Este hecho merece ser subrayado por este Consejo. Ojalá en un próximo futuro, prácticamente todos los recursos del PMA sean dedicados a proyectos de este tipo y no a ayuda de tipo coyuntural.

Queremos insistir en el énfasis que debe de seguir poniendo el PMA en los proyectos que incorporan a la mujer de manera que participe en las actividades de producción y cambie el tradicional papel de beneficiaria pasiva de la ayuda alimentaria.

Deseamos expresar nuestra esperanza de que se pueda alcanzar el objetivo 1983-84, contando para ello con los donantes tradicionales y con la adhesión de nuevos donantes, a fin de que el objetivo 1983-84 no sea una esperanza insatisfecha de los que padecen hambre y malnutrición, sino una realidad que contribuya a despejar el camino que conduce a la dignidad humana.

Mi delegación cree firmemente, Sr. Presidente, en la universalidad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, no sólo en la distribución de los compromisos sino también en la presencia de América Latina en la formulación de las políticas y la planificación de los programas. En este sentido deseamos apoyar lo expresado por la delegación de la República Argentina y otras delegaciones latinoamericanas, sobre una adecuada representatividad latinoamericana en el Programa en beneficio del Programa mismo y de los países en desarrollo.

Deseamos por último, Sr. Presidente, ratificar al Sr. Ingram el apoyo y la confianza del Gobierno de Panamá, instándole a seguir adelante en su valiosa obra en favor de los países del Tercer Mundo, como símbolo de justicia y de paz.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): In my brief intervention I am afraid I shall not be able to avoid repeating previous speakers in commending Mr. Ingram for his excellent presentation and also expressing our satisfaction with the World Food Programme activities and performance in 1981. We would just want to mention that our assessment and position concerning the global situation in the food sector and particularly the role of food aid in it has been covered in our previous intervention, so this time we will refrain from repeating it. We would only like to note the positive developments in some aspects of food aid in the very unfavourable international economic situation.

The problem of multilateral aid exists and the volume of multilateral aid in the food sector appears to be acute also here, but not as much as in other sectors, particularly in development assistance. This is one of the signs, probably of positive developments in the future in this sector.

We also wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the big donors. Unfortunately this report has not given us all the relevant data and facts and we would therefore like to invite the Secretariat to provide us with statistical data on contributions by donor countries during this session, both for regular pledges and FAO contributions, IEFER contributions and other resources. These statistical data can give us some more indications on possible political measures or recommendations to be adopted by this Council or other bodies and also can serve as an incentive, or at least as an orientation to donor governments or governments of donor countries when deciding on the levels of their pledges and also as an orientation for potential donors to join this group of countries who participate as supporters of WFP.

I am speaking not only as a representative of my Government to this Organization and to other food organizations but also I am in a way representing this Organization to my Government, and I would like to see normally my country more active; and probably the information and statistical data could serve for my Government to increase its effective support of the activities of the World Food Programme.

R.T. MOCHEBELELE (Lesotho): The Kingdom of Lesotho is one of the countries that have benefited from the activities of the WFP. My delegation has studied carefully the content of this well-documented report and we note with appreciation the admirable work that has been done by the Programme in food administration, especially in emergency situations. This should help to maintain the highest level of confidence in the WFP on the part of the recipient countries as well as the donor countries.

The CFA must be commended for its untiring efforts and serious attempt towards political impartiality. Food must be made available not on a basis of ideology but based on need, in order to achieve world food security. One notes with satisfaction the flow of food resources from donor countries. However, this should be no reason for complacency, especially when one considers the current contributions to IEFER. The triangular transaction has been successful. Zimbabwe should be assisted to survive drought conditions through any method including irrigation, so that it can continue to contribute to sub-regional food security and the global state of food and agriculture. We believe this can be duplicated in other regions of the world.

A word of thanks should go to the WFP and donor countries and agencies for their contributions to regular and emergency food reserves. It is necessary for the donor countries to be encouraged to give more so as to make IEFER more predictable and reliable in order to respond quickly to emergency situations.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): My delegation wishes to express satisfaction with the Seventh Annual Report of the WFP and to compliment the WFP for its activities and the work being carried out. We do recognize that the Programme faces a difficult task but I would say a holy task in terms of helping unfortunate people. Food aid, whether for development or for emergency operations, should be linked directly or indirectly to increasing food and agricultural production. We must not lose sight of the fact that the ultimate goal of our efforts is to fight hunger and malnutrition. My delegation continues to support that priorities be placed on providing food aid to LDC's and food-deficit developing countries.

It seems that food aid to developing countries is increasing and no doubt will require greater resources. My delegation therefore suggests that the WFP take the necessary steps to approach traditional donor countries as well as the new ones in order to get more resources, so as to achieve the target of 10 million tons of cereals a year.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to the expansion of triangular transactions. The scheme has far-reaching effects in the development of agriculture in developing countries and rural development alike. Last but not least, my delegation welcomes the establishment of WFP's management information system which makes operation of the Programme more effective and supports better coordination.

SYED AHMED (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation is happy to associate itself with the sentiments expressed by the delegates from other countries and we are very happy to extend our sincere felicitations and our compliments to the World Food Programme.

We have been associated with the World Food Programme for almost a decade now and as an organization which is going to attain maturity, as was mentioned earlier, I can say one thing, that today WFP is going to be a mature organization but since its very inception this Programme earned the respect and admiration of hundreds of thousands of people in my country. Here is an organization whose name is known to hundreds of thousands of illiterate, landless, unemployed and seasonally unem-ployed people of my country.

We have programmes with the WFP, the National Relief Works Programme for Land and Water Development, the vulnerable Group Feeding Programmes and also from my personal experience as the Refugee Repatriation Commissioner for the Burmese refugees, I have seen with my own eyes the value and the importance and the significance of the feeding programmes which the World Food Programme ran in those refugee camps.

When we started in Bangladesh with the programme, not that we went to the field with a foolproof system, but then as we proceeded and as we went along with our work we always tried to learn and improve upon the system and today in the countryside, if there is a fund of technical skill and expertise available for preparation of local projects, of local importance, involving local participation, much of the credit goes to the projects which were undertaken with the assistance of, and in collaboration with, the World Food Programme.

The delegate of India also mentioned about the policy of the World Food Programme of working itself out of the programme. When they take up a project the underlying idea is always that some day in the near future we should be able to work ourselves out of the programme and we also fully endorse this policy.

So in our view this World Food Programme is a remarkable developmental and humanitarian pro-gramme and we particularly appreciate the developmental thrust and the continued efficiency of the programme, and as a major beneficiary of the programme we are alive to the beneficial impact of the programme in the development of our food agriculture, water development and flood control sectors, at the same time meeting a great humanitarian need of providing food to the truly disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the population.

The document CL 82/15, which was so brilliantly presented by the Executive Director contains valuable information, very useful information, at the end of the document showing the commitment of WFP resources in the Regions by activity and utilization thereof, but I think that for a policy forum it would be extremely useful if we could get the indication of the donations or the contributions by countries and also by amounts to both the regular programme and the WFP, as well as the International Emergency Food Reserve Programme for the last and the current biennium and for the years 1981/82 to which reference was made by the delegates of Pakistan and Yugoslavia.

Before concluding, we welcome the new team at the helm of the Organization and we are eagerly looking forward to the visit of the new Executive Director to our country, and I am sure he will come back happy and satisfied as did his predecessors in the past.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation tient à exprimer, à l'instar d'autres délégations, toutes ses félicitations à M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour sa brillante présentation du document CL 82/15. Mes félicitations s'adressent surtout au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire pour sa clairvoyance et la qualité du travail qu'il a effectué au cours de sa 7ème session.

Ma délégation pense toujours que dans l'état actuel des choses, c'est-à-dire dans un monde en déséquilibre permanent, caractérisé par une production alimentaire globale insuffisante qu'accompagne une distribution inégale de la nourriture, l'aide alimentaire demeure irremplaçable. Elle est irremplaçable en raison de la quasi-certitude que les pays donateurs n'offriraient jamais l'équivalent de cette aide en ressources financières, en plus des efforts même insuffisants qu'il constate à présent. C'est pourquoi nous sommes attachés à une utilisation rationnelle de cette aide alimentaire qui doit avant tout aider au développement et notamment à promouvoir la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, l'aide d'urgence

ayant un caractère humanitaire et provisoire. Nous sommes à cet égard satisfaits des activités du PAM puisqu'il a consacré 80 pour cent de ses ressources aux projets de développement rural. Nous l'encourageons à poursuivre son action dans ce sens, en continuant à appuyer tout programme de développement qui a pour but d'accroître la production agricole et alimentaire, y compris les productions qui visent à accroître la capacité d'exportation des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire.

La délégation de mon pays tient à voir s'améliorer la RAIU. On évitera ainsi les ponctions souvent opérées sur les ressources ordinaires du PAM et qui sont avant tout destinées à financer les programmes de développement. A cet égard notre pays avait chaleureusement salué le fait qu'en 1981 l'objectif minimum de la RAIU avait été atteint. Mais cette satisfaction a été éphémère puisque déjà on nous apprend que nous sommes à nouveau en deçà de cet objectif, que l'on envisageait déjà l'an dernier de réviser à la hausse.

Puisque je parle de la RAIU, je voudrais vous dire que ma délégation se félicite dans son ensemble des procédures actuelles d'octroi d'aide d'urgence attachées à la rapidité d'action du PAM et rejettera toute procédure qui allongerait les délais d'approbation et d'opération d'urgence ou qui pourrait favoriser l'introduction de considérations d'ordre idéologique ou politique dans l'octroi d'une telle aide.

Si ma délégation exprime sa satisfaction de la manière dont le PAM s'acquitte de sa mission, elle tient à relever avec inquiétude que les pays contributeurs actuels ou potentiels ne consacrent pas le maximum de leurs ressources au PAM. Nous convenons tous qu'elles sont rationnellement utilisées. Ma délégation s'associe à l'appel lancé en direction de ces pays pour permettre au PAM d'atteindre l'objectif réaliste du biennium 1983/84 de 1,2 milliard de dollars, approuvé par notre Conférence lors de sa dernière session.

La délégation de mon pays tient à présenter ses félicitations aux pays et aux organisations qui ont fait des annonces d'augmentations de leurs contributions. Ce sont là des actes qui contribuent au renforcement du Programme alimentaire mondial et visent à faire de cet organisme un véritable instrument de développement rural.

Enfin, nous demandons au secrétariat du PAM de continuer à réfléchir sur la meilleure façon de mobiliser les ressources de la RAIU, la Conférence n'ayant pas, semble-t-il, atteint cet objectif.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the document CL 82/15, a very informative paper.

We think that the activities detailed in the report reveal the energy of the WFP, its Executive Director and staff and their determination to function effectively even in these difficult recessionary times.

It is very noteworthy to see that for the first time the International Emergency Reserve Fund was able to meet and surpass its target of 500,000 tons. It is very gratifying to see that 80 percent of the expenditure has been channelled towards agriculture for the low-income food-deficit and least developed countries. My delegation wishes to commend those generous agencies who have consistently made contributions and congratulate the new donor agencies identified in the report who have now joined the list of contributors.

The delegate of Argentina has drawn attention to the declining level of WFP activities in Latin America and the Caribbean region. My delegation wishes to support the position which he has articulated. This position has been further amplified by the delegate of Columbia who spoke a short while ago. We feel that particular programmes, for example in school feeding and vulnerable groups, do need attention which WFP should give attention to in the Region. Like another delegation which spoke before us, we do not believe that per capita income is the principle measure to determine assistance from WFP to the Region, particularly to the small developing states in the Region.

Finally Barbados wishes to reaffirm its continuing support for the work of WFP.

T. SADAQA (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je tiens à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la claire présentation du rapport annuel du CPA, c'est-à-dire le document CL 82/15.

A propos de ce rapport, la délégation de mon pays désire formuler les observations suivantes: premièrement, nous sommes d'accord sur ce rapport et sur les recommandations concernant le CPA. Nous estimons que toute aide alimentaire qui vient consolider et compléter les efforts individuels de tout pays en développement, dans ses plans de production et de développement, constitue une question vitale, nécessaire et très importante pour le développement de ce pays et pour son évolution.

Par conséquent, nous regrettons le contenu du troisième alinéa du paragraphe A de ce document, à savoir que cette aide alimentaire ait décliné en 1979 et 1980, tandis que les importations de céréales des pays en développement ont augmenté. En 1981, le volume de cette aide alimentaire a atteint à peu près 10 millions de tonnes de céréales, tandis que nous demandons avec beaucoup d'autres que le volume annuel de cette aide soit de 17 millions de tonnes de céréales.

Deuxièmement, nous attendons avec beaucoup de satisfaction et d'optimisme la réalisation du montant des engagements fixés en vue d'assurer les ressources du PAM, c'est-à-dire 1 200 millions de dollars pour la période 1983/84.

Nous espérons en même temps que les efforts déployés par le Directeur général seront couronnés de succès en vue d'améliorer la situation de la Réserve alimentaire d'urgence de sorte que cela réponde aux besoins des pays en développement. Nous souhaitons que le rapport, qui a été mis au point à cet effet après la réunion du 2 mars 1982, contienne les recommandations nécessaires pour consolider cette Réserve alimentaire d'urgence et qu'il y ait un engagement de la part des pays donateurs pour contribuer à cette Réserve, la développer, la consolider et l'améliorer.

Troisièmement, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier, au nom de la délégation de mon pays, le Directeur général de la FAO et le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour leur réaction rapide en vue de répondre aux besoins du Liban pour une aide urgente tout en maintenant cette aide dans les moments les plus obscurs et les plus difficiles, lorsque le Liban en avait un pressant besoin pour aider ceux de ses enfants qui avaient été déplacés et qui étaient sans abri. En dépit du fait que la sécurité n'avait pas été encore entièrement rétablie au Liban, le PAM a poursuivi son aide ainsi que l'exécution de ses projets humanitaires et de ses objectifs de développement agricole et économique au Liban.

A tous les responsables de l'Organisation et du Programme, nous exprimons nos sincères remerciements et notre entière considération.

M. NAANANI (Maroc): Je ne voudrais pas prendre la parole pour la première fois sans exprimer les félicitations de ma délégation au Président du Conseil, aux Vice-Président élus, au Président et membres du Comité de rédaction. Je voudrais également féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM pour l'excellent exposé qu'il vient de nous faire et qui résume d'une manière claire et fidèle le document que nous examinons. Ma délégation a étudié attentivement le septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes alimentaires qu'elle trouve très intéressant et très encourageant. Nous nous félicitons des résultats enregistrés, spécialement au niveau des orientations et de la politique du PAM. En effet, nous constatons que ce Programme consacre de plus en plus de parties importantes aux populations les plus déshéritées des pays les moins avancés, tout en poussant les pays bénéficiaires à développer leur production agricole.

Ma délégation soutient totalement cette orientation et incite le PAM à aller de l'avant dans cette voie.

Ma délégation constate avec grande satisfaction que le PAM accorde une place de choix aux pays africains. C'est là la confirmation de la volonté du PAM, comme celle de la FAO, d'épauler les pays du continent africain qui, comme nous le savons, connaissent les problèmes les plus aigus sur le plan de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous nous réjouissons en particulier que 85 pour cent des contributions pour les articles non alimentaires aient été réservés aux pays africains. Nous sommes très satisfaits du niveau des contributions des pays donateurs et nous sommes sûrs que ces pays ne ménageront aucun effort pour renforcer les actions du PAM et l'encourager à poursuivre son oeuvre humanitaire. Avant de terminer, je voudrais adresser au PAM les remerciements de mon gouvernement pour toute l'aide qu'il ne cesse d'apporter à mon pays, spécialement durant l'année dernière lorsque mon pays vivait la plus grande sécheresse qu'il ait jamais connue.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta adresse, comme toutes les délégations, ses félicitations au PAM pour les résultats obtenus en dépit d'une conjoncture difficile.

Toutes les formes d'aide alimentaire contribuent à soulager les souffrances et à rendre possibles les actions de production des populations des pays à déficit alimentaire et à faible revenu. Nous sommes très reconnaissants à tous les donateurs pour l'aide soutenue apportée à nos pays. La délégation de Haute-Volta apprécie les efforts faits par le PAM pour une augmentation des aides non céréalières qui correspondent bien, quand il s'agit d'un matériel agricole, aux besoins en équipement des agriculteurs. Un tel équipement va augmenter dans des proportions importantes la capacité de production de nos populations.

Nous apprécions en outre l'approche régionale dans les achats et la distribution des céréales: les 30 000 tonnes de maïs achetées au Zimbabwe pour la Tanzanie constituent la meilleure illustration d'une telle politique. Les avantages de cette approche, qui se passent de commentaires, sont contenus

dans le paragraphe 26. Nous souhaitons que cette approche soit appliquée partout où cela est possible. Nous félicitons encore le PAM pour ses efforts constants en vue de l'adaptation de l'aide à l'évolution de la situation dans chaque pays.

B.E. PHIRI (Zambia): The performance of WFP has been praised not only by CFA but also by this Council. We wish to express our appreciation of the work done by WFP. However, there is one thing which makes us uneasy, and that is that the very existence of WFP is a contradiction of the ideals which we enunciate here in our statement. A few days ago, India said that we tended to approach development progress on a fire-fighting procedure. We created WFP to perpetuate the fire-fighting procedures in providing assistance to developing countries. By saying this, we do not wish to blame WFP, because in fact that is how we set it up.

We are satisfied with what WFP is doing, and that is to shift the emphasis from this fire-fighting procedure to using food aid for development purposes. To do this, WFP will need the endorsement of this effort from the governing bodies, from the CFA, from the Council and from the Conference. We have to allow WFP to utilize food aid more for development purposes than just to meet the feeding needs. That we have emphasized in the past.

We also wish to commend the efforts of WFP in providing assistance mainly to the neediest countries. I think if it was not doing that, we would have to raise an objection to its activities.

In paragraph 44 it is said:

"While the number of emergency operations per annum assisted by the Programme has been consistently highest in Africa south of the Sahara since 1976, the proportion of WFP emergency assistance per annum in value terms has been greatest in the Asia and Pacific region, where more people have been affected by emergency situations. Only a relatively small number of emergency operations have occurred in Latin America and North Africa and the Near East and even fewer in southern Europe. Consequently, only a small portion of total WFP emergency assistance has gone to those regions annually since 1976".

I think that is an approach which is logical, that WFP will shift its emphasis for assistance to the neediest countries, whether the need is in terms of emergencies or in development efforts. WFP on its own would not be able to do as much as it is doing today, if resources were not forthcoming. We therefore thank donors for their generous pledges and we express the hope that their goodwill will continue.

There is one thing we would like to see done in WFP assistance to needy countries, and that is to increase the flexibility in the use of the resources that are given to WFP, and a suggestion was made in paragraph 24 by the Executive Director that this flexibility allow the sale of commodities so that funds to meet local costs can be raised; we think that is a good suggestion, and an experiment is currently going on. A report on this experiment is promised for the next CFA Session, and we hope that when this report is finally presented to CFA at the next Session, the Committee will at that time find it possible to endorse the suggestion of the Executive Director.

We do not wish to go into the question of employment, as has been done by some of our distinguished Delegates in this Council, because if we were to look at employment, one would have said possibly there are even fewer African faces not only in WFP but in many UN agencies; and as far as WFP is concerned, one might say what is wrong with Africans? We are giving you assistance and now you also want to take the jobs. We hope that possibly this question of employment will be looked at, at different times, possibly in different settings than this one.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12h30

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 82/PV/7

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1982)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous
la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

8. World Food Programme: (continued)

8. Programme alimentaire mondial: (suite)

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos : (continuación)

8.1 Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme (continued)

8.1 Septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)

8.1 Séptimo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will resume our discussion on Item 8.

M.I. MAHDI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): The delegation of my country would like to express its full satisfaction with the report under discussion. We would like to congratulate Mr. Ingram on the success he has achieved despite the short period for which he has presided over the World Food Programme. The WFP has continued its progress despite the problems it has faced, particularly with regard to resources.

As to the IEFR, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction over the attainment of the target, of 500 000 metric tons which in fact has been exceeded in 1981.

My delegation supports in particular paragraph 16 of the report with regard to providing the cash component when contributing to the IEFR.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation joins with those who have expressed satisfaction with the World Food Programme and the activities of the CFA. My delegation is grateful to the World Food Programme for the well-deserved attention which low-income food deficit countries in Africa have received. We would like to draw the attention of this Council to the fact that food problems in Africa are a relatively new phenomenon, and if viewed in its historical perspective, what has so far been devoted to Africa is a relatively small part of the total WFP resources over the years.

In fact, it will be interesting to see at the future meeting of the CFA or Council an analysis by country and region of how the resources of WFP have been allocated over the past decade or two.

It is my hope that inasmuch as the World Food Programme maintains this current shift towards world food development more and more food-deficit countries will become self-reliant.

My delegation strongly supports the recommendation of the Committee with regard to the enlisting of new donors so that the 10 million ton target will be met in the near future.

Finally, my delegation would like to endorse the wish expressed by the delegate from Zambia that Africa will serve in more responsible positions in the World Food Programme.

I. MOSKOVITS (Observer for Malta): I wish to follow the instructions of the Chairman and be extremely brief. This delegation is highly appreciative of the brilliant introduction of Mr. Ingram and we thank him for the excellent work he has performed so far. We also wish to pay tribute to the very, very efficient staff of the World Food Programme who have so ably carried out the work during the meeting and also for the preparations of the whole session. We are also very much satisfied with the very good document before us which contains much highly interesting information.

Nevertheless, we feel that it is rather incomplete. In a period of history such as ours, characterized by - amongst other things - the economic stringencies and also the competition between unilateral and multilateral aid, and considering that the achievement of a multilateral agency

depends greatly on the amount of resources it is able to collect for its work, we would appreciate it very much, therefore, if in any future working papers such as this one which is before us, a list of the donor countries could be added, also indicating the amount they are giving to the World Food Programme.

The success of a multilateral agency depends very much on the results it obtains from its members and on the resources it receives from them and from other sources; and in order to encourage further new contributions we think that such a list can make a very interesting contribution.

This suggestion which I have just made also completes the remark of the delegate of Italy and many others who have just mentioned the important role of the donor countries such as, for instance, Pakistan and Bangladesh who also made similar remarks. My suggestion is merely to enlarge a little bit the remarks asking for a list of the donor countries to be added to the working papers in future.

L. BERNARDI (Holy See): This observer would like to assure the CFA, the World Food Programme and the FAO of the appreciation of this delegation for this excellent report and for the other documents that have been presented to the Council during these three days. They provide clear evidence of the great strides that have been made in recent years in the struggle against hunger, in identifying its presence and its causes in different countries and concentrating strategy on a planned basis for its eradication. There is no other way of explaining the comparatively satisfactory position in regard to world food production that has been attained in the present year. And despite the precarious nature of this success, there is considerable ground for hope and even some optimism.

The strategy outlined for the future is the insistence on increasing production, especially in the food-deficit countries and this determination can hardly be called into question. It is only too obvious. And to this end the policies of the World Food Programme have been geared. Till this level of sufficiency is attained, food and financial assistance become imperative to these needy countries. Turning to food aid, food aid has two roles to play. It has to satisfy the needs of the hungry as emergency assistance, but once the emergency is over, it continues, or rather is expected to play, the role of being an agent of development. And it is at this point that doubts arise as to its capacity to fulfil this objective efficiently. In other words, does it really reach the needy person for whom it is meant? Or does it not often bypass him and get absorbed in other channels where the needs are far less? It is not only public food assistance that suffers from these drawbacks, but even private agencies working in the field of relief and rehabilitation of the poor within Church auspices that are often faced with this problem.

Naturally, one is led to surmise that a mere increase in production without efficient distribution, is not likely to make a great impact on eliminating hunger. While there must be more production to enable better distribution to take place, some of the distributive aspects of the problem must be taken into consideration. This cannot be done on a mere hand-out or grant basis. The needy person must be able to obtain the purchasing power to buy the grains made available through aid. As long as this is not done, he will never be able to satisfy his hunger. Thus the strategy turns on the capacity to create opportunities for the poor farmer or the share-cropper or the landless labourer to obtain the income necessary to enter the market. Employment is therefore bound to become the king-pin in the whole chain of strategies in the struggle against hunger. Food aid is now being used to fulfil precisely this function of creating employment, and in this way it is being used as an instrument for development. More information and analysis of this new approach is urgently required.

On the other hand, this approach has the great advantage of concentrating attention not on merely technical components but on the human aspects of the needy person, be he the small farmer, the sharecropper or the landless labourer. Incentives in the case of the small farmer and the sharecropper are likely to be really stimulating if these individuals see clearly that their purchasing power is going to be increased. In fact this insistence on persons and not merely on technical components has been stressed in the latest encyclical of Pope John Paul II when he speaks of human labour as possessing two aspects: the subjective and the objective. In other words, the human worker or the farmer may be considered merely as a productive unit in the agricultural labour force, that can be quantitatively analysed. But the worker is also a family man and is often influenced deeply by the social and cultural elements in his environment. This is the subjective aspect that cannot be minimised in any attempt at increasing food production and ensuring a just distribution, and this needs to be emphasized in World Food Programme activities.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Observer for Australia): We also wish to join others in endorsing the report on the work of the World Food Programme, so ably introduced by the Executive Director Mr. Ingram. We appreciated his comments on the role of food aid in development, as we did those of the delegate of India. Referring in particular to the pledge for the Regular Programme of the World

Food Programme, we note that for the next biennium it has already, so to speak, broken the barrier of 1 billion dollars with the announcement this morning. This gives us great confidence for the future of the World Food Programme and its activities.

We participated actively in the March Pledging Conference and we pledged approximately an increase of one hundred percent in our contribution to the Programme. In fact, during the next biennium our FAO grain contribution to the Programme in wheat or wheat equivalent will go from 80 000 tons to 200 000 tons per annum. We have also made a substantial increase in our contribution of non-grain food and cash.

With regard to the IEFER and the Pledging Conference for that, we also join with and endorse the remarks of the delegates of Norway and Canada regarding the valuable achievement of that Conference, in spite of the extremely short notice. Australia, for its part, in 1981 provided 116 750 tons to the IEFER with special emphasis on the emergency assistance for refugees in Africa, Pakistan and elsewhere; and for this year we pledged in March 45 000 tons of wheat or wheat equivalent, and we are happy to say that in the recent Australian budget, this has been increased to 50 000 tons of wheat or wheat equivalent.

I would also like to say a special word of praise for the WFP field operatives. I have had the opportunity in the last two or three months to visit four or five countries in Africa and taken up the invitation to visit WFP projects and been thoroughly impressed by the dedication and efficiency of these people working for WFP in the field.

Finally, let me assure the Executive Director and the staff of the World Food Programme of my Government's continued support.

CHAIRMAN: I have received a request from the delegates of Thailand and Angola to have their written statements inserted in the minutes, and we are happy to do so.

B. SEQUEIRA (Angola): The Seventh Annual Report (CL 82/15) is an excellent document, therefore we wish to congratulate Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of WFP, and his staff for the high quality of their work.

My country, Angola, has greatly and promptly benefited from WFP's assistance for development and its emergency aid which has enabled Angola to meet a very critical situation arising from the influx of refugees from Namibia and other countries. Therefore, my delegation appeals to the donor countries to strengthen their capacity of the WFP to deal not only with normal development programmes but also to respond efficiently and quickly to emergency situations.

We wish to emphasize that Angola's delegation strongly supports the policy and practice of triangular transactions. Inter alia, these transactions help the WFP to reduce the operational costs, the time between request and delivery of the goods, and they constitute an input towards the development of the country selling the goods.

My country strongly believes in the principle of the universality of the WFP. The contention by the delegations of Argentina and other countries of the Latin America Region that WFP has favoured Africa more than their region does not bear close scrutiny because firstly, in the initial period of the last twenty years of WFP's activities, Latin America was one of the principal beneficiaries; secondly, per capita food shortage in Africa is very much higher than in Latin America; thirdly, natural and man-made factors in Africa have led to food production and distribution problems which are the gravest in the whole world.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, my delegation strongly supports the operations of WFP towards Africa, as shown in tables A and B of doc. CL 82/15 because they show that food aid has gone to help the neediest countries to improve the conditions of their people. 1/

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): First, the Thai delegation would like to associate ourselves with the previous speakers to congratulate Mr. Executive Director on his success in handling one of the most difficult tasks as Head of WFP.

Though only a short time since he has taken office, Mr. Executive Director has shown his concern over the efficiency of the Programme and this has resulted in his submission for an expansion of activities of the Programme especially in strengthening the field work for emergency operations.

The request seemed to meet obstacles at the beginning but finally was able to obtain full support from the member countries.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

My delegation wish to express our gratitude towards WFP as well as to the other international organizations such as UNHCR for their assistance to the afflicted Thai villagers and displaced persons along our border. It is impossible for us to cope with such situations without assistance from WFP and UNHCR.

To this end, my delegation would like to join with the other delegations in urging the donor countries to fulfil their commitment in time so that WFP would be in the position to extend its full hand of assistance to those in need. 1/

J.C. INGRAM (World Food Programme): I would like first to thank the Council for the support that so many delegations have expressed for the Programme. I have noted that there have been 38 speakers, 35 members of this Council and almost without exception they have been very praising in what they have said about the Programme. Now, of course, I realize that I cannot take any particular credit for that, I have only just joined the Programme. So when you praise it, you are, of course, praising the staff of the Programme and my predecessors. While I am mentioning my predecessors I think I should also say that I appreciate very much the support that I have had from Mr. Yriat. Unfortunately he is indisposed today, otherwise he would have been sitting beside me but I shall not, of course, refrain from letting him know of the kind remarks that were mentioned about him this morning.

I would also like to thank very much those countries that this morning announced new pledges to the Programme, in particular France and the European Community and as the representative of Australia has said a moment ago, those contributions will bring beyond the one billion mark the amount available for the next biennium, so they were particularly timely pledges announced this morning. But of course, in thanking those particular delegations that does not reduce to any extent the warmth of our appreciation for the support that has been given to the Programme by those who pledged earlier, particularly those who pledged at the March pledging conference.

Many useful ideas and suggestions were advanced this morning. I am not going to seek to catalogue them or comment on them to any great extent, but let me just mention one or two points that struck me as of some interest and in saying this I would not want anyone to think that if the points that they have raised are not mentioned that they are not of interest to the Programme. I can assure you that every point raised will be scrutinized with great care and action as appropriate taken in regard to it. Some of the points that struck me, for example, in relation to emergencies and the IEFER, several delegations pointed to the desirability of enlarging the IEFER target. Again several delegations spoke about the importance of speeding up WFP's reactions in providing assistance in emergency situations and I believe myself that this is a most important point, we must speed up our reactions. We are strengthening our capability to do this and I believe that over a period of time there should be a progressive reduction in the time taken to respond.

I noted also that several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the experiment that was conducted in March of holding pledging conferences for both the Regular WFP Programme and the IEFER. I noted also that delegations continued to be very interested in this issue of the decision-making process in relation to emergencies.

While I am on the subject of emergencies, several delegations mentioned this morning their desire to have additional information about who pledged what, both for the IEFER and for the regular Programme. Let me say first of all that we will circulate an information note for delegations which will show the contributions to the IEFER for 1981 and 1982. We will also circulate a note showing the results of the pledging conference in March but let me say that the document you have before you, which is the report of the CFA for 1981, was written before that pledging conference took place, so it is not in practice possible to include the resolutions of the pledging conference in that CFA report itself. I would also say that there is a great deal more information about the Programme in the report of the Executive Director. In fact virtually all the questions that were asked in regard to additional information are covered, I believe, in the Executive Director's report.

The CFA is fortunate in the plurality of organizations to which it sends its report, not only, of course, to this body but to ECOSOC and to the World Food Council, and we are enjoined by our governing bodies to be careful not to be wasting too much money on excessive printing and paper, so that I must just say that while I accept the point that was made one must see it also in perspective in relation to the total volume of documentation that is available about the work of the Programme.

To move on to a few other points that struck me also of great interest: I was very pleased to note that several delegations emphasized the importance of the Programme giving more attention to the work of women in its projects. I think it is a fact that in many instances more could be done to assist the impact of projects on women, to make appropriate modifications and beyond that to seek out projects which in themselves are beneficial as regards the role of women and the work that they do. I might say that my interest in the subject is reflected in the fact that I have recently had attached to my own office the women's adviser to the Programme.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Another point that I believe is very important that was made this morning is that the World Food Programme should be more active in assisting developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, in planning projects. In a sense I alluded to this in the remarks I made this morning when I said that quite often the projects done in other countries are of an enormous interest to neighbouring countries and I would like to see developing countries, with the help of the Programme, taking an interest in projects in neighbouring countries or other regions with similar geographical factors or economic conditions, because while we may present excellent evaluation reports - I think we do - the evaluation reports do not have the immediacy of seeing for one's self.

Again it was mentioned that great importance attaches to the non-food aid inputs if projects are to be successful. We heartily agree with this and we will be doing everything we can to increase those non-food aid inputs into our projects.

Another subject of some interest that was raised this morning by several delegations was the question of universality and I might say in this connection that my participation of what the representative of India was good enough to say, the delicacy of the Executive Director's part was heightened rather by those remarks this morning about universality. The fact is that in raising concerns about the level of resources allocated to a particular geographical region those countries were really dealing with a generic problem in the programme and that is the level of assistance that should be given to middle-income developing countries. The CFA which is the governing body and sets the policy in the World Food Programme as within those guidelines, stipulated that priority must be given to low-income food-deficit countries, and of course in reaching that decision the Committee has had regard to the decision and points of view expressed in other organs of the United Nations system. As again the representative of India said this morning, the purpose of the World Food Programme is to give aid to end aid. We were also informed by several delegations that the emphasis must be on need, without regard to political considerations. Well, it is in the light of all those factors that the CFA, in effect, as a rough rule of thumb, has effectively decided that about 80 percent of the resources of the Programme should go to the low-income food-deficit countries. This does not mean, of course, that assistance should not go to middle-income countries. On the contrary, what it does mean is that the task of the Secretariat in preparing projects for middle-income countries is an unusually difficult one because there are many such countries and many such considerations to be taken into account. Some regions are more fortunate than others to the extent that there are more middle-income countries in those regions than in others and this inevitably affects the allocation of resources as between regions but even that constraint, and having regard also to the fact, and it is a very important fact, it is not a whitewash which is stated in the report when it says in paragraph 40 that the preparation of commitments can be influenced by the approval of a few disproportionately large projects in any one year. That, of course, is a fact. There is also a very long lead time in the preparation of projects and at any one time and in any one year it simply is not realistic to single out the share that any particular region is getting but within the scope of those general remarks I would simply like to emphasize that the low-income food-deficit countries of Latin America, including Haiti, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Guyana, most of the Caribbean islands do receive substantial assistance from the Programme. I could even say that at the 14th Session of the CFA, that is the one that just concluded a few weeks ago, projects totalling \$21.5 million for Bolivia and Ecuador for 60 000 rural families were approved. Under my own delegated authority I recently approved a project for Costa Rica and since my arrival I have recommended for the approval of the Director-General of FAO nine emergency operations for Latin American countries for a total of \$6.1 million. At the next CFA there are four projects which we hope to submit in relation to Latin America for a total cost of \$31 million. I would also say that WFP has recently been giving a lot of attention to this issue of how best to help middle-income countries and we have in fact chosen the Latin American region as the region in which we hope to make a number of innovations and to that end we are convening early next year a seminar of our project design officers and field officers for Latin America.

I would like to add that while the principle of universality has not been interpreted by the Committee on Food Aid to mean that no matter what the GNP per capita is, countries must receive assistance from the Programme, nor has it ever instructed the Secretariat that resources ought in some way to be split up between regions as distinct from countries. We agree that the concept of per capita income is by no means the only criterion to be taken into account, but equally it does have relevance, it obviously must have relevance. But in looking at projects for middle-income countries one looks also very much at the commitment that the government of that country may have to, say, a programme of rural improvement in which the WFP would participate. That is really a very important criterion in looking at whether or not it is possible to assist a middle-income country. I am pleased to say that in all regions of the world there are many middle-income countries who put forward what I can only call, to use a hackneyed word, catalytic projects which have been very important in the development of good ideas for application in other circumstances. That again is one of the functions of assistance in middle-income countries, they can provide an opportunity for us to try out innovative projects and ideas.

There was another aspect of the question of universality that was touched upon, and I think perhaps the word universality was not quite the right word, but rather the concept of equitable geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat. Let me just say first that on taking up this position I did have a look at the geographical composition of the staff of the Programme, and the first

thing I realized was that it is a very small programme in terms of the number of staff, there are only about 100 professional positions in Rome. Equally, there is very little movement over a period of time in the numbers of positions that become vacant. I also noticed some anomalies in regard to distribution as between not only regions but particular countries. Some countries and regions may be said to be over-represented, some - and there are some but it is really almost all regions of developing countries - under-represented. I think it would be invidious to give details but I think I should mention that the Latin American and Caribbean region does in fact have a very senior post in the Programme, the Director of the Evaluation Service comes from that region. We have also recently made, or are in the process of making, a number of appointments to the Programme, particularly in the field of Latin American people. So there is no question of the Programme, in effect a programme which has operated for many years, having any bias against any region; on the contrary, the Programme seeks to be as fair and even-handed as it possibly can in weighing these very delicate issues. I have certainly personally made a point of conferring with colleagues who are members of the CFA from all regions both individually and as groups and I am always ready at any time to discuss with any Member Nation any particular problem that it may have.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I am sure everyone would like to wish Mr. Ingram and his colleagues continued success, I would also like to express our Council's appreciation of the services of Mr. Yriart, I want to thank the 35 Council members and four Observers who were good enough to participate in the very important area of discussion. I cannot resist the temptation of adding a few remarks of my own in view of my rather long acquaintance with and admiration of the programmes of WFP.

I was happy to hear almost unanimous agreement to the view that WFP in the last 19 years has served a very important role and that in the four-pronged operational strategy which was outlined by Mr. Ingram this morning and which is contained in the report under discussion there is an optimum blend of both humanitarian and developmental aims.

I have seen at work the first of these aims, food aid as an engine of economic growth, employment generation, and the enrichment of the ecological endowments of a region. This is a very important aim and if it is done properly it confers great benefit. Similarly, assisting in achieving the goal of the right to food is a humanitarian goal, and the women's and children's programmes are equally important.

I am glad that many members have also voiced their appreciation that a third dimension which has always been talked about has now become feasible, namely the WFP operational strategy also becoming a mechanism for assisting farmers of developing countries in avoiding distress sales. The maize purchase in Zimbabwe and its distribution in needy countries in Africa is a classic example, and I hope these examples will multiply because too often one sees that as soon as production goes up farmers suffer from the increased production rather than benefit from it.

The fourth aspect of the WFP aid, the emergency aid with the International Emergency Food Reserve, has been an exceedingly important one and has alleviated distress in many places. We should give greater emphasis not only to the operational strategy of WFP but to the counterpart strategy of national governments because ultimately the success of WFP will depend not only on donor support which as we have seen today is abundant, in spite of the growing unemployment rate in donor countries, but more importantly on the user countries' own policies. If there is a policy for food aid on the part of the WFP there has to be a strategy for the use of food aid on the part of the recipient countries. Here I have seen personally the benefits from the Food-for-Work programme. One lesson which can be learnt from India, which has operated a very large Food-for-Work programme, not only with assistance from WFP but also from its own resources of grain reserves in drought years, is the need for a money component. To be able to create durable assets one-third cash component, two-thirds commodity component will be necessary. This is one lesson we have learned. Although we always say that the Food-for-Work programme is for developing productive assets like irrigation, forestry, conservation, and so on, ultimately without a monetary component to the Programme for the purchase of other material, the Programme is not effective and it is very important for recipient countries of food aid which are going to use it for the development of projects that they integrate this aid into the normal developmental expenditure.

The other aspect is Food for Nutrition which is a humanitarian aspect and is for pregnant and lactating mothers and pre-school children and for old and infirm persons, A national strategy of both food for work and food for nutrition, should be developed, so that all the vulnerable sections of the population can be insulated from hunger.

Disaster preparedness and pre-planning for disasters fortunately is now becoming more and more a scientific profession, but this is where emergency food aid could be very well used on the part of the national system in flood-prone areas, drought-prone areas and other disaster-prone areas if it were properly developed.

There are special programmes with specific socio-economic and social-justice goals. Mr. Ingram mentioned fair-price shops to ensure that the food is available at reasonable prices. But in addition there is considerable scope for the intelligent use of assistance, and you will find in the WFP programmes many innovative projects. For example, recently in India we were discussing the whole question of leprosy eradication. Smallpox has been eradicated in many parts but leprosy is still a scourge. One conclusion was that the people who suffer from leprosy are so poor that they will not be able to come continuously for treatment. Treatment is rather prolonged. A "Food for Leprosy Cure" programme will hence be valuable.

Then the need for girls' education was mentioned. This varies widely in developing countries. At the moment poor families have an economic stake in not sending the child to school. Can we not now create an economic stake in sending the child to school? For this a "Food for learning" Programme should be started. So, depending upon the particular socio-economic conditions, socio-cultural necessities, I think the assistance from WFP could be dovetailed with national resources.

Finally, the special development projects can be of great benefit. I would like to cite two examples from the Indian experience. There is the Operation Flood Programme with commodity assistance from the EEC, from WFP, and many other sources which is a classic example where nearly 10 million farming families have been organized into cooperatives. This is a classic example of getting aid for ending aid - in other words getting milk powder to raise resources for developing your own dairy industry.

More recently the same thing has been done in the vegetable oil industry with help from the Cooperative League of the United States and Canada (CLUSA). It sounds a very interesting project for improving vegetable oils with assistance from vegetable oils given by countries with a surplus.

Therefore I would plead that one must have an overall national strategy for the use of food commodity aid in which the WFP assistance can be woven together into an effective fabric.

I would like to join Council Members in wishing Mr. Ingram and his dedicated staff all success. Mr. Ingram mentioned that the twentieth anniversary next year will not be an occasion for celebration but an opportunity for reflection and introspection or self-examination to see whether we have made progress and where we have succeeded and to learn appropriate lessons from past experience.

As I said on another occasion, one should learn from success and draw appreciate lessons from failure. I hope that the twentieth anniversary will provide an opportunity for learning and that this programme will go on.

I agree with all those who said that the ultimate success of WFP is the abolition of WFP. That is quite correct. But let us not deceive ourselves, because we do not see any possibility of this happening, and it should not happen from all the studies, such as Agriculture Towards 2000' and so on. At least for the next 18 years, until the end of the century, we know that with the maximum attempts, even the Rome forum on October 16 stated that hunger could be eliminated by the end of the century. Therefore for this decade and probably for most of the next decade, we will not only need WFP but a more dynamic and active WFP with counterpart organizations in the low-income-food-deficit countries so that we have a template, and enmeshing of all these and we can have a multiplier effect of national resources and external resources.

With these words I want once again to thank the WFP staff and also commend the report, and to say that we are grateful, Mr. Ingram, for your introduction.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (continued)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (suite)

1. Aprobación del programa y calendario (continuación)

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise a point of order.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, please do.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): Only today I had occasion to look at the new agenda. I see in part IV that no change was made according to the proposal made by Brazil. In fact, my delegation made a proposal supported by several other delegations; none spoke against; but the Secretariat resisted that change for reasons which I cannot understand. So I am not going to ask for another revision of this document. I will, however, appreciate that, when the Order of the Day comes up, item 15, which is not the item of my original proposal - as I wanted to make it item 12 - should be changed. Instead of "Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committee" I would like to see another title: "Reports of the 42nd and 43rd Session of the Programme Committee" so that the Council may have an occasion to express its comments and discussions or anything else on those reports. I would appreciate that very much.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Brazil raised this point on the first day and was supported by several other delegates. I had then mentioned the reasons why the agenda papers were structured in the way that they were. The position was also explained by Mr. West. The major reason was that we have to take decisions on certain items arising from the proceedings of the Programme and Finance Committee. Therefore, in the revised one, taking into account what the delegate of Brazil said, those of you who have REV/2 will see that the items are now titled "Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters - Reports of the Programme and the Finance Committees".

The delegate from Brazil suggested item 15 might be reformulated as Reports of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Programme Committee and 49th and 50th Sessions of the Finance Committee.

I suggest that we may amend this item as follows. "Reports of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Programme Committee and 49th and 50th Sessions of the Finance Committee, in particular, personnel matters and the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development". This is because we have to pick out a few items where the Council has to give its views. Well, if this is satisfactory we shall reformulate it in this way.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): In fact this is half satisfactory, but taking into consideration the lateness of the hour I will accept it. What I really had proposed before was to have a specific item on the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, that is all. And then other items could take care of the personnel matters, World Conference on Fisheries, format of documents and other topics that are also mentioned in the report. But I wanted to give a special item for the general discussion of the report. That was my point, because if we give a special emphasis to personnel matters and World Conference on Fisheries Management, one might get the impression that those were the two main points in those reports and this is precisely what I would like to emphasize, those are not the most important topics in those reports, so there should be an item for a general discussion on the reports like we have for constitutional and legal matters. There is a special item for a general discussion on the Report of the Constitutional and Legal Committee and then the other items take care of the other topics that need decision. But I will not insist on that. I think that we have an item which allows delegates to make 'statements on the report, that would satisfy my delegation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No vamos, Sr. Presidente, a prolongar el debate, solo queremos recordar que el hábil Secretario del Consejo Sr. Sylla acostumbra cuando se van a discutir estos asuntos de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas a preparar unas hojitas donde aparecen los números de los párrafos y los títulos de los temas. Ruego, por tanto, al distinguido delegado del Brasil que se acerque al Sr. Sylla, Secretario del Consejo y de acuerdo con usted, Sr. Presidente, presente esto de la mejor manera posible en el calendario para la próxima reunion en la cual se van a discutir estos temas, ya que sería muy tarde para hacer una revisión del programa.

CHAIRMAN: There will be an opportunity for discussing the reports and we will amend the item in the way I have suggested.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

6. Revision and Up-dating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)

6. Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation et objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international (suite)

6. Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola (continuación)

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I beg your indulgence and that of the Council in order to make a couple of remarks. When I came this morning and found the Order of the Day, I must say that I was enormously flattered to see that, notwithstanding my last statement last night, the United States had been placed in the Contact Group to discuss the Agricultural Guidelines. It rather reminded me of the situation of one of our great generals, General Sherman, who was a leader during the Civil War and who was under great pressure to run for the Presidency of the United States. He resisted this pressure saying that, if nominated, he would not run, and if elected, he would not serve. Last night I tried to indicate that we did not want to run, and I arrived here this morning to find that we had already been elected, but I should like to clarify our position. We really do not want to - in fact, I am under instructions to say that we cannot be a member of the Contact Group, I feel that I owe my colleagues some explanation, and it is simply because we take this operation very, very seriously. The draft revision that is now in circulation contains targets and other language on issues of great importance, including agricultural trade, food aid, agricultural development assistance and many other things. Last night my Indian friend said that, if we fill this glass up, if we succeed in filling it up, then we ought to do so with the intention of drinking from it, and it is our conviction that in the past, these have been operations where we have not seriously drunk from the glass, and if we were seriously to go about negotiating the kind of things we are talking about, then we feel that that should be a very serious undertaking and should not take place within the Council. Indeed, our view of the Resolution in 1979 was that we should not negotiate new Guidelines but that we should consolidate and revise the Guidelines to incorporate understandings already reached in other fora, and we were quite willing to see that done; indeed, we tried to involve ourselves in that process, but it failed. So we are in a position where we just do not feel that the effort is worth it at this point.

Nevertheless, we wish our colleagues well. If it is the decision of this Council to set up a Contact Group, we wish them well. We will look at what they produce with great interest. Once again, we do believe that amendments could be useful in some cases, and we will support those changes that are justified by the existing international consensus, so at some future day - and I suspect that it will be some time from now - we look forward to seeing whatever the Contact Group produces.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your clarification. I am glad anyway that you are still aware of this international consensus. We can go ahead, and I hope that the Contact Group can occasionally contact you to get some clarification.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

7. Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry Rome, 3-7 May 1982

7. Rapport de la sixième session du Comité des forêts Rome, 3-7 mai 1982

7. Informe del sexto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes Roma, 3-7 de mayo de 1982

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): El documento CL 82/8 contiene en sus primeras páginas un resumen claro y conciso de los puntos del Informe del Sexto Período de Sesiones del Comité de Montes, que requieren atención por parte del Consejo.

Para indicar de entre esos puntos, los que a mi juicio son más sobresalientes, permítaseme en primer lugar, recordar brevemente algunos antecedentes. Este Consejo de la FAO al examinar hace justamente dos años el Informe del Quinto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes, aprobó el apoyo que dicho Comité había dado a la estrategia forestal para el desarrollo propuesta por el Sr. Director General, estrategia que, en palabras del propio Consejo, integran de manera equilibrada las funciones productivas, sociales y ambientales de los bosques y de las actividades forestales. A su vez, en noviembre del año pasado, la Conferencia de la FAO aprobó la Resolución 4/81, por la que insta a los gobiernos a que tengan en cuenta la función clave de los recursos y de las actividades forestales en el desarrollo rural, y a que determinen y apliquen políticas para que los recursos naturales sean usados "atinadamente por la generación actual y entregados a la posteridad.

Esta Resolución apoyó explícitamente la estrategia forestal para el desarrollo, ya aprobada por el Comité de Montes y por el Consejo, y reconoció el liderazgo de la FAO dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas por lo que se refiere a los bosques, a las actividades forestales, comprendidas las industrias forestales, y a la contribución de tales actividades al desarrollo rural.

Estos antecedentes, Sr. Presidente, que he recordado, pueden contribuir a comprender mejor el contexto y la perspectiva en que tuvieron lugar las deliberaciones del Sexto período de sesiones del Comité de Montes en mayo de este año.

En efecto, el Comité sobre la base de una estrategia firmemente establecida en sus líneas generales, concentro sus esfuerzos en tres puntos principales: primero, maduración y elaboración ulterior de la estrategia, con referencia a tres temas concretos y particularmente importantes, los bosques tropicales y subtropicales, las industrias forestales apropiadas, y la investigación e instituciones para el desarrollo. Segundo, qué tarea específica le corresponde a la FAO al apoyar a los Países Miembros en la puesta en práctica de la estrategia. Tercero, qué es necesario hacer para que el Comité de Montes en su próxima sesión pueda evaluar adecuadamente el progreso logrado en la aplicación de la estrategia y estar así en las mejores condiciones para seguir asesorando a la FAO en este campo.

Respecto a los bosques tropicales y subtropicales, merecen destacarse, a mi juicio, el énfasis puesto por el Comité en el liderazgo de la FAO dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en materia forestal, y la Recomendación del Comité para que la FAO armonice su trabajo en el campo de los bosques tropicales con el PNUMA, la Unesco y otros organismos, examinando para ello la conveniencia de reforzar el Comité de la FAO para el desarrollo forestal en los trópicos.

En cuanto a la industria forestal apropiada, el Comité hizo especial hincapié en el desarrollo de las bases institucionales, educación y tecnológicas necesarias para el planeamiento, establecimiento y buen funcionamiento de tales industrias, particularmente con la participación de la población rural en la toma de decisiones y en su beneficio.

El Comité también examinó la parte institucional y la investigación para el desarrollo dentro del marco de la estrategia mencionada. Hizo hincapié en las nuevas formas institucionales en las cuales es necesaria la cooperación dinámica de las instituciones gubernamentales, rurales y empresariales para lograr el desarrollo a través de armonizar la función social, protectora y productora del sector forestal.

En cuanto a la investigación se refiere, se destacó la importancia de la cooperación interinstitucional y la cooperación necesaria entre los países en desarrollo y entre los centros de investigación de países desarrollados con aquellos de países en desarrollo. Las tareas específicas de la FAO en la puesta en práctica de la estrategia forestal para el desarrollo, fueron discutidas por el Comité, principalmente con referencia al Programa de la FAO en el sector forestal, con énfasis en el Programa a medio término y el programa de campo.

En particular el Comité recomendó el apoyo al desarrollo de la capacidad institucional a nivel nacional, un énfasis especial en atacar los problemas de las zonas áridas y semiáridas; el análisis de los obstáculos que frenan la aplicación de la estrategia forestal para el desarrollo, el aumento de la contribución forestal a la creación de empleo y de ingresos, principalmente en zonas rurales, y la integración de la producción de energía en las actividades forestales y en las industrias forestales.

Por último el Comité indicó un método para el seguimiento de los avances logrados en la aplicación de la estrategia comprendiendo los criterios desarrollados para ello, medidas adoptadas, obstáculos encontrados y recursos aplicados.

Todas estas recomendaciones y orientaciones, Sr. Presidente, han sido nuestra guía principal para introducir reajustes en los programas en curso y para someter a la consideración del Director General las propuestas iniciales para el Programa de trabajo y de presupuesto relativo al próximo bienio. Por supuesto la idea básica de todos estos programas es la de promover la capacidad nacional de autosuficiencia para lograr cuanto antes el desarrollo social y económico.

En este sentido se hace énfasis especial al apoyo que la estrategia del Sr. Director General da a los problemas de seguridad alimentaria y de abastecimiento de energía procedentes de la biomasa forestal, principalmente en las zonas áridas y semiáridas donde estos problemas revisten particular gravedad.

No quisiera dedicar más tiempo a esta introducción. Naturalmente, estoy dispuesto a responder a cualquier pregunta y a hacer cualquier aclaración que Vd., Sr. Presidente, o los miembros de este Consejo, estimen convenientes.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this most informative and very precise introduction.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I would like to make a few comments on different chapters of the document CL 82/8. On forestry policy issues, my delegation joins in the concern relating to the continuing degradation of forestry resources. As the document points out, this is a challenge presented to foresters who are expected to manage the forests in such a way as to provide needed goods and services to the present generation and to future generations.

The production of energy for rural development, the production of fuel wood, those are the points that are usually to be included in any definition of forestry for various resources, especially for those of tropical forests. My delegation believes that it is the task of every single country to manage its own forest resources. International cooperation is fundamental - indeed, in many cases indispensable, but it must be subordinate to the international objectives of the interested state and respect the national legislation. On the other hand, my delegation shares the view expressed in paragraph 14 of the document that it is important to raise the awareness amongst the public at large, and amongst policy makers, of the vital linkages between forestry and such essential components to life and development as energy, environmental stability, and rural development.

It is precisely with those principles in mind that the Brazilian Government is implementing in the Amazon region a number of ambitious forestry programmes, but the Brazilian Government keeps a very close control on the conservation of this huge forest region which accounts for about half of the whole surface of the country.

There are three main instruments utilised by the government to this end. First, the Brazilian forests cover a monitoring programme. This programme, through remote sensing satellite images and field work prepares a map of the region which allows the government to follow carefully any change in the use of the Amazon land. Secondly, the government has established a network of watch-posts in order to control the flow of timber through the area. It has also established a network of timber commercial centres which have the job of promoting the trade of the local timber. Finally, the government is developing different research programmes on the water and wood format in order to preserve and utilise these abundant animal resources.

My delegation would also like to make some remarks on the question of appropriate forest industries. My delegation believes the committee on forestry dealt with the stoppage in a most helpful way; proper and important concepts were introduced in the report, and they do reflect the right approach to this problem, according to my delegation. The size of the forest industries is related to the internal conditions, including the political strategy for this specific sector. We support the concept included in the document according to which appropriateness is not a question of large versus small, but should encompass the whole range of operations.

As regards the question of research, my delegation would raise the question of need to strengthen the forestry research with regard to more effective management of tropical forest eco-systems. This is the main concern of my government; if we cannot manage the tropical forest most of it will disappear. This is a vital discussion, and has high priority in our next Programme of Work and Budget. We think FAO can build a much stronger and important role in supporting research on tropical forests. The report of the Committee on Forestry endorses this idea, and my delegation fully supports it.

Turning briefly to the section of the document which deals with a review of the FAO Programme of Work for Forestry, my delegation would like first to commend the growing support of the World Food Programme to forestry field programmes. We are happy to notice that in the last biennium more than 20 development projects in the forestry sector were approved in the WFP. My delegation expresses the hope this trend will continue. We also strongly support the priority given to education and training programmes. We encourage the use of national staff in project execution.

Finally, my delegation thinks it may be useful that the next COFO paper should include a catalogue of ongoing projects, especially if this catalogue is followed by an analysis of the impact of the projects, including the successes and failures. This may be interesting, not only as regards forestry but perhaps for other selected programmes also. We might as well start with forestry.

As for medium-term objectives, my delegation supports the general remarks contained in paragraph 55 and which should be a permanent guideline not only for forestry but the Programme of Work and Budget as a whole. It says: "In view of the limitation of funds, it was stressed that priorities should be carefully established in order to achieve maximum impact and benefits from programmes ". This paragraph could be completed by paragraph 62 of the document which says that not always are priorities well established. In some cases, FAO programmes did not take into consideration the need for an increase in agricultural production and productivity in developing countries. The document went on to say that it was felt that for this reason forestry programmes did not receive the support they deserved within the limited resources of FAO.

Finally, the hope was expressed that member countries through the FAO governing bodies would help the Organization improve the system of programme priorities.

My delegation believes there is no occasion more appropriate for this effort than the current session of the Council. Here is where member countries should express their views on how the priorities should be rearranged for the different programmes, and here is where we should verify whether those priorities have been correctly translated into the right allocation of resources among all the programmes.

The report of the Forestry Committee clearly underlines this important duty of the Council. My delegation would like to see all member countries take an active part in reviewing the work of our Organization, making suggestions thereon, and proposing changes where they think this is the case. This is how we see the efficiency of the Organization can be improved, and how it can maintain its lofty aims.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): Under this item I would make a few comments on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. My comments will be on some of the matters in the report requiring the attention of the Council. With regard to the alarming reduction and indeed degradation of the tropical forests documented in the report, we agree fundamentally with the views and recommendations made by the Committee on Forestry, aimed at maintaining and developing the tropical forests. We are fully aware of the fact pointed out by COFO that there is a need for better participation by people in matters concerning forestry, particularly in the tropics. COFO reiterates that the potentials of forestry to contribute to rural development should be duly emphasized. This, in our view, is essential to bring about a broader insight into forestry and basic knowledge about the practical forest management and utilisation questions to people who are dependent on forest products and involved in rural development matters.

In connection with the people's participation, COFO recommends that forest policies should be formulated with emphasis on human resource objectives, taking into consideration inter alia, the sociological aspects of forestry. It is evident it is the duty of government to implement this principle. We would stress on our part that in the implementation of various policies account should be taken of the character of the forests as a renewable resource, the management of which is highly dependent on the skill and the strength of the national forest institutions, administration, research, as well as training institutions. We feel that this aspect cannot be expressed too strongly.

Regarding some other points emphasized by COFO, we associate ourselves with the recommendations indicating that FAO should work on tropical forests together with UNEP and other international bodies. Among matters which are useful to be dealt with on the broader international basis are the environmental problems which are attached to forestry. One present problem could be mentioned which is becoming of particular concern to European forestry, namely, air pollution, which is bringing about the so-called "acid rain" affecting the health and growth of the forests in some exposed regions. As this phenomenon seems to increase, it is worthwhile paying due attention to it in forestry all over the world.

Finally, we associate ourselves also with COFO in the view that the results of the FAO/UNEP study on tropical forest resources should be continuously updated and improved.

A. FEQUANT (France) : Comme vous le savez, la France a toujours considéré avec grand intérêt les activités forestières de la FAO. Ma délégation a donc examiné avec attention le rapport de la 6ème session du comité des forêts qui lui a inspiré les remarques suivantes :

Dans son introduction aux questions de politique forestière, le Directeur du Département des forêts a évoqué la stratégie forestière pour le développement, qui a été adoptée par le Comité à sa 6ème session puis approuvée par le Conseil et la Conférence. Il a rappelé fort justement ensuite que cette stratégie exigeait l'intégration de fonctions protectrices, productives et sociales de l'écosystème forestier.

Ma délégation souscrit pleinement aux idées développées à cet égard, la fonction sociale de l'écosystème forestier en particulier doit faire l'objet sans aucun doute d'une attention accrue.

Cependant, nous ne pensons pas que cette notion de foresterie sociale, de forêt au service de l'homme, puisse être réellement considérée comme une innovation. Les projets, réalisés dans le cadre du programme de développement des forêts pour les collectivités locales, de la FAO ont, depuis un certain temps, mis en lumière cet aspect des choses. Par ailleurs, les projets forestiers du Programme alimentaire mondial sont depuis longtemps un exemple de projets destinés à produire, dans un court délai, les biens et services nécessaires aux populations déshéritées. Enfin, certains pays comme l'Inde ont déjà mis en oeuvre un programme de foresterie sociale. Il ne s'agit donc pas tant de mettre en oeuvre une politique nouvelle, que de renforcer ce qui a déjà été commencé.

A cet égard, il serait important de définir les actions nouvelles que l'on peut entreprendre. Dans cet ordre d'idées, nous avons noté les propositions de participation de la population à la prise de décisions en matière d'aménagement des forêts et de planification. Jusqu'ici en effet, les forestiers ont souvent eu tendance à travailler dans leur tour d'ivoire, et nous voyons avec beaucoup de satisfaction une concertation effective avec les populations locales dans la définition des objectifs assignés aux ressources forestières existantes ou à créer. Toutefois, nous regrettons que le comité n'ait pas développé plus amplement cette idée et fait des propositions concrètes pour sa réalisation.

Le comité a examiné les questions de politique forestière au travers de trois volets : ressources, industries, recherche. Les trois volets sont très importants, mais il nous semble dommage que n'ait pas été abordé le volet de l'économie forestière. Entre les ressources, c'est-à-dire la disponibilité de la matière première, et les industries, c'est-à-dire la transformation de cette matière première, il y a toutes les questions de l'exploitation et de la commercialisation, avec les problèmes de prix qui sont souvent un des principaux goulots d'étranglement dans le fonctionnement de la filière bois. Ces questions nous semblent devoir être étudiées attentivement, si l'on veut appliquer une stratégie forestière cohérente.

En ce qui concerne les ressources forestières, je voudrais saluer l'excellent travail de la FAO dans l'exécution du projet, en liaison avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, sur l'évaluation des ressources forestières tropicales. C'est un outil de grande valeur et nous souhaitons bien sûr que cette étude soit élargie et mise à jour régulièrement.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais souligner un point supplémentaire. Le paragraphe 44 insiste sur le rôle que peuvent jouer - et à mon sens il faudrait dire : jouent - les projets forestiers dans l'atténuation de la crise de l'énergie rurale. Ma délégation estime que le patrimoine forestier est un des éléments clés de la solution au problème de l'énergie rurale et souhaite que le maximum soit fait dans ce domaine. A cet égard, je voudrais souligner au passage l'importance de l'étude réalisée l'an dernier par la FAO et qui a abouti à l'édition d'une carte de situation des disponibilités en bois de feu dans le tiers monde.

Pour conclure, ma délégation souhaite appuyer les propositions du comité détaillées aux paragraphes 63 et 64. La première exprime le souhait que soient présentés au comité des éléments de programme de façon à faire ressortir une hiérarchie des priorités dans le cadre des objectifs fixés. La seconde demande que soit présentée une évaluation en profondeur des progrès de la stratégie forestière pour le développement.

T. SATONE (Japan): I would like to refer to one or two points about this item. First, forests play a vital role, not only as timber production, but also in terms of maintaining the natural environment and protecting the soil. The strategy adopted at the Fifth Session calls for the development that pursues the integration and colonization of protective, productive and social functions of the forestry system. Forest management should pay special attention to those decisions.

I feel great concern, however, as in recent years the progressive destruction of forests on the global scale as the result of various factors including shifting cultivation, has been causing the collapse of balanced life cycles and the depletion of forest resources. The Committee drew attention to the importance of raising awareness at large and amongst policy makers of the vital linkages between forests and such essential components of life and development.

My delegation supports those conclusions of the Committee.

Secondly, I would like to touch upon the Tropical Forest Resources Assessment conducted by FAO/UNEP. This study emphasized some of its important results, especially those relating to present deforestation and afforestation trends. More than 11 million hectares of forests were cleared annually to other uses. About 45 percent of the reduction of closed forests could be ascribed to shifting cultivation.

On the other hand, afforestations were being implemented by 1.1 million hectares every year, and the rate of replacement was only 1 to 10.

Japan would like to express its appreciation of this global study.

Japan has been cooperating in the creation and utilisation of tropical forest resources on a bilateral basis, and intends to continue its cooperation with activities in this field in the future.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): El Comité de Montes de la FAO informa a este Consejo, como en anteriores oportunidades, a través de un documento que se caracteriza por recoger los distintos temas con precisión, agilidad y síntesis. Por este hecho en sí, así como por la presentación del tema felicitamos al doctor Flores Rodas, director encargado del departamento de Montes, y por su conducto a sus colaboradores.

En torno a los asuntos que el documento CL 82/8, Informe del 6º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Montes que somete a la consideración de este Consejo queremos señalar lo siguiente: En cuanto al importante tema de la contribución forestal al desarrollo destacamos en este Consejo lo referente a que la pobreza de los campesinos y el afán de satisfacer sus necesidades fundamentales es la causa principal de la degradación de los bosques tropicales, dado que todo esfuerzo que tienda a eliminar el hambre en el mundo en general y en las áreas de bosques tropicales en particular contribuirá a contrarrestar la peligrosa disminución y degradación de los bosques tropicales, y muy en especial de aquellos ubicados en áreas muy húmedas y que poseen un equilibrio ecológico muy frágil.

Igualmente destacamos lo señalado en el documento en discusión en el sentido de que la gente debe participar muy activamente en las decisiones sobre el manejo de los bosques, en especial de los bosques tropicales que llegue a afectar su situación. Es por esta razón por lo que somos partidarios de que el Director General dé mayor fuerza al Comité de la FAO sobre desarrollo forestal en el trópico.

Por otra parte, esta delegación acoge la recomendación formulada por el Comité de Montes en el sentido de que se sigan realizando todos los esfuerzos en materia de capacitación e industria forestales a todos los niveles, desde el gerente al trabajador, así como la capacitación dirigida tanto a funcionarios como a campesinos y que, por otra parte, los organismos financieros den prioridad a la investigación forestal; investigación sobre la cual hay todavía muchísimo que hacer en nuestros países en vías de desarrollo.

En torno al aspecto relativo al examen de labores de la FAO para el sector forestal subrayaríamos lo ratificado en el último período de sesiones del Comité de Montes en el sentido de estructurar los programas de campo forestales para apoyar los objetivos de desarrollo en general y el desarrollo rural en particular, al igual que destacamos el positivo rol que viene a jugar el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en apoyo de los programas tanto forestales como de reforestación. Y decimos esto por la experiencia que sobre este particular hemos tenido en nuestro país.

Igualmente creemos en la integración de la FAO en el manejo de los recursos forestales como en la prioridad que se le asigna a los programas forestales de la FAO, al desarrollo de las industrias forestales conveniente. Y sobre este particular, somos partidarios de la organización tanto de simposios como de otros eventos sobre este tema, así como el de promover al respecto diversas actividades de capacitación.

Señalamiento especial queremos hacer sobre el hecho de que la FAO ponga más énfasis en el desarrollo de una suficiente capacidad institucional forestal a nivel nacional.

Panamá ha acumulado sobre este particular, algunas experiencias aleccionadoras. Creemos que se debe de ampliar y publicar con más regularidad la revista UNASYLVA, esto por el valor que tiene la misma, en la situación mundial, de información especializada sobre montes. Finalmente, creemos que este Consejo debe apoyar la recomendación del COFO en el sentido de que su próximo período de sesiones examine como tema explícito lo logrado en la ejecución de la nueva estrategia de desarrollo forestal de la FAO, que con mucha satisfacción presenciamos que se aprobó tanto en este Consejo como en la 21ª Conferencia de la FAO.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En primer término, quisiera por su amable conducto, agradecer al doctor Flores Rodas la magnífica presentación del tema que nos ocupa. Estamos de acuerdo en que para mejorar la situación actual en materia forestal, es necesario fortalecer la cooperación internacional en áreas tales como Evaluación y Vigilancia de los Recursos Forestales, Manejo de Bosques, Plantaciones, Mejoras de Genética Forestal, Agrosilvicultura, Alimentos Provenientes de los Bosques, Productos Forestales Menores, Utilización de las Especies Secundarias, Investigación, Extensión y Capacitación, entre otras.

La delegación cubana apoya el Informe presentado por el Comité de Montes relativo a su sexto período de sesiones y que está contenido en el documento CL 82/8.

Mi país asigna gran importancia al papel que juega el sector forestal en el desarrollo rural integral. De ahí que apoyemos la idea de una mayor asignación de recursos en el Programa de Labores y Presu-puesto para el próximo bienio para este importante sector, habida cuenta también de la buena administración de recursos y excelentes medidas para priorizar los programas que tiene el Departamento de Montes.

Sobre el examen del Programa de Trabajo de la FAO en el sector forestal, apoyamos los aspectos contenidos en el párrafo 44 del documento, sugiriendo, tal vez, no olvidar la participación de la mujer en las actividades priorizadas dentro de las posibilidades de cada caso. Consideramos que es de mucha importancia que la FAO continúe poniendo énfasis en el desarrollo de todos los aspectos de la actividad forestal en el Trópico, asignando la prioridad necesaria al análisis de los obstáculos a la aplicación de las estrategias forestales, tal como aparecen en el Informe que analizamos.

Por último, mi delegación considera muy pertinente la idea de que en el próximo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes, haya un tema explícito sobre los logros en la ejecución de la Nueva Estrategia Forestal, y que el mismo incluya, entre otros, los aspectos que están señalados en el párrafo 64 de este Informe. Asimismo, nos permitimos hacer hincapié en las conclusiones del Comité Técnico sobre Fronteras Agrícolas y en especial las forestales, desarrollado durante la 17ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina, el cual colocó al hombre como centro de toda actividad de desarrollo. Consideramos que teniendo al hombre como protagonista principal, necesariamente tendrán el éxito esperado todas las tareas que se pongan en práctica para lograr la Nueva Estrategia Forestal.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has gone through the report of the 6th Session of the Committee on Forestry, document CL 82/8 with great care and interest. Let me first congratulate the Committee on Forestry for the commendable task it performed in identifying the causes behind depletion and degradation of forest resources and for recommending action to counter this trend.

I must also thank the Assistant Director-General, Dr. Flores Rodas, for his excellent and precise presentation of the document.

My delegation would wholeheartedly support the views and the recommendations made by the Committee in the report. It has been mentioned in the report that according to the recently completed FAO/UNEP study covering 76 tropical countries that the present rate of annual deforestation is about 11 million hectares or about 0.6 percent of the forests but the afforestation rate is only 1.1 million. The rate of replacement is therefore only 1 to 10.

Against this background of the general trend let me be allowed to give some idea of the situation in my country. Bangladesh has a total area of about 35.5 million acres, out of which natural forest area is only about 3.25 million to 3.50 million acres. However, since 1976 there has been a small decrease in natural forest area but this has been more than compensated by man-made forests.

As our natural forest resources are very limited and there is heavy pressure on land for food crop production this limitation has made it all the more important for us to give greater attention to the questions of degradation of forest resources, forestry for rural development, wood for energy as well as training and research needs for forestry. In view of this our policy objectives for forestry primarily are: preventing further depletion of the forest areas and raising new plantations; promoting afforestation to augment fuel supplies in rural areas; popularizing plantation of varieties which will also serve as sources of fodder, fuel and green manure; generating income for the landless from forestry activities; establishing strong linkage between research and extension activities and programme for manpower development connected with forestry.

Although our natural forests are not at present depleted the heavy demand for timber and fuel-wood is causing a high rate of depletion of the village wood lots in certain parts of the country. To combat this trend and the ill effects of such depletion we have launched a people-oriented community plantation programme with financing from the Asian Development Bank. The project is intended to increase fuel-wood supply, generate rural employment and income, provide tree cover and other benefits.

In view of our very low land/man ration, and as it is very difficult to bring food cropland to forestry we are using marginal land like slopes of embankments, roads and railway lines for tree plantations under this project. About 3 000 miles of such plantation are projected in this scheme.

Another similar scheme covering some other areas is also envisaged for replenishment and better management of rural forestry. These schemes would be implemented by the rural people themselves, with extensive service given by the Forest Department.

Whatever we are doing is only a small fraction of so big an issue and it is so vital from ecological, economic and rural development points of view that much more effort is required to be made. But financial constraints are the biggest bottlenecks which are standing in the way of realizing our objectives of implementing more such projects which would ensure greater participation of the rural masses in the forestry and forest based activities with due emphasis on equity and with the aim of promoting their self-reliance. Therefore in our efforts in this direction we need external financial assistance.

The Fund Mobilization is an area in which FAO could play a vital catalytic role. It can also directly contribute through the TCDC mechanism towards greater sharing of experience between countries. FAO can also help in promoting agro-forestry research and development as well as in appropriate forest industries in the developing countries like ours.

In this connection my delegation also appreciates the importance of on-going cooperative activities undertaken by FAO, IUFRO and the World Bank in strengthening forestry research in the developing countries.

Last but not least, it is further suggested that FAO, under its Forest and Rural Energy Programme, should provide technical support and assistance for strengthening of institutions, the mobilization of resources, as well as training, research in the fuel from wood-based energy systems in the developing countries.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): First of all I would like to thank Dr. Flores Rodas for his introduction of this item.

Having studied thoroughly the report of the 6th Session of the Committee on Forestry I would like to express my delegation's satisfaction with the report and support the recommendations and the findings. Forestry development has been carried out in Indonesia based on the principle that forest development is not for the sake of development but for the benefit and welfare of the people, in other words forestry for people. For this reason my delegation strongly supports the recommendation of the Committee on forestry as contained in paragraph 31 of document CL 82/8. One thing is certain, that forestry development is required and a lot of money, expertise and effort is needed which could be found outside the country to supplement what we already have. Exchange of experiences and information about forestry are still needed, therefore we must establish and promote international cooperation in this field.

We are aware that rural poverty and the need for food and energy are the main causes behind the depletion and decrease of our tropical forests. My delegation is indeed grateful that the World Food Programme is supporting our forestry programme, particularly reforestation. Work in the programme for afforestation is highly commended since it has dual purposes, namely assisting forestry development and providing additional income to rural people.

It is not necessary to repeat what has been said by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. The important role of our nation for soil conservation and getting better ecological environment. My government welcomes warmly the global study on the degradation of tropical forest resources, including the impact on environmental conditions, agricultural and forest production, rural economy, eco-system and wildlife. The results of this study will certainly stimulate more awareness to avoid any actions harmful to development and/or conservation of these renewable natural resources.

As regards the appropriate forestry industry I must say that the development of these industries cannot be overlooked. My delegation believes that institutional framework for development appropriate for industries is indeed required and is looking forward to FAO arranging a symposium on this subject.

If the house adopts the recommendation of the Committee on Forestry as contained in paragraph 27 I am pleased to inform the Council that the Government of Indonesia is ready to host the symposium.

M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): As you know from the report of the Committee on Forestry, in Poland since a few years there occurs a gradation of a dangerous pest, nun moth. In the year of top gradation as it seems 1982, the nun moth attacked over 2 million hectares of forests, that is about 30 percent of the total forest area. I would like to emphasize that although there is expected in 1983 a decrease of the entire forest area attacked by the nun moth to about half a million hectares, there is to be noted an evident tendency of the gradation shifting to the West, thus a direct menace to coniferous forests of central and western Europe.

Poland would highly appreciate any kind of further assistance through FAO or bilateral assistance in fighting this pest.

I. BARBOSA (Portugal): My delegation studied carefully document CL 82/8 with the report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry. Our interest regarding these matters is not recent; we cannot forget that Portugal is a country of large forests, rich in pine trees, Holm oak, cork trees, eucalyptus and other species in a total area of about 2 900 000 hectares, which is considerable if compared with the total area of the country of about 8 900 000 hectares. On this occasion I should like to state that Portugal gives its support to the recommendations and suggestions made by the Committee on Forestry in its last session.

Regarding its report I wish to limit myself to brief considerations about two of the several subjects analysed by the Committee.

The first one concerns forest industries which can present fundamental importance to the developing countries if integrated, as the report states, in a proper or appropriate policy bearing in mind the specific characteristics of each country, namely its financial and economic viability; the benefits and the participation of the rural populations in the projects of forest development, and the necessity of raising the general level of education of those populations. We are not going to speak at this stage about the remarkable part that the forest industries can play in the field of the new and renewable sources of energy. We will do it later when referring to the Ninth World Forestry Congress. We should like to evidence here the importance of the work of FAO in the field of the paper and pulp industry, as referred to in paragraph 2 of the report, assuming that industry, if conveniently structured, may become a source of development to the less advanced countries.

Our experience - and as a curiosity I can say that my country was one of the pioneers in the utilization of the tree for the manufacture of paper pulp in Europe taking advantage of the pinewood as the source of the then new cellulosic raw material - and I repeat, our experience indicates that it is essential to have a deep knowledge of the soils and of the species of the trees to be planted. The eucalyptus, as an example, grows easier and faster than the pine trees, but they are not adapted to the manufacture of all types of paper, as everybody knows. Afterwards it is essential to find the necessary incentives not only for the creation and installation of the industry - and in this process it is very important to consider the factor pollution - but also for the international markets, demanding several and different qualities of paper. I would also like to add to this information that in Portugal forest fires have assumed in the last years catastrophic consequences. The cellulosic industry has in a certain way minimised its effects since it has been acquiring, or absorbing, part of the burnt wood which would have no utilization.

Paper industries to be viable should concentrate more on export of finished products than on cheaper raw materials, known as "pulp". In this way we can ascertain that an increased transformation, locally, of the pulp and paper into finished materials can develop export and at the same time provide more employment and more foreign currency as a way to balance import deficit.

The second and last subject I should like to comment on refers to the Ninth World Forestry Congress to be held in Mexico in 1984.

In paragraph 67 of the report are indicated several possible items to be considered by the Congress. The Portuguese delegation suggests the adding of another item regarding forestry biomass as an alternative source of energy, since its inclusion may open, as we already mentioned, new perspectives in this field.

Effectively, as it has been emphasized in the last meetings of FAO, we are aware of the importance of fuelwood and coal as direct sources of energy in tropical countries, if compared with the economic difficulties of some of these countries to utilize oil as energy in rural areas.

The recommendations of the Nairobi Conference and the activities organized by FAO in the field of new and renewable sources of energy in rural areas cannot be ignored.

Besides that biomass is also very important as a normal source of energy in the technology of some agricultural products since it can guarantee its good conservation or render them in a technical condition for export.

We are also aware of the problems faced nowadays by some countries with considerable areas of forestry in order to obtain fuelwood and coal for cooking and other aspects of their development. In my country, as an example, the substitution of fuelwood as a domestic use by oil products is in diminution.

The projects for planting with this goal, including the study of the areas presenting more favourable conditions, are presently in certain situations a reality not always completely successful, and in other cases a longing which is directly connected with development.

These points, although briefly indicated in paragraphs 14, 21 and 44 of the report deserve, in our view, greater consideration and analysis and this is why we are suggesting its possible addition to the agenda of the Forestry Conference.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany greatly welcomes the active work of the Committee on Forestry within the framework of the activities of FAO. In particular the concern about the worldwide conservation of forests is shared by the Federal Government for humanitarian, ecological and economic considerations. In the efforts to improve the situation of tropical and sub-tropical forests, where they are in danger, it is particularly important to develop living and economic conditions in such a way that specific measures will lead to a sustained success. Such measures should include conservation or restoration of forests, forest management improvement, education and training of the rural population in the field of forestry and forest industry, as well as increasing the primary and secondary conversion of wood. In this connexion particular attention has to be paid to the needs of the local population and the opportunities that arise because of the specific conditions prevailing in the individual countries, also in the research sector. These tasks require greater endeavours at the international level.

In the effort to improve the situation of the forests of the northern hemisphere, where these are exposed to the danger of air pollution, or were already affected by it, it seems to be indispensable to pay attention to the recommendations of the European and North American Forestry Commissions. We particularly welcome the ad hoc meeting on air pollution.

In order to be able to promote measures for the protection of forests it should be further clarified: (a) of what type and extent are the damages to the forests in the countries concerned; (b) what are the causes of damages; (c) what are the development trends; and (d) what research gaps do exist.

The problem of forest damage caused by air pollution requires also greater efforts at international level. The Federal Government is of the opinion that wood as a raw material is a valuable and unrenounceable renewable resource whose rational use is of increasing importance. It therefore welcomes the results of the ECE seminar on energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the sawmilling industry which was held at the invitation of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn from 13 - 17 September 1982. In the sawmilling industry, in particular in the drying sector, there are many possibilities for energy conservation and self-sufficiency of which greater use should be made than has been made so far. Likewise there are still substantial possibilities for a greater use of bark, chips and wood residues for industrial processing.

MS. J.S. WALLACE (United States of America) : In our view, the Report is well-prepared and addresses the issues needing attention. Forestry has much higher potential for sustaining agricultural production and for providing fuel wood and employment. Improved forest management and conservation, particularly in upland areas, aids erosion control and water retention, both of which increase crop yields.

The United States fully supports the emphasis that the Committee's report in paragraph 56 has placed on forestry's role in the development process in developing countries.

Regarding the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 23 of the Report, the United States feels that the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics should be revamped and strengthened with greater emphasis put on the role of forestry in rural development. This would include agro-forestry, fuel wood lots, forestry to protect watersheds and to support the agricultural resource base as well as industrial forestry. Likewise, the United States would particularly endorse the Committee's recommendations in paragraph 58 that FAO give continued emphasis to the development of forestry in the tropics and to the need expressed in paragraph 62 for added priority of forestry programmes within the limited resources of FAO.

ABDUL WAHID BIN ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia) : Malaysia participated in the Sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry last May. We found the Report of the Committee as contained in document CL 82/8 reflected the discussion that had taken place during the Session. During the Session, the Committee discussed the theme Forestry for Development and put forward a number of recommendations and proposals. These proposals and recommendations are acceptable to us, and I am sure merit the support of the Council. Strategies and programmes to implement the recommendations, however, require closer examination and careful evaluation to ensure their relevance to the individual countries, although rural poverty and the search to satisfy basic human needs for food and energy are the main causes behind the depletion and degradation of tropical forests in some countries. However, in some other countries, the main causes were the large-scale conversion of forests to industrial crops and over-exploitation to satisfy the insatiable world demand for primary commodities.

As I mentioned earlier, recommendations are basically sound, but the programme of work should be specific and problem-oriented in order to be of practical value. Local expertise should be preferred or required as counterparts to ensure perspective and relevance as well as transfer of knowledge and technology. We therefore felt that a regional rather than a global approach should be favoured, as the former tends to be more effective because of its greater homogeneity or lesser diversity.

Based on our own experiences in tropical forest management, we feel that the medium-term objectives and programmes in forestry should emphasize 1) conservation of critical natural forest resources, especially in watersheds, for production, protection and amenity through integrated rural development policies and programmes based on sound and optimal land use; 2) promotion of forest plantations as a vital source of essential primary commodities and as a rational and viable alternative form of land use and economic activity; 3) development of appropriate and effective sustained yield forest management systems and technologies by expansion and acceleration of relevant comprehensive and integrated research and development programmes.

With regard to appropriate forest industries, my delegation supports the recommendation made requesting FAO to carry out a study on the various possibilities of establishing appropriate village level forest base industries, taking into account those factors affecting the development and the benefit it will have on the local people. My delegation would also like to support the recommendations on the coordination and cooperation in the use of research results between countries and their institutions for the development of forestry in and for developing countries. In this respect, the availability of trained research staff and research facilities in the developing countries for forest research is no doubt very important. International support in this field could highly be appreciated.

My delegation also supports paragraph 64 of the document for an explicit item on the progress made in the implementation of forestry development strategy during the next Session of COFO. This assessment, I am sure, would enable member countries to monitor and evaluate their own forestry programmes and to take the necessary steps to overcome the problems faced by them.

Finally, the impact of economic recession on the production of major forestry products and the inter-national trade in forest products, as mentioned during the discussion on agenda item 4, should be a timely reminder to the developing countries not to deplete their valuable forest resources excessively for short-term economic gains, especially when such gains are not commensurate with the intrinsic value of the resources. In the light of growing environmental problems, agricultural labour shortages and rural poverty and under-employment in many developing countries, the sharp division between forestry and agriculture, especially in terms of land use and productivity inputs, should be critically reviewed. The integration of forests with agricultural and rural development will not only ensure ecological and environmental balance but will also expand farm employment and thereby contribute to the reduction of rural poverty. In the longer run, it will ensure rational and optimal use of land and enhance the sustained yields of goods and services for the social economic benefit of the people in the countries.

R.T. MOCHEBELELE (Lesotho) : Lesotho takes this opportunity to commend and applaud the Committee on Forestry for the excellent work they have done. The paper CL 82/8 really analyses and gets to the root of the problems surrounding forestry development and makes positive suggestions and recommendations as to the line of action to be pursued. We endorse the view that the success of an afforestation programme depends on popular support. Every possible effort must be made to assure that the people are actively involved in all stages of forestry development that are planning implementation and management of the forests. This calls for patience on the part of forest technicians, and they must face the challenge of educating the people so that the people can actively and effectively participate in the programme. Forestry where possible should be approached as an integral part of the overall agricultural strategy aimed at a judicious utilisation of our resources and ensuring stability of environment on a sustained basis. Even as we talk about food security, we should not allow ourselves to destroy our forests, but food production should be increased through intensified methods based on relevant applied research and technology transfer. We note with concern the present annual reforestation of 0.6%, most of which is in Africa. We therefore request the Director-General to again mount a massive campaign to create awareness in Africa of the dangers of these actions of reforestation on the environment. This delegation fully endorses the idea that wild-life management should be integrated into the forestry programme to provide long-term economic benefits to these countries. It is important that action undertaken to expand our reforestation programmes should pay particular attention to local needs. In some of the developing countries, the greatest need is fuel wood, and this will continue to be of paramount importance in these countries.

My delegation feels that a special effort should be undertaken to avoid competition for land between forestry and agricultural uses. It is therefore essential that where possible, forestry should be on minor lands that do not lend themselves to intensive crop production. FAO should therefore mobilize the resources to make it possible for the developing countries to undertake detailed land use planning as a prerequisite to an expanded afforestation programme. It is hoped that the developed countries will make funds available to undertake research relevant to developing countries. Special attention should be paid to the indigenous species and their rehabilitation. The economic and environmental aspects of these indigenous species should receive consideration.

I ask this Council to request the Director-General to make funds available for training of locals at all levels in order to increase the capacity of the country to implement their afforestation programme and to manage their own forestry resources. This will also ensure that a greater portion of financial assistance from donor countries will go directly into production, as the need for technical assistance is correspondingly used.

The meeting of the nine ministers of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference in Zimbabwe this month reiterated the importance of forestry in the overall development of the region. It recognised the need for action and mobilization of resources at national, regional and inter-national levels.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): India and our Prime Minister give utmost and paramount importance to conservation and development of forests, and I would like to seek your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, and my distinguished colleagues, for a few minutes to indicate the situation which we are facing, the strategy that we are following so that the type of difficulties that we have come across in other countries should not be repeated and they are able to take corrective steps before it is too late. India has 14% of world population but has only 1 percent of the world's forests. Our annual fuel requirement is 184 million cubic metres, but only 20 million cubic metres can be harvested from our existing forests, so only one-ninth of our total requirement of fuel wood can be had from the forests.

So far as industrial wood is concerned as against the requirement of 35 million cubic metres, our forests can yield only 11 million cubic metres; that is one-third. This will mean that a very massive afforestation programme has to be taken up. It is sometimes said that we may have sufficient

food, but no fuel to cook that food. I would only mention this as a matter of warning to all of us, that the importance of forestry in relation to food and agriculture cannot be overlooked, or can be overlooked at the peril of great distress.

Our Prime Minister has included massive afforestation and social forestry, and a massive programme of biogas, as an important point in the new 20-point programme. We have in the sixth Five Year Plan an outlay on forestry which is more than the total outlay we had in the previous 30 years. The Central Government - that is the Federal Government - has by legislation taken over forestry as a concurrent step, and has passed legislation under which the provincial governments will have to seek the permission of the central government before any area under forests is yielded for non-forest use. This has to a great extent stemmed the tide of indiscriminate deforestation. We have done away with the systems of contractors who in complicity with certain officials at the lower level used to fell trees more than they were contracted for. We have a Forest Research Institute which recently celebrated its centenary. We have also established a Forestry Survey and an Institute of Forest Management which by their quality can justifiably be considered to be of international importance.

Our feeling is that forestry is very basic to plant and animal and human life. You are well aware that land, water and air: these three are the basic components of what is known as the life support system - land, water and air.

My thesis is that it is the forestry which itself supports the life support system itself. Forestry supports land by soil conservation, forestry supports water by water conservation, forestry supports air by air purification. Therefore, I believe that forestry as the support of the life support system should be at the centre of our attention.

It has been indicated that forestry precedes civilisation and that deserts are the burial grounds of civilisations. Where any community has ignored their trees and forests, and deserts crept in, they have been buried under the deserts. Therefore when I read in this document that 11 million hectares of forest land are being lost per year it is an alarm signal which we cannot afford to overlook. I was going through some of the forestry area figures in the world, and I found that out of about 4,000 million hectares of forest area four countries, that is the USA, Canada, Australia and the USSR cover about 1600 million hectares, and thus these four countries cover as much as 40 percent of the forest area. The remaining countries put together have only 60 percent of the forest area, and therefore my feeling is that any conclusion from the world figures will not be reflective of the very acute situation that is prevailing in countries like India and other over-populated countries, and therefore a strategy will have to be adopted with particular reference to the problems of these countries so that whatever natural and rain-fed forests are left, are conserved.

I feel that FAO should give more attention to the development of forestry. I wonder whether FAO should not call itself only Food and Agriculture Organization but Food, Agriculture and Forestry Organization, considering the importance which forestry has. I fully support the recommendation of the Committee that the Forestry Committee should be strengthened. I would only request that the manner in which the strengthening would take place should be spelt out and should receive the serious attention of the Council.

My suggestion is that FAO should start working on formulating a World Forest Policy, and a world forest strategy, because this is very important and this should act as the basic principle or basic document on the basis of which FAO's programme should be directed and the various countries' programmes should be inspired. I would also suggest that in that policy there should be a clear indication of our determination to conserve all natural and rain-fed forests. I have a feeling by reading these documents that in some countries, perhaps justifiably, forestry is being linked with industry. While it may be all right for countries like the USSR, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and so on, where the per *capita* availability of forestry is many, many times more than in other countries, my feeling is that this industrial approach to forest management and forestry being considered to be the supplier of industrial wood, would not be very relevant to developing countries; I would go to the extent of saying it will be a very pernicious and damaging approach in the long-term economy of the developing countries. Therefore the industrialization aspect of forestry should, I think, be diluted and the forestry for its conservation and as a life-support system should be given due importance and therefore, in that forest policy while there should be a clear indication of conservation and protection of natural and rain-fed forests, as well as wild life, insofar as fuel wood and industrial wood requirements are concerned, my feeling is that there should be a clear-cut policy as far as industry is concerned in these areas. The industries themselves should be made responsible to produce their own requirements through man-made forests.

The FAO should also consider having a target of plantation or area to be covered under plantation every year for the world, because I think with 11 million hectares of deforestation which is taking place, only 1.1 million hectares of plantation is a sure road to total decimation of forest wealth on this planet. There should be a target of reducing the area to be deforested and increasing the area to be planted; and all of us should try to achieve those reduced targets insofar as deforestation or harvesting is concerned, and increase targets insofar as plantation is concerned. In certain vulnerable areas such as the Himalayas and other fragile geophysical areas, there should

be some consideration of regulating and perhaps completely banning the felling of trees, on scientific considerations. FAO's role should be to build up a world opinion of world forest security as we are building up a world opinion on world food security. I do feel that food security and forest security are as important as the other. FAO should have the role of warning, advising and assisting the countries in the matter of forestry where forests are dwindling or where they should need particular attention. FAO should have projects of afforestation, agro-forestry, silvicultural practices and research also, which are location-specific and country-specific. It is for consideration whether we should not try to establish a World Forest Conservation fund, as we have a World Wildlife Fund, for protection of forests in critically deforested areas.

It would be worth the while of FAO if it could, on the basis of quick forest surveys based on satellite imagery, prepare a list of countries where forests are in danger of vanishing at a fast rate, so that these countries are given timely warning and corrective action is taken before it is too late.

The FAO should also help the countries to prepare management plans for the forests that are still there, and in that respect training of their forest officers in other countries would be very useful. One would like to know from the Secretariat what is the percentage of FAO's funds - agricultural rural development funds - which are dedicated to forest development. In India, much to our surprise, we found that in the provincial budgets it is sometimes less than one percent of the total planned budget that is devoted to forestry. We are proposing to the states that this percentage be increased to at least five percent as life-supporting and agriculture-supporting system. I do hope that in the case of FAO at least five percent of the development funds are being devoted for forest development.

People's participation is very necessary, not only for conservation but also for development of forests as well as for their protection. The FAO should start some projects for identifying alternative sources of energy so that rural populations in many of these countries need not depend on fuel and wood and trees altogether. Certain alternative methods of packing should also be found by properly structured research; efficient use of fuel consumption by designing of ovens and hearths would be very useful.

You will be interested to know that in one of our provinces, in Gujarat, it has been found that a funeral pyre, if well designed and lined with bricks, consumes a fraction of the total wood that is otherwise wasted and consumed in a traditional funeral pyre. So even the small matters, small advantages, small research results, would go a long way in reducing the pressure on our trees in areas which are already denuded.

My last petition is that in regard to the World Forestry Congress which we are going to have in 1984, our theme should be not only Forest for Development but Forest for Survival, considering the importance which forestry has. Forestry is so important for human survival that if God had given me a million mouths I would shout from a million housetops to all the peoples: please save your forests, save your trees and thus save yourselves, your children and your children's children.

Sra. D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que el Consejo debe apoyar la recomendación del Comité de Montes en el sentido de que las políticas forestales deben formularse insistiendo en que los objetivos de los recursos humanos y las necesidades de la población ocupen lugar destacado en esas políticas. Para ello, se requiere, como lo dice el párrafo 21, la participación activa de la población local y la consideración conjunta de las actividades agrícolas, ganaderas y forestales. Estamos igualmente de acuerdo en que es necesario fortalecer la cooperación internacional en campos específicos como los de Evaluación y Vigilancia de los Recursos Forestales, entre otros, a fin de asegurar una posible coordinación de beneficios comunes entre productores y consumidores.

Apoyamos la acción de la FAO en el estudio global que da información objetiva sobre la disminución y la degradación de los recursos forestales tropicales, y sobre sus efectos perniciosos.

La delegación de Colombia comparte la opinión del Comité de Montes acerca de la gran importancia que tiene la capacitación a todos los niveles de personal que asegure adecuados funcionamientos y rendimientos de las industrias forestales. A tal respecto, apoyamos la cooperación en ese campo entre la FAO y la OIT en el Programa de Labores de la FAO para Montes.

La delegación de Colombia apoya esencialmente el mayor uso de personal nacional en la ejecución de los proyectos porque así somos coherentes con el énfasis en la capacitación que juzgamos indispensable. Dentro de ese mismo orden de ideas, apoyamos la intensificación del desarrollo de suficiente capacidad institucional a nivel nacional y la atención preferencial al desarrollo de las actividades forestales en el trópico.

G.J. BOXALL (New Zealand): New Zealand was an active participant at the Sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry in May this year. We support the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of this Committee as presented in document CL 82/8. In particular we note among other things, the recommendations that the forestry field programmes be structured to support national objectives in general and rural development in particular, and help increase self-reliance among these nations, the increased use of indigenous species for re-vegetation to continue to support the high priority given to integrating energy production and use for all aspects of forestry, to increase emphasis on development of forestry education and extension; that higher priority be given to analyses of constraints, to implementing sound forestry strategies and that consideration be given to issuing *Unisylva* in a more expanded form and more regularly.

The Committee's work during the year has clearly focussed on tropical forestry. This aspect of forestry does not affect us directly in New Zealand. We are, however, a country of considerable forest resources and potential with long and significant experience in all aspects of forestry resources. The subject is of considerable significance to us for various reasons.

We are particularly concerned - as are others - at the alarming rate of deforestation that is taking place, estimated by the Committee at over 11 million hectares per year. Allied to this is the relationship of deforestation to other fundamental problems faced by the countries. We are thinking in particular of food and energy needs and the linkage between deforestation and alternative fuels and other concomitant issues.

As the Report points out, the high rate of depletion of tropical forests is therefore related to more fundamental problems faced by those countries where deforestation is taking place. Hence, a solution to the problems rests largely, in our eyes, on how other issues are solved. This is not an easy task. Following on from this, it is important that the activities of FAO and other inter-national agencies are closely coordinated so as to achieve maximum benefits. The close involvement of not only the governments of the recipient countries but also the people who are affected by changes is very important for the success of various projects.

Finally, the work on tropical forestry is also significant to us, bearing in mind New Zealand's involvement in providing bilateral forestry development assistance to many Pacific and Asian countries. Last year, for example, 26 New Zealand Forestry Service officers served overseas on aid programmes, many in conjunction with FAO projects. We also provide training in New Zealand to a large number of overseas forestry students.

In conclusion, we support the Report and the recommendations.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): First of all, my country's delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Rodas, the Assistant Director-General in charge of Forestry, because we participated in the work of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry and expressed at that time, and continued to express, our appreciation for the efforts of the Organization in this field.

We also wish to express our support of the policies undertaken by this Organization especially insofar as adapting forestry to serve development in general and rural development in particular. My delegation also supports medium-term programmes in the field of forestry which are aimed at maintaining land and water resources as well as producing wood as a source of energy, in addition to directing forest projects towards rural development and people's participation.

We wish to stress the importance of training and research in forestry and the adoption of the system of twinning of research centres. My country's delegation wishes forestry research in arid and semi-arid zones to receive special attention. Mr. Chairman, Egypt does not have any natural forests, yet we do need to introduce forestry as part of our agricultural activities, since they can be used as wind breakers and for sand dunes fixation. Moreover, these natural forests can be instrumental in setting up sylvo-agro industries such as the silk industry and other research activities.

My country's delegation welcomes the efforts undertaken by FAO in these fields.

Finally, my country's delegation wishes to support and endorse the report submitted by the Committee on Forestry in general and express its agreement with the recommendations contained therein. We look forward to the progress report on the implementation of the new strategy for the development of forests.

J. M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom) : As we draw towards the end of this comprehensive debate - or at least this afternoon's debate - I think it seems very clear that no member of the Council is in any doubt about the importance of forestry or about the role played by the FAO's Committee on Forestry. As many delegates have pointed out, forestry plays a crucial role in development, whether as part of environmental control and development, as an important zone of trade, as fuel-wood, as a climatic factor and so on. We for our part are strongly in favour of the work of FAO's Committee on Forestry and generally endorse the findings of the last meeting at which we were represented.

We welcome the completion of the Tropical Forest Resources Assessment Project. This study is an important document which will be of great value for future planning. We therefore fully support the recommendation in paragraph 20 that the study should be continuously updated and improved.

We also support the use of the existing Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics as the responsible body for the continuing review of international action on tropical forestry. I believe the delegate of Panama made this point.

We welcome the call for a progress report on the implementation of the new Forestry Development Strategy. This point was also made by the delegate of Malaysia.

The need to examine the effectiveness of activities in such diffuse areas as social and community forestry and agro-forestry should not - and I am sure will not - be overlooked.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya) : Kenya attaches a lot of importance to conservation of our soil and water resources and we recognize that maintaining forests that we already have, establishing of additional forests in the appropriate areas of our land, is one of the many ways through which this can be done. Such forests should then be exploited in a manner that will make the people derive the most benefit out of them. My delegation finds the recommendations contained in document CL 82/8 which is before us to be compatible with this broad overview. We therefore support the report submitted by the Committee on forestry.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): En general, muy poco tengo que agregar después del resumen del distinguido representante del Reino Unido. Sin embargo, hago notar que hubo 20 intervenciones en las cuales se apoya totalmente el reporte del Comité de Montes, al cual todos los miembros que han hablado pertenecen, y muchos de ellos también estuvieron presentes durante las reuniones de la sexta reunión del Comité de Montes.

En términos generales, quiero mencionar que la estrategia de lo forestal para el desarrollo que rige la política del Departamento de Montes ha sido diseñada, precisamente, a raíz de las comunicaciones con los países Miembros del Comité de Montes y de la FAO en general. Esto nos ha permitido establecer las prioridades que hoy se ven reflejadas en este reporte al Consejo, y por supuesto, en el presupuesto y planes de trabajo del Departamento.

Como comentario general, y después de agradecer el apoyo al Comité de Montes por su reporte de su sexta reunión, quisiera decir que dentro del concepto de desarrollo en el cual estamos trabajando, es importante no sólo la participación popular siguiendo los lineamientos establecidos por la Conferencia Mundial de Desarrollo Rural y de Reforma Agraria sino también la generación de rentas y de entradas a la población rural asociada en forma institucional.

Esto también implica, en cierta forma, la redefinición del concepto de productos y por supuesto, del concepto de industria; es decir, lo menciono en el sentido de que no quisiera yo que ustedes se llevaran la impresión de que hablamos de la industria convencional, que también existe y debe existir, sino de que tiene que ser un concepto flexible que se adapte a las necesidades principalmente institucionales de cada uno de los países.

Por eso es que también es muy difícil hablar de una estrategia a nivel mundial, de un modelo mundial de desarrollo, puesto que en la FAO, por su propia constitución, cada uno de los Miembros de la FAO es tan importante como el otro, y su condición interna, política interna y condiciones de desarrollo y recursos implican un caso especial. Por lo tanto, la estrategia así como está concebida, muy general, trata de reflejar, y creo yo después de oír los comentarios de ustedes, que sí refleja esta estrategia del Director General las necesidades y las inquietudes de ustedes, por lo menos, a esta fecha, por lo que también es una estrategia dinámica que tendría que cambiar cada vez.

Creo que como comentario general, y después nuevamente de agradecer el apoyo que usted, señor Presidente y los demás delegados de la FAO le han dado, no me queda más que decir,

CHAIRMAN: I would also like to join the twenty members who have spoken as well as the others who have I think by silence endorsed the views of the other twenty, the chorus of praise for the work of the Committee on Forestry and the Forestry Department of the FAO and also the chorus of concern. This is one of the areas where unfortunately concern and awareness have not been followed up by commensurate action, because again we have been content mainly with living in a world of words, talking about forests and their importance. But what is the basic reason that forests are getting depleted? They are all economic reasons and unless one tries to apply through a malady-remedy analysis appropriate corrective action the process of denudation will continue. As Dr. Flores Rodas has said, we cannot generalize the reasons for damage to forests. The greatest silver lining, I think, in an otherwise unfavourable environment is the fact that people themselves today have become very much aware. In the Himalayas, for example, there are some spontaneous movements organized by illiterate women, the famous Chipko movement, where women go and hug the tree, when a contractor comes to fell it. In other words, their awareness has been aroused to the point where they know their very survival is endangered. Therefore while illiterate men and women are concerned with forests, qualified people have remained silent spectators. This is why we are grateful to FAO for the tremendous work they are doing.

I would like to add one word about research. Dr. Floras Rodas rightly said, and the Committee has also rightly said, that there is need for more research, particularly in the tropics. I think here is a great opportunity. We should try to achieve more and more linkages, even within FAO between the forestry work and the World Soil Charter, for example. The World Soil Charter adopted by the last general conference places a considerable emphasis on soil conservation but in its implementation there is a tremendous scope for linkages with the work of the Forestry Division. Similarly, there is need for linkages between forestry and atmospheric sciences. Both the "acid rain" and "Carbon-di-oxide" problems need serious attention. There are many other issues which ought to be studied in great detail as for example, forestry and chemical technology, the whole area of pyolosis, wood distillation, and the preparation of value added products in the wood rather than burning raw fuel. These are again areas of great interest in the tropics where the biomas production is much greater than in the temperate regions. Forestry and bio-technology is an area where I hope the FAO forestry wing will keep up its leadership because ,there are tremendous opportunities here in terms of modern tissue culture techniques, propagation, even transfer of material where there are quarantine problems and so on.

Finally, the social engineering aspects of forestry projects have not received the attention they deserve. Mention was made about wildlife. While we talk about wildlife, seldom do we discuss the forest dwellers who in many cases are called tribal people in developing countries. Now the

wildlife receives more attention and support than the forest dwellers. That is why frequently one finds a conflict between the forester and the forest-dweller. I know areas where the forest-dweller considers the forest officer as his enemy rather than his friend because he feels he is depriving him of the minor forest products and source of living.

There is also need for more accelerated research on quick-yielding fuelwood trees. Many of the tropical trees like neem, casuarina, and bamboo, have not received adequate scientific attention from the point of view of accelerating genetic improvement and breeding of high-yielding varieties. Selections have hardly been done for better yield and quality. Neem is a wonderful tree but nobody has really worked on the genetic variability in this tree. So there are great opportunities for productive research and I certainly support members who have stated that in the tropics, apart from disease and pest problems, we require a considerable degree of research work on all aspects, including social science.

I want once again to compliment Dr. Flores Rodas and his very dedicated band of officers and wish them continued success in their mission.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La seance est levée à 17 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA
(26 November 1982)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours, M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 09.50 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

8.2 Election of Five Members of CFA

8.2 Election des cinq membres du CFA

8.2 Elección de cinco Miembros del CFA

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : M. le Président, hier, notre séance de l'après-midi s'est prolongée au-delà de 17 h 30, et ensuite nous avons voulu, au niveau du groupe africain, nous retrouver pour discuter des candidatures au CPA. Le temps ne nous a donc pas permis de pouvoir remettre les candidatures retenues par le groupe africain au niveau du CPA à l'heure dite.

Donc, compte tenu de l'accord qu'il y a eu au niveau du groupe africain, celui-ci m'a chargé de vous donner l'information suivante : le Lesotho n'est plus candidat, et la candidature retenue par le groupe africain est la Zambie à la place du Lesotho.

En conséquence, pour les deux postes qui étaient à pourvoir, ceux de l'Egypte et de la Sierra Leone dont les mandats touchent à leur fin, le groupe africain propose la Zambie et le Nigeria.

CHAIRMAN: Council members have just heard the representative of the Congo who mentioned that he is speaking on behalf of the African Group and that the African Group after further consultation has decided to nominate Zambia and Nigeria in the place of Egypt and Lesotho mentioned in the list here. I would like to know the wish of the Council. Shall we accept this recommendation of the African Group as voiced by Congo? I hear no voice of dissent or anyone wanting to speak. Therefore, I take it that the Council agrees with the proposal made by Congo, namely that if you take the Order of the Day, on the list now we will have the following countries: Cuba, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Zambia, Nigeria; that will be five countries against five vacancies. Thank you very much, so we accept this proposal from Congo on behalf of the African Group and we place Zambia and Nigeria in the place of Egypt and Lesotho. That means there are five nominations for five vacancies.

9. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Matters of Common Interest:

9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur des questions d'intérêt commun :

9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común, en particular:

9.1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

9.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies et qui "Intéressent la FAO

9.1 Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to Mr. Régnier, Director of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, to introduce this item on the agenda.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The basic document before the Council for discussion of this item is CL 82/17 which was drafted during the summer. It is supplemented by CL 82/17-Sup.1, which gives the results of two major United Nations conferences which took place in August, the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the World Assembly on Aging.

You will also note that the Programme Committee reviewed interagency affairs at its forty-third session in September and was in general satisfied with FAO's interagency activities (see CL 82/11, paragraphs 1.20 to 1.24).

There is little that I need to add to the material contained in these documents, so all I shall do is to bring you up-to-date in a few areas in which there have been more recent developments.

I will, of course, refrain from referring to subjects which, while of system-wide interest, are reported upon in other Council documents or will be introduced under other agenda items.

First, the question of the Global Negotiations. There has really been very little progress unfortunately since the Versailles Summit when Heads of State and Governments of western industrialized countries recognised that the launching of Global Negotiations was a major political objective and that the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 was constructive and could serve as a basis for discussion.

In New York, during the present session of the General Assembly, we understand that informal consultations are envisaged, but it is too early to state whether they will actually take place and, if so, whether they will be successful.

These delays are all the more unfortunate in that, meanwhile, the economic recession deepens, the situation of the developing countries worsens and the United Nations system is undergoing a very severe resource crisis.

Evidence of this is the fact that the UNDP is now compelled to plan for no more than 55 percent IPF (indicative planning figures) utilization for the cycle as against an estimate of 60 percent a few months ago, when we prepared the document under review.

Further evidence of this resource crisis is to be found in the disappointing results of the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for development activities; the pledges decreased even in nominal terms over the 1982 contributions.

This resource problem gives cause for concern, as the Director-General pointed out in his statement on Monday. In fact, during a recent ACC meeting in New York, early this month the Executive Heads considered once again the deteriorating situation facing all the organizations of the United Nations system resulting from the declining level of concessional resources available in real terms for international technical cooperation and other operational activities. They decided to assess the situation periodically and requested one of the subsidiary bodies of ACC to help in this exercise. The subsidiary body to which I refer is the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and you may be interested to know that ACC has decided to appoint our Deputy Director-General, Mr. E.M. West, as Chairman of this body for a term of one year.

I shall not speak at length on the subject of rural development since there is a separate item on the agenda (item 10) on the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I would simply like to say that the programme of work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development to which paragraphs 33-36 refer is progressively being implemented and I shall give a few examples of action taken in 1982 in the three priority areas mentioned in paragraph 33.

As regards joint action at country and regional levels the major developments were the despatch of interagency missions to Ethiopia and Somalia. Further missions are already contemplated for Lesotho (December this year) and Mozambique (in the first quarter of 1983). The purpose of these missions is to assist countries in the formulation and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development policies.

FAO is monitoring through regular contacts with FAO Representatives the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms and United Nations working committees for rural development at the national level.

Another example as regards the second priority area (people's participation in rural development) is that a series of reports and studies has been prepared by FAO and other agencies, in particular the ILO, analysing obstacles and constraints to people's participation. These documents will be considered by the second session of the Panel on People's Participation which will take place in Geneva in mid-December.

As far as monitoring and evaluation is concerned, one of the main developments was the convening of regional meetings in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Near East to review the results of studies on socio-economic indicators to assist countries in assessing the alleviation of rural poverty.

The programme of work of the Task Force included the preparation of a newsletter on the work of the Task Force. I am happy to say the first issue of this newsletter is about to be released.

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, 1983, held its third session in Vienna at the end of October and the beginning of November. FAO was represented. The discussion turned mostly on the draft provisional agenda for the Conference. This is to be put into final form by the General Assembly, but it seems likely that the agenda will include an item on "nuclear applications in food and agriculture" and FAO has stated its readiness to provide background information for the Conference.

I would now turn to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris in 1981. This is an important matter to which I would draw the particular attention of members.

In the last few months, two meetings have taken place, at the global level, as part of the follow-up to the Conference; FAO was represented at both meetings. In May 1982 a first interagency consultation on the follow-up to the Substantive New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries was organized in Geneva. In October 1982, a meeting of multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of the Least Developed Countries took place in Geneva. Its main purpose was to review the economic situation of the Least Developed Countries and their assistance requirements and also to review aid modalities and the coordination of assistance programmes.

Another development has been the designation by the governments concerned of officers to act as focal points for the follow-up of the Conference. In addition preparations are being made for roundtables to be convened by UNDP, and aid groups to be convened by the World Bank, as lead agencies. Although these meetings are essentially the responsibility of the governments concerned, the United Nations system is to assist in the discharge of this responsibility. The main goal of the meetings is to secure an increase in the financial and technical assistance resources available. A few roundtable and aid group meetings have already been taking place although most of these meetings will be held in 1983.

FAO has recently drawn the attention of UNDP to the importance of food and agriculture for the Least Developed Countries and has offered to make contributions to the roundtable meetings. The attention of all FAO Representatives in the countries concerned has been drawn to these meetings.

It should be added that the present General Assembly has decided to add five countries to the list of Least Developed Countries, thus bringing the total to 36. The countries are: Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo.

As far as the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development is concerned, FAO participated in October in a second round of meetings of the Working Groups set up by the ACC Task Force. Twenty-eight draft project proposals for possible joint activities were elaborated on that occasion.

A third round of meetings of the Working Groups is currently taking place. These are expected to finalize all the proposals for submission to the ACC Task Force and thereafter to the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

While FAO could in principle be interested in a number of these joint activities, we must however add that so far no decision has been taken by the Member States of the United Nations as to long-term financial arrangements for the Financing System. Therefore it remains to be seen where the additional financing required for these joint activities is to come from.

Before concluding, I should like to say a few words on two subjects of interest to FAO, not reported elsewhere.

Firstly, on the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, which, as you know, will take place in 1984, I should say that the Director-General, at the recent ACC meeting, informed the members of ACC about this Conference and sought their collaboration in the preparations and follow-up of the Conference. ACC pledged its full support to FAO.

Secondly, I should like to say a few words about "Development Support Communication" which is the use of modern communications media in developing countries in support of development efforts. I mention this subject now because ACC, earlier this month, adopted a statement on Development Support Communication, based on a document prepared by one of its subsidiary bodies, the Joint United Nations Information Committee, known as JUNIC. In view of the Information Division's active programme on Development Support Communication, FAO played a key role in the preparation of this document.

The purpose of the document and of the ACC statement is to draw attention to the importance and potential of communication activities in the often forgotten but vital human aspects of the development process. In particular, they highlighted the role of communication media in informing, motivating and training people, especially in rural areas in developing countries.

The statement included information on how the United Nations system can assist governments of developing countries in development support communication planning, services and activities. This statement is, of course, intended for wide distribution.

With these few words of introduction, I submit for your consideration document CL 82/17 and Sup.1 and am, of course, ready to provide further information should you so wish.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for highlighting some of the important points mentioned in this document. We are also very happy to learn that Mr. West has been elected for the coming year as Chairman of the Consultative Committee for Substantive Questions, particularly with reference to operational activities. I am sure with his analytical and persuasive skills, Mr. West will be able to handle all substantive questions of an organizational nature and bring them to a satisfactory conclusion.

I now open the floor for the discussion of this item.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro antiguo colega y amigo siempre, André Régnier, como en todas las ocasiones, ha sido lucido y brillante en su presentación que facilita nuestra intervención. Comenzamos con dos observaciones sobre el documento CL 82/17; una marginal y otra de fondo.

La primera se refiere al hecho de que en la versión española, en el documento CL 82/17, sólo aparece un apéndice, el apéndice C de los siete apéndices que en cambio encontramos en el texto inglés. Sabemos que esto se debe a un descuido tipográfico, pero pediríamos a la Secretaría que complementara el documento, porque así, en un solo volumen, los delegados de habla española tendríamos textos de Resoluciones de Naciones Unidas y de Recomendaciones del Consejo Mundial que nos son útiles en la consideración de estos asuntos.

La segunda observación sobre el documento se debe a que nos ha parecido, a lo mejor estamos equivocados, que no hay en este documento ninguna referencia al FIDA, al Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola. El FIDA, como todos sabemos, es una Agencia de las Naciones Unidas y eso es lo que estamos estudiando, y sin duda, la primera reposición de fondos del FIDA es un acontecimiento que interesa muchísimo a la labor de la FAO. Se trata nada menos que de la financiación, tan necesaria ahora cuando siguen escaseando los recursos, particularmente en el PNUD, que ha sido la mayor fuente de financiación de las actividades de campo de la FAO.

Y ya que hablo del FIDA quisiera, señor Presidente, reiterar aquí una solicitud que fue hecha en septiembre pasado en la Conferencia Regional de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, por cierto que fue una buena Conferencia, que es otro acontecimiento que debe satisfacerlos. Decía que en esa Conferencia celebrada en Managua (Nicaragua), los países de América Latina y del Caribe hicimos una solicitud particularmente a los representantes de la Categoría Una del FIDA en el sentido de que, ojalá apenas le sea posible y cuanto antes, ratifiquen los instrumentos que haga operativa, que haga efectiva la reposición de fondos. Reiteramos esta recomendación aquí, porque sabemos que hay muchos proyectos ya aprobados en el FIDA, cuyos desembolsos no se han iniciado porque faltan esas ratificaciones. Comprendemos los obstáculos, las dificultades que tienen algunos países, sobre todo la Categoría Una, para cumplir con este requisito; pero consideramos es sumamente importante.

La delegación de Colombia ha pensado siempre que al entrar en la discusión de este tema nuestras palabras deben limitarse en concentrarse esencialmente en aquellos asuntos que suceden en el contexto general de las Naciones Unidas, pero que tienen repercusión sobre los trabajos de la FAO. A ese respecto permítanos usted, señor Presidente, y distinguidos colegas, que hagamos una declaración política porque siempre hemos creído que éste es un tema eminentemente político, al afirmar que el Gobierno de Colombia se siente verdaderamente orgulloso de admirar la posición destacada que la FAO ocupa en ese concierto general de las Naciones Unidas. El día inaugural de nuestras sesiones usted, señor Presidente, en forma tímida y sencilla, tal vez por ser su propio compatriota, habló aquí de la presencia entre nosotros del Sr. B.R. Sen. Yo quiero decir que sin duda el Dr. B.R. Sen, bajo cuya dirección inicié mi vinculación a la FAO hace ya casi 25 años, cuando seguramente muchos de los colegas que hoy están aquí ni siquiera habían nacido, quería decir que el Dr. Sen fue sin duda uno de los primeros Directores Generales de la FAO que contribuyó a que nuestra Organización adquiriera esa posición de prestigio y credibilidad en el contexto general de las Naciones Unidas. Sé que el Dr. Sen es un hombre modesto y sencillo que no acepta ni siquiera que se le elogie en público, pero si él lo aceptare, podríamos incluir en nuestro Informe un párrafo breve manifestando la satisfacción que nos causa el hecho de que haya estado presente en esta reunión del Consejo, aunque en forma discreta y no oficial. El Dr. Sen es un gran estadista, una gran figura de la India a quien tanto debe esta Organización. Los Directores Generales anteriores al Dr. Sen y sucesores, también, obviamente, han contribuido al fortalecimiento de nuestra Organización, pero sin duda en los últimos años hay que destacar, y lo quiere hacer así la delegación de Colombia, la labor inteligente, eficaz y competente que ha llevado a cabo nuestro actual Director General el Dr. E. Saouma.

La delegación de Colombia quiere sumarse a la manifestación que usted ha hecho en relación con la complacencia que nos causa el hecho de que nuestro compañero y amigo Sr. West haya sido designado para el próximo año Presidente de ese importante Comité en las Naciones Unidas. Al Sr. West también me unen vínculos de vieja data cuando ambos éramos representantes del Reino Unido y de Colombia en el Consejo y luego los dos pertenecimos al Comité del Programa y, por lo tanto, yo estoy en capacidad de testimoniar lo que usted ha dicho, señor Presidente, sobre las capacidades, la consagración y la voluntad de trabajo que caracterizan al Sr. West.

Al entrar ya en el documento mismo, Sr. Presidente, queremos en primer lugar referirnos a las Negociaciones Globales que todos seguimos con atención por la importancia que ella significa para los países en desarrollo en particular. Creemos que es lamentable y así deberíamos consignarlo en nuestro informe, que se siga esperando el inicio de esas negociaciones que, ojalá, por fin se cumpla ese inicio a fines de este año como parece estar previsto. No obstante, nos desalienta la información que nos acaba de comunicar el Sr. Régnier de que se han hecho muy pocos progresos; pero parece que en realidad en el mundo se celebran demasiadas cumbres Norte-Sur, Norte-Norte y que de todas esas cumbres se desgajan multitud de declaraciones, pero se cumplen muy pocos hechos positivos.

Nos preocupa el hecho también soslayado marginalmente por el Sr. Régnier de que se esgrima el argumento de que debe esperarse que la economía mundial se normalice para mantener en suspensión indefinida el inicio de esas negociaciones globales. De todas maneras creo que en cuanto a la FAO misma,

a nosotros nos corresponde reiterar el apoyo del Consejo a la actitud del Director General de la FAO quien, en cumplimiento de claras instrucciones de la Conferencia, ha ofrecido la colaboración de nuestra Organización a la preparación y prestación de servicios a esas Negociaciones Globales; y es-toy seguro de que todos queremos que el Director General siga actuando en esa buena dirección.

Igualmente deberemos destacar en nuestro Informe la acción positiva del Grupo de los 77 de Nueva York, con el cual el Grupo de los 77 de Roma es plenamente solidario, y ese Grupo 77 ha elaborado un proyecto de resolución que ha sido considerado constructivo por importantes países desarrollados y que podrá servir de base para las consultas con los países interesados, como figura en el párrafo 8 del documento 17.

En el párrafo 10 se hace referencia a la iniciativa italiana en virtud de la cual tuvo lugar en abril pasado, en esta ciudad, la llamada Reunión de Roma para la Lucha contra el Hambre en el Mundo. Fue una reunión técnica, preparatoria de una reunión ministerial que se reuniría en otoño de este año y que no hemos tenido más noticias sobre ella, pero que imaginamos habrá surgido algún inconveniente que haya hecho aplazar la reunión, pero queremos consignar la esperanza de que, ojalá, se trate sólo de un aplazamiento y no de una eliminación, ya que el Gobierno de Colombia comparte el aprecio positivo que merece la República italiana por su contribución verdaderamente eficaz a las actividades en favor del mejoramiento de la agricultura y de la alimentación, Hemos sabido, con motivo de la reciente visita a Roma de altas personalidades de los Gobiernos de la zona del Sahel, que el Gobierno italiano siempre en contacto con el Director General de la FAO, ha dado una vez más muestras positivas y concretas de su voluntad de ayuda a esos países, lo cual debe complacer a toda la comunidad internacional. En relación con las "Actividades Operacionales para el Desarrollo", que es uno de los puntos que esencialmente interesan a la FAO, la delegación de Colombia opina que será necesario consignar en nuestro Informe la preocupación por el hecho de que las contribuciones voluntarias para las actividades de desarrollo, hayan sido inferiores a los objetivos fijados.

Asimismo debemos insistir, y esto lo consideramos muy importante, en que se requiere un aumento sustancial en los recursos para actividades operacionales sobre una base previsible continua y segura, continua y segura, repito; sólo así la FAO como principal organismo de ejecución podrá cumplir programas completos y eficaces en los países beneficiarios. Creo que debemos dejar constancia en nuestro Informe de los perjuicios que vienen causando a los planes nacionales de desarrollo en nuestros países los recortes y limitaciones que en los últimos años se vienen introduciendo en proyectos que ya habían sido aprobados.

Acerca de los párrafos 20 y 23 en cuanto corresponde siempre a la FAO, el Consejo deberá destacar y seguir apoyando las acciones efectivas y crecientes que viene realizando nuestro Director General en cuanto a la mayor utilización de la capacidad de los países en desarrollo en la adquisición de materiales y equipos, en el empleo de contratistas locales y en la contratación de personal nacional.

Igualmente reconoceremos al Director General la correcta aplicación en la FAO de la Resolución 35/81 sobre más asignación para el desarrollo y la aplicación de diversas y positivas medidas para obtener la máxima eficacia en la ejecución de los programas en los países.

Creo, señor Presidente, que hay un general consenso en que ahora los programas de la FAO en los países se llevan a cabo de manera mucho más eficaz y más positiva, pero es una lástima que esos esfuerzos de la FAO por lograr mejores y más efectivos resultados en el Programa de Campo, se vean afectados por las tendencias confirmadas por el Sr. Regnier en su declaración por la tendencia, repetimos, a disminuir los fondos del PNUD, principal fuente de financiación de sus actividades.

En efecto los párrafos 28 y 29 del documento 17 señalan los desalentadores resultados de las dos últimas conferencias de promesas, resultados que están muy lejos de corresponder a la hipótesis de que la contribución voluntaria aumentaría en un 14 por ciento anual. Cuando leímos el documento número 17 nos alarmó la reducción del 40 por ciento que debería aplicarse en la cifra indicativa de planificación. Esta mañana el Sr. Regnier nos ha dicho que no se trata del 40, sino del 45 por ciento, hecho que en cuanto a la FAO corresponde a la parte que nuestra Organización va a reducir casi a 50 por ciento lo que ya fue en el segundo ciclo, es decir vamos muchísimo más atrás, sobre todo si pensamos en términos reales.

Creemos que es necesario que en nuestro Informe destaquemos esas circunstancias, lamentables que ocurren en el PNUD que afecta el trabajo de campo en la FAO y causa enormes perjuicios a los países en desarrollo.

En medio de todo eso, por fin, un hecho positivo lo representa la aprobación de la Convención sobre el Derecho del Mar, lograda después de 12 años de intensos trabajos, en la Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar que se celebró en abril pasado.

El nuevo régimen del mar reconoce y desarrolla para los fondos marinos más allá de la jurisdicción nacional un principio que ya había sido formulado hace 150 años por ese gran latinoamericano que fue Andrés Bello, según el cual hay bienes que pueden permanecer en común para servir a todos y pertenecen al patrimonio indivisible de la especie humana que no pueden marcarse con el sello de la propiedad. Ese es el caso del mar, señor Presidente.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que las nuevas oportunidades que ofrece este campo deben ser estimuladas por la FAO en favor de los países en desarrollo; por lo tanto, será necesario reiterar nuestro apoyo al Programa Especial de Ayuda en la Ordenación y Fomento de la Pesca en zonas económicas exclusivas, programa ya establecido con admirable visión futurista por el Director General de la FAO desde 1979.

La FAO debe insistir e intensificar su asistencia a los países en desarrollo para que estos puedan aplicar de la mejor y más eficaz manera aquellas partes de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar que se relacionen con la pesca.

Otra ocasión importante sobre estos aspectos será la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, a la cual nos referiremos en otro tema de nuestra agenda.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia apoya la asistencia que la FAO viene ofreciendo al pueblo palestino en cumplimiento de las resoluciones pertinentes del ECOSOC y de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas. En medio de una posición política equilibrada que el Gobierno de Colombia desearía para la situación del Medio Oriente, nuestro ministro de relaciones exteriores ha dicho hace poco en la Asamblea General que Colombia reconoce el derecho del pueblo palestino a tener un estado soberano.

Señor Presidente, una última referencia a la optica a través de la cual Colombia admira la posición de la FAO en el concierto general de las Naciones Unidas. Creemos que esta reunión del Consejo, al terminar su primera semana, ha confirmado ya el apoyo general con que cuenta nuestra Organización por parte de los representantes de todos los estados miembros.

Sabemos que recientemente el país más alto contribuyente a la FAO y no de los que más eficazmente ha colaborado aquí en nuestras actividades ha asumido una actitud positiva que, si bien se trata de compromiso ya adquirido, significa una muestra de buena voluntad, de aprecio, de respeto y credibilidad por la FAO. Igualmente otros países desarrollados están en igual tónica, todo lo cual nos hace pensar, como lo espera la delegación de Colombia, que para fortalecer la posición de la FAO en el contexto general de las Naciones Unidas en el bienio 1983/84 nuestra Organización va a disponer de los medios y de los recursos necesarios que le permitan contribuir a que se establezca un nuevo orden económico internacional en todo el conjunto de las Naciones Unidas, a fin de modificar la deplorable situación actual dentro de la cual las poblaciones del Tercer Mundo representamos el 80 por ciento y apenas disfrutamos del 28 por ciento de la riqueza mundial.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, let me begin first by joining with you and with my colleagues of the Council in offering our congratulations to Dr. West on his appointment to the Chair of the Consultative Committee.

I would just briefly refer to the statement of the delegate of Colombia with regard to IFAD, where he referred to the ratification of the replenishment, particularly in respect of Category 1. The delegate from Category 3 should also realise that participation in the first replenishment of IFAD is a requirement by all categories and we are sure the delegate also knows that all Category 1 members have fully fulfilled their contributions to IFAD's initial funding, while other categories have not.

Turning to the document before us, we reviewed with interest the information provided in document CL 82/17 on recent developments in the United Nations System. My delegation considers this an important item on the Agenda. A major concern of my Government is the increasing fragmentation and lack of coherence in the United Nations System. So many governing bodies, executive boards, councils and conferences of so many UN organizations meet in isolation from each other, that it has become extremely difficult for any one organization to keep track of all the events of the system which impinge on its own activities.

In addition, to be frank, it becomes very difficult for governments themselves to coordinate a consistent approach to the many and diverse activities of this multi-facetted system. The report before us today is therefore very timely and as such we would recommend that this Agenda item remain a regular feature of Council and Conference meetings.

To turn to the specific events referred to in the report, firstly the delay in launching global negotiations is of considerable concern to my Government and we join with others in our hope that difficulties will shortly be overcome.

Secondly, on the capacity of the United Nations System to respond to emergencies, we are pleased to note the reference to the fact that all participating organizations at the time of an emergency are expected to assist and cooperate fully with the lead entity as designated by the Secretary General. We would hope that this will help eliminate the difficulties which have arisen in the past over responsibility for coordination.

Thirdly, on operational activities for development, we believe that it would have been useful for Council Members if the Secretariat had attached a copy of UN General Assembly Resolution 36/199 to assist them in the consideration of this item. As stated, organizations were asked to provide information on the implementation of paragraphs 8, 9 and 11 of General Assembly Resolution 35/81, to remind us these paragraphs refer to section 5 of General Assembly Resolution 32/197. This is the chapter on operational activities for development in the omnibus resolution on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System. This Resolution was passed in 1977 - five years ago - and represented a consensus arising out of lengthy and difficult negotiations.

Paragraph 23 of the document before us refers to the discussion which took place in the 21st session of the conference on the subject. As delegates may recall there was a considerable range of opinion on the degree to which the FAO had conformed to its request. The conference in its report, paragraph 3.9 states: "The conference agreed that the policies of the Director-General had been in line with the resolution". Accordingly we would like that wording used in the document, rather than the phrase used in paragraph 23 that would indicate that FAO has fully complied with the resolution and nothing remains to be done.

In keeping with that statement we would look forward to the Secretariate report on what work has been done to bring about greater uniformity procedures, more effective administration at the field level and whether any steps had been taken to unify the country offices. We would be grateful to receive such information and suggest that the Secretariat may wish to provide it to the Director-General for development and international cooperation in the context of the preparation of the 1983 policy review on operational activities, as requested under resolution 36/199 paragraph 12.

Turning to the UNDP, the major policy debate was the uncertain resource situation and how to go about putting the organization on a firmer long-term footing. Canada, as President of the Governing Council this year, fully supports the negotiation currently underway to bring about long-term stable solutions to the problem. We believe that the future of the UNDP rests on the strengthening of its role as a central fund and coordinator of UN technical cooperation. We particularly endorse the ECOSOC resolution which we notice is not mentioned in the document before us but which invites UN organizations to facilitate the role of the resident coordinators which in all cases are the resident representatives of UNDP.

With respect to the main issues dealt with by the World Food Council at its 8th ministerial session, my government would like to endorse the report of the WFC in which "the Council stressed that international organizations dealing with agriculture and food should use resources more effectively, improve their general efficiency and avoid duplication of work and efforts". In addition we would endorse paragraph 14 of the document before us which reports on the general support given to the concept of national food policies and strategies within the framework of national development plans.

Finally turning to UNEP, we are pleased that the special session of the governing council of UNEP met last May as reported in document CL 82/17 and agreed that many of the environmental trends problems and priorities, identified in a major resolution of that session are of direct relevance to FAO activities.

Canada fully endorses the decision concerning the systemwide, medium-term, environment programme adopted at the 10th session of the UNEP' s governing council which, inter alia urges other organizations of the United Nations system to continue their close cooperation with UNEP in the pre-paration of a system-wide programme.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Firstly, our compliments to Mr. Regnier and his colleagues for a very well-prepared document which is concise and at the same time very comprehensive, the review of recent . developments in the United Nations system of more or less direct bearing on FAO. My compliments also for the very very excellent introduction of Mr. Regnier.

Just to keep up with the ritual I will say my delgation is also very happy with Mr. West's election as Chairman of CCSQ, a body.in which he has been very active for years now representing FAO, of course.

It is very difficult to add anything on the global negotiations. Or course, we are most unhappy with the very substantial delays in launching the global negotiations and we can only express our hope that the global negotiations might be launched by the end of this year.

Secondly we are reasonably satisfied with the arrangement worked out by the Secretary General in ACC aimed at strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to emergencies, which of course includes the concept of lead entity. We feel that the arrangement is flexible enough and would , enable the UN system to respond effectively to the variety of specific situations.

Operational activities for development; of course, we are aware, not necessarily of only paragraph 8, 9 and 11 of the resolution 35/81, but many more other much more substantive portions of the resolution, especially those calling for steep increases in resources for technical assistance but let me limit

my comments on 8, 9 and 11. I think the Delegate of Canada is quite right in saying that the whole range of views was expressed by the conference but the position of the conference was quite clear. My delegation is very much satisfied that the practical solution is also in sight now which would resolve the problem of reporting the issue with the conference. The last conference paid certain attention too.

On UNDP, I fully agree with what the delegate of Colombia said. The situation is really very desperate and UNDP is only one of a number of cases which all witness the fact that today the rift between the rhetorics or even commitments and debts is as huge as ever. We are very much afraid that the assessment of paragraph 29, that the FAO's share in the UNDP programme in the next cycle may not be more than 70 percent as compared with the second. It could turn out to be very optimistic unless the situation improves substantially.

With regard to the WFC session, of course Yugoslavia has been a member of the WFC right from the beginning. We endorse the position of the WFC at the recent session, the last session in Acapulco but I would again reiterate some very very serious difficulties that we have with the overall concept and indeed the campaign launched by the WFC secretariat on national food policies. Let me only explain that we fully agree with the objectives. We fully agree that developing countries should attach much greater priority to agriculture to increase a decision on the food and agricultural issues to the highest political level.

We also fully comply with the idea that they should try their best to improve planning and implementation procedures. But, as is quite well known, it has always been the position of my country that we disagree fully and emphatically with the international campaign and especially excessive so-called technical assistance to countries which amounts, in certain cases at least, to a sort of import of food strategies from abroad. We do not believe that this is the correct approach.

Finally, I would just mention that we fully support the FAO response to a number of UN resolutions - I am not going to quote them - on the Lebanese and Palestinian people. We are very satisfied with the FAO response and wish that we should seize every opportunity to increase the amount and efficiency of FAO assistance to the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Equally we support fully the FAO role in implementing the decision of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia.

I will refrain on this occasion from going into the complex issue of the coherence in the United Nations system, but just indicate that my delegation is not of the opinion expressed by Canada before me. If necessary, and on a much more appropriate occasion we will certainly be prepared to discuss the whole matter at length.

MRS. M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): Poland attaches great importance to the many-sided cooperation in the field of agriculture of all countries regardless of the social political system. Simultaneously, we have always emphasized that FAO should have a universal character and should take into consideration the needs of all the regions. A good example of this kind of cooperation is the so-called scientific cooperation network in the field of agriculture in the European region. We support this kind of activity because of the great significance of scientific research in achieving technical advance and higher output in agriculture as well as considering the fact that the benefits of these scientific networks should also be extended to developing countries through transfer of appropriate technologies. A very good example could be the newly set up network of rural energy.

A complex cooperation and technical assistance will play an ever-increasing role in accelerating social and economic advance. A vital instrument of this many-sided technical cooperation to which our country is attaching great importance is the United Nations Development Programme. In this context the Polish Delegation would like to express its satisfaction on the successfully developing inter-relation between FAO and UNDP. We have now implemented in Poland programmes on the intensification of plant breeding and seed production and dairy production.

We are also in favour of expanding regional programmes such as the European Regional Cooperation Programme on Crop, Genetic Resources, Conservation and Exchange.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal): Je voudrais me référer au document CL 82/17.

Nous avons pris connaissance avec beaucoup d'intérêt des résultats de l'Assemblée mondiale sur le vieillissement qui a eu lieu à Vienne le 6 août dernier.

Le problème est de la plus grande actualité pour mon pays, car en ce moment la plus grande partie de la population rurale portugaise est d'un âge supérieur à 55 - 60 ans, et la jeunesse n'est plus attirée par l'agriculture. Le vieillissement de la population rurale portugaise est inquiétant.

Le gouvernement, à l'aide d'institutions privées ou semi-privées, est en train d'envisager, depuis quelques années, un schéma de maisons pour vieux, mais l'expérience déjà acquise a démontré que ce schéma n'est à mettre en pratique que pour les vieux qui n'ont pas de famille.

On donne maintenant la préférence à ce que l'on appelle les "Centros de día", les centres de jour, où les vieux peuvent passer la journée ensemble pendant que les membres de leur famille sont à leur travail. Le soir on vient les chercher pour qu'ils passent la soirée dans leur milieu familial. Dans ces centres de jour, les personnes âgées peuvent exercer des activités compatibles avec leurs possibilités et qui apportent une contribution au développement, pour qu'ils n'aient pas la sensation d'être un poids pour leur famille et pour la société.

Nous attendons avec beaucoup d'intérêt les résultats d'études faites dans d'autres pays sur ce même sujet, ainsi que les recommandations internationales en cette matière, afin de les adapter et de les appliquer dans notre pays.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like, at the outset, to commend the Secretariat for this excellent document and congratulate Dr. West for his election. Furthermore, we would like to stress the fact that the Arab Republic of Egypt supports the content of para. 20 of this document concerning the need to use the existing capacities in the developing countries for the implementation of development programmes. We are willing to provide training in agriculture and related activities for nationals of developing countries and help these countries to set up the appropriate infrastructure. I would like also to take this opportunity to inform the Council that selected Egyptian cadres hold key-posts in many bilateral and multilateral technical aid programmes.

Egypt has participated in the 8th Ministerial Session of the World Food Council held in Mexico and supported the Resolutions concerning the increase of the "grain facilities" and the need to increase international development aid for agriculture. Egypt has also supported the Resolution calling on developing countries to establish their own grain reserves.

Furthermore, we wish the FAO full success in its work on energy for agriculture and rural development.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to applaud the efforts made by FAO to provide technical assistance to the Palestinian farmers and we do hope that this will lead to substantive results.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): My delegation shares the anxiety of the Director and all the delegates regarding the delay in the launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation and development. We sincerely feel that the world conscience in this very vital sector and at this very critical juncture of economic recession will prevail. With all the concerned countries in persuading them to launch this concerted and laudable exercise in the field of international cooperation. We can only hope and pray for the best, and I will leave this matter at that.

In regard to paragraphs 13 and 14 of document CL 82/17, a reference has been made in regard to a lead agency to coordinate relief operations in case of natural and other disasters. Perhaps I have missed that point but in this regard I would like FAO to be recognized by the United Nations system as the lead agency on natural and man-made disasters. Considering that most of the calamities are related to agriculture and rural areas and considering also that the World Food Programme is taking a leading part in the matter of disaster relief, I cannot see a more suitable world agency than FAO to act the part of lead agency as envisaged in these two paragraphs. I would like to be informed whether any decision to identify this lead agency has been taken. If not, we should insist that FAO should be recognized as the lead agency.

In regard to paragraph 20, it has been mentioned that the General Assembly invited the organizations of the system to make greater use of the capacities of developing countries in procuring material and equipment in training and services, in using local contractors and in recruiting local personnel. This is an unexceptionable recommendation and I would request that FAO and all its other agencies, including WFP, should accept this in total, perhaps they are already doing this, but in a determined manner to ensure that in all their operational activities, whether it is relief or development, the existing capacities of the developing countries in regard to supply of material and services and technology must be given the topmost priority.

In regard to paragraph 23, it has been mentioned that the DG FAO's policies in regard to raising increased resources for development for the Special Action Programme has been endorsed by the United Nations Conference, and for that my delegation would like to congratulate the DG FAO, Dr. Saouma.

My delegation sympathises with and fully endorses the pleadings of the Governing Council of the UNDP in regard to the pledging conference and the sorry state of affairs with regard to the resources which have been pledged which have come to the point of UNDP being compelled to reduce its programme to the extent of 40 per cent. My delegation would like to stress and plead for greater assistance to the UNDP programme.

In regard to paragraph 34, the FAO's scheme of sending inter-agency missions for assisting the developing countries in the formulation and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development has been endorsed. FAO needs to be felicitated on the recognition of their programme of inter-agency missions. I can only submit that India as a major partner in the effort of agrarian reform and rural development in the world can offer its consultancy and other services born out of its long experience during the last 30 years and more in the field of agrarian reform and rural development to the FAO and other world organizations. In regard to rural development, I have a feeling that there are a number of agencies that are interested in different degrees in the matter of rural development, and that is why perhaps an Inter-Agency Task Force was found to be necessary. I would like to suggest for consideration of the FAO whether the FAO cannot take a leading role in this respect and, in consultation with all such agencies as are interested in rural development, draw up a common guideline of criteria to be followed in identifying areas for rural development, norms for priority, norms of help and assistance, etc. which will enable the different agencies to work in a coordinated and uniform manner, so that they will not cross each other's path and launch different systems of rural development and schemes with different patterns of assistance which will confound the recipient countries. I would suggest in this regard that apart from everything else that is being done in the field of rural development, some sort of guidelines and criteria to be followed by different agencies in the matter of rural development could be thought of.

In this document, FAO's participation in a number of world conferences has been mentioned. They are very useful and I would like to comment very briefly on some of the conferences in which FAO has taken particular interest. For instance, in the Conference on the Law of the Sea which has been mentioned in paragraph 46, the developing countries have a great stake, and we are very happy that the Director-General of the FAO, having recognized the potential of fisheries resource that the developing countries can have in the Exclusive Economic Zones, has organized a World Conference on Fisheries some time in 1984 or early 1985 for which all preliminary action is being taken. We want to felicitate the Director-General on this very laudable step taken. In regard to science and technology in the field of agriculture, science and technology have a very, very crucial role to play, and it is therefore very apt that the FAO has been participating in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. I would only request that in all such participation, the FAO's need and interests in intensifying research in problem-oriented areas particular to different regions and different countries should be adequately projected.

In paragraph 55, some reference has been made to the lack of resource to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. We would like to support greater pledged assistance for this purpose and also for long-term financing arrangements.

In paragraph 56, it has been mentioned that FAO's share out of the projects approved by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology is only 6.6 per cent. This to my mind is very low, considering the part that science and technology can play in the field of agriculture. We would request that FAO should ask for and legitimately claim a large portion of the project in the matter of science and technology so far as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and animal husbandry are concerned. I would think that FAO should not be satisfied till they get at least 25 per cent of the total outlay on such research projects for development.

FAO has very appropriately taken part in the deliberations on the United Nations system of new and renewable sources of energy, and also on environment. I would only request that FAO should kindly ensure that specific action points and action programmes are stressed and in the developing countries in regard to agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries, the programmes of development of alternative sources of energy through biomass and the effect on the environment in regard to agriculture, afforestation, should be properly projected in these conferences and FAO should set up some cells within this Organization if they have not already done so in regard to alternative sources of energy and also in the matter of environment.

As you are aware, the Government of India has already established a new Department of Environment, and even at the state level, a number of Departments of Environment have been set up. I am sure that FAO is taking as keen an interest in the matter of environmental security and environmental stability as the situation now demands.

I have only one suggestion to offer for consideration of the FAO in regard to FAO's participation in the conferences. FAO has participated in the conferences very aptly and, I hope, adequately, but perhaps it will help the FAO Secretariat if before participation in these conferences, some selected countries which may be particularly interested in that particular topic or which have

the infrastructure or technology or experience are consulted in the matter of FAO's interest in those items, so that a similar awareness at the country level is also generated and each country is able to contribute something to the FAO Secretariat for projecting the needs of the agricultural and rural development sector in the matter, whether it is energy or nuclear energy or outer space and so on. This will perhaps be for the benefit of both the countries concerned and also the FAO Secretariat to get some specific feed-back on specific points of participation.

I will only close by expressing my feeling that FAO is the champion of the developing countries; FAO knows their needs and aspirations; the least developed, the poorest, the downtrodden and the victims of manmade and natural disasters look up to FAO. FAO is to be congratulated for what it has done so far for them. We as the members of the august Council should all try to strengthen the hands of the FAO financially, technologically and materially so that it can play its humanitarian and ameliorative role effectively, commanding the respect and attention of all other world bodies.

J.J. GORMLEY (United States of America): My delegation has studied this document carefully. We have no specific comments on the various items covered in the document. We have been fully involved with these matters in the various fora where they arose. We would note here that under the item Follow-up to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, paragraphs 45 - 51, there are references to the upcoming FAO Fisheries Conference. We will be commenting on plans for this conference under the agenda item on the reports of the Finance and Programme Committees.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): At the very outset I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with a wealth of information through document CL 82/17. There are, globally speaking, so many international bodies and organizations working on so many subjects and topics of direct interest to mankind that it is becoming more and more difficult for everyone to keep abreast of all that is happening. The coverage given in the document is indeed commendable.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Régnier, the Director of the Inter-Agency Affairs Office, for the very clear and lucid introduction he has given by way of initiating this discussion.

I would wish to preface my statement by underlining and emphasizing my country's support for and commitment to the UN system as a whole. The proliferating number of conferences and deliberations within the system listed in the document merely reiterates the fact that concern for improving the quality of life globally transcends national boundaries, that mutuality of interest between the developed and developing countries is widely understood and accepted and that international development has to be on the basis of partnership and mutual cooperation between nations irrespective of their rich or poor status.

It is in this context that it is to be regretted that not much progress has been made so far in the matter of global negotiations even so long after the adoption of the International Development Strategy. Apparent support and reinforcement of ideas from all quarters provided by concern for creating a new atmosphere of international cooperation has not also succeeded in yielding quick results.

Nevertheless, it is reassuring to learn about the reiteration the question of global negotiations received from the Versailles Summit, and we are also happy to learn that quick progress is now expected. In this connection we congratulate the Director-General of FAO for the initiative he has taken in this regard as a lead agency for agriculture and food, and since one of the prime objectives of the negotiations would be to combat world hunger, it is only in the fitness of things, and we accordingly fully support that FAO should assist in the preparation and the servicing of the global negotiations. We sincerely hope that this role can be successfully discharged.

We would also like to congratulate the host country, Italy, for organizing the recent meeting for fighting hunger in the world, which has once again established that the struggle to combat world hunger has emerged as an unchallenged priority to which the international community must make a joint commitment. The outcome of this meeting re-asserts the need to launch global negotiations.

Moving on to the issue of strengthening the capacity of the UN system to respond to emergencies, we are glad to hear about FAO's anxiety to cooperate with other organizations in the provision of relief and assistance to member countries in disaster situations.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned, FAO has a commendable record of promptly responding to emergency requests for assistance. Clearly, FAO has the ability, and in this context we share the Secretariat's views that while as a participating organization it should fully assist and cooperate with the lead entity, FAO should be able to retain enough flexibility so that it can respond to requests for emergency aid. Indeed, we will go a step further and request the Director-General to ensure that in matters concerning the food and agriculture sector FAO plays the major role.

It is with some considerable concern that we view the reduction in UNDP resources, and it is a rude disappointment to be told that the real value of the FAO's share of the UNDP programme in the third cycle will not exceed 70 percent of that in the second.

While we are talking endlessly of the priority to be accorded to agricultural production and achievement in food security, such a cut in the work of the FAO seems paradoxical. We would earnestly hope that genuine measures will be taken to augment UNDP's resources, and that sincere efforts will be made to see the professed importance of agriculture does not turn out to be an exercise limited only to theory.

My delegation is happy to note the progress of work undertaken by the ACC Task Force on Alleviation of rural poverty. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate FAO on the work done so far to follow up the Programme of Action of WCARRD. Undoubtedly there is still a long way to travel before we see tangible results, but whatever has been done so far appears to us to be obviously the result of relentless efforts, and this is truly commendable.

The World Food Council's recommendations on increased flow of external aid, on strengthening of IEFR and IMF cereal financing facility, developing country-based reserves, liberalisation of trade, and its reiteration of support for the WCARRD Programme of action, can only be acknowledged with due thanks and can be regarded as re-asserting the issues which can make or mar the prospects of a global food security turning out to be a reality.

We fully share the views expressed in these recommendations, and it is to be hoped that World Food Council recommendations would help narrow the gap which now exists between pronouncement and performance, and that FAO as the lead agency in this field would do all in its power to facilitate the realization in practice of these recommendations.

I would wish to refer very briefly to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on new and renewable sources of energy held last year in Nairobi. The question of taking fast action on rural energy, particularly in the area of integrated rural energy development, cannot be over-emphasized, and we are happy to note the development in this connexion within the framework of the Nairobi Plan of Action. FAO, however, can play a very major role in this sphere. While its efforts here so far are admittedly praise-worthy, it can discharge its catalytic functions more effectively by actively engaging itself on devising ways and means for assisting exchange of information, sharing of experiences, pooling of technical know-how, and resources for research development and extension on a regional or sub-regional basis.

While institutional programmes and arrangements are being formalized, FAO can establish more direct linkages with individual countries in connexion with energy-related work, to reflect the priority in the rural energy development, and to increase technical cooperation programmes covering that field.

We are happy to note the progress in the follow-up to the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the attention and emphasis that is being given towards the meeting of the needs of the LDCs, MSAs and land-locked countries.

We also congratulate FAO in its efforts to help the cause of the Palestinian people and occupied Arab territories, and while fully endorsing the work of FAO, we hope that concerted effort and assistance from all quarters will quickly help alleviate suffering and distress in that area.

Finally, happy as we are with the progress on the different issues in the various UN fora, we cannot help observing that we seem to be giving more time to talks than to action. These deliberations and recommendations cover practically all conceivable issues that affect human life without however actually making much difference to the quality of human life itself, insofar as it relates to the uncared-for millions inhabiting the surface of the globe, if one takes critical stock of the situation, one is bound to find that developments in the last two decades, despite the best of intentions, has largely bypassed the vast mass of our rural population about whose wellbeing we are apparently so concerned in our meetings, conventions, conferences, and so on.

It would almost seem to be evident now that in our quest for prosperity we are burying ourselves deeper and deeper in the rhetorical morass. Rhetorics alone will not solve our problems. This statement has been repeated often enough, reflecting our understanding of the fact that more action designed to change the status quo is now needed than talks and declarations. But even that statement has now become a part of the routine utterances. As a representative of a developing country, it would be my fervent hope that the world community as a whole would feel in this situation a much greater urge than it has felt before to act quickly and decisively.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) : I should like to concentrate on a few points only. Regarding operational activities for development for the United Nations system, I should like to state that the Federal Republic of Germany made available in 1981 US\$ 430.7 million for this purpose. Germany is the third largest donor and it looks at the moment as if this would be the case in 1982 also. Approximately 30 percent of our total contribution was made within the framework of multilateral cooperation, and in 1982 the proportion may be even greater. Present trends suggest that on the basis of commitments entered into in previous years this level will be maintained.

One decisive criterion for our participation in multilateral programmes is the significance and effectiveness of such measures in terms of development policy.

With regard to UNDP, I would like to recall that the Federal Republic of Germany has doubled its contributions to UNDP over the last 10 years, mainly from US\$ 20.6 million in 1973 to US\$ 47.5 million in 1982. Having made available an overall sum of about US\$ 409 million during this period we have become one of the five largest donors of UNDP. The Federal Republic of Germany sees its involvement in United Nations operational activities in the overall context of its development aid efforts for the Third World. It regards multilateral and bilateral measures as equal and complementary instruments for achieving development policy objectives.

In 1981 my country made available bilaterally an amount of US\$ 1.35 billion. With regard to the instruments of international cooperation and the necessity for continuously improving their coordinated action, an issue which was touched on by the delegate of Canada, I should like to re-state the position taken here by my country in the Second Committee on the ongoing 37th General Assembly of the United Nations and I quote : "We are concerned about the proliferation, the mushrooming of evermore special funds. We regard this as a negative development, because for one thing we are convinced it is not in the interests of developing countries to be constantly creating new bureaucracies and thus consuming funds which are so urgently needed for direct assistance to these nations. The Federal Republic of Germany shares the view of other donors that improved instruments for the control and evaluation of programmes are necessary in order to ensure transparency of operational activities of the United Nations and the effectiveness of its Agencies."

To conclude, I wish to re-state what was also said at the same session and I quote : "The Federal Republic of Germany will continue to participate in the financial and technical cooperation of the major multilateral institutions. Our financial scope which is at the moment limited, will depend on economic developments in the years ahead. It will also depend on how effective the respective UN institutions and agencies prove to be in terms of programme implementation and costs."

H.H CARABAÑO (Venezuela): Mi delegación es consciente de que estamos analizando un documento de gran utilidad e importancia y por eso nos sumamos al reconocimiento que se ha hecho a la Secretaría, así como por la forma elocuente como fue presentado.

No voy a referirme a todos aquellos puntos trascendentes que, desde luego, mi delegación reitera; nos limitaremos exclusivamente a una consideración muy de tesis general.

En el seno de la FAO, en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y en el FIDA, para sólo hablar de los organismos que tienen su sede en Roma, mi país se identifica plenamente con todos los planteamientos que ha hecho el Grupo de los 77. Estamos persuadidos, entre otras cosas, de que los organismos internacionales son un valioso medio en defensa de los pueblos del Tercer Mundo y creemos que éste es un criterio que deberían compartir unánimemente los países desarrollados.

Nosotros hablamos con temor del bilateralismo y pienso que también los países desarrollados deben ver con preocupación el bilateralismo porque podrían verse enfrentados entre ellos mismos con una competencia que no haría bien a nadie; sin embargo, me temo que en este análisis de las dificultades de los organismos internacionales nos está haciendo falta objetividad y buen juicio. Hemos entrado en un decenio cargado de grandes dificultades para toda la comunidad universal; los grandes países dan razones para explicar que no pueden intensificar sus ayudas por cuanto estarían confrontando problemas internos, que desde luego nadie desconoce. Sin embargo, los planteamientos que estos países hacen pareciera que es evidente que aun cuando esas dificultades no existieran mantendrían aún sus reservas frente a los organismos internacionales, y es aquí donde yo creo que es necesario que prevalezca el buen juicio. Desde luego que a veces ese buen juicio lo acicatean las dificultades; estamos frente a grandes dificultades; yo creo que perfectamente es demostrable que lo que se ha hecho a través de organismos como la FAO no ha sido esfuerzo baldío, que el mundo ha sacado provecho de ello y que, sin lugar a dudas, el hambre ha sido acorralada aunque no erradicada y que ello ha contribuido en buena medida a mantener la paz, precaria pero paz al fin, de que disfruta el mundo.

Pienso que nosotros, los países del Tercer Mundo, hemos contribuido en una cierta medida a que este diálogo no vaya más aprisa, y como quiera que lo importante es la autocrítica digo que somos responsables porque muchas veces cuando analizamos los problemas en el seno de una organización cuidamos casi como una cuestión diplomática el no referirnos a otra organización y de repente nos vemos nosotros mismos tratando los mismos problemas en distintos foros como si fueran compartimentos estancos.

Yo pienso que es imperativo que forcemos la cooperación entre los organismos internacionales; no podemos seguir considerando una mala palabra o una palabra descortés el hablar de coordinación entre los organismos. Vemos, por ejemplo, y yo lo dije aquí ayer, que una institución tan respetable como el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación ha tomado una bandera hermosa de las estrategias justamente para decir que no es posible por parte de los países desarrollados que sigan invocando que no dan sus ayudas porque esas ayudas se diluyen o se pierden en el seno de los países que no tienen estrategias coherentes. Yo he dicho que esas estrategias de seguridad alimentaria pueden movilizarse, pueden promoverlas, pueden estimularlas el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, pero es obvio que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, que sólo dispone de una cincuentena de funcionarios, no podría llevarlas adelante con buen éxito y estaríamos entonces frustrando a la Comunidad Universal de una solución que verdaderamente puede ser una solución; en cambio, si esas estrategias de seguridad alimentaria estuvieran canalizadas por intermedio de la FAO o del FIDA, con toda seguridad que los aportes que den los países desarrollados rendirían muchos mayores frutos.

Por eso creo que de este Consejo deben salir recomendaciones muy valiosas, muy sinceras, a la alta dirigencia de los organismos internacionales para explicar que las condiciones precarias en que está el mundo exige que busquemos ese efecto de sinergia de los organismos internacionales, que se potencien recíprocamente y yo estoy seguro de que los países desarrollados también se darán cuenta de que es por esta vía que deben canalizar sus ayudas, porque estoy absolutamente seguro de que en una política de bilateralismo abierto no sólo sufrirían impacto los países del Tercer Mundo, que

verían un poco mediatizada su soberanía, sino que pronto los grandes países se encontrarían en una competencia inconveniente para ellos.

De manera que este momento es un momento crucial; no nos debemos llamar a equívocos; los organismos internacionales están viviendo unas dificultades que deben ser superadas y ello no puede ser sino a base de que el Grupo de los 77 actúe de manera coordinada para plantear a los países desarrollados la necesidad de buscar entre todos autocrítica y caminos de coordinación y de eficacia para los organismos internacionales que son y deben ser un instrumento de defensa de los pueblos más desasistidos.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar que para nosotros es satisfactoria la información como se ha expresado por la Secretaría, independientemente de las situaciones no resueltas o retrasadas que nos exponen.

No queremos hacer una exposición larga, sólo queremos apoyar, por ser nuestros criterios totalmente coincidentes, a las delegaciones que han fundamentado la necesidad de terminar las negociaciones globales.

Creemos que la espera es bastante larga.

Nosotros lo expusimos cuando se presentó el tema de la situación mundial de alimentos y lamentamos la grave situación del acceso a los recursos financieros; creemos que lo que se nos ha informado sobre la situación de recortes presentado al PNUD profundiza más la grave situación que, a nuestro juicio, ahora afecta directamente a la FAO en su ejecución.

Esta cuestión ha sido también analizada y enlaza con nuestra coincidente aprobación porque consideramos que el PNUD tiene con la FAO que jugar un gran papel en el apoyo financiero a nuestros proyectos.

Específicamente nos llama la atención el capítulo 32 de los aspectos internacionales, organización de desarrollo rural y el trabajo del grupo de acción.

Vemos con agrado que los esfuerzos de la FAO para hacer cumplir los acuerdos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, y expresamente el plan de acción que surgió de ella, están avanzando; sin embargo, coincidimos con las distinguidas delegaciones de Bangladesh y de la India en que a veces se está hablando más de lo que se está ejecutando. Creemos que hay bastantes retóricas sobre esta situación. Para nosotros la Conferencia dejó muy bien claros los mecanismos, las medidas conjuntas en el plano nacional, la participación popular quedó muy bien definida e inclusive la vigilancia y evaluación del desarrollo.

En estos momentos queremos sencillamente llamar la atención al Grupo de Acción, que indudablemente ha trabajado, que nos expone una serie de acciones positivas en pro de que pueda catalizarse de una vez la participación popular en pro del desarrollo rural. Queremos llamar la atención al Grupo en el párrafo donde se plantea el análisis de los obstáculos y limitaciones al desarrollo, queremos llamar la atención, repito, para identificar uno de los obstáculos a nuestro juicio más importantes y definitivos; definitivos decimos porque cuando la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria entró en su fase final donde ya estaba saliendo a flote toda una serie de planes claros para poner en ejercicio el desarrollo rural y reforma agraria fueron los países los que plantearon la necesidad de que todo eso debía ser puesto en ejecución partiendo de la decisión política de cada Estado. Creo que el primer obstáculo a identificar es la decisión política de cada Estado.

Finalmente, estamos de acuerdo con la forma expuesta de la participación de la FAO en los eventos de las Naciones Unidas y el desarrollo de los países pobres y queremos felicitar al Dr. West.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We would like to join the other distinguished delegates in congratulating the Secretariat for the document and Mr. Regnier for the excellent and eloquent introduction to the document. We also wish to take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. West on his appointment to a very important United Nations body.

As far as the document is concerned, we will be brief and would only highlight one or two issues which are of concern to us, as most of the other items have been dealt with by other delegates. We are very concerned that the global negotiations have not been launched so far. My country has been actively pursuing the launching of these global negotiations at all the international fora, particularly at the United Nations Headquarters. We are happy to see in paragraph 2 of the document that there is some sign of progress and, hopefully, the negotiations will be launched by the end of this year - the year is ending, perhaps by the beginning of next year. Within the context of global negotiations we feel that food and agriculture issues, as pointed out by the 21st Conference, have to remain at a very high level of the Agenda because they are of extreme interest and concern to developing countries.

We therefore commend the efforts of the Director-General in this direction and hope that, as recommended by the 21st Conference, FAO will indeed provide the technical backdrop and support for these global negotiations.

We do, however, wish to express a note of concern; we feel that while we should continue to strive for the launching of the global negotiations, at the same time we should continue to make the best use of available negotiating fora for whatever progress can be achieved. At least in the food and agriculture sector we have a number of very well defined and internationally accepted guidelines and proposals. International development strategy lays down a specific recommendation including quantitative targets for implementation by the international community. We must not slacken our efforts to get these agreed recommendations implemented. These recommendations include world food security, external assistance to agriculture, food aid, food and agriculture trade. We recognize that these by themselves are not the total input to the global negotiations but we feel they will provide a very very valuable input as and when the global negotiations are launched and in the meantime we would be making some progress in the direction of the food and agricultural sector.

As far as the UNDP is concerned, we do share the concern of other delegations that the share is being reduced and we wish that the trend would be arrested and that there would be a better contribution of the programme within the FAO sector.

Before ending we would wish to commend the UN system in general and the FAO in particular for the assistance to the Palestinian people and we wish that this is not only continued but is increased.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I intervene only on a point of clarification and would like the Secretariat's views. It is the question of the lead entity in disaster situations and my point arises from what the delegate of India said in which he seemed to me to imply that FAO would always be a lead entity, a lead agency in any disaster situation. Now, from our point of view, of course, FAO is bound to be involved in almost all disaster situations. We think that the ACC has the correct answer in Appendix C of the paper, that each agency is picked for each disaster situation on its merits and I wonder if that is the view of the Secretariat.

G.N. GOLUBEV (United Nations Environment Programme): It is my pleasure and honour to greet you on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. K. Tolba.

The problem of adequate food supply continues to loom large among the challenges that face mankind in the 1980s.

Against such background, therefore, it will be increasingly important that the ecological basis necessary to increase production must not be destroyed. Any strategy to increase food production on a sustained basis will therefore explicitly need to take account of the complementarity of environment and development. Indeed, we believe that there is no area where the objectives of environment and development are more interrelated than in the production of food on a sustained basis. Any increase in production must therefore take into account the full costs of that increase and its total impact on broadbased agricultural ecosystems.

Such environmental considerations in agricultural development have been the subject of several decisions and resolutions of UNEP Governing Council sessions since its inception, these culminating in the Session of a Special Character, the SSC, earlier this year, which was convened in order to take stock of past achievements since the Stockholm Conference and give new impetus to the environment movement for the next decade. Since Stockholm increasing knowledge has confirmed some ideas and refuted others, and has also revealed some new areas of concern. Perceptions, too, have

evolved and emphasis is now less on the changes in the environment themselves than in their causes and impacts. The various components of the environment are today more clearly perceived as resources to be conserved, and their interrelationships are more generally acknowledged. However, progress in the application of the concepts developed so far remain unsatisfactory, indeed many uncontrolled or planned activities of many such as deforestation, soil and water degradation and desertification have reached alarming proportions and are increasingly causing environmental deterioration and thereby continuing to seriously undermine our planet's capacity to sustain agricultural production. Furthermore, diseases associated with water development projects are a continuing threat to the exertion of optimum efforts in food production in many developing countries.

To this effect, the Session of a Special Character recommended to the Governments and the international community certain priority areas of action for the coming decade some of which I shall underscore later because of their present or potential importance in joint FAO/UNEP activities. I am not going to cover the priority areas. They cover areas of terrestrial biota and bio-productive areas, health and water.

Many of these priority activities are already being implemented by UNEP in collaboration with FAO and other United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations and I shall, with your permission underline only a few.

During the past three years UNEP, in close cooperation with FAO, Unesco, WMO and ISSS, and other relevant international organizations has defined the scientific, institutional and legislative principles of a World Soils Policy. The United Nations Environment Programme's tenth regular session held after SSC endorsed the definition and objectives of the policy and recommended to member states of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations that they give effects to the objectives of the Policy, taking into account the principles and guidelines set forth in the World Soil Charter adopted by the 21st FAO Conference last year, the World Conservation Strategy and draft World Charter for Nature which has now been adopted by the General Assembly. Further, the tenth session requested the Executive Director to transmit the draft plan of action for the implementation of the World Soils Policy to FAO and Unesco for comments and in the light of these and the financial implications to the eleventh session, of the governing council for consideration. UNEP is firmly confident that joint FAO/UNEP activities will give profound results in this area.

The World Conservation Strategy is today on the political agenda in many countries. Despite this, the need for coordinated implementation of activities and fruitful collaboration between environmental agencies, national organizations, planners, decision-makers and developers remains crucial. To this purpose, an ad hoc meeting on the follow-up to World Conservation Strategy was held in Geneva with FAO, UNEP and other UN agencies and bodies. The meeting was very successful and we look forward toward other practical actions in this field. As you know, among the high priority follow-up activities of the strategy is to assist developing countries in the development, promotion and implementation of national conservation strategies upon government requests. Closely related to this is, of course, the World Charter for Nature just adopted by the General Assembly. Follow-up activities concern the further development and implementation of the principles of the Charter. These are only a few highlights of what can be achieved through cooperative action by international organizations in the field of living resources conservation.

Another area of common interest which was given priority attention by SSC is the continuing development and implementation of integrated pest control in agriculture. As you may know, our involvement in this priority area of activity has been extensive and we intend to continue cooperating with FAO here and in efforts to reduce food losses in the system-wide programme. To date joint efforts have led to the initiation and implementation of integrated pest control programmes in cotton growing in Africa, the Near East and Latin America. We intend to cooperate further with FAO in agreed joint activities in integrated pest control in the future. In the area of genetic resources, collaborative programming between FAO and UNEP has been proceeding smoothly and effectively with significant progress. In crop plant genetic resources the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, of which both FAO and UNEP are members, established and is supporting a global network of genebanks for a world base collection which is safeguarding the world's crop genetic resources and backing extensive breeding programmes. The question of free accessibility to such resources is an area of priority concern at both FAO and UNEP. Elements of a draft agreement on accessibility are being worked out by FAO, in response to a resolution by the FAO 1981 Conference and UNEP is most eagerly awaiting FAO's report on this matter. In forest genetic resources, FAO and UNEP collaborated in the establishment of ex situ international standards for selected provenances of pine and eucalyptus species in several African and Asian countries and are vigorously supporting the development of a systematic methodology for establishing in situ conservation within the framework of broad ecosystem conservation. In animal genetic resources FAO and UNEP concluded inter-regional surveys of indigenous breeds of livestock and embarked on establishing regional data banks and pilot conservation schemes for some of these breeds. In microbial genetic resources, FAO and UNEP are jointly programming for field application of relevant microbial technologies for soil fertility, organic residue utilization and pest and vector control. A joint survey of the state of application of biological nitrogen fixation - as an environmentally appropriate means of supplementing plant nutrients in the soil - in developing countries has been concluded and we jointly have embarked on an ambitious programme for intensifying biological nitrogen fixation and legume production, in small farms in conjunction with FAO's regular Fertilizer and Legume programmes.

UNEP continues to regard the promotion of programme activities for sustainable management of tropical forests as a very key area and maintains that a coordinated and harmonized international programme in support of national efforts for rational management of tropical forest resources is the best approach. Already, commendable progress in inter-agency cooperation has been achieved and the two expert meetings jointly sponsored by FAO, Unesco and UNEP have specified a series of international actions which require even closer integration of our efforts. In these, considerations should be given to the recommendation that the already existing Committee on Forestry Development in the Tropics should be transformed into an inter-agency mechanism capable of coordinating and inter-grating future programmes and activities.

Those are but only a few examples of past joint activities and highlights of possible areas of cooperation between FAO and UNEP in the future. There are many more, such as the continuing support to the Codex Commission, training in food contaminants control and the ongoing programme on workshops on food and nutrition planning, programming, implementation and evaluation with the ACC/SCN and the FAO/UNEP/WHO Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector and Disease Control.

May I in conclusion mention special cooperation that merits a word. The elaboration of the system-wide medium-term environment programme submitted to the tenth session of the UNEP Government Council has benefited from close participation of and elucidation by FAO which has, once again, seriously embarked on its translation from general concepts to implementable specifics, including possible budgetary data, during the early years of the SWMTEP period.

FAO collaboration with UNEP in preparation of the programme budget document of 1984/85 has further developed the system-wide medium-term environmental programme coordinated by UNDP. May I in this connexion draw the attention of delegates to the report of the International Organizations Committee on International Labour Organization. A report of the session held last week in Geneva reads : "The Committee decided to recommend the Governing Body to request the Director-General to pursue his cooperation with UNEP in the further collaboration of the system-wide medium-term environmental programme and to ensure that it reflected the ILO's concerns and that its relevant parts were taken into consideration in future revisions of the ILO Medium-Term Plan and its biennial programmes and budgets."

To finish my address I would like to state that we in UNEP deeply value these positive signs of collaboration both at the bilateral and interagency levels and hope that they will continue to characterize our relations as we venture into the next decade and beyond.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Kindly convey to Dr. Tolba and all the staff of UNEP our admiration for the very valuable work that they have done on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne) : La Communauté européenne ne souhaite pas intervenir sur l'ensemble du document CL 82/17 concernant les faits nouveaux intervenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Bien entendu, nous avons soigneusement étudié le document et pris bonne note des commentaires de présentation effectués par M. Régnier, mais nous saisissons avant tout l'occasion - car nous pensons que cela intéresse l'ensemble du Conseil - pour vous faire part d'une communication sur le suivi de la Conférence de Vienne relative à la science et à la technique au service du développement (paragraphes 52 à 58 du document). Comme nous l'avons déjà précisé lors de précédentes interventions, nous considérons que la recherche est un élément fondamental du développement, notamment pour les cultures vivrières.

C'est dans ce contexte que j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que le Conseil des Communautés européennes va décider le 3 décembre prochain, juste avant la clôture de nos travaux, un programme de recherche qui s'intègre parfaitement dans le programme d'action de Vienne décidé par le Comité intergouvernemental sur la science et la technique au service du développement.

Les Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne se sont en effet mis d'accord pour allouer la somme très importante de 40 millions d'écus (à l'heure actuelle, la valeur de l'écu est sensiblement équivalente à celle du dollar, je peux même vous dire qu'hier un écu valait 0,92 dollar) pour la recherche dans les domaines de l'agriculture tropicale, la médecine et la nutrition dans les zones tropicales. Ce programme sera exécuté en étroite collaboration par des instituts des pays membres de la Communauté européenne et des pays en développement. Des représentants de la FAO seront invités à assister la Commission des communautés européennes dans le cadre de ses comités consultatifs de gestion pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this useful information.

N. DESAI (United Nations Development Programme): Thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to address the Council on behalf of UNDP. It goes without saying that the deliberations which take place here remain of the utmost relevance and interest to the Administrator of UNDP, in view of the close association and partnership which has characterized the working relationship between our two respective organizations over the years in the common pursuit and cause of serving the developing countries in the attainment of their overall development objectives, and more particularly by virtue of FAO's predominant role as the largest executing agency in the UNDP family. As is now all too well known, the UNDP Administrator is at this point of time preoccupied in meeting perhaps one of the most critical challenges facing UNDP as the central funding multilateral mechanism in technical cooperation in the UN System.

The document before this Council, CL/82/17, highlights the disappointing resource picture which now faces UNDP. The results of the Pledging Conference for 1983 held earlier this month in New York are now in. In merely nominal terms - without taking into account the inroads made by inflation - the \$666 million in contributions pledged and estimated for 1983 is significantly lower than the \$697 million pledged four years ago for 1979. But in real terms this figure is well below the \$307 million pledged to UNDP for 1973 - 10 years ago. UNDP and its country partners have already this year been operating, for planning purposes, on the basis of a reduction to 80 percent of illustrative IPFs until the Pledging Conference results were known.

The Governing Council requires the Administrator of UNDP to administer the programme within the confines of the actual resources available to it. In the light of the results of the Pledging Conference the Administrator is now advising governments to revise downward their planning estimates of Programme resources available under the 1982-1986 Cycle from the aforementioned 80 percent to 55 percent of agreed illustrative indicative planning targets. Our own estimates are that insofar as FAO's share of UNDP's Third Cycle Programme is concerned it will amount to approximately 75 percent of the value of the Second Cycle Programme.

The results of this year's Pledging Conference - coming on top of what is already an inadequate resource base - can only be described as extremely disappointing. For developing countries this in turn means virtually no UNDP supported activities to meet new development needs and in some cases cut-backs on projects designed to meeting existing needs. It is a severe blow to the momentum that UNDP has been able to generate over the last decade to the prospects of developing countries for their human resource development and in fact to all committed to the ideal of an international cooperative endeavour. Under these circumstances it is evident, and is indeed well brought out in the debate in this forum, that the resource dilemma is not just a problem of UNDP. Any erosion of UNDP resources as the central funding organization in the UN system is a challenge to all interested and involved in multilateral development assistance and it becomes all the more important that governing bodies of all UN agencies and organizations cooperating with the UNDP will exert their influence and lend an appeal for the reinforcement of the call of the General Assembly for increased resources of UNDP on an assured, continuous and predictable basis.

In order to help UNDP face this critical challenge as the central multilateral funding mechanism for technical cooperation in the UN system, the UNDP Governing Council at its recent session in June in Geneva set up an Inter-Sessional Committee of the Whole to study as a matter of priority options and recommendations for the longer-term financing of UNDP, including such measures as voluntary contributions, replenishment, multi-year pledgings, assessed contributions and various combinations of voluntary and assessed contributions. This is the main objective of the work of the Committee which is to report to the Council of UNDP at its June 1983 session.

The Inter-Sessional Committee has already held its first meeting in September, with another one scheduled in the early part of 1983. In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its first session, all agencies and organizations in the UN system are formally invited to participate in the Committee deliberations in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the UNDP Governing Council. It is our hope that this will provide an opportunity for them to make their views known which ultimately will contribute in strengthening the central multilateral mechanism constructed so arduously for the benefit of the developing countries and more especially the lesser developed of those countries.

The distinguished Director-General in his brilliant introductory statement to this Council, made a strong plea for multilateral development assistance. The UNDP Administrator, Mr. Bradford Moss, has spared no efforts in echoing the same viewpoint in all the major fora of the UN system and has relentlessly underscored the danger which would result to the development efforts of the developing countries if this central instrument of multilateral assistance were allowed to falter through insufficient support.

In his winding-up statement at the conclusion of the Pledging Conference for development activities on 9 November 1982, Mr. Moss said: "Since the allocation of the programme resources has been substantially altered in the Third Cycle to favour least developed and low income countries, it is apparent that it is these countries which will proportionately suffer most from the across-the-board reductions that I will be required to announce tomorrow. The full impact of such expenditure deductions is of course even greater than you may imagine. Governments, executing agencies, all our partners in the field, do not suddenly wind down UNDP-supported operations without serious disruptions to their own planning, recruitment and financing processes. There are virtually no UNDP-supported programmes which do not require matching counterparts or matching contributions from governments. If we fail to give governments at least a year's notice as to what these requirements are we play havoc with their budget processes".

I have greatly valued this opportunity to underline what has been so well articulated in this Council itself. In conclusion I would like to pledge the UN Administrator's support and express his good wishes to this Council and its deliberations.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I am sure our Drafting Committee will give adequate expression to the Council's own concern about the state of financing of UNDP's resources, particularly those where FAO is the executing agency and the consequential repercussions which you have rightly pointed out. I thank you for your statement.

Now before I ask Mr. Regnier to answer or make some comments on the various points made by the fourteen Council members and three Observers who have spoken, I would also like to ask Mr. Regnier to explain one point. In the portion relating to international years and decades, mention has been made of the World Communications Year and so on, but there is this United Nations Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade, and I have always hoped that the Land and Water Division of FAO, because considerable investment is going into irrigation and with some appropriate linkages between those who are in charge of drinking water supply and those who are in charge of irrigation arrangements, the whole programme of drinking-water supply to the rural people can be greatly expedited. I am sure there must be adequate linkages, but since there is no particular mention in the document, I just wanted to repeat the importance of FAO's input into the drinking water arrangements through its irrigation programmes.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je voudrais avant tout remercier les très nombreuses délégations et les observateurs qui ont pris la parole dans ce débat, témoignant ainsi de l'intérêt et de l'importance qu'ils attachent à ce point de l'ordre du jour. Du côté du Secrétariat nous avons été encouragés par l'accueil qui a été donné à ce document et surtout par les contributions qui ont été faites par un certain nombre de délégations. Je ne voudrais pas faire un résumé des questions, des points qui ont été soulevés; notre rapport, bien entendu, en tiendra dûment compte. Je voudrais plutôt faire quelques commentaires et répondre à un certain nombre de questions ou de préoccupations.

Tout d'abord je voudrais remercier certains pays de l'appui qu'un très grand nombre de délégations ont donné aux actions que le Directeur général a promues pour assurer que la FAO joue le rôle qui lui revient dans le système des Nations Unies; il a fait référence à ces initiatives concernant la négociation nord-sud et bien entendu pour permettre d'accroître la capacité opérationnelle de la FAO au niveau des pays. Je voudrais également remercier les délégations qui ont indiqué leur appui au rôle de chef de file, dans le système des Nations Unies, que la FAO doit revêtir dans le secteur de l'alimentation, le développement rural, les activités d'urgence liées à l'alimentation et la relance du secteur agricole. De même pour l'appui général qui avait été donné aux actions de la FAO dans la préparation, la tenue et le suivi d'un certain nombre de conférences mondiales, qui ont bien entendu un intérêt considérable pour la FAO, citons l'énergie, la science, le développement et bien d'autres encore. Certes le système des Nations Unies est complexe par sa nature. Il touche à bien des activités, sinon à toutes les activités de l'homme et par conséquent il est diversifié. Je comprends très bien l'intérêt qu'une documentation comme celle-ci présente pour les délégations, de manière à se faire une idée de la somme des secteurs embrassés par le système des Nations Unies. Je voudrais donc dire que nous aussi nous comprenons le délégué du Canada lorsqu'il dit que ce genre de rapport est opportun et il devrait être un trait permanent des sessions de notre Conseil. Je voudrais le rassurer pour ce point qui est à l'ordre du jour de façon traditionnelle au Conseil de la FAO. Nous nous efforçons de faire un tour d'horizon général des activités du système des Nations Unies ayant une importance pour la FAO. Malheureusement, ces activités sont nombreuses. Nous devons par la force des choses être sélectifs et c'est peut-être pour cela que toutes les informations désirables ne se trouvent pas nécessairement dans ce document. Le représentant de la Colombie a mentionné le FIDA. Il n'y a pas de références dans le document au FIDA parce que l'aspect des ressources, le FIDA et les autres organisations de financement, sont généralement mentionnés dans d'autres documents présentés au Conseil sous les points : "Situation générale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture", et il faut éviter les doubles emplois et les doubles références et en même temps rester bref dans le document qui nous est présenté.

Je ne voudrais pas parler des points de substance comme le lancement des négociations nord-sud, la question des ressources en général, du PNUD en particulier, de la part des ressources du PNUD à travers la FAO. Notre rapport mentionnera les références déjà faites. Cependant je voudrais faire deux commentaires sur les questions qui sont posées. Le délégué du Canada a indiqué, en ce qui concerne les activités opérationnelles, qu'il serait utile de savoir si la FAO a mentionné les efforts faits pour la mise en oeuvre de la recommandation de résolution de l'Assemblée générale, 35/81, sur le renforcement de la capacité du système des Nations Unies au niveau opérationnel. C'est un exercice qui est en cours de manière permanente. Nous avons bien évidemment communiqué la teneur des conclusions de la Conférence de l'année dernière au Directeur général, du développement et de la coopération économique internationale, et cela a pu l'aider à présenter son rapport, pour ce qui concerne les aspects qui nous intéressent, à la présente Assemblée générale. Il est évident aussi que M. Ripert doit présenter l'année prochaine un document sur les opérations du système des Nations Unies qui est un document d'ensemble et de politique; là aussi sans doute il souhaitera connaître l'avis et les positions des différentes agences et organes qui font partie du système, et il y a là un dialogue. Je voudrais rassurer le délégué du Canada sur ce point.

La question des urgences a également été mentionnée et je voudrais rapidement préciser quelques points sur ce sujet. Dans la plupart des situations d'urgence en réalité, elles sont suffisamment simples et l'on peut d'emblée identifier qui doit prendre l'action immédiate et la coordination est simple et se fait très bien. Cependant le CAC a reconnu dans certains cas particulièrement complexes de grande envergure et de grande portée qu'il était probablement nécessaire de prévoir des dispositions spécifiques. La décision du CAC qui est communiquée au Conseil prévoit la procédure par laquelle dans ces circonstances spécifiques les organisations du système intéressées par les opérations d'urgence se consultent pour décider s'il y a urgence nécessitant une procédure spéciale et, si la réponse est positive, comment la coordination se fera et elle peut se faire, par exemple, par la désignation d'une agence chef de file par le Secrétaire général après les consultations nécessaires, et en accord avec les organisations intéressées, ou par la désignation d'un représentant spécial du Secrétaire général; ces choses se faisant sur une base *ad hoc* en fonction du cas d'espèce. Par conséquent, il est évident qu'en ce qui concerne le secteur agricole et rural, la relance de la réhabilitation agricole où les opérations d'urgence immédiates en matière d'aide alimentaire, la FAO et le PAM sont toujours tenus en considération mais la décision est une décision *ad hoc*. Une question est également posée par le représentant de l'Inde concernant la "task force" sur le développement rural: je voudrais préciser qu'effectivement la FAO est le chef de file reconnu dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies, par conséquent ceci va dans le sens de la préoccupation exprimée par le représentant de l'Inde. Il a indiqué qu'il serait souhaitable que des directives générales pour les projets en matière de développement rural soient considérées. Je voudrais simplement à titre d'information lui indiquer que de telles lignes d'orientations, de telles directives sont à l'examen de la "Task Force" sur le développement rural. J'ai devant moi un premier projet de ce qu'en anglais on appelle "Guidelines for the design and use of monitoring and evaluation systems in managing rural development." Donc cette question est à l'examen pour l'instant de la "Task Force". Le premier projet sera discuté à sa prochaine session en avril 1983 et; une fois que ces directives seraient approuvées, elles seraient utilisées aussi bien par le personnel des Nations Unies dans sa préparation de projet que nous l'espérons au niveau national. Le représentant de l'Inde a également indiqué qu'il serait sans doute utile en ce qui concerne l'énergie rurale nouvelle et renouvelable de disposer d'une cellule à la FAO qui puisse maîtriser l'ensemble de ce secteur. Je voudrais le rassurer à cet égard puisque le Directeur général a désigné il y a quelque temps un groupe de travail départemental sur l'environnement et l'énergie. C'est donc cette cellule dont nous avons parlé tout à l'heure.

Je crois avoir répondu ainsi aux principales questions. Je voudrais seulement dire que nous avons pris note du lancement de ce nouveau programme par les communautés européennes d'un programme sur la recherche en matière d'agronomie tropicale et sur l'offre de participation de la FAO au comité de gestion. Nous en avons pris bonne note.

En ce qui concerne la question que vous avez vous-même posée concernant la décennie sur l'utilisation de l'eau, il n'y a pas référence à cette décennie dans ce document-ci car la question a été traitée lors d'un Conseil précédent et n'ayant pas eu de développement depuis lors, nous n'avons pas pensé utile d'en parler. C'est une chose que nous suivons de près, y compris la nécessité tout à fait particulière d'un lien avec les problèmes de l'eau dans les villages et dans les zones rurales et également le problème de l'irrigation. C'est une chose que nous avons en tête.

CHAIRMAN: I am very grateful to all of you for the very interesting discussion this morning, and to Mr. Regnier and to the staff of FAO for making such a discussion possible.

Election of Five Members of CFA Election des cinq membres du CFA Elección de cinco Miembros del CFA

Y. A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize for taking the floor so late. The Chairman of the African Group announced that the Group were putting forward the candidacy of Nigeria and Zambia for the CFA in order to replace Sierra Leone and Egypt. This decision was adopted when our delegation was not present, Mr. Chairman. This announcement has led to considerable confusion among the members of the Council. For this reason, my delegation would like to stress that the Arab Republic of Egypt is still a candidate for the CFA, and leaves the final decision to the honorable members of the Council.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I wonder whether the Chairman of the African group would be kind enough to give us some clarification on this issue.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne voudrais pas retenir plus longtemps le Conseil, mais je dois dire que l'annonce que j'ai faite ce matin, je l'ai faite au nom du groupe africain. Nous maintenons notre position: le groupe africain présente deux candidats au moment où deux autres pays voient leur mandat se terminer. Les deux pays que nous proposons sont le Nigeria et la Zambie. Je demande aux membres du Conseil d'aider le groupe africain à soutenir ces deux candidats.

CHAIRMAN: I would therefore like to revise what I stated earlier in the morning. In the Order of the Day paper, as programmed on Monday morning, there will be an election of five members to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. On the UN/FAO World Food Programme the nominations are: Cuba, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Zambia and Norway. The only change is that Zambia replaces Lesotho. I think that is all right. In the morning when I asked, there was no response from Members, which I took as concurrence,

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): That is agreed. Lesotho will now step down.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the clarification. So the only change is that Zambia replaces Lesotho.

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 82/PV/9

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(26 November 1982)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuacion)
9. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Matters of Common Interest:(continued)
9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur des questions d'intérêt commun: (suite)
9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común: (continuación)
- 9.2 Joint Inspection Unit Reports:
9.2 Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection:
9.2 Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección:
- (a) Thirteenth Report on the Activities of the JIU (July 1980-June 1981)
(a) Treizième rapport sur les activités du Corps commun d'inspection (juillet 1980-juin 1981)
(a) 13 Informe sobre las actividades de la Dependencia Común de Inspección (julio 1980-junio 1981)
- (b) Control and Limitation of Documentation in the United Nations System
(b) Contrôle et limitation de la documentation dans les organismes" des Nations Unies
(b) Control y limitación de la documentación en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas
- (c) Status of Internal Evaluation in the United Nations System Organizations, and Second Report on Evaluation in the United Nations System
(c) L'évaluation interne dans les organismes des Nations Unies, et deuxième rapport sur l'évaluation dans le Système des Nations Unies
(c) Situación de la evaluación interna en las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y segundo Informe sobre la evaluación en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas
- (d) Methods of Determining Staff Requirements
(d) Méthodes de détermination des besoins en personnel
(d) Métodos para determinar las necesidades en materia de personal
- (e) Management Services in the United Nations System
(e) Les services de gestion dans le Système des Nations Unies
(e) Servicios de gestión en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas
- (f) Application by the United Nations System of the Mar del Plata Plan on Water Development and Administration
(f) Application par le Système des Nations Unies du Plan d'action de Mar del Plata sur la mise en valeur et la gestion des ressources en eau
(f) Aplicación por el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas del Plan de Acción del Mar de Plata sobre el desarrollo y la administración de los recursos hídricos
- (g) Work Programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1982
(g) Programme de travail du Corps commun d'inspection pour 1982
(g) Programa de Trabajo de la Dependencia Común de Inspección para 1982
- (h) Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities
(h) Coordination des activités dans le domaine de l'information
(h) La coordinación en el campo de las actividades de información pública

CHAIRMAN: We have eight different joint inspection unit reports. These have been examined by both the Programme and Finance Committees of the Council and I shall first request the Chairmen of these two Committees to give their comments and introduce them and afterwards we will take them up together, all of them, so that delegations which wish to make comments can do so on any or all of the reports. Earlier I had mentioned that both our Committees, Programme and Finance, met twice this year; they worked very hard and carefully examined all the reports and material put up before them. I wish to thank Professor Trkulja and his colleagues on the Programme Committee and Mr. Abeyagoonasekera and his colleagues on the Finance Committee for their very hard and dedicated work. I am sure the Council Members would like to record our sincere appreciation both to the Chairmen and Members of these two Committees.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): Thank you very much, Mr, Chairman, especially for your very kind words. I am not quite positive that at least as far as I myself am concerned, I deserve such compliments. You rightly pointed out that we studied at our last Session eight JIU reports, so it is quite obvious that JIU continue to keep the Committees and indeed the Council busy. I will just try to highlight the main positions of the Programme Committee on the most substantive issues emerging from the JIU reports.

The first report is of rather routine nature; that is the report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit which, as you aware, contains very condensed summaries of the studies done in the reporting period July 1980 to June 1981. Then, very tentative lists of the studies to be worked out in the next couple of years as a consequence of decisions already taken by General Assembly and indeed very bitter complaints about the bad treatment of the Inspectors in New York at the United Nations Headquarters.

My Committee was very happy to learn that FAO always provided decent service facilities to the Inspectors whenever they visited either Rome or FAO's field offices. The Committee, as usual, merely took note of report.

The second report is on the control and limitation of documentation in the United Nations System. We found, indeed, the report to be very useful and we expressed our general agreement with the main findings of the Inspectors as well as with the main comments of ACC. It might be too monotonous to continue always in this way, but we were actually happy to realise that FAO ranked very prominently within the United Nations System family. We have in particular welcomed the recent steps taken by the Director-General to impose an overall cut of 10 per cent in wordage for meetings to limit the length of individual pre-session documents and to condense lay-outs.

Finally, on the same report, the Committee was fully aware of the importance of documentation in the House so, after a lengthy debate, it expressed its wish to continue with the periodical reviews of FAO documentation, of course based on very, very simple information provided by the Secretariat.

The third document contained actually two reports, one is the joint report on the Status of Internal Evaluation in the United Nations System and the second is the Report on Evaluation in the United Nations System. Just a brief reminder of the involvement of JIU in the field of evaluation which goes back to 1977 when they produced the first report, the status report on evaluation in the United Nations System, then they continue with the evaluation terms in just an attempt to clarify the terminology. Then they continue with the initial guidelines that the Council and the Conference have already studied. Now we are faced with two reports, as I said and again the first report is a status report showing evaluation services in 23 United Nations organizations. I see again there is no doubt that FAO maintains its leading role in the field of evaluation, as after all fully recognized by the last two FAO Conferences which examined at length the evaluation system of FAO. Further we found that the FAO continued to use properly its resources for evaluation on a selective and judicious basis. We underline the need for FAO to be more active in strengthening the capabilities of member nations in the evaluation, especially in the field activities and JIU is just about to complete a study of that matter.

We considered in depth the evaluation service with FAO, the staff qualifications, the procedure used by FAO with a particular attention to the field activities. We recommended that the secretariat should make full use of the report of the panel of experts organized by FAO in various fields.

The next report is on the Methods of Determining Staff Requirements. The committee complimented JIU for a very concise and useful document. The committee agreed with the basic thrusts of the JIU recommendations with certain exceptions to which I will refer a bit later, as well we were in full agreement with the ACC comments, especially with regards to the recommendations 3 and 4. On the issue of these two recommendations there was a split in the committee. The majority in the committee believed and shared, if you like, the views of the ACC that the insertion of the programme elements in the Programme of Work and Budget document would not be useful or, even could be counterproductive. However, some members fully supported the two recommendations of the inspector, that is recommendations 3 and 4. I will not go into detail as you are aware, Mr. Chairman, that the committee had a very long debate on that issue but if I am asked, either by you or members of the Council I am prepared to clarify any points or answer any questions.

The next report, Management services in the United Nations System, I will only say a couple of words. I will leave it to a friend of mine, Mr. Abeyagoonasekera to say more because it belongs to the Finance Committee rather than to the Programme Committee. We were basically in agreement with the, JIU report. We felt that the FAO's functions in management services were proper. Further we found that most of the recommendations of the inspector had been already implemented by FAO. Here again the FAO really ranks very high in the United Nations System. On a very small technical issue of the place of the Manual, we felt the Manual should remain in the personnel division.

Then in the report of the JIU, Application by the United Nations System of the Mar del Plata Plan on Water Development and Administration, very briefly, we found the report very informative and useful. We especially underlined the need for FAO to do its best to assist the government in the respective region. We commended the FAO work in this field which preceded by many years the Mar del Plata Conference itself and as had always been the position of the Committee we especially supported the national institution, the institutional building aspect, and encouraged the Director-General to pursue vigorously that direction. We noted improved coordination among the United Nations organizations related with water programmes but we found that perhaps the role of the Economic Commission should be more clarified in that regard.

The last but one report: The Work Programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1982, we only took note of it. You will certainly notice the inspectors want to undertake the whole set of studies, some of which would be of great interest to FAO membership but I will not go into that.

Finally, the last report is on the information activities among the members of the United Nations System. In essence, the findings of the inspectors were related to three main fields. One is how to strengthen organisationally the cooperation in the information field in the UN and the whole issue is basically addressed to the strengthening of Joint United Nations Information Committees, (JUNIC). The committee was not in full agreement with the JIU. We found that progress had been made through JUNIC which offered certainly very useful and valuable opportunities for the heads of information services of various UN organisations to exchange views and to establish cooperation whenever practicable and necessary but we did not share the suggestion or the recommendation of the inspector that the secretariat of JUNIC should be strengthened. We thought it should be done through more effective contributions by all participating organizations. The second is relating to the Development Forum. We recognize the very difficult financial situation which prevailed over years and after lengthy debates we recommended that the FAO should perhaps consider contributing certain amount of funds in support of Development Forum, though we were fully aware that the FAO had its own magazine basically for the same purpose but we found it might be useful for FAO to consider providing financial help for Development Forum, provided adequate attention is paid to food and agriculture.

The third and last point is the problem of pooling of facilities, especially at the field level. We in general supported the idea of the JIU and encouraged the Director-General of FAO to pursue the basic thrust of the recommendation whenever possible.

We went into a number of technical issues with regard to the information services but I am not going into that area. Of course again I stand ready to give any explanation if either you or the members of the council wish me to.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman of the Finance Committee): I do not think I need at this stage give you a long introduction on these 8 JIU reports because the Chairman of the Programme Committee has dealt sufficiently at length with the substance of these reports but nevertheless since this committee is entrusted with looking into the financial aspects of these reports, I will make my comments.

At the 49th session we were presented with seven JIU reports, including the JIU programme for 1982. The views of the committee on these reports appear in paragraphs 95 to 114 of our report of the

49th session. I refer to the document CL 82/4.

Then at the 50th session one more report of the JIU was presented to the committee and our comments appear in paragraphs 2.80 to 2.83 on page 48 of our report, CL 82/11.

The comments I would like to highlight in respect to these 8 reports very briefly are as follows: the 13th report on the activities undertaken by JIU for the period July 1980 to June 1981, referred to in paragraph 95 of this report, would require a sizable input of efforts and time by the FAO staff.

On the document control and limitation of documentation in the UN system referred to in JIU document CL 82/7 the committee found that the practices and procedures followed by FAO in controlling and limiting documentation was sound and effective. Our comments in this regard appear in paragraphs 96 to 98 of our report. The committee was pleased to note that the JIU had commented favourably on the FAO's method of internal evaluation in document CL 82/13 and felt that the Organization should continue to strengthen its evaluation system in order to maximize cost effectiveness of its programme in the future. In reviewing the JIU report on methods of determining staff requirements in document CL 82/9, our comments appear in paragraphs 103 and 104 of our report. In this regard the committee, while agreeing in principle with the views expressed by the JIU inspectors considered that in any attempt to have a uniform set of procedures one should not overlook the varying comments of the governing bodies of specialized agencies. In regard particularly to the JIU Recommendations 3 and 4 which have been referred to by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, while we felt that providing information and documentation did meet the requirements necessary, there ought not to be too much detail which would lead to clouding the issues rather than simplifying them. We ought to bear in mind the cost of providing further information as well. The Committee's views in this connexion appear in paragraphs 103 and 104 of the Report of the Forty-Ninth Session.

On the Report on the Management Services in the United Nations System, the Committee was satisfied with the activities of the Organization in this field. Our comments appear in paragraphs 106 to 109 of our Report.

The report on the Mar del Plata Plan on Water Development and Administration, the Committee accepted the recommendations of the report. For our comments please see paragraphs 110 to 112 of our Report.

So far as the JIU Work Programme for 1982 is concerned, the Committee felt that several of the studies planned, particularly the one on ESCAP, could be of interest to FAO.

The last report of the JIU on Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities, which was presented to us at the Fiftieth Session, we felt, that the coordination of information was desirable but the peculiarities of each organization's policies should be recognized. With regard to their comments on the Development Forum the Committee felt that FAO might consider contributing financially on a voluntary basis but not on an obligatory basis towards the publication of this bulletin. Our comments concerning this appear in paragraphs 2.80 to 2.81 of our Report.

CHAIRMAN: We are grateful to the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their introduction of these reports, also for appraising the members of the views of the two Committees on these reports. The floor is now open for discussion. As I said earlier, you may take all the reports together or deal with them individually.

N. KISHORE (India): My delegation compliments the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee on their deep examination of the various reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and for offering valuable suggestions.

My delegation also compliments the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their brief, precise and excellent introduction of the items.

My delegation will deal with only three reports, namely the Report on the Control and Limitation of Documentation in the United Nations System, the Report on Status of Internal Evaluation, and the Report on Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities.

As regards the report on the Control and Limitation of Documentation in the United Nations System, my delegation has noted that the report contains very useful recommendations in order to keep control of the volume of documentation in the United Nations System. My delegation has also noted that the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination is in general agreement with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit inspector. The Programme and Finance Committees of FAO have also found the report useful and constructive and have expressed their general agreement with the recommendations and the comments of ACC. My delegation supports the recommendations contained in the Report of the JIU on the Control and Limitation of Documentation in the United Nations System and the comments of the ACC thereon. My delegation has noted that the DG FAO has recently taken a decision to introduce an overall cut of 10 percent in documents and has also decided to limit the length of papers to maximum of 8 000 words. My delegation appreciate the dynamic decision taken by the DG FAO in reducing the quantum of documentation. My delegation would however suggest that the Director-General may report to the next session of the Council on the quantum of reduction of the documentation achieved as a result of his decision. My delegation would also suggest that a periodic review of FAO documentation should be undertaken in order to eliminate unimportant and escapable documents and thus reduce expenditure on documentation.

My delegation has noted that the Joint Inspection Unit inspector in his Report on the Status of Internal Evaluation in the United Nations System Organizations has reported that the FAO has made considerable strides to make the internal evaluation system more comprehensive in the past few years. He has also reported that internal evaluation was introduced in the Organization in 1978 as a built-in periodic activity by programme managers at all levels to review progress achieved and problems encountered. The Organization has also undertaken a review of regular programmes. My delegation compliments the DG FAO on the successful introduction of a comprehensive internal evaluation system in the Organization, and for maintaining its lead within the UN System in the field of evaluation.

My delegation has carefully read the Report of the JIU on Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities among members of the United Nations System. My delegation has noted that so far there is no closer coordination in the field of public information activities among the members of the United Nations System. The principal reason for this, as reported by the inspector, is the lack of readiness to combine efforts by the members of the United Nations System. The Inspector has also reported that attempts have been made to defend their legal positions underlying specific tasks as if the world could be divided sectorially with little scope for joint action. My delegation believes that FAO has had closer coordination with other UN agencies in the field of public information activities. My delegation has also noted that so far FAO has not contributed to Development Forum as it already set aside considerable resources for CERES. The inspector has recommended that Development Forum should be the only system-wide periodical in the field of economic and social development and its financing should be on the basis of a formula ensuring obligatory contributions by each member of the United Nations system in adequate amounts. The United Nations Administrative Coordination Committee has also concurred with these views of the inspector.

The September 1982 session of the Programme Committee while considering the JIU Report on Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities felt that the possibility of FAO contributing voluntarily towards Development Forum within the existing budgetary resources was worth considering provided that Development Forum paid adequate attention to food and agricultural issues and to the work of FAO.

My delegation fully supports the views of the Programme Committee and suggests that the FAO Council may agree in principle to making voluntary contribution towards Development Forum provided that Development Forum will give adequate attention to food and agricultural issues and to the programmes and activities of FAO. The amount of voluntary contribution may be left to the discretion of the DG FAO. However, my delegation feels that an assurance may be obtained from Development Forum that adequate attention will be paid to food and agricultural issues and to the programmes and activities of FAO.

MS. G. LAPOINTE (Canada) : I should like to begin by stating that Canada values very highly the work of the Joint Inspection Unit and attaches great importance to the JIU Reports. We believe these reports to be well-prepared and very thorough, and we believe that they provide an excellent overview on many important aspects of the activities within the UN system. That is why my delegation is particularly happy to see FAO being given very high marks by the JIU in a number of areas.

I should like to mention briefly the area of the control and limitation of documentation in the United Nations system. The JIU reports stress particularly the regulations that exist within FAO concerning the wordage of documents, the satisfactory schedule of documentation, a reduction in the number of meetings, that has led in turn to a reduction in the volume of documentation. Canada strongly supports the FAO's initiative for a systemwide document reform in the United Nations and wishes to congratulate the FAO on the steps it has already taken and encourage it to continue to strive for more reduction in the overall level of documentation. We should all bear in mind that more efficient documentation frees scarce United Nations resources for more directly beneficial operational activities.

I should also like to mention the Report dealing with Internal Evaluation. FAO is again given high marks for having introduced a new auto-evaluation system as well as for the introduction of the Review of the Regular Programme. The Inspectors have described the above measures as having considerable potential for strengthening the FAO operations and accountability in a comprehensive and systematic way.

My delegation has taken note with satisfaction of the substantial improvements in the area of evaluation in the past two years. Canada considers such measures particularly important in a period of scarce resources, given that good and full evaluation is a fundamental step in establishing priorities within a given programme.

Finally I should like to mention the report dealing with the application by the United Nations system of the Mar del Plata Plan on Water Development and Administration. Canada believes that FAO and other organizations should be encouraged to fully coordinate their efforts in this area, especially in view of the report's conclusion that the United Nations system has a demonstrated capability in the field of water resources that should enable it to satisfy requests for assistance in practically all of the rounds of action required for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

F. FEQUANT (France) : La délégation française voudrait d'abord souligner l'intérêt des questions traitées et la très grande qualité des rapports préparés par le Corps commun d'inspection, comme l'ont maintes fois rappelé le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier lors de leurs récentes sessions. Les tableaux comparatifs et les recommandations des Inspecteurs sont particulièrement utiles pour améliorer le fonctionnement et accroître l'efficacité du Système des Nations Unies.

- Toutefois, ma délégation souhaiterait soumettre au Conseil deux propositions:

- La première concerne la présentation des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection au Conseil et aux comités compétents. En effet, le nombre et le volume considérables de ces rapports impliquent pour leur examen attentif une somme de travail importante. Le Secrétariat pourrait-il préparer un résumé regroupant les recommandations et les extraits de chaque rapport qui concernent directement l'OAA, ainsi que les observations correspondantes du Comité administratif de coordination, en les accompagnant d'un bref commentaire avant leur présentation aux comités compétents et au Conseil?

A notre avis, chaque résumé du rapport ne devrait pas dépasser quelques pages afin d'éviter un surcroît de travail pour le Secrétariat. L'intérêt de ces résumés serait de concentrer les débats sur les points essentiels et de faciliter le travail préparatoire des délégués, qui pourraient toutefois avoir accès aux rapports complets s'ils souhaitaient s'y reporter.

En particulier, ces résumés permettraient au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier de se consacrer davantage à leur mission essentielle, qui doit être d'examiner en priorité les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation. Ces deux comités passeraient ainsi moins de temps à l'étude des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection qui absorbe actuellement une part trop importante de leurs travaux.

- Ma deuxième proposition concerne le suivi des recommandations des Inspecteurs. En effet, la préparation, la traduction, la reproduction et la distribution des nombreux rapports du Corps commun d'inspection représentent un coût très élevé pour tout le Système des Nations Unies et pour l'OAA en particulier. En outre, ces rapports absorbent une part notable des travaux des organes intergouvernementaux, ce qui entraîne des frais supplémentaires importants pour chaque organisation.

Or de telles dépenses ne sont justifiées que dans la mesure où ces rapports ont un impact réel sur les activités des organisations. C'est pourquoi ma délégation attache une grande importance à la mise en oeuvre effective des recommandations du Corps commun d'inspection.

Nous pensons donc qu'il serait souhaitable que le Secrétariat prépare tous les deux ans, pour le Conseil et ses Comités compétents, un court rapport d'évaluation concernant les progrès réalisés par l'OAA dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations pertinentes du Corps commun d'inspection.

MRS. J.S. WALLACE (United States of America) : We have studied the JIU reports on the agenda and have listened with great care and concern to the comments of other delegations. The strong support that the United States gives to the JIU and its work is well known. Let me make just a few comments, therefore, on some of the JIU reports before us.

Control and limitation of documentation has been a chronic problem in a number of the UN system institutions. My delegation is very pleased to note that this Organization is not as burdened with an overwhelming paper flow as are some others. Thanks in this regard are due to the Director-General, who has personally seen to it that the deluge of superfluous information has been halted. This has resulted in a savings in printing, drafting and other administrative costs. Nevertheless, Member governments do need informative, useful documentation in order to carry out their task of representing the Member sovereign states that comprise our institutions. My delegation would hope therefore that while controlling and limiting documentation in the FAO, management will consider the needs of Member governments for concise but specific information. My delegation is also pleased that FAO has received high marks for its internal evaluation efforts. The United States has always been a strong advocate for effective evaluation which includes not only candid appraisal but follow-up efforts to ensure that recommendations are implemented.

With respect to the subject of coordination in the field of public information activities, my delegation finds the report raises numerous questions. The Programme and Finance Committees logically concluded that specialized agencies have their own specialized information needs and that there may be little utility in placing all public information activities of the system under a single roof. Nevertheless, as the JIU report indicated, public information activities carry a considerable price tag. The JIU report specifies that the cost of public information activities in the FAO between 1977 and 1979 increased from 2.4 million dollars to nearly 2.9 million dollars in regular budget funds. During this biennium, our regular budget for this programme has reached a total of 7.3 million dollars. The JIU report raises the question of how such large sums are spent in the propagation and dissemination of information materials or in staff travel. My delegation believes that FAO management should take such questions seriously in planning future activities in this area.

The US delegation would like to make a comment on a JIU report which we believed would have been on the agenda, that is the JIU report 82/4 on the Status of Women in the professional category and above. My delegation believes that this meeting should focus on a basic inequity that has prevailed throughout the United Nations system as long as the system has existed, and I refer to the well-documented need to improve the record of every UN agency with regard to recruiting women into professional and managerial posts. My government continues in its commitment to the goals of the UN Decade for Women : Equality, Development and Peace, which calls for the full participation of women in both the formulation of policy and the implementation of programmes at all levels of activities of the UN system and Member States. We know that this is a problem that has already received the serious attention of the Director-General and of FAO managers. Nevertheless, the record of recruitment and advancement of women in the FAO service requires improvement. My delegation urges the Director-General to instruct his staff and encourage them to increase the number of women in posts, subject to geographical distribution, to 25 percent of the total. We would hope that the future reports of the Director-General to FAO's governing bodies will show a direct and dramatic increase. We hope that he will be able to submit to the UN Secretary-General as Chairman of the ACC a status report of the role of women in FAO for the presentation to the 1985 World Conference on Women.

And finally, the US delegation endorses both proposals made by France.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In picking up a point made by our active Chairman of the Programme Committee in his very useful introduction, I can assure him that we have nothing against being kept busy with Joint Inspection Unit activities. On the contrary, we feel this time is well spent, and it is in the interests of all Member states.

We also wish to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his introduction and the members of the two Committees for their work. Following your guidance, Mr. Chairman, I will give you our views on all the issues before us in one intervention. On the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Federal Republic of Germany attaches throughout the United Nations system great importance to the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit. Its work aims at increasing the efficiency of the UN organizations through critical analysis and constructive suggestions. In view of the difficult world economic situation, increasing budgetary problems of the UN contributors, a worldwide increase in costs and above all, growing problems also in many of the developing countries, this aim has gained immense importance. It should therefore be in the interest of all FAO Member states to support the work of the Joint Inspection Unit and its increasing cooperation with FAO. Developing countries in particular to which FAO's work is to a great extent devoted could particularly benefit from this work. In this respect, my delegation also considers the input of time and effort on the part of the Secretariat necessary to achieve the aims pursued. On documents, with regard to reducing the number and extent of documents as well as eliminating superfluous documents, we support the proposals submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and we wish to commend the Secretariat for the high marks given to it by the JIU. In this connection, my delegation would like to take as an example a concrete proposal for a substantial reduction of documentation for the FAO Council and Conference Sessions. As the Governments of the UN Member states anyhow receive the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, we consider it unnecessary to reprint and dispatch again these documents, which are normally quite extensive. It would suffice in our view for the work of FAO bodies if only the recommendations contained in the reports of the JIU and also those parts which concern FAO were dispatched as Council and Conference documents. At Council and Conference Sessions, a limited set of complete documents could be made available for the use of the delegations. For our current Council Session, the realization of this proposal would mean a saving of about 200 pages per set of JIU reports or about 50,000 pages in total.

On internal evaluation with regard to the problem of internal evaluation, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of the JIU that FAO has made substantial additional progress in the past two years in extending its evaluation system to the regular programme. We support the suggestions made by the Programme and Finance Committees with regard to further improvements of the evaluation systems and the use of evaluation results from expert groups.

Within the framework of internal evaluation, emphasis should be laid on the proper use of the evaluation results and their appropriate implementation. Of great importance in this connexion is the adequate participation of the governing bodies, and their adequate information.

In this respect we agree in particular with the statements of the JIU reports in document JIU/Rep. 81/6, paragraphs 101 (g) and (i) and paragraph 104, and support recommendations 2, 3 and 7 spelled out in the same document.

On methods of determining staff requirements, these are in general of special importance for my government, and are of course, and without any doubt, also for all Member States. This applies in particular to areas of activities which require by nature high staffing, with the consequence that a particular high percentage of the total programme expenditure goes into personnel costs. The importance of the factor "personnel costs" in the budgets of international agencies is stressed by the fact that this factor represents about 70 percent of the regular budget, and amounted in 1980 to about US \$ 900 million. Adequate information is therefore imperative because of the dimension of the funds involved.

The respective Inspection Report of JIU contained in document CL 82/9 offers good approaches which can also be pursued in FAO. According to the findings of the JIU, the problem in that sector is not the elaboration of the information material, because information on the personnel sector is generally sufficiently available within the secretariats. In view of the JIU, the main problem is to facilitate the governing bodies' access to other existing information material. We share this conclusion of the JIU.

My delegation supports the recommendation of the JIU to include more information on personnel costs within the programme objectives. In this respect my delegation assumes that the JIU proposal to break down costs per programme element and the personnel working months per programme element, could be introduced step by step if it is too difficult to do it at once.

In this context, my delegation differs from the view of the majority of the members of the Programme and Finance Committees as expressed in documents CL 82/3 and CL 82/4. It supports the corresponding recommendations 3 and 4 of the JIU, as contained in document CL 82/9.

Finally, my government deems it necessary that all Member States of the Organization are informed about the actual filled posts situation which would allow them to be checked against the established budgeted posts.

T. SATONE (Japan): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees. My delegation would like to express its appreciation of the efforts of the JIU in preparing such detailed reports relating to the resources relating to evaluation. Many of the points which were raised by the JIU are quite acceptable to us. We hope FAO will make its best effort to try to arrange effective management in accordance with recommendations of the JIU regarding documentation, staff requirements, etc.

My government is in agreement with the suggestion of the JIU, that each organization should strengthen its internal system to reflect the effects of the variation in the formulation of the draft requirements of the Programme of Work and Budget as well as policy making. Concerning the completion of the internal evaluation system, we would like to mention that it might also be important to consider introducing the external expertise regarding the evaluation measures.

In addition, my delegation would like to support the proposal presented by the delegate of France that the Secretariat should consider preparing the summary of the JIU reports of the activities of FAO for the members of the Council.

KHANDAKER ASADUZZAMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation will deal only with the report on Coordination in the Field of Public Information Activities, CL 82/27.

My delegation generally endorses the findings and recommendations as contained in the report to reduce the duplication of activities of various information offices of the United Nations systems, and unnecessary and unproductive expenditures. My delegation also agrees with the measures which are proposed to be taken to increase the effectiveness of the information activities and to enhance the image of the United Nations.

My delegation, however, has certain suggestions to make which may enhance the image of the United Nations in the developing countries. At present the United Nations information system uses only United Nations languages, and as a result their communication is confined mainly to urban areas whereas the developing countries are predominately rural. My delegation therefore proposes that the United Nations news bulletins and radio broadcasts should include events in regional languages as far as possible.

In this connexion, my delegation would like to mention that at the last meeting of the United Nations Committee on Information, it was decided that the introduction of a Bengali service in the United Nations radio would be considered, but this has not yet been done.

My delegation feels that the vast network of the United Nations Information System should be increasingly used as an instrument to accelerate technological transfer. The United Nations news and publications could give greater coverage to science, technology, and developmental issues relevant to developing countries.

At present there is some imbalance in the content of the UN Information System. Developed countries appropriate more space than the developing countries. My delegation therefore feels that greater coverage may be allocated to developing countries on matters which are of common concern to them.

An imbalance is also noticed in the personnel of the UN Information system. Representation from the developing countries is insignificant. This results in presenting the developing countries as stereo-types. Greater representation from the developing countries would improve the image of these countries.

Finally, my delegation would like to suggest that the Editorial Board for Development Forum include competent representatives from the developing countries.

J. M. SCOULAR (United Kingdom) : I would like first of all to take up a general point made by the delegates of France, Germany and Japan about the weight of documentation. I have read these documents, and would welcome anything to shorten this task. It certainly is worth the consideration of the Secretariat. It may be the costs do not work out right, but it is worth looking at.

Next, may I turn to the actual reports. I propose to comment on the evaluation report and on the report on public information activities. First, evaluation. We have read the JIU report contained in paper CL 82/13 with much interest and have noted with interest the progress made by FAO in the field of evaluation.

We have also noted the growing acceptance of built-in evaluation as the basic component of most organizations' international evaluation system. While this approach has a great deal of merit, we have some doubts about putting too great an emphasis on it, since it carries the risk that because people are having to evaluate their own work there may not be much cutting edge in their comments. We feel, therefore, there should be a separate section within any organization which is responsible for carrying out evaluation work and which should be able to engage outsiders for at least some of the activities that it undertakes.

A further lesson to be learned from the report is the need for adequate staff training, as expressed in Recommendation 10. There is a risk that evaluation may become an activity simply added to normal programmes rather than being built into this system. We would like to hear what the Secretariat's attitude is to this recommendation in particular and would also welcome an indication of the Organization's attitude to the other recommendations in the report.

We regard feedback as one of the weakest links in evaluation, and we urge FAO to give as much attention as possible to improving the feedback of the results of the evaluation work within the Organization. If the main emphasis is to be on "built-in self evaluation" the question arises of who will be given the responsibility for ensuring that the lessons learned at project level will be applied within the agency as a whole.

In this respect we have some doubts about the "memory banks" mentioned in paragraph 54 of the Second report. The potential value of these banks could be reduced because those responsible for new projects will not know what information they contain or how to retrieve it. We ourselves are giving priority to more direct person-to-person linkages.

Now if I can return to the report on the public information activities, our view on this is that it contains a number of reasonably constructive criticisms, but I do not think it mentions all the good aspects of the United Nations information system. All in all, we consider JUNIC is not doing a bad job. The roots of its trouble lies in not having funds of its own, and it has to deal with organizations with different priorities, different perspectives, different ideas of what is important in the field of information.

The report also includes some criticism of the Development Forum newspaper. Our own view is that this is a well-written and well produced paper, probably one of the better vehicles for publicising UN's development activities, and should be encouraged. We think this should be placed on a sound footing with financial support within the United Nations' budgets.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho) : Our delegation is in agreement with recommendation (c) on page 12 of document CL 82/6 referring to the inclusion in the Agenda of sessions of intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations organizations and of the question of discontinuing production of recurrent documents which have become redundant or have lost their usefulness.

We also support recommendation 41 (a) of the same document as it applies to the control and limitation of documents in the United Nations system. This recommendation prescribes the establishment of rules concerning the maximum length of documents. Obviously this will be a difficult task but we hope they will do their best to implement the recommendation.

My delegation is aware that the FAO Secretariat has continued to exercise good judgement in regard to the volume of documentation, but clearly they were rather on the general side when it came to these reports. However, we feel that the reports have provided useful information to us and most of their recommendations will be beneficial not only to the United Nations system institutions, but also to the Members of this Council. The substance of these reports will, I am sure, help individual governments to control their own documentation, develop economical methods of determining staff requirements, improve management services and identify obsolete government activities.

Our delegation has read the summary reports for the Joint Inspection Unit very carefully. We are convinced that they will involve much work. They have dealt with evaluation of several United Nations Organizations including ours, which has been found to be performing extraordinarily well in all aspects evaluated by the Unit. It is our hope that all Council Members will treasure these reports so that there will be no need for producing them again in future.

We therefore reiterate what has been said by other delegations who spoke before us, that these reports have sufficiently delivered the message they were intended to disseminate, and that in future the Secretariat should prepare shorter and concise reports of the Joint Inspection Units on FAO activities.

Once again, our delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for providing such useful reports. We will try to do all we can as a country to implement most of the good recommendations, although they were actually meant to apply to the United Nations System.

A. F. M. de FREITAS (Brazil) : My delegation would like to express its support for the JIU's work. In this respect I would like to make a few comments on the proposal by the delegate of France. As a Member of the Programme Committee, my delegation has the trouble every session to face a certain number of very thick JIU reports and I would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of France to the effect that perhaps the Secretariat could study a way of preparing a presentation of a summary for each report highlighting the topics that touch directly on the action of FAO.

The second proposal also seems to be very interesting to my delegation, namely, a kind of periodical short evaluation of the implementation of the JIU recommendations on the different activities of FAO. I shall have some brief comments to make on two of the JIU reports.

The first one is the one on control and limitation of documentation in the United Nations system. My delegation joins the previous speakers praising FAO for the effort already accomplished in trying to limit the volume of documents that are submitted to delegates in this Organization. We think that this effort should be pursued so that the size of documents may be kept under control.

The second report that is of special interest to my delegation is the one regarding coordination in the field of public information activities. My delegation shares the view of the ACC as contained in the report of the Programme Committee, paragraph 1.85 to the effect that the common goal can perhaps best be achieved by a diversity of action. Nevertheless, I think that some effort should be started in the direction of trying to save the scarce resources at the disposal of the international organizations.

On the item of publications, I was thinking that perhaps publications addressed to the general public or to the specialized public dealing with the same area of interest - for instance, agricultural subjects or development oriented agencies of the United Nations - could perhaps sometimes be consoli-dated, so that the expenditure in this area could be reduced.

SRA. DOÑA M. IVANKOVICH de AROSEMENA (Panama) : Mi delegación desea agradecer a los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y Finanzas por la presentación del documento. En el tema "Métodos para determinar las necesidades en materia de personal", al igual que en otros temas que consideramos en el punto 9, mi delegación tuvo la oportunidad de manifestarse en la reunión del Comité de Finanzas, del cual soy miembro. Compartimos las conclusiones a que llegó el Comité acerca del Informe de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, en principio como lo dice el Informe. Estamos de acuerdo con los objetivos y recomendaciones que tratamos, pero consideramos que la uniformidad de los procedimientos propuestos deberán quedar subordinados a los requisitos de los diferentes programas de los distintos organismos, así como también a las necesidades específicas de los órganos rectores.

Consideramos que la aplicación equilibrada de las recomendaciones III y IV del Informe, nos llevará a facilitar a los Estados Miembros la información y documentación necesaria para la adopción de las decisiones, considerando a la vez las consecuencias financieras que conllevan.

Sobre el tema "Control y Limitación de la Documentación en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas", deseamos comentar lo siguiente; creemos que a todos resulta alarmante el volumen de la documentación producida en las organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y sobre todo y como lo expresa el documento CL 82/7, resulta más alarmante el costo que entraña la producción y distribución de los mismos, sin contar el costo de la redacción. Es más, el documento señala que la eficiencia y la relación costo/eficiencia de las Naciones Unidas mejoraría considerablemente si pudiera reducirse el volumen de sus documentos, mejorar su calidad y puntualidad, motivo por el cual, consideramos necesario disminuir el volumen de publicaciones sin perjudicar a los Estados.

Mi delegación está de acuerdo con los plazos establecidos en la Organización para la presentación y distribución de los documentos. Consideramos que los documentos deben circular en las distintas lenguas de trabajo de la Organización al mismo tiempo, de tal manera que no se presenten aparentes disminuciones hacia ninguno de los cinco idiomas oficiales de la Organización.

Mi delegación está de acuerdo con las conclusiones a que llegaron los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas sobre las recomendaciones de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, y las observaciones formuladas por el CAC, que recomendó la aplicación de un criterio de flexibilidad inherente a las necesidades específicas de cada organismo.

Estamos de acuerdo con que las prácticas seguidas por la FAO para controlar y limitar la documentación son adecuadas y eficaces, y felicitamos al Director General por lo logros positivos de la FAO en este sector. Compartimos las recomendaciones del Comité del Programa de examinar periódicamente la documentación de la FAO sobre la base de una información suministrada en forma sencilla. También queremos apoyar lo dicho por la delegación de los Estados Unidos de América sobre la participación de la mujer a todos los niveles en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Consideramos que la FAO ha hecho esfuerzos en este sentido, pero consideramos también que se debe lograr una mayor participación de la mujer en la FAO en los niveles profesionales y de dirigencia.

Y ahora, y ya que estoy en el uso de la palabra, quería solicitarle su permiso para decir unas breves palabras en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano, sobre el Tema 9 del Calendario, que se suscitó esta mañana "Elección de los cinco miembros del Comité de Programas, de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria". La situación de nuestra región es la siguiente: América Latina y el Caribe sólo tienen cuatro puestos sobre los 30 miembros del CPA. En esta ocasión, corresponde al Consejo cubrir un puesto para nuestra región, y Cuba es nuestro único candidato. Por lo tanto, quisiéramos, los Miembros del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, solicitar, pedir al Consejo, que apoye la candidatura de Cuba.

Mme G. LAPOINTE (Canada) : Je voudrais simplement indiquer l'appui de la délégation canadienne aux deux propositions faites par la délégation française quant au suivi du rapport du Corps commun d'inspection. Cela nous semble une excellente façon de tirer le maximum de ce très bon rapport.

MS. G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italy) : I too wish to give our support to the proposal just made by the delegation of France and already supported by several other delegations. I believe that it is in the interests of us all and that it could really facilitate our deliberations.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola) : My delegation wishes to make a short intervention to support the statements just made by the delegates of Panama and the United States concerning the advancement of women in managerial and professional posts within the United Nations system. We gather that there is plenty of room for improvement and therefore, the sooner we start the better.

With regard to reduction of documents, we warmly welcome this measure and support previous speakers on this subject. Towards this commendable objective, may I suggest - with your permission, Mr. Chairman - that we start ourselves by reducing our own interventions.

SRA. DOÑA G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Trataremos de ser sumamente breves. Con la relación al 13º Informe sobre las Actividades de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, mi delegación considera aún válidas y pertinentes las recomendaciones que aparecen en los párrafos 22 y 50 del documento CL 82/6; asimismo, las contenidas en el párrafo 79 de las relacionadas con las consideraciones que deben tener en cuenta las organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Con relación al "Control y Limitación de la Documentación en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas" apoyamos las gestiones que se hacen en ese sentido, y en especial, felicitamos a la FAO por estar trabajando positivamente. En ese sentido, aprobamos el Informe presentado por la Dependencia Común de Inspección en el documento CL 82/7, y consideramos que de tenerse en cuenta debidamente las recomendaciones que el mismo contiene, se obtendrían resultados muy favorables en esa costosa actividad de edición de la documentación.

Con relación a la "Evaluación Interna en las Organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas", nuestra delegación aprueba el Informe presentado y apoya la recomendación del CAC de que exista una Dependencia central para controlar la autoevaluación o evaluación integrada de los diferentes organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, así como los planteamientos encaminados a incorporar los requisitos previos a la evaluación en los procesos de planificación y programación, según se indica en el documento CL 82/3. Mi delegación considera que este Informe constituye una importante guía para el establecimiento de eficientes sistemas de evaluación.

Con relación a los "Métodos para determinar las necesidades en materia de personal", la delegación cubana considera conveniente el realizar estudios para determinar con precisión las necesidades de personal en relación con las diferentes organizaciones que componen el Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y subrayamos la importancia de que los órganos legislativos pertinentes posean la información necesaria para tomar las debidas decisiones.

Asimismo, apoyamos los planteamientos formulados en relación con el inicio de intercambio de información entre los diferentes organismos, sobre esta situación y, en particular, sobre las normas de productividad para los tipos de trabajos en que puedan aplicarse. En general, apoyamos el Informe, y hacemos énfasis en que debe lograrse una reducción de los costos de personal en los presupuestos ordinarios de la Organización, sin que esto implique una afectación en el desenvolvimiento de las tareas fundamentales.

Con relación a los servicios de gestión en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas, quisiéramos resaltar la importancia de coordinar centralizadamente la capacitación y la reunion de personal de los servicios de gestion de todo el Sistema de Naciones Unidas. Asimismo, apoyamos la necesidad de intercambio de información entre los servicios de gestión del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, así como el fortalecimiento de los mismos. En general, la delegación cubana apoya este Informe por constituir un instrumento valioso para ayudar a tomar decisiones de gestión y proporcionar información de antecedentes a la administración de los departamentos.

Con relación a la aplicación por el Sistema de Naciones Unidas del Plan de Acción del Mar del Plata sobre el desarrollo y la administración de recursos hídricos, la delegación cubana reafirma la necesidad de realizar una planificación racional para el uso de este recurso, teniendo en cuenta los proyectos que requieren del mismo a nivel nacional y regional. Asimismo, apoyamos el fortalecimiento y consolidación de los conceptos de políticas e instituciones desarrollados por el Sistema de Naciones Unidas con este fin.

Con relación a la coordinación en el campo de actividades de la información publica, nuestra delegación quisiera subrayar la importancia de fortalecer las medidas en la esfera de la información publica y la necesidad de que exista una coordinación y cooperación entre los diferentes organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, cumplimentando las decisiones de la Asamblea General y el ECOSOC. En general, nuestra delegación apoya este Informe.

Relacionado con la contratación de mujeres en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas, la delegación cubana siempre ha tenido una posición en favor del incremento del contrato de las mujeres. En ese sentido, también consideramos que nuestros Gobiernos tienen una gran responsabilidad en que esta contratación no sea del todo favorable, y mi delegación considera que este Consejo debe exhortar a los Gobiernos a que presenten a las plazas vacantes, mujeres con los requisitos necesarios para ser contratadas.

B.E. PHIRI (Zambia): We would like to join other delegates in welcoming the work of the JIU and the comments made by the Finance Committee as well as Programme Committee.

This question of documentation is something we have been talking about for sometime now in the meetings of this Organization, and the JIU has brought this out clearly, in spite of the fact that they themselves have fallen prey to producing long documents to let us know this! We hope now that this matter has been clearly put. We shall begin to see shorter and shorter documents but not at the expense of clarity. We hope that the documents will be brief but carry sufficient messages to us so that we understand what has taken place.

Now on the question of coordination, we think that a lot should be done to organize the work of the various agencies, particularly agencies dealing with food and agriculture. We sometimes find it difficult to discuss issues because one organization dealing with the food and agriculture may be in disharmony - I do not want to use a strong word like disunity with one another. We belong to these organizations, we are members of these organizations and therefore I think there should be a greater effort on the part of the organizations to try and harmonize their work so that it saves our interest. There should be harmony among them as there is also harmony among us as members belonging to these organizations.

On the question of staffing we think that sufficient mechanism has been put in place for selecting staff but as one delegation mentioned the other day we sometimes wonder why certain regions do not appear to be sufficiently represented in the Organization. We think that while the mechanism is being applied adequate distribution of posts should be seen to be carried out.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): First I wanted to express the gratitude of the Programme Committee for the support given to our views why Council and I want to assure you, Mr. Chairman and Council, that we will spare no efforts to serve as efficiently as we possibly can.

The problem of the famous recommendations 2 and 3 were mentioned by a very close friend of mine, Mr. Grabisch and I think it might be of interest to Council to mention that the issue was debated at length in the committee, not only on this but on many other occasions as well and I actually asked the secretariat to produce a sample of programme elements for more or less typical FAO technical activities and to distribute such material just to make sure that everybody fully understood what it actually implied. Even after that the committee was not able to reach unanimous position but we agreed internally and agreement was made with the secretariat that the next programme committee on an experimental basis take, for example, one of the very typical programmes, that is all sub-programmes in one area on a perfectly elemental basis and go into all details and in the light of this experimental experience, if I may say so, we will then express our views to the Council. Of course, it will be done by the next programme committee. The issue is really very important. It falls quite logically within the problem of format that we are going to deal with in a couple of minutes so that I wanted to provide some additional information to make sure that the committee took the whole issue very seriously indeed.

Many delegates expressed the importance of the further progress reports on the women above a certain category in the UN. Unfortunately the report was not ready when we met the last time but the report appeared, of course, on -the list of JIU for this year and it is now in the processing I would say and the next programme committee session would certainly deal with the report. By the way we are aware now that as many as 8 JIU reports might be at our spring session and we are a bit worried, not necessarily because of the programme committee but we are worried how the Council might be able to deal with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and so many JIU reports at the same time.

Finally, I feel that the French proposals are very very good. I do not think that the Delegate of France perhaps really concerns the Programme and Finance Committee because we are supposed to deal with the full JIU report, there is no way out but we have to go into detail. It might be very useful for the Council to have a summary and a periodical brief follow-up or progress report on the JIU reports.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman of the Finance Committee): I would also like to join the Chairman of the Programme Committee in thanking the delegates for the words of praise they have for the members of my committee. As you know in your superior wisdom you elected us to this committee, and I can assure you that we will study all the reports that are presented to our committee thoroughly and present our views to you. As the Chairman said we had 8 reports at the last two sessions but we have been warned that we might have 8 to 10 reports at the next session in April 1983. I assure you we will be considering these reports humbly and our views presented to this council.

The only thing I would like to mention besides this is that as a committee looking into financial aspects, we are also looking into ways and means of effecting savings because that is basic when you have to consider a budget. When we make recommendations we want to cut down expenses as far as possible in order to effect economies.

The Chairman of the Programme Committee mentioned Item 12 which comes up for discussion next Tuesday. There we have made concrete proposals for integrating the medium-term objectives document with the Programme of Work and Budget document, which in our view would result in savings of approximately around 50 000 dollars. The JIU recommendations themselves are very important. I must also say that in our discussions we are not only looking at financial aspects solely but other aspects as well because most of the members come from countries with various backgrounds in their national' civil services and experiences. In fact sometimes I forget whether I am chairing the Finance Committee or the Programme Committee because we discuss at length these very useful reports which are relevant to all UN agencies.

Finally, I wish to thank you for the words of encouragement that you have given us. We will continue with our work in earnest.

As regards the other questions which were raised, since they were addressed to the Secretariat, the Secretariat will be providing the required information.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This debate has been commendable and to the point. I was delighted to hear the suggestion made by the delegate of France and supported by others for relieving all of us of this enormous burden, and this is only part of it on one occasion.

I think we need time to consider the statutory requirements for the production of JIU reports, and also the system by which they are produced, because some are translated in New York and the translations are supplied to us and some we have to do ourselves. So they are not all on the same level. What I think provisionally would be the simplest and most economical arrangement would be simply to reproduce the JIU Reports' own Summary and Recommendations. In each Report they have a Summary of Conclusions and a Summary of Recommendations. Those which emanate from New York are already translated for us, so the expense of reproducing them is considerably reduced. On the other hand, to produce a summary of our own would mean extra work, extra translation, extra documentation. So this needs to be looked at and submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees and brought back here.

On the suggestion of an occasional implementation report, this will also need to be looked at by the Programme and Finance Committees in the light of the rather mixed character of the JIU Reports, some of which are directly concerned with us, some only indirectly, and which are usually addressed to the whole United Nations system and therefore require quite a lot of time to be considered by the General Assembly and by the governing bodies of other organizations. We try to overcome the problems involved in reports addressed to system-wide questions by providing one set of comments-- the ACC comments, rather than individual agency comments, although we do provide to the Programme and Finance Committees the Director-General's observations at an earlier stage so that they can formulate views more closely related to FAO's interests.

The ACC comments in general embody FAO's comments. Sometimes ours would be more detailed or more critical than those of others or vice versa, but the problem is in providing notes of implementation to be able to give you any concrete information. On some we might say we invented these, for

example Evaluation. The report in telling us how well we are doing does somehow give the impression that we were waiting for the JIU to come along before we thought of doing things, whereas in fact we were pioneers in field evaluation and in auto-evaluation. So our comments on the implementation of a report like that might be "We were doing it before, thank you very much". On others we might say that the matter is still under review by the General Assembly or somebody else. So, with that understanding I think we can look at what kind of report we might provide you with at certain periods of time in order to facilitate your views.

Coming back to the JIU Reports, we were invited to comment on these but, as I said before, this would be a bit redundant because our views are generally incorporated in the ACC comments. There are only two particular comments I would like to make. On documentation we have received encouragement from you, for which we are grateful. But one delegate said "You can make the first contribution to this by restricting your interventions". But you can also make a fundamental contribution to the subject of limiting documentation by not asking for more documentation, in fact by making suggestions for cutting down the documentation that we do supply. The responsibility rests on you rather than on us, the matter is in your hands.

On information., this is obviously the most difficult of the reports for us. It is very important, given the concern over the impact of the United Nations system on public opinion, the resource problem, and so forth.

There are some fairly ambitious proposals being put forward in certain quarters of the United Nations system. There have been suggestions this afternoon. The report says rather airily "And the cost of all this additional stuff can easily be met from existing resources". I do not know about easily, especially as we are under instructions from the Conference to cut down on administrative-type activities, and information to some extent falls in this category. How are we going to find additional resources for the technical programmes within existing resources if at the same time we have to find resources for additional information or support activities out of existing resources? It simply cannot be done. So I think there has to be a certain sense of realism about such recommendations. I must say the JIU are given to making rather ambitious proposals involving a lot of additional work and sometimes additional staff and then they seem to be saying "And do it within existing resources". So we have to face reality when we deal with such proposals.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to join Council Members and the JIU in complimenting FAO on the various reports which have been submitted to us and, as Mr. West said, we should compliment FAO in taking the lead on being a pioneer in some of these areas. I am sure the Organization will continue to keep up this tradition. Whether with the JIU or without, what is important is auto-evaluation and continuous improvement. External examination gives us confidence that we are on the right path. Therefore the JIU Reports are extremely valuable. As the Chairman of the Programme Committee said, this particular report on women has not been examined. I can anticipate that the Organization will again get high marks by the time the United Nations Conference on women takes place in 1985. We do hope that the Director-General and his staff will ensure that FAO occupies a rather high position in the United Nations system in relation to this matter also, but we will await the examination of the Programme and Finance Committees of this JIU Report.

There is one other point that I want to refer to which was made by the delegate of Bangladesh about publication in other languages. On the one hand we have been talking about containment of publications; trying to achieve economy, and so on. The other is to enlarge the field of publications in many languages. I entirely share the view that several of the publications are exceedingly valuable for a larger reading public who do not know any of the standard United Nations languages. I would only like to suggest to Mr. West and his colleagues that they might examine the whole question of co-publication arrangements in other languages, in other words at no cost to the Organization; particularly publications involving blocks, figures, and so on. It is very easy to come to an agreement with a national government, say in Bengali, so that it could be translated in works alone, if the basic format and blocks are provided by the Organization.

The system of co-publication is extremely valuable when we want to disseminate the information on a wide scale. Perhaps this could be done. My own organization does it very effectively and some of our books have been translated into 25 or 26 languages at very little extra cost. Mr. West says they are already looking into this question of co-publication arrangements. I think saving on publication could be false economy here, because many FAO publications contain valuable information and must be read widely. So necessary curtailment must be done, but essential information must be disseminated very widely. Soil and water publications in particular are of great value.

We have come to the conclusion of this item on the agenda. I want to thank the members for their contributions. I am sure the Secretariat has taken note of the various valuable suggestions that have been made and will consider them carefully. We have now completed our work for today.

The meeting closed at 16.30 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 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 82/PV/10

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(29 November 1982)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

8. World Food Programme (continued)

8. Programme alimentaire mondial (suite)

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)

8.2 Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

8.2 Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire

8.2 Elección de cinco Miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria

CHAIRMAN: The first item on our agenda this morning is the election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. It is an exceedingly important item and we are grateful to the six countries who have so kindly offered to serve on that Committee, because, after all, serving on such committees is a labour of love and it is an index of the importance attached by the Member Countries to the work of this Committee.

The six countries are Cuba, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Nigeria and Zambia. We have to elect five from among them. The quorum is at least 33 countries, and I believe there are many more countries present. As regards the modalities of the election to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, the Council members will be called one by one, and when his name is called the delegate will proceed to the voting area and identify himself or herself by country to the tellers who are distributing the ballot papers, and each delegate will receive one ballot paper. Each voter will then enter a voting booth and insert on the ballot paper five crosses by the names of the five countries which the delegate wishes to vote on to the Committee. Any paper with less than five names will be invalid, it must be five names, no more and no less. Blank ballot papers or those with the word "abstention" written on them count as abstentions. I hope the procedure is clear - put a cross opposite the names for which you want to vote.

I am grateful to the delegates of the United Kingdom and Thailand for having agreed to serve as tellers.

Is there any Council member who wants to raise any points? I see no delegation wanting to ask any question or make any comment, so I call on Mr. de Caprona to announce the Council names in alphabetical order. As the names are called, kindly proceed to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

LE SECRETAIRE-GENERAL:

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	COMITE DES POLITIQUES ET PROGRAMMES D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		COMITE DE POLITICAS Y PROGRAMAS DE AYUDA ALIMENTARIA I.I. 1983 - 31. XII. 1985

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	44	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	43
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	43

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	22
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus -No elegidos	
GERMANY, Fed. Rep. of	43	EGYPT	27
FRANCE	42		
NIGERIA	38		
CUBA	34		
ZAMBIA	31		

CHAIRMAN: We welcome the new members and want to thank them and thank Egypt for the outstanding contribution so far.

10. Follow-up of WCARRD

10. Suite donnée à la CMRADR

10. Actividades complementarias de la CMRADR

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The document CL 82/18 reports on the progress made on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Follow-Up Action. The implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action with its focus on rural poverty

alleviation is an important mandate given to FAO since it embraces in a comprehensive manner the various activities of FAO. The document before you analyses in detail the action taken within FAO both at Headquarters and at the country level. However, I shall highlight a few issues and bring you up to date on selected development.

Since the last Conference in 1981 this subject was discussed by the five regional conferences held this year. These conferences have noted with satisfaction the orientation and contents of FAO's post-WCARRD activities, assisting member countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action as well as in its capacity as a lead agency in rural development within the United Nations system. We have also received from the deliberations of these conferences recommendations which will help shape our future action. Among the issues of topics emphasized by the regional conferences were: monitoring of progress in alleviating rural poverty, establishment of a limited core of socio-economic indicators in relation to available data for monitoring agrarian reform and rural development; adverse effects of the problem of transfer of rural savings to the urban sector as well as of the deterioration of the terms of trade of the peasant sector of agriculture. The role of manpower training in development skills at all levels including small farmers and measures for checking the rural migration.

We continue to orient FAO's work towards WCARRD's principles and Programme of Action. Examples of such orientation relate to work on people's participation, women in rural development, monitoring and evaluation, extension for small farmers, agricultural credits and extension, forestry for community development and integrated development of small-scale fisheries. This shift in focus of work is combined with the systematic attempt for stock orientation both at the headquarters and at regional offices. At the national level important examples of activities with new orientation are contained in paragraphs 7, 8, 13, 20, 21 and 26 of the document before you. Our main thrust in the country-assistance programme is to promote projects with emphasis on poverty alleviation target groups, various areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The document before you illustrates the kinds of projects for which assistance has been sought by member countries and they cover a wide range, including such activities as restructuring of land tenure systems, rural institutions including cooperatives to help small farmers, in-depth analyses of rural poverty, setting up a system of monitoring progress in agrarian reform as well as projects relating to rural peoples' participation.

We have carried out several activities in cooperation with non-governmental organizations including training of their leaders. FAO representatives are helping establish contacts with important non-government organizations engaged in rural development, in order to encourage collaboration with FAO. FAO national committees, wherever they exist, could also be a useful forum of such discussion and contacts. We realize that this is a complex and crucial matter for rural development. We are therefore convening next month an expert consultation on peoples' participation to examine their approaches followed by FAO in promoting programmes in this field, and to advise us on effective methods for achieving increase in participation of the rural poor in development.

Similarly, we are convening in April 1983 a consultation between FAO and international trade unions working in the field of rural development. Related to this work on rural peoples' participation in the promotion of the role of rural women in agricultural rural development has received special emphasis as described in paragraphs 12 - 15 of the document. The role of women in agricultural production, in the context of WCARRD follow-up, will be discussed at the last session of the Committee on Agriculture in April 1983. In order to illustrate the way in which some of these activities have been initiated, I wish to emphasize the role of the WCARRD follow-up missions. Nine such commissions have already been completed and three others are in preparation. Additional requests for follow-up missions are in the pipeline. I would like to highlight the fact that these multi-disciplinary commissions are also examples of inter-agency collaborative work. Representatives of various UN agencies and organizations join many of these missions. The missions review with high government officials the countries' policies, strategies and programmes within the context of the WCARRD Programme of Action. They identify - in collaboration with governments - key areas for immediate action which would benefit the rural poor. These projects are often innovative, with target group orientation. We attempt to coordinate the WCARRD follow-up missions with the different types of policy review missions which FAO organizes at the country level. Following the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the FAO Conference, we have been working with member countries to facilitate collection and analysis of data pertaining to rural poverty. FAO's work on assisting member countries in monitoring agrarian reform and rural development through quantitative analysis of a limited set of social-economic indicators is described in the document before you in paragraphs 19-25.

We have undertaken in-depth studies on progress in agrarian reform and rural development, 30 of which are already in progress. This work was crucial for the first report which will be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1983, on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. It will enable the Secretariat to prepare an analytic and quantitative report on the progress made in the alleviation of rural poverty. As indicated in the WCARRD Programme of Action, there is need for collaboration with other United Nations agencies for the preparation and collection of data for reporting on a few aspects of this Programme of Action, especially those relating to international aspects of the Programme of Action. In order that projects and programmes at the country level for the implementation of the Programme of Action are expanded and strengthened it is hoped that the Member Governments

will use the occasion of the UNDP third programming cycle to orient their technical assistance requirements and requests in the light of this programme of action.

The Council may also wish to urge all potential donors to contribute additional extra-budgetary resources to support the WCARRD follow-up action, in pursuance of the resolution of the 20th Session of the FAO Conference, which called for voluntary contributions to reach the requested figure of \$20 million. These modest resources provide the necessary catalytic input to our efforts as well as to the efforts of our member countries. It will also strengthen the services of the regional centres on rural development, two of which have already been operational: one in Asia and another one in Africa.

We are grateful to the governments of Sudan, Norway, Denmark, China, Netherlands and Italy for their voluntary contribution in the follow-up of WCARRD.

The Council may also wish to invite the member governments concerned to join the centres for agrarian reform and rural development which had been established and are being established in different regions, and to contribute effectively to their budgets and programmes.

In conclusion we look forward to the deliberations of the Council in respect of the follow-up activities which FAO has undertaken so far.

CHAIRMAN: For this item a little later I intend to request my colleague, the Vice Chairman, Mr. Hasan Ahmad, to take the chair. He has considerable experience in rural development.

A.F. BOTHNER (Norway): I did not really intend to be the first speaker on this item but anyhow it may be considered as an indication of the interest of the Nordic countries on this issue.

We listened with great interest to what our friend Dr. Islam mentioned in his introductory remarks. The comments that I am going to make very closely follow the same pattern that he made in his introduction. I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in 1979 was an important milestone in endeavours of the international community to reach a more just distribution of resources and to promote rural development in general. Norway and the Nordic countries have taken an active part and given high priority to the WCARRD Programme of Action. We have with great interest studied the FAO document CL 82/18, Follow-up of WCARRD. We find the document comprehensive and we would like to give it our specific support with regard to paragraph 37.

We would also like to express our satisfaction with the attention given to the role of women in rural development. It is a fact that women play a vital role in food production and it is therefore important that women have access to resources and participate in decision-making, both in working out overall development plans and food strategies and in drawing specific plans for projects and programmes. The Nordic countries are also pleased with the attention given to the follow-up work in developing social and economic indicators as an appropriate data base for the monitoring and evaluation of poverty and rural development within the dimension of growth with equity based on people's participation.

Three years have passed since the WCARRD Conference was held. Although the start of implementation of the principles has been modest and slow, some progress has been made during the last year. The Nordic countries are aware of the fact that the modest progress to a certain extent is due to lack of financial contributions. From the document and other sources we are informed that the contributions so far represent less than 50 percent of the target of US\$ 20 million. Most of the contributions come from the Nordic countries. With your permission the Nordic countries take this opportunity to urge other donors to make pledges to this important programme as soon as possible.

Follow-up of WCARRD has also been an item on the agenda of the regional conference in 1982. The Nordic countries welcome this. Our delegations would like to underline that the WCARRD principles should also be encouraged in all activities of FAO. The WCARRD approach is not a phenomenon separate from the technical work of the FAO departments in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It is an overall philosophy which should guide all technical assistance activities of FAO because it deals with the core problem, the mobilization all the way of the very poorest group or rural areas in developing countries. We also wish to stress the catalytic effect of the follow-up of different WCARRD programmes and other donors and other development assistance. The Nordic countries would also like to stress the inter-agency aspects of rural development and the coordination and cooperation that is taking place both at Headquarters level through the ACC Task Forces as well as in the field.

Finally we would like to express some reflections about the food strategies discussed in the World Food Council earlier this year. The Nordic countries believe that these food strategies are important. We also hope that they can take into account the demand for greater participation by the people, which is the theme of central importance in the WCARRD Conference. The Nordic countries have stressed that the Programme of Action from the WCARRD Conference must be the foundation for the World Food Council approach to food strategies. In this connexion the Nordic countries would like to ask if FAO, with its great experience and knowledge, can support the World Food Council in its work with food strategies. This applies particularly where there is a need to build up models and statistical material.

Finally I would like to underline the need for a proper discussion of the WCARRD Follow-Up by the FAO Conference in 1983. This discussion must be based on the Programme of Action from the WCARRD Conference. The Nordic countries are looking forward to studying the document which is being prepared for the Conference in 1983. We hope the aspects mentioned in our statement today will be reflected in this document.

S. Hasan Ahmad, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair S. Hasan Ahmad, Vice-President du Conseil, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia S. Hasan Ahmad, Vicepresidente del Consejo

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The Arab Republic of Egypt has endeavoured, since the 1950's, to improve the living standards of the rural people. An act of rural reform was promulgated and integrated development plans were initiated. These plans included settlements extension and training and aimed at increasing rural workers' income and improving their economic and social standards of living. The Egyptian delegation would like to praise the efforts made by FAO in this context as a follow-up of the WCARRD and asks that these efforts be extended and increased. My country is convinced of the role to be played by the Regional Centers for Integrated Rural Development. From this point of view, and in order to share our experience with countries from the region, Egypt has proposed to host the Regional Center for the Near-East and places all the experience gained by the International Settlement Center in Maryut at the disposal of this Regional Center. In this context we would like to indicate that the Maryut Center was set up by Egypt with the participation of FAO, ILO and Unesco whom we would like to thank for their support.

CHAIRMAN: I would not want to interrupt the proceedings by giving the prefatory remarks which I thought I would make. I will reserve that until the end and we will get on with the business.

Señora Doña D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): A la Delegación de Colombia le complace que la FAO haya seguido implementando en forma acertada las principales recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural celebrada en esta ciudad en el año 1979.

Destacamos la promoción de la participación popular y la colaboración justificada y conveniente con otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, particularmente con la OIT.

La delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente la acción de los distintos departamentos de la FAO en cuanto al papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Consideramos de gran importancia, como lo decía el representante de los Países Nórdicos, la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo. En consecuencia, nos parecen útiles las orientaciones y lista de referencias sobre este tema mencionadas en el párrafo 12 del documento CL 82/18.

Otorgamos particular importancia a la vigilancia y evaluación de la reforma agraria y desarrollo rural. Agradecemos la asistencia de la FAO para los estudios llevados a cabo en Colombia en esta materia.

Nuestra delegación considera esenciales las actividades a nivel regional; el nuevo gobierno colombiano está decididamente en favor del desarrollo rural a través del cual se pueda beneficiar particularmente a los pequeños y medianos agricultores. Tenemos en Colombia un Programa de Desarrollo Rural Integrado, el DRI, que es la base de la política agropecuaria colombiana basada en aspectos sociales y humanos de gran significación.

Dentro de ese orden de ideas el gobierno colombiano sigue siendo partidario del establecimiento en el vecino y fraterno país de El Ecuador del Centro de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para América Latina y el Caribe.

A tal respecto quisiéramos saber si nos pueden actualizar, señor Presidente, la situación para el establecimiento de ese Centro Regional.

El Gobierno de El Ecuador ya ha depositado los instrumentos de ratificación: las últimas noticias oficiales las obtuvimos en la pasada Conferencia Regional para América Latina y El Caribe celebrada en septiembre pasado en el amigo país de Nicaragua. Entonces aún no se había decidido este asunto; por ello nos interesa saber cuál es su estado actual.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia se adhiere a casi todas las cuestiones que ha de considerar el Consejo, particularmente la solicitud en nuestro informe de pedir a posibles nuevos donantes contribuciones con fondos extrapresupuestarios para seguir apoyando las medidas complementarias de esa importante Conferencia, así como invitar a los Estados Miembros a que promuevan la creación de comités nacionales y su plena participación en el Programa de Vigilancia y Evaluación de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural.

CHAIRMAN : We note your emphasis on the need to integrate women in rural development and we have benefited by your country's experience. We have also noted your desire to be updated on the situation about setting-up the Latin American Centre in Ecuador. The Secretariat will make a note of it and I am sure they will give you the latest situation.

LI ZHENHUAN (China)(original language Chinese) : First I would like to thank Professor Islam for his introduction of this item. Document CL 82/18 prepared by the Secretariat presents a concise yet Comprehensive illustration of FAO's activities as regards follow-up of WCARRD. We support the activities undertaken by FAO in this connection. We think that agrarian reform and rural development can be realized only by relying on the efforts of the government and people of a given country. But at the same time international efforts should not be neglected. If well utilized they will constitute an impetus to national agrarian reform and rural development. Therefore we wish to commend FAO for the leading role it has played in coordinating these activities.

Paragraph 37 (a) of the document refers to national coordinating committees on agrarian reform and rural development. I would like to take this opportunity to brief delegates on the relevant work done in our country. Recently China's National Rural Development Research Centre held a meeting in Beijing at which eight strategic measures concerning the development of rural economy were formulated. They are as follows :

1. To stabilize all forms of responsibility systems of production - that is, to stabilize the system of household contracting under the unified leadership and management of production teams which is now effective in most parts of the rural areas and will not be changed easily without good reasons.
2. To continue to follow the principle of sparing no effort in developing grain production while encouraging a diversified economy with a view to enhancing integrated rural development.
3. To improve conditions for production. Apart from bettering water conservancy networks, use of fertilizers, agro-machinery, special emphasis will be put on the construction of infrastructure such as transportation and storage facilities.
4. To raise the cost effectiveness of farm production.
5. To explore new commercial channels so as to help the peasants overcome difficulties in selling their products and purchasing industrial goods.
6. To develop agro-scientific research and education and raise the cultural and scientific level of the peasants in a broad way.
7. To prevent problems with latent damage from emerging. So measures will be taken to control rural population, maintain ecological balance and protect the environment.
8. To strengthen political and ideological work in rural areas.

We consider that the foregoing eight measures are in conformity with the spirit of the declaration and Programme of Action of WCARRD.

Our objective is to bring about a rapid development of agriculture and a well-to-do life for the peasants by the end of this century.

Before I conclude please allow me to say a few words on the social economic indicators for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development. Since the Twenty-First Session of the FAO Conference this Organization has done a great deal in this field. It is a rather complicated and fairly technical matter. This is not an item under discussion at the present Council Session and has to be further studied by experts. However, in order to facilitate timely and effective participation of more countries in such activities we suggest that when formulating social economic indicators FAO Secretariat follow the principle of making them simple, reliable, flexible and practical. At the initial stage the indicators may not be too ambitious and too complex. They can be perfected after experiences have been accumulated.

CHAIRMAN : We are delighted to hear about your experience in the National Rural Research Centre where you have evolved strategies for the development of the rural economy. I am quite sure that we all have a lot to learn from that. Thank you very much for your valuable statement. We have also noted your suggestion regarding the formulation of the economic social indicators which, as you say, have to be simple and reliable, and I think most of us agreed on that.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal) : Selon l'optique établie par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui s'est tenue à Rome en 1979, chaque gouvernement doit formuler sa stratégie de développement rural selon ses propres conditions et les objectifs qu'il prétend atteindre. Par ailleurs, on connaît l'intense activité développée par la FAO dans le but d'étudier et de donner un appui technique et financier aux actions de la réforme agraire et du développement rural et surtout dans les régions du Tiers Monde où les problèmes posés par la déficiente distribution de la terre agricole présentent une telle importance qu'ils expliquent au moins en partie l'incapacité de ces pays de pouvoir alimenter leur population et satisfaire au moins ses besoins élémentaires.

Cela justifie que la FAO ait mis à la disposition des pays intéressés d'importants moyens afin qu'ils puissent mettre à exécution des projets intégrés de développement rural. Au Portugal, tous les problèmes relatifs à la réforme agraire traînent depuis des années quoique plusieurs mesures aient été prises afin d'adapter les structures foncières et d'exploration agricole à l'indispensable modernisation; la vérité c'est que c'est seulement en 1975 que l'on a essayé de développer le problème. Cependant, l'époque de tensions politico-sociales que l'on vivait alors et le caractère démagogique de quelques mesures ont empêché une vision objective du problème agraire s'agissant de le résoudre dans son ensemble, d'autant plus que les lois de réforme publiées prétendaient surtout faire coïncider son action dans le sud du pays caractérisées au point de vue agraire par la prédominance de la grande propriété rustique souvent de nature latifondiaire. Au nord, par contre, on trouve une excessive division de la terre cultivable. Comme on le sait, la situation se référant à la petite ou à la grande propriété empêche l'évolution du secteur agricole quand celui-ci est appelé à s'intégrer dans le processus d'accroissement de l'économie nationale, l'une utilisant des systèmes artisanaux, l'autre employant des facteurs de production en régime de sous-emploi. Ce que l'on vient de référer confirme après tout l'impossibilité du secteur agricole national, surtout dans les zones au nord du Tage, de pouvoir s'approcher des modèles suivis par une agriculture européenne compétitive faite dans des exploitations économiquement viables.

Ayant conscience de cette situation, le Gouvernement portugais tâche de trouver une solution réaliste et adaptée au problème, surtout dans le nord du pays où l'application de la loi des bases de la réforme agraire de 1977 n'a pas eu les incidences voulues. Ainsi, pour atteindre les objectifs de modernisation de l'agriculture, a été promulguée, ou est en train de l'être, la législation concernant les sujets suivants : plan de réforme de l'agriculture; meilleure utilisation des terres abandonnées ou sous-utilisées, déterminant les minimums à atteindre dans leur utilisation; réserve agricole nationale; amodiation rurale; orientation agricole.

Le plan de réforme de l'agriculture fait partie d'un programme à moyen terme qui tend, dans sa généralité, à la modernisation des structures agricoles de façon à les adapter au niveau des pays européens plus évolués.

En résumé, il s'agit de reformuler toute la problématique agricole portugaise, en ayant pour objectif de changer le sens négatif du processus de la productivité de l'agriculture et des niveaux de la production agricole. A cet effet, divers projets et programmes d'investissement ont été établis.

Le Gouvernement portugais est également très intéressé à donner son appui aux problèmes de la pluri-activité agricole et rurale qui ont fait l'objet de débats lors de la dernière conférence européenne de l'agriculture qui a eu lieu à Rome au mois de juin dernier, ainsi qu'à la 3^{ème} conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe ayant eu lieu récemment à Sofia.

En ce sens, étant donné la prédominance des "microfundi" dans le nord du pays, un projet de pluri-activité avec une collaboration importante des femmes est en train d'être mis à l'essai dans les régions du nord, avec l'appui du Gouvernement suisse et de la FAO.

On espère que ce projet pourra démarrer en 1983. Les négociations sont déjà très avancées.

En terminant ces considérations, je voudrais d'autre part annoncer que très récemment, le 18 novembre dernier, le Ministre de l'agriculture a soumis en discussion publique un projet de loi visant à modifier divers points de la loi des bases de la réforme agraire de 1977. Cet avant-projet prévoit, parmi d'autres modifications importantes, que les terres expropriées ou nationalisées seront données en exploitation aux petits et moyens agriculteurs, aux coopératives de travailleurs ruraux ou d'agriculteurs, ou bien encore seront administrées par l'Etat à des fins de recherche agraire, de vulgarisation rurale, et de formation professionnelle.

Ce projet doit être présenté à l'Assemblée de la République dans l'année en cours.

CHAIRMAN: We are grateful to you for giving us a narrative of the experiments you have undertaken in WCARRD-related activities and particularly for and telling us how you have been trying to solve the problem of integrating agricultural development in the overall economic pattern of your country.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): My delegation congratulates the FAO Secretariat for the magnitude of assistance it has rendered to all the developing countries and their regions in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The series of meetings, expert consultations, programme guidelines and research activities organized under the auspices of FAO is a testimony to the dedication of FAO to the cause of agrarian reform and rural development.

My delegation wishes to reemphasize here the Resolution of the last FAO Regional Conference for Africa on Training of High-Level Manpower. This will provide personnel who will be able to plan and execute the Rural Development Programme, thus meeting the objectives of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

My delegation is particularly interested in projects dealing with the following : 1) evaluation of the Rural Development Programmes, especially the design of suitable format for data gathering and report writing; 2) appreciation and strengthening the role of women in agriculture; and 3) people's participation in rural development through promotion of self-help organizations.

When the mobile task force for promoting projects for people's participation under the auspices of CIRDAFRICA becomes operational, Nigeria will be very keen to benefit from its activities. We shall be grateful to receive a few copies of the publication entitled "Administering Agricultural Development for Small Farmers - Issues in Decentralization and Participation".

In view of the very useful work being done by FAO, my delegation would like to appeal to all potential donors and development agencies to assist the Organization with financial and other resources in furtherance of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Follow-Up Programme.

One area of weakness in many countries is the coordination of rural development activities going on in several departments and ministries of governments. It is our view that the FAO may wish to direct its country representatives in such countries to use their neutral position to foster such coordination. The national institution designated to work with CIRDAFRICA could be the primary contact of the FAO representative for such coordination efforts.

My delegation would like to appeal to the FAO Secretariat to continue its successful efforts so far made to establish CIRDAFRICA until the centre becomes very functional and effective. We look up to the centre to commence work in the field of research, training and organization of workshops and seminars in the very near future.

CHAIRMAN: We note you have highlighted the importance of implementing your Regional Conference Resolution on Training of High-Level Manpower who would plan and implement the development programmes in the rural development sector, and we also note your emphasis on the Centre for Integrated Development for Africa, which we understand is already on its way.

We have noted your request to the FAO to direct its Representative to use his neutral position to help coordinate the rural development activities which are distributed over various ministries in your country. I am sure FAO will take note of it, though generally perhaps they would have to have the opinion of other countries, too, in this regard.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): Permítame formular sobre el tema 10 del Programa de este Consejo algunas consideraciones de carácter general antes de formular otras de carácter específico. Para nosotros, es motivo de gran satisfacción el hecho de que se este presentando, por segunda vez, a este Consejo, al igual que se ha hecho en otros órganos rectores de esta Organización, el resultado de las actividades que dan seguimiento al Programa de Acción que fue aprobado por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Esta Conferencia se diferencia de otras conferencias mundiales celebradas y cuyos seguimientos a las recomendaciones y acuerdos, parecieran haber caído en el vacío o en el mejor de los casos haber llegado a un franco estado de agotamiento. Este no es el caso, por suerte, de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Por estos seguimientos que se le han venido dando a los Programas de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, tenemos que felicitar a la FAO.

Hacemos esta apreciación por el hecho de que somos unos permanentes convencidos de que en el contenido de las conclusiones y recomendaciones a que llego la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y

Desarrollo Rural, y que recoge, tanto su Declaración de Principios como su Programa de Acción, ésta planteó el quid del asunto para la solución de los problemas que presenta la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo. Lo formulado por estos documentos se constituye en prerrequisitos para el desarrollo de nuestros países que están en vías de este desarrollo. En algunas reuniones que promueve esta Organización, nos ha tocado escuchar planteamientos sobre la solución de los problemas que, a nuestro juicio, distan mucho de ser la solución verdadera a estos problemas. Muchas veces nos da la impresión de que para algunos, por ejemplo, la solución de estos problemas es la utilización masiva de toneladas de fertilizantes, de fungicidas e insecticidas, muchas veces muy mal usados así como de otros insumos técnicos para que prácticamente se solucione el grave problema alimentario y agrícola de nuestros países. A quienes formulan o se aproximan a tales planteamientos, les recordamos los fracasos en que terminó la denominada "revolución verde". Y este fracaso se debió, entre otras cosas, a que cuando se logró el aumento de la producción, este aumento benefició a unos pocos.

Hemos dicho, en anteriores oportunidades, que la solución de estos problemas es como el tratar de llegar a una cima por medio de escalones, los primeros de los cuales, no son indispensables para arribar a los otros; vienen a ser las medidas que corrijan los problemas que tratan, entre otras cosas, de cambiar y hacer más equitativo primariamente el acceso a la tierra, al agua y otros recursos naturales indispensables para verdaderamente alcanzar una seguridad alimentaria, tanto en el sentido horizontal como vertical; esto sin descuidar los otros aspectos necesarios como es el disponer de otros insumos productivos así como de mercados oportunos y precios adecuados, al igual que de servicios apropiados, de nuevas y mejores tecnologías, así como de una adecuada investigación, enseñanza, capacitación y extensión.

Estos son los otros peldaños de la escalera a los cuales no llegamos sin pasar inicialmente por los primeros, a riesgo de dar un gran salto y caer en el vacío. Sostenemos que, dentro de las particularidades propias de todos y cada uno de nuestros países en vías de desarrollo, hay que examinar a fondo lo referente a la propiedad y explotación de la tierra agrícola. Este es un tema que sigue siendo tratado como de tema tabú en muchas reuniones. No deja de recoger un problema que objetivamente existe y que no podemos soslayar ni nacional ni internacionalmente por más que queramos. Y en este aspecto la materialización de las Recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, se viene a constituir en una especie de llama encendida en espera, quizás, de que haya más oxígeno para que ilumine más.

Con relación a la sucinta información pero no por sucinta menos valiosa que nos suministra el documento CL 82/18: "Actividades complementarias de la CMRADR", y concretamente al capítulo VI, sobre las "Cuestiones que ha de considerar el Consejo", queremos señalar lo siguiente. Con relación al capítulo II "Actividades a nivel nacional" y en particular en relación a la asistencia para la preparación de estrategias, planes y programas nacionales, le concedemos prioridad a todas aquellas actividades encaminadas a las organizaciones cuando éstas no existan de los campesinos o al fortalecimiento y consolidación de las mismas cuando existan, y que tiendan al desarrollo de actividades generadoras de ingreso y a una eficaz prestación de servicios a los pequeños agricultores; todo esto tendiente a que se logre paralelamente tanto la creación de nuevas organizaciones como la consolidación de las ya existentes, tomándose en cuenta, como correctamente se está previendo, la verdadera y cabal participación de la mujer en todos los aspectos del desarrollo, en general y en particular, de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Con relación a la prioridad en la asistencia a la participación popular, destacamos lo expresado en el párrafo 8, en el sentido de que la FAO ha seguido prestando asistencia a los países para que introduzcan la participación popular como objetivo de sus estrategias de desarrollo y componente de la planificación, elaboración, ejecución y evaluación de los proyectos de campo de desarrollo rural.

Al igual que destacamos lo señalado en el párrafo 11, relativo a la participación popular y su relación con los otros aspectos institucionales y organizativos referentes a los sistemas de distribución de insumos y prestación de servicios a los pequeños agricultores, a través de la descentralización de los servicios públicos y la participación de organizaciones locales de agricultores.

Relativo a la educación, capacitación y extensión para el desarrollo rural, destacamos en este Consejo de la FAO, para su debida consideración, la eficacia que tiene la capacitación previa y durante el servicio del personal que desempeña funciones de extensión. Insistimos en este aspecto porque, por diferentes causas, el mismo en muchos casos si no se descuida totalmente, se pospone con consecuencias negativas para la ejecución de los proyectos de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

Sobre los aspectos de vigilancia y evaluación de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural, a esta delegación le gustaría conocer más sobre los indicadores socio-económicos para esta vigilancia y evaluación de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Hemos escuchado al distinguido delegado de China, señalar su intención de que estos indicadores sean lo más simples posible, y que, conforme a lo expresado en el párrafo 19, ya se ha iniciado un programa al respecto. Igualmente, nos gustaría conocer más sobre el esbozo de un modelo de informe nacional para evaluación y control, esto con el propósito de que tanto los Estados Miembros que actualmente constituyen este Consejo, como otros estados de la Organización, informemos y recomendemos sobre el particular a nuestros respectivos gobiernos.

Por otra parte, el párrafo 25 del documento CL/82/18 nos informa sobre medidas adoptadas para prestar asistencia a los países en la preparación de sus futuros informes nacionales sobre la situación de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en nuestros países. Destacamos esto por la importancia que tiene para que nuestros dirigentes y gobernantes tengan una visión científica y libre de todo pre-juicio sobre los problemas de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en nuestros respectivos países.

Apoyamos lo señalado en el párrafo 35, en el sentido de que se siga atribuyendo elevada prioridad a la participación de las organizaciones no gubernamentales, y en especial, agregamos nosotros, a las de los campesinos y pequeños agricultores, en la identificación y ejecución de proyectos enca-minados a promover las organizaciones de autoayuda en el sector rural de países en desarrollo. Basta decir, sobre este particular, que son los beneficiarios de las acciones de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural los verdaderos interesados en que estas acciones se materialicen; más interesados, por supuesto, que nosotros los burócratas, tanto nacionales como internacionales.

Finalmente, nosotros somos unos convencidos de que existen países de la comunidad internacional, especialmente la Comunidad Internacional de Países Desarrollados, que tienen una clara conciencia en dar su apoyo financiero a las actividades que están materializando las Conclusiones y Recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, por lo que confiamos que surgirán, cada vez más, donantes que contribuirán con recursos extrapresupuestarios adicionales, para apoyar el programa de medidas complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo

Rural. A este respecto, acabamos de escuchar con satisfacción al Dr. Islam, informarnos sobre la participación de países como Suecia, Noruega, Dinamarca, Irlanda, Países Bajos e Italia, y nosotros esperamos que esta lista se aumente.

CHAIRMAN: You have in fact touched on the very core of the WCARRD concept, that production increases hitherto have been benefiting more sections of the population, by-passing by and large the millions who did not have access to land, water, and other natural resources. We have also noted your emphasis on training of extension staff. Most of us coming from developing countries would agree on this very important aspect of WCARRD. The Secretariat has noted also your desire to hear a little more about the status of developed or socially-economic indicators which has also been touched on by other delegates.

At this point I would like to mention that we have another long list of speakers, and if we could be a little more precise and brief I think that would generally help matters.

A. NAGA (Japan): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for having so well prepared this document CL/82/18. I would like to make a number of comments on this item.

We welcome and appreciate the progress in activities made by the FAO such as assistance with projects at the country level, inter-governmental consultation on a regional basis, and the role undertaken by the FAO in coordinating activities among the international organizations concerned. I believe it is of vital importance that the developing countries solve their problems in the long-term perspective on the basis of the correlation of principles and the Programme of Action of WCARRD.

WCARRD concluded that the key to agricultural development in the developing countries lay in the fostering of owner-farmers through the agricultural and agrarian reform. The Conference also emphasized the importance of agriculture and rural development, including the areas of forestry and fisheries.

Japan's own experience has convinced it of the importance of agrarian reform and competence in rural development. The implementation of agrarian reform in Japan led the farmers to strive to increase production. Of course, a wide range of proposals of both central and local government have encouraged the determination of the Japanese farmers to adopt policies including financial aid for the promotion of agriculture, and the price-stabilization systems for farm products.

In the light of the need to support international activities, my government is ready to contribute \$165 000 to assist the activities of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific in the 1982 Japanese fiscal year. Japan intends to support the activities of the Centre within the framework of the assistance scheme in the future.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Japan, for giving us your country's experience from which many of us can learn. We have learned wide-ranging policies as well as the WCARRD led activities and financially aided price devaluation of farm output have helped modernise your agriculture. We particularly note with profound thanks that you are ready to contribute \$ 165 000 for the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific which is in Comilla, Bangladesh.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): Document CL/82/18, the follow-up of WCARRD, requires the Council to address itself to issues A to E of Chapter 6, paragraph 37 of page 7.

The progress made by FAO in respect of such an aim as that in chapter II of assisting countries in the preparation of national strategies, plans and programmes is very much encouraged. My delegation is extremely happy and grateful to FAO for their proposed fielding of the high-level policy review mission to Lesotho to give assistance there in the formulation and the implementation of agrarian reform programmes, strengthening of the training capacity for rural development in order to benefit the rural poor. We only wish to emphasize that the strengthening of training capacity for rural development should be done by training identified local people to the highest level possible. This means awarding fellowships to trained people who will be better equipped to plan and carry out rural development programmes, thus fulfilling the ideas and objectives of the WCARRD to Masters and Ph.D. levels.

Even in training people to post-graduate levels we ask that not too many people within one division be trained to that level, otherwise developing countries might run into the difficulty of finding jobs for them or of absorbing them in their establishment lists. Therefore what we would like to see is a balanced type of training.

An area which still remains grey is the role of women in development. While it is stated in paragraph 12 that the role which rural women play in agricultural production and rural development is now well recognized, the amount of research that is to be undertaken, as reflected in paragraph 16, somehow suggested that it may be an overstatement to speak of experts on women in agricultural development in order to facilitate the integration of women in countries' rural development programmes. For example, one sees very few if any at all African women on the high-level missions that go to Africa, and one wonders who other than African women can be expected to work in agrarian development. My delegation submits that unless they are just objects of study, women should be given a greater chance to pronounce themselves on their own affairs.

Under education, training and extension for rural development, there is no clear statement on specific efforts made to enhance the expert capabilities of Africa, which is the hungriest, poorest and least professionally capable continent. The measures reported under this section are not enough to help the rural poor out of their dilemma. My delegation therefore submits that a special fellowship programme should be established for training of professionals for Africa so that they can come back to train their own people. In this way there would be a higher multiplying effect.

Monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development, as explained in paragraphs 19-25,

seem to be the life-blood of WCARRD. We may only argue that integration of activities under paragraph 14 and paragraph 24 might include the value of these studies. My delegation is happy to note that Africa is starting to cooperate with an interim director. We are also quick to add that support for training of professionals to man this centre is most urgent and should be addressed directly by FAO.

My delegation finds difficulty in appreciating the full value of inter-agency cooperation if the agencies concerned cannot agree on a format for monitoring and evaluation. The statement in paragraph 32 that each agency would continue to monitor its own efforts is disturbing.

Finally, we would add our word to urge and invite donors and Member Governments to do what is required of them under paragraphs 34 and 37.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Lesotho for particularly highlighting the need for special programmes for training in your country; for you think that a balanced training should be imparted only by trained local people. That means you emphasize the importance of training of trainers. You have also emphasized the role of women and lastly I think you made a point regarding your difficulty in appreciating the full value of inter-agency cooperation which I am sure the Secretariat would note and give you clarification.

RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): My delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for this comprehensive and informative document and also Professor Islam for his clear introduction of the topic under discussion. With regard to the main priority areas referred to in the document, my delegation wishes to congratulate FAO and CIRDAP for co-hosting an expert consultation on social economy indicators for monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development for Asia and the South-West Pacific which was held in Bangkok from 19th to 24th April, 1982. Malaysia participated in the above consultation and we found that the consultation was beneficial in improving our monitoring and evaluation efforts in rural development projects. We welcome the major conclusions and recommendations of the consultation, especially the recommendations on the use of indicators. As emphasized, these indicators should be simple, measurable, accurate, timely and cost-effective. The outline for country reports on progress in agrarian reform and

rural development, as agreed during the consultation, is also commendable. The list of core data for social economy indicators is relative to our present requirement, comprehensive and useful. We hope that subsequent consultations in the various regions will further improve existing universal guidelines for country reports. The experiences of the pilot studies undertaken now in the use of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of WCARRD's programme could be incorporated into the progress report to be discussed during the FAO Conference in 1983.

Malaysia has gained some experience in carrying out the pilot study on the use of indicators to assess the impact of rural development. The experiences gained from this study would be useful for other future studies in the country and could be shared with other countries.

One of the programmes of action adopted by the WCARRD conference in 1979 was the promotion among national institutions of the exchange of experiences and expertise gained in programme implementation on agrarian reform and rural development, including the establishment and strengthening of regional institutions for research and training. This is to expand the scope for greater cooperation in the exchange of knowledge and experiences in institutional reform and rural development planning. We strongly support this move and hope that other Member countries will do the same.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for bringing out the importance and usefulness of the FAO and CIRDAP-sponsored intergovernmental consultations held recently in Bangkok for agreeing on the socio-economic indicators for preparing the 1983 report for the conference. Thank you also for throwing light on the very important requirement of promoting exchange of information and experience at the regional level on WCARRD-related activities between the regional countries.

R.B. RYANGA (Kenya): I would like to join my colleagues in commending the Secretariat for this document which outlines what FAO has been doing in respect of follow-up to WCARRD. I also wish to congratulate Dr. Islam for the clear introduction he has given us to this document. I think that FAO should be commended for the initiative it has taken since 1979 when the WCARRD conference was held. We appreciate the activities that it has initiated in our countries in order to improve the participation of people in their own development. We appreciate particularly such programmes as the preparation of national strategies, plans and programmes which enable countries to have a comprehensive approach to the alleviation of poverty and for encouraging development in rural areas.

Regarding specific areas that the FAO has been involved in, we ourselves have been involved in promoting people's participation and now, for example, there is a seminar being conducted in Nairobi which is looking at the improvement of institutional and organizational regimens for the delivery systems of inputs and services for small farmers. This seminar is being attended by countries from all over Africa and documentation has been prepared; and, after initial discussions in Plenary, the participants will be able to travel around the country to see how local small farmers are being assisted in the acquisition of inputs including extension services. We hope that this seminar will bring out some of the issues which could be discussed at a later date.

I see here that a paper will be prepared on these studies with policy issues and published in 1983. We look forward to receiving the results of these seminars and particularly this paper which will analyse the studies and the policy issues which have come out in these discussions. We also welcome the mobile sub-regional task force for promoting projects and people's participation in Africa which will be located at CIRDAFRICA and will soon be operational. We believe that this, mobile task force will enable our people to highlight those areas which they should concentrate on, and particularly in assisting people in their individual capacities in informal groups and also informal proposals.

Of particular importance is the work which FAO is doing in the role of women. There is a comprehensive programme outlined here in which FAO is attempting to improve the participation of women in rural development. We are encouraged to see that, for example, there is a programme for training women as para-technicians for rural development. I take it that this means that these women will be trained to be informal leaders in their own communities and therefore to assist in making the normal extension services more effective, because they will serve as focal points in their communities for the dissemination of information and training to their colleagues.

We also appreciate the projects listed here which, in fact, are of a critical kind; for example poultry production, sheep and goat production, and so on. We believe that these kinds of programmes will also help women to increase their incomes and will be of very great benefit to the population.

We hope that these high-level missions which are going around to facilitate the increase of African women in the countries' development programmes will include also African women who, as my colleague from Lesotho said, are better placed to understand the problems and aspirations of African women.

We appreciate the programmes which are going on in training and expansion for rural development and we also think that in addition to creating a capability for the extension staff to solve the problems of the small farmers, we would also like to have a strengthening of the supervisory framework, that link from the central point in Headquarters right down to the field. We need this area of supervision to be strengthened as well in order to make sure of the programme within the framework of the programmes that have been planned generally. We agree with our colleague of Lesotho that there should also be a programme for high-level manpower development, and this is in line with the resolution which was passed in Algiers at the African Regional Conference where it was noted that Africa was deficient in high-level manpower to do the planning and implementation of African programmes. We therefore support that this programme should be included here.

We welcome the emphasis being placed on shifting cultivation; and we hope that at a later date we shall be able to receive a more comprehensive brief on this regarding exactly what shifting cultivation is, who is doing it, and the extent of the area under this and the real important significance of shifting cultivation in the African context; particularly we would like to know what proposals are being put forward and programmes to eradicate shifting cultivation.

We agree that one of the most important components of a monitoring and evaluation programme is a comprehensive and efficient information system, including textual as well as statistical information. We therefore support the work of the FAO in monitoring and evaluation of rural reform and agricultural development. We believe that these indicators which are now being developed will assist our countries to see for themselves whether our programme is of benefit or not, because this really is the important point.

We welcome the support that FAO has given to CIRDAFRICA, which has not quite started operating but which we hope will start operating soon with an interim Director, and particularly this programme which we mentioned earlier, the mobile task force, to strengthen people's participation. We hope that FAO will continue to give CIRDAFRICA the support which it is giving it now.

We are also a bit disturbed that the different agencies still insist that they should themselves continue to monitor their own efforts individually. We believe that this segregation of programmes as between agencies without effective coordination is possibly one of the problems which makes it difficult to have the proper results in rural development. I would also like to mention very briefly here that on the question of the training, one of the problems is that while in Africa we are short of trained manpower, I think that the operations of international agencies do aggravate the problem. These agencies isolate and segregate their individual programmes and by doing this they syphon off staff from the regular programme, particularly the extension at the supervisory level; and when they do this they make the resulting ministry less effective than it would otherwise have been. We believe, therefore, that these programmes should not only be integrated and coordinated but they should also be integrated in the national programmes to make them more effective and also to allow for personnel, as they have been trained, to be more effective in the operations.

Finally, we would like to urge all potential donors to contribute additional extra-budgetary resources to support the WCARRD follow-up action, and we would urge other governments to join those countries in CIRDAFRICA and to join other centres in other areas which will help in agrarian reform. We believe members should promote national coordinated committees for agrarian reform in order to make sure that the efforts of rural people will not be dissipated. We would like also to invite members to participate fully in the programmes for monitoring programmes on rural development and agrarian reform. Finally I would like to say that WCARRD itself is a supplemental programme, and the big problem we face today is actually the imbalance in international trade. If the African countries, in fact the countries of the Third World were to receive for their produce prices which were commensurate with the consumer prices in the rich countries, these countries in Africa and other poor regions would be able to tackle their problems more effectively. Therefore while we support WCARRD this does not mean that we do not think that rich countries should still try to promote and implement the objectives of the new international economic order, agricultural adjustments and international equitable trade.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for giving us your impression as also signifying your support for FAO-sponsored activities in the field of WCARRD follow-up. Also, the information that you gave on the seminar that is being held in Nairobi at the moment is certainly going to be very useful; and we have noted that you have highlighted, in support of the delegate of Lesotho, the importance of having greater stress given on training of trainers. We appreciate the difficulty you have

mentioned about having international agencies in the absence of adequately trained people in your country; and we have also noted that while you have full support for WCARRD, you would want also importance to be given to the implementation of the international development strategy and the new economic order and also to ensure that you have a better chance of trade than possibly you have at the moment,

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): La delegación de el Ecuador quiere hacer presente la firme voluntad de su gobierno de conceder a la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural la máxima prioridad posible. El desarrollo rural particularmente ha recibido en los últimos tiempos una atención preferente de mi Gobierno. Existe y funciona dinámicamente una Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural Integrado, adscrita a la Presidencia de la República, que fue creada en 1979.

Respecto a la inquietud planteada por la delegación de Colombia debo informar que, en lo que concierne al establecimiento de un Centro Regional de Formación Rural, el trámite pertinente se encuentra en su última fase, que es la aprobación del Parlamento, por lo que ratifico, de acuerdo a instrucciones precisas de mi Gobierno, la voluntad de concretar el proyecto del Centro Regional.

En lo que atañe al informe CL 82/18 deseo expresar la complacencia de la delegación ecuatoriana por el apoyo de la FAO a la causa de la reforma agraria y de la capacitación rural, pues sin un adecuado nivel de preparación del campesinado los esfuerzos que se hagan con miras a producir más alimentos, y distribuirlos de acuerdo a criterios de equidad, y con miras a desarrollar el agro, se verán siempre sujetos a metas poco ambiciosas.

Consideramos base fundamental de las actividades agrícolas la superación del nivel de preparación de los campesinos. En consecuencia, el Ecuador apoya irrestrictamente estos afanes y está dispuesto a prestar en breve una colaboración concreta mediante el Centro de Formación Regional.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for giving me the clarification that was asked for by Colombia on the setting-up of a regional centre and thank you also for pledging your support to the proper functioning of the regional centre to be set up in your country.

AKLU GIRGRE (Ethiopia): My delegation has read Follow-Up on WCARRD, Report CL 82/18, with great interest and has found it to be informative, comprehensive and precise. We fully endorse its contents, particularly the recommendations contained in paragraph -37, page 7.

My delegation strongly supports the idea of a common format on monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development on the basis of which country reports will be prepared. We also await with considerable eagerness the consolidated report to be prepared by FAO for consideration by the Conference at its 1983 Session, as indicated in paragraph 23, page 5. A comprehensive and efficient system is a very important component of any monitoring and evaluation programme, thus FAO's assistance in the establishment and development of such a system becomes paramount, especially in the least developed countries.

With regard to action at the country level, as indicated in the report a high-level WCARRD mission visited my country in early May 1982. The purpose of the mission was to review Ethiopia's strategies, policies, plans and programmes for agrarian reform and rural development, rate their adequacy to meet the WCARRD Programme of Action and identify clarity areas for action by my government and international agencies. The mission asserted that Ethiopia's policies and objectives are very close to WCARRD's declaration of principles and programme of action. However, the mission observed and identified several, institutional and technical problems in our strategies, policies and programmes and made invaluable recommendations for effective translation of these policies into action, to which my government will give due attention.

As a result of the mission's visit several areas which required immediate measures were identified, of which five are taking shape for implementation for international assistance. These are (i) workshop on women on agricultural development; (ii) assessment for need for agricultural manpower, education and training; (iii) food and nutrition policy; (iv) projects for an intensive support of agricultural production structures or cooperatives; (v) assistance to strengthen our planning and programme system.

With regard to action at the regional level, my delegation takes pleasure to inform the Council that my government has given serious consideration to join CIRDAFRICA and will ratify the agreement shortly.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you, delegate for Ethiopia, for your valuable contribution, particularly the welcome news that you have given that your government has decided to join CIRDAFRICA.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The promotion of rural development has been for long a priority area of my country's fruitful cooperation with many developing countries.

As regards the implementation of programmes and actions outlined by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, we continue to hold the view, as unanimously agreed upon by WCARRD, that the key role for all measures to promote rural development and to improve agrarian structure lies with the respective country itself. The developing countries, own efforts in that important sector require, on the other hand, also external support.

My delegation welcomes the additional information given us by Mr. Islam in his introduction, supplementing what is spelled out in Document CL 82/18, but we should like to make a few further points.

As regards Chapter II we would like to know how many countries have national strategies, plans and programmes for this area, how many, apart from the nine mentioned, have asked the Secretariat for support. Mr. Islam told us that there are others in the pipeline. Could we know how many of those countries have already also opted for the concept of food strategies.

In Chapter IIB under the activity Promoting People's Participation mention is made of 34 project proposals for 30 countries. These projects are to be of a pilot nature. It would therefore be interesting to get to know a bit more about their general orientation and the general substance of these proposals. In this respect we are aware of course that the proposals must be tailored to the specific conditions and requirements of each country.

As regards the manual for monitoring and evaluation of the participatory actions for the rural poor, as mentioned in Paragraph 9 of the document before us, we should like to ask whether the manual is ready in the meantime. My delegation feels that the manual as well as the papers mentioned in paragraph 11 are of interest also to the Member Nations.

My Government attaches special importance to how monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development progress is carried out and presented to the FAO Conference in 1983 and to ECOSOC in 1984. There is no doubt that the reports to be prepared by the countries for this purpose should follow a certain pattern. We hope that the publication of the guidelines will appear in time (as envisaged for the beginning of 1983). As preliminary information the provisional guidelines mentioned in paragraph 22 could be distributed. I hope that it is not asking too much if interested delegations were given the possibility to look at the individual country reports at the Twenty-Second FAO Conference in 1983. We had a similar procedure at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

I now come to the topics in Chapter VI which are recommended to the Council's special attention. Of the five areas mentioned, in the opinion of my Government priority should be given to the recommendation mentioned in (e). We assume that national reporting by developed countries is not foreseen so the Secretariat will not be overburdened. Proposals for action in areas mentioned in (a) should primarily be expected of developing countries concerned. The measure mentioned in (d) refers to an institutional issue. We feel that it should be left to each country how to proceed. The same applies more or less to (c).

My country's priority for rural development in our cooperation with developing countries, which I mentioned at the beginning, was also reflected materially in the last few years. Thus, the share of our bilateral development aid for the agricultural sector increased from 13 percent in 1979 to about 20 percent in 1980 and increased again in 1981 to a total of 1.3 billion Deutsche Mark.

Before concluding I should like to mention that also a number of non-governmental organizations of my country actively promote and support rural development in developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: You have stressed the key role that the developing countries themselves can discharge in improving their own lot. I also thank you for including in your statement the fact that in this effort of theirs they do need external support which can help them accelerate the momentum.

You have asked for some information, such as how many countries have national plans and strategies and whether the manual for monitoring and evaluating progress has been prepared. I am sure that the Secretariat has taken note of this and will be providing replies in time. We have noted with great satisfaction the interest that the Federal Republic of Germany has been taking in the rural development of developing countries through bilateral help.

S.P. MÜKERJI (India): My delegation congratulates Professor Nouri Islam on his report. Our earnest hope is that the example set by Professor Islam in follow-up action on the important WCARRD Conference will be emulated by other agencies for following-up the conclusions and deliberations of other conferences, seminars and meetings.

India, and especially our Prime Minister, are deeply committed to an anti-poverty programme and would go to the extent of saying that this is the breath of life so far as our Government is concerned, and it is the breath of administration.

Our Prime Minister's new 20-point programme is directed mainly to ameliorating the condition of the poor in the country. Our Sixth-plan strategy is also directed towards removing poverty, in the rural areas especially. We have a separate Ministry of Rural Development as against a separate Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. So that indicates the particular attention and focus that we are giving to the urgent need of developing our rural areas and improving the quality of life of our people there.

Our strategy has been that a stage has come when there has to be a distributive justice in favour of the poor, so that they are able to have access to productive assets, access to skill, access to rural credit, access to other land and infrastructural facilities which will help them in participating in the mainstream of economic development in the country, because we feel that merely feeding them on doles and having only a fire-fighting arrangement when a calamity comes is not sufficient at all. That is why a separate ministry has been established. We are trying to involve voluntary organizations in rural development apart from the government organizations and ensuring people's participation. Also there is research going on in the matter of rural development. Industry in any sector is allowed tax exemption if they invest part of their income in rural development.

One of the most important programmes that we have launched in the matter of anti-poverty measures is that of integrated rural development in our sixth five-year plan under which while the country is divided into about 5 000 blocks, in every block we have identified 600 families every year who have to be given concentrated help and attention so that they are brought above the poverty line. These 600 families are the poorest in that area and they are identified on the basis of an economic survey and in consultation with the village councils and the local people also, so that no poor family is overlooked on any extraneous consideration. As a result of this strategy 600 families in each of the 5 000 blocks every year to be brought above the poverty line will be able to bring above the poverty line 3 000 families in each of the 5 000 blocks which will come to 15 million families with 75 million people to be brought above the poverty line in a period of five years. This is a tremendous task. We have an outlay of \$2 000 million in our sixth plan budget directed to this particular unifocal scheme of anti-poverty programme to be given as subsidy to these identified families, which subsidy will be complemented by soft loans to be given by the rural banks to the extent of \$4 000 million. The total outlay will be \$6 000 million, that is \$6 billion, to be given in subsidy-cum-loan form to these 15 million families on productive activities like agriculture, sericulture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, cottage and village-level industries. We have great hopes of this scheme and we are sure that this will have a very visible and palpable impact on the problem of poverty in our country. Apart from this integrated rural development scheme we have a special livestock programme, where the poorest people are given 50-60 percent subsidy, as we give in the first scheme which I mentioned, to acquire poultry, sheep and cattle, and we also make sure that the produce of these productive commodities is marketed so that they are able to get income. We also have two important schemes of drought-prone areas programmes and desert development programmes, under which irrigation schemes, schemes of soil conservation, animal husbandry and crop husbandry, are taken up for the benefit of small and marginal farmers. I might point out at this stage why I am trying to distinguish between agricultural production and rural development.

In countries like India, any thrust in the matter of agricultural production will benefit only those who own land. They may be small and marginal farmers; nonetheless they have to own some land so that the benefits or incentives of agricultural production goes to them. But what about millions of those people in the rural areas who do not own any land at all, who work on the farms on a crop-sharing basis or on very small wages? It is they who are the poorest of the poor, and we found in the past that in our preoccupation with increasing agricultural production, people who do not own land and cannot participate in agricultural production are left out in the cold. That is why we under the leadership of our Prime Minister are not distinguishing between anti-poverty programmes which are not directly related to agricultural production, because the poorest of the poor do not own land, and the production programmes which are those concerned with those who own land and the small and marginal farmers, so therefore now we have a double-pronged approach: one is the production programme in the agriculture sector and the anti-poverty programme benefiting those who do not own any land at all, and in the case of the second category, which is the weakest category, we are trying to give them some assets. If we cannot give them land-because land is limited - we are trying to give them some productive assets in the shape of cattle, in the shape of poultry, in the shape of piggery, in the shape of tools for cottage industries, in the shape of horticultural plans so that even in their homestead they are able to grow some fruit and vegetables which they can market and then they can work, whether it is the eggs or chickens or meat, they can convert it into money and earn some income, so both the land-based people as well as the non-land-based people are being helped in this two-pronged attack on poverty.

Now apart from that, we have got a very ambitious and national project or programme on rural employment under which the central government gives massive help to the extent of 2 million tons of foodgrains, three of course to the provincial government. As the WFP gives under the Food for Work Programme, the Government of India gives 2 million tons of foodgrains. They gave 2 million tons of foodgrains in 1980-81 and cash of \$125 million to the state governments to start Food for Work Programmes for the benefit of those who do not have any land at all, and these Food for Work Programmes are taken up for improving the environment on social forestry, on setting up agro-based industries, cottage industries, land development, digging of canals, construction of roads and so on, so that the productive potential of the rural areas is increased on one hand, and on the other hand, these landless people and the poorest of the poor are able to get foodgrains partly in wages, and part payment of their wages, and also in income, in cash.

One kilogram of foodgrain is given to each landless labourer who works on these nation-building works apart from the wages which are given in cash, so the total amount of 1 kilogram value of food and the cash component of the wage are given to each labourer on the basis of the minimum wages which are fixed in the various states.

Apart from that, we have got a scheme of training of the rural youth for self-employment, so that our young people in the rural areas who do not have any employment are settled in some sort of small-scale industry; they are trained for that, during the period of training they are given stipends and so on.

We have got a massive programme of construction of rural roads, rural markets, rural godowns, which also help in improving the economic condition in the rural areas.

As regards land reforms, so far we have distributed more than 4 million acres of land by declaring land surplus to the old owners. We have got a ceiling on land, and the people who had got more than the ceiling fixed by legislation have to surrender that land, and out of that surrendered land we have distributed 4 million acres to about 2.3 million families so far. We have also improved the tenancy rights of the cultivators, and our ultimate aim is that the man behind the plow also owns the land which he plows. In short, we are committed to removing poverty in our country, and that way, we are committed to the noble aspirations and aims of WCARRD. India is a member of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific which has been established at Comilla. We have been participating actively in their meetings. We have got a Council for Advancement of Rural Technology in my country which coordinates research and training work in the matter of rural development. We have established a National Institute of Rural Development which can be used by other developing countries also in the matter of research, training and extension in development of rural areas.

My delegation also adds its voice to others in an appeal to the donors to achieve the target of \$20 million as extra-budgetary resource to be given to the FAO for the follow-up on the deliberations of WCARRD .

I will close with a simple statement that we feel that poverty is a sleeping volcano. We cannot just sleep over it, because if we overlook it, the volcano is likely to erupt with great distress and social and economic unrest. Therefore we are committed to the removal of poverty, and we are very much with the FAO and its Director-General, Dr. Saouma, and WCARRD in their efforts at various forums and at different times to rouse the conscience and energies of the world community for meeting this great challenge which is staring mankind in the face at the present juncture.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, India, particularly for drawing the distinction between the increase in agricultural production and rural development, I think a phenomenon which would not only be obtained in India but also in many countries of that region.

We have also noted your deep commitment to the anti-poverty programme particularly your plan to plan 75 million people above the poverty line in five years' time. The project of rural development and the ultimate aim to ensure that the man behind the plow is also the man owning the land are also examples of programme-oriented action which many others can emulate. I thank India for giving us this very valuable contribution to the WCARRD follow-up discussions.

F.M. MBEWE (Zambia): Before I begin my intervention, I would like to thank all members of the Council for voting Zambia and Nigeria to represent the African Region in the CFA, and congratulate Germany for taking the highest score. I think it is the confidence the Council has in Germany.

The document under discussion is very important. I say this because more than 50 percent of the population of most developing countries and Africa in particular live in rural areas, and therefore any effort directed at developing rural areas will form the basis of meaningful economic development for our people. The adoption of the WCARRD Action Plan therefore marks a significant milestone in this direction. We only wonder why this was not done much earlier in the life of FAO. I commend

the Nordic countries for the lead they have taken in contributing to this programme. There is nothing more noble than to contribute to a programme which aims at alleviating the sufferings of many poor people. I urge other potential donors to redirect their efforts in building up military might toward assisting developing countries with the WCARRD Plan of Action.

Allow me to make a brief statement on some aspects of the paper. While we praise the intentions of WCARRD, it is necessary that those charged with its implementation are not blind to the realities of the situations prevailing in specific countries. We say this because it is frustrating for developing countries to move from one development concept and approach to another. In this regard, preparation of national strategies, plans and programmes in relation to WCARRD objectives should aim at strengthening the national food strategies which a number of countries have already prepared or are in the process of preparing.

As regards the promotion of people's participation, we note that 34 projects have already been proposed and that 6 are under implementation. Here again a word of caution is necessary. While it is necessary to involve the beneficiary groups in project implementation because it ensures not only successful implementation but also sustenance of project activities thereafter, there is a danger, however, that the experts may be the ones who will determine how people will participate in the activities of rural development. In paragraph 9, we note that a mobile task force will soon become operational at CIRDAFRICA. Can the Secretariat give us some information as to how it is envisaged this task force will operate ?

The question of women's role in rural development takes various conceptualizations. In my country, a woman's activities are not in any way considered inferior or superior to those of men. While notable attention should be given to women's efforts because they form a significant proportion of the rural population, this should not distract us from the true goals of development. After all, women do not live apart from men. If they did, it would have been a terrible world. What is important is to prepare projects which can bring about economic and social development of the people - all the people.

On education, training and extension for rural development, I wish to reiterate what previous speakers have said: Ethiopia and Kenya. The FAO African Regional Conference in Algiers resolved that FAO should, at least in Africa, give adequate attention to high-level training. We endorsed this resolution and urge FAO to start preparations for immediate implementation of this resolution.

On the question of monitoring and evaluation of projects on agrarian reform and rural development, we commend FAO for the work so far done. We urge both FAO and recipient countries to ensure that realistic benchmarks are determined, and they should be determined soon so that work in this area can start.

My delegation wishes to thank FAO for initiating CIRDAFRICA which is more or less operational. It is still a baby and FAO should continue nursing it. At this point I wish to urge other African countries which have not ratified the CIRDAFRICA agreement to do so as soon as possible.

My delegation welcomes the work done by the ACC Task Force in trying to improve coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels. We would like the Task Force to also work towards better coordination among UN agencies in providing aid for rural development.

To end my intervention I wish to reiterate my urge to all capable donors to join the Nordic countries in assisting the WCARRD Plan of Action, because it is a worth-while cause.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the very useful intervention you have made and for giving us your general reactions to the activities that have been going on under the sponsorship of the FAO in the WCARRD follow-up. We also note your call to the nations of the region to join CIRDAFRICA.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Aunque consideramos, señor Presidente, que lamentablemente el alivio de la pobreza rural no tiene una respuesta positiva, creemos que la FAO ha sostenido una constante actividad por estimular a los gobiernos para lograr la adopción de medidas que garanticen el llevar a cabo el cumplimiento del Plan de Acción surgido de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Para nosotros el apoyo popular a los proyectos de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, en el contexto de prerequisites que fueron aprobados en la Conferencia de 1979, y es la piedra angular de que se obtengan resultados positivos, son los hombres y mujeres del campo, los actores directos; sin ellos, masivamente, sin discriminar sectores poblacionales ni con integraciones locales, sin ellos, repeti-mos, creemos que el apoyo masivo no podría obtenerse. Cuando ellos reciben directamente los beneficios integrales, ellos apoyan el desarrollo, y queremos significar la palabra "integrales"; queremos

destacar "integrales", y no "integrado", a una zona. Coincidimos con la FAO, y la felicitamos calurosamente por considerar como esfera prioritaria la participación popular; sin esto, insisto, creemos que las evaluaciones seguirán siendo muy difíciles, y solo en el contexto técnico sin savia de pueblos, señores delegados, sabemos que hay reformas agrarias y reformas agrarias, hay muchos enfoques; pero la verdadera, con el apoyo masivo, no integrado en bolsones tecnológicamente muy adelantados, pero muy lejos de resolver el problema del hambre crítica a nivel del país, solo puede ser marginando zonas muy pobres, aplicando el desarrollo de la agricultura, no solo localmente a los elegidos o privilegiados de una zona que mercantilmente sea realizable.

En este sentido de cómo lograr el apoyo popular, la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural profundizó bastante. Creemos que ha habido errores y que están incluidos en la forma de presentar las necesidades del apoyo del pueblo a los procesos de reforma agraria, y la necesidad ésta la tiene el sector rural. El sector campesino en todos nuestros países es de muy bajo nivel cultural, pero todos sabemos de quién es la responsabilidad de ese bajo nivel cultural. No son ellos los responsables, es su sociedad la responsable de su nivel cultural; pero sí tenemos experiencia de que es un sector que tiene una plena conciencia de su existencia y una capacidad propia para organizarse, repetimos "organizarse", de acuerdo con sus intereses. Desde hace muchos años, miles de años, los sectores campesinos han tenido su organización; por eso consideramos que hay una cuestión de concepto de que plantear solamente promoción exclusivamente puede ser un error también, pues ninguno de nuestros gobiernos puede descubrir el sector rural para promoverlo; la organización, el quid de la cuestión, no es que cada proceso de reforma agraria planteado por un gobierno específico tenga su propia promoción; creemos que esto es falso, que esto divide a las masas campesinas. Hay que reconocer a las actuales organizaciones, las que vienen históricamente promoviendo, las que vienen históricamente participando y buscando apoyo.

Creemos que esto, complementado con una promoción de nuevas formas de organización como la cooperativa, creemos que ellos se organizan si los apoyamos conjuntamente con un proceso y una estrategia diferida.

Partiendo de aquí, sin discriminar sectores, la mujer puede participar, como todo miembro de la sociedad, en la capacitación y en la educación fundamentalmente; y de tener el apoyo masivo si el Estado puede garantizar la extensión agrícola, son mecanismos sobre los cuales hay bastante literatura.

Coincidimos con la delegación de Panamá en que, si visualizamos la situación partiendo de la técnica, seguiremos sin resultados o, por lo menos, sin los resultados que hacen falta a la gran mayoría. La Revolución Verde, el desarrollo de la comunidad, los desarrollos integrados, la modernización de la agricultura, hay muchas formas pero siempre sobre la base de la técnica.

Sin embargo nosotros creemos que la técnica agrícola hoy es suficiente; existe la técnica ¿qué falta entonces? Nosotros creemos que falta el apoyo popular prioritario, falta la decisión política a una estrategia definida y finanzas hacia la agricultura. Una de las cuestiones que más golpea al sector agrícola es la descapitalización de la agricultura porque, realmente en intereses, la agricultura no puede, por la situación climática y ecológica difícil del mundo hoy, no puede competir con otras esferas comerciales. Tiene que haber una decisión interna de su gobierno de querer desarrollar la agricultura aunque sea a nivel de subvención interna.

Sobre la vigilancia y la evaluación, estamos plenamente de acuerdo con la FAO, y estamos seguros que ella seguirá insistiendo en lo planteado en el Plan de Acción de la Conferencia, específicamente sobre la necesidad de un Centro Regional para la América Latina. Nuestra delegación seguirá insistiendo en su importancia, porque considera que surgen nuevas condiciones, sin el arrastre natural de estrategias fallidas y porque van a constituir un eslabón directo del trabajo de la FAO para cumplir los acuerdos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria.

Finalmente en el Capítulo VI: Cuestiones que ha de considerar el Consejo, coincidimos con todas, aunque con una pequeña variación en la última; nos parece que no es enteramente saludable el invitar a todos los Estados Miembros a que participen plenamente en el Programa de Vigilancia y Evaluación, creemos que se debe circunscribir a los que tengan estrategias definidas o reformas agrarias en proceso.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate from Cuba, particularly for giving us an analysis of the socio-cultural factors behind the background of poverty and for the possible solutions you have envisaged, through cooperative measures. We have noted that you have said that to increase production technologies is important but what may be lacking are people's support and political support or enough capital.

We have also noted your agreement with the issues listed for Council consideration in Document CL 82/18, accepting the fact you said that probably instead of all members joining in the full participation, only those who have started rural development should join it.

At this point of time, if I may have your indulgence, distinguished delegates, I have to inform you that the list of speakers is quite a long one and it is going to take some time even to exhaust the list of Member Countries, but I have a special request from the representative of the ILO, who is an Observer, but who is not going to be able to be present in the afternoon. He has requested the floor this morning, and with your agreement I would now like to give the floor to the representative of the ILO.

F. D'ATTILIA (Organisation internationale du Travail): L'Organisation internationale du Travail, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici, a participé très activement à la préparation et au déroulement de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Elle attache maintenant un grand prix à la suite à donner à la Conférence en question et ceci pour expliquer pourquoi je vous ai demandé la parole et je vous remercie vivement pour me l'avoir donnée ce matin.

Je vois dans l'introduction du document présenté par le Prof. Islam que la FAO présentera à la Conférence de 1983 un rapport global à la fois concret et analytique sur la base des modèles communs de présentation qui facilitera la tâche confiée aux pays et autres institutions intéressées au problème: notre Organisation pourra fournir le cas échéant, et elle le fera avec grand plaisir, tout l'apport et la collaboration qui seront jugés utiles ou nécessaires. Parmi les différents points du document que nous examinons je dois mentionner le chapitre par lequel mon Organisation est plus directement intéressée. Je voudrais parler tout d'abord de la promotion de la participation populaire pour laquelle a été créé un groupe dans le cadre de l'équipe spéciale du CAC, l'OIT étant l'institution responsable chargée de préparer un programme d'action (voir document CL/82/18 par.10). Ce programme d'action comporte l'analyse des obstacles rencontrés dans la conception des projets visant à assurer la participation des femmes au développement rural; il comporte aussi des consultations en matière de moyens permettant de stimuler des investissements pour l'exécution des projets dans le domaine de la participation et enfin l'échange d'expériences entre pays en développement et projets conjoints sur le terrain. Sur la base des décisions prises au cours de la dixième réunion de l'équipe spéciale du CAC sur le développement rural, le BIT a convoqué à Genève du 13 au 15 décembre 1982, la seconde session sur la participation populaire. La réunion se propose notamment de réviser et discuter les résultats du programme de travail de notre Organisation sur cette matière, de rédiger les lignes de base pour une collaboration plus étroite entre les différentes institutions aux fins de la mise en oeuvre d'initiatives conjointes visant à promouvoir la participation populaire au développement rural au niveau national et régional. Les autres organisations intéressées ont été invitées à cette réunion. D'autre part, le BIT sera représenté par un observateur à la réunion des experts sur la participation populaire au développement rural que la FAO a convoquée à Rome du 8 au 10 décembre 1982.

En ce qui concerne le développement rural en général, je voudrais dire que l'OIT a décidé de convoquer, du 22 novembre au 1er décembre 1983, une session de la Commission consultative du développement rural. A été inscrit à l'ordre du jour un examen général des activités de l'OIT dans le domaine du développement rural et il y a également, à l'ordre du jour, la promotion de l'emploi et l'accroissement des revenus des déshérités ruraux à travers des initiatives d'activités non agricoles. Entre autres, seront examinés le marché de l'emploi rural et les politiques de l'emploi. Dans chacune de ces stratégies, la promotion de l'emploi pour les femmes des zones rurales est traitée d'une façon appropriée. A noter que cette Commission, comme d'ailleurs tous les organes collégiaux de notre Organisation, respecte le principe du tripartisme, ce qui signifie que les représentants des employeurs et des travailleurs sont à côté des représentants des gouvernements pour toutes décisions possibles. Plus particulièrement pour les femmes rurales, je voudrais dire que les activités de l'OIT visent à vérifier les besoins d'information et de documentation pour une meilleure connaissance du rôle des femmes rurales dans le développement rural et visent à mettre sur pied des projets de coopération technique.

Pour en terminer, ne voulant pas profiter de votre bienveillance, je me permettrai simplement de rappeler la Convention 141 et la recommandation 149 de l'Organisation internationale du Travail sur les organisations des travailleurs ruraux et leur rôle dans le développement économique et social; la Convention 141 ayant été ratifiée par bon nombre d'Etats Membres constituée, dans une certaine mesure, une base juridique pour la matière que nous traitons aujourd'hui même.

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

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Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE PLENAIRE

11ª SESION PLENARIA

(29 November 1982)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
S. Hasan Ahmad, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de S. Hasan Ahmad, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de S. Hasan Ahmad, Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Follow-up of WCARRD (continued)

10. Suite donnée à la CMRADR (suite)

10. Actividades complementarias de la CMRADR (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will now start the meeting. We have a very long list of speakers before us. The list runs to 37 speakers, out of which only 18 have taken the floor so far. The need of the hour therefore is to be brief and concise and I would fervently appeal to delegates to be kind to us as well as to themselves. In the interests of having the business disposed of as early as possible I would request them to be brief and concise and to avoid repetition as far as possible.

M.H. PAIMAN (Afghanistan): First, I am privileged to extend the warm appreciation of the Afghan delegation to you, Mr. Chairman, and our congratulations to the three new Vice-Chairmen on their election. My delegation is fully confident that under your able guidance and with the active participation of the delegates the tasks of this Council will be successfully carried out. I am pleased to convey our thanks to Dr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General, and his staff for providing this opportunity for us to exchange experiences and views regarding the state of food and agriculture, throughout the world.

As far as document CL 82/18, Follow-up of WCARRD, is concerned, this is a great activity undertaken by FAO. I thank FAO for this document which it has prepared. It is the background for the development of agriculture and it is appreciated by my delegation. These programmes are concerned with the development of agriculture and especially agricultural products and rural development. Afghanistan is always concerned about this with the help of FAO. They have started these programmes, especially home economics, and the programme is going on in Afghanistan and there are many efforts on the contribution of women to agricultural development and there is the training of farmers. Also the extension programme is going on here at village level, especially introducing agro-techniques to the farmers to help them develop a better life and economy. So this is a very good document which has been prepared by FAO. Especially important for us is the WCARRD development programme. The land reform programme is going on in Afghanistan. This makes a basic change to the life of the people and the peasants here, and that will be directly concerned with agriculture and agricultural products, because agrarian reform and land reform will be studied together. First there is the land distribution, and after the land distribution the farmers' needs for seeds, for fertilizers and for land settlement, especially concerning the nomads, and there are 2.5 million nomads in Afghanistan. Moreover, the economy of these farmers is weak, so they need help in agro-techniques and machines and other help.

In this document one item should be included, the land reform programme, because most of the developing countries are going to have the land programme in the future, some of them have it now and some in the past. So when we distribute the land to farmers we need help from the government. The government can only distribute the land. It cannot give other necessities for the farmers. So of course WFP and FAO will give attention to that. So if necessary a separate item should be included in this document of land reform programme, because agrarian reform and land reform are different from each other. After the land reform the agrarian reform will be studied.

In Afghanistan the feudals owned the majority of the land, which they themselves could not cultivate efficiently, but poor farmers and landless peasants worked as share croppers on the land as tenants of the feudals. After the revolution the government realised that no effective agricultural development could be achieved without eliminating social injustice. Therefore according to Decree No. 8 of the Revolutionary Council land reforms were introduced with the following objectives: the removal of feudalistic relations from the national socio-economic system and strengthening and expanding the unity between the workers and the peasants; and increasing the production and diversification of food, fibre, fruits and industrial raw material, not only for local consumption but also for export; to organize the agricultural farmers' services cooperatives; to remove the exploitation, poverty, sickness, malnutrition and unjust social relations; to democratise the socio-economic life of the people. So the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform distributed a total of 739 343 hectares of land to about 295 980 farmers, state farms and municipalities and other government organizations.

Operational programmes were made this year for the completion of land reforms. Under these programmes many activities have been initiated all over the country. Some of these are mentioned below:

First, distribution of water to a particular farm holding in accordance with their determined water rights.

Second, distribution of land ownership documents to the new recipients of land.

Third, the replacement of the old land ownership documents of the land owners whose surplus land is going to be distributed under this land reform programme with the new legal titles to the recipients.

Fourth, organizing the agricultural cooperatives of those farmers who are the recipients of new lands and providing them with technical and financial assistance to concerned departments, and

Fifth, improvement in the existing irrigation system and creation of infrastructural institutions and rural areas of the country.

It is necessary to say that according to the amendment to the Decree No. 8 lands which belonged to the holy places, such as mosques, religious institutions and churches, are not to be distributed under the land reform programme. With this the organizing of the cooperative is concerned. So the Rural Development Department has the very good role of applying these democratic programmes in the country. Especially the construction part of the land reform programme has been given to the Rural Development Department, which will be at village level, through the Department. This construction will be the mosques, schools, and some bridges, roads and houses, maybe libraries, baths, and so many other constructions which are needed at the village level for the farmers. This has been done by the Rural Development Department under the land reform programme. So if it is necessary that one item should be included in this document it is the land reform programmes for the developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: We note your interest and support to the WCARRD Programme of Action with particular emphasis on land reform programmes. We have noted that you have made a suggestion for the inclusion of land reform as a separate sub-item. I am sure that the Secretariat will consider the feasibility of doing this. We also note the distinction which you draw between agrarian reforms and land reforms.

Miss N. RAYEL (Ireland): I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the European Community on this item particularly with regard to the role of women in rural development.

The European Community attaches great importance to the role and to the place of women in agriculture and rural development. It is in this way that, in the framework of the new Programme of Action of the Community for equality of opportunity 1982/85 which has been the subject of a resolution of the Council of 12 July 1982, that specific action is envisaged for the implementation of the principle of equality of treatment for women entrepreneurs, agricultural producers and workers.

This action has as its object the improvement of the professional status of women entrepreneurs, agricultural producers and workers and the realization of equal access to employment, promotion and professional training. The Community has committed itself in this context, while basing itself on the conclusions of an analysis of the specific problems of these women, to proposing a legal instrument. This latter is being prepared within the services of the European Community.

Insofar as the problem of women in the rural development of developing countries is concerned, it must be seen in the framework of the definition of community actions 'Women and Development Policy' in the context of the resolution adopted by the Council of Development of Ministers on 8 November last. In adopting its conclusions, the Council, anxious that its action of cooperation make a contribution in the aided countries to the harmonious development of the overall population, declared itself ready to take full account of the role of women in development as well as of the specific problems of women. The Community is conscious that development aid projects or actions in favour of women must be realised in conformity with the objectives of beneficiary countries in matters of development.

Moreover these conclusions contain guidelines both for the evaluation of the aid programme of the Community, as well as for the participation in international organizations where the question of the position of women in developing countries is taken up.

CHAIRMAN: All I can do is thank you for your very beautiful intervention and particularly your remarks concerning the role of women. We are all convinced they have a great role to play in the development process.

KHANDKER ASADUZZAMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to inform the Council that Bangladesh attaches great importance to the recommendations and action programme of WCARRD from the very beginning. The objectives and strategies of rural development in Bangladesh have been progressively oriented in direction with WCARRD. Economic planning in Bangladesh today is based on a strategy that identifies the rural side as the centre of all economic activities. My delegation would therefore like to make a brief presentation on the extent to which Bangladesh has followed up the recommendations and action programme of WCARRD and subsequent inter-country consultations. The specific issues that will be dealt with in the presentation are: land reform measures, access to inputs, credits and markets, people's participation and integration of women in rural development, role of NGOs.

In view of the gradual pauperization of rural households and the inadequacies of the existing tenurial system, the need for a comprehensive agrarian and land reform have become imperative from objective considerations. Since 1979, a debate and process were initiated for popularizing and formulating land reform measures which will promote productivity as well as ensure social justice. In view of complex socio-economic factors involved in land reforms, the government has gradually prepared the ground for altering the tenurial system. With the setting up of the Land Reforms Committee headed by the Agriculture Minister about 3 months back which is going to submit its report by 30 November, the stage is set for taking some concrete steps on land reforms in the near future.

To ensure access of marginal and small farmers to inputs, credits and markets, the government has chosen the cooperatives as the main instrument for rural development. In order to galvanize the cooperative movement, the government has decided to step up a statutory public authority. This authority, which will be known as Bangladesh Rural Development Board, will provide leadership to cooperatives for both peasants and landless rural poor and will be headed by the Minister of Local Government. At the moment, there are more than 100 000 primary cooperative societies in the country, which means there is one or more than one cooperative society in every village of Bangladesh. An ambitious plan has been drawn up to consolidate and strengthen the agricultural cooperatives. Projects have also been undertaken to market agricultural produce through the cooperative system to ensure a fair price to the growers. The cooperatives are also playing an important role in seeing that credit reaches the rural population,

The share of institutional credit in the rural sector has increased from 17 percent to about 34 per-cent during the last 5 years as a result of policy measures adopted by the government. Yet a large number of people in the rural areas have no access to inputs, credits, etc., because they have no assets, do not own any means of production like land, etc. Moreover, during the last two decades, the number of landless people has increased at an alarming rate. The government is keenly aware of the poignance and the destructive potentialities of increasing landlessness in the rural areas. The government, through the Rural Development Board, is going to take up an ambitious programme to organize 25 000 cooperative societies exclusively for the landless in the next five years. There are already 6 000 landless cooperatives organized under the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Another major programme in this area has been undertaken by the Bangladesh Bank. This programme is known as the Grameen Bank Project or Village Bank Project. This programme provides credit to landless groups for income-generating activities. This project has already received IFAD assistance. Another action research project - Small Farmers' Development Programme - was undertaken by the government in 1976 in collaboration with FAO. In the pilot phase, the project organized 2,500 families in 8 villages, and in the second phase, the targets have been expanded to organize 30,000 small and marginal farmer families in 200 villages.

The Bangladesh Government is also of the view that people's participation is the key to rural development. Two steps have already been taken in this direction. First, the government has decided to decentralize the decision-making process. The concrete steps taken so far include the strengthening of the local administrative level in the rural areas, the decision for gradual abolition of administrative tiers to bring the government nearer to people, and the posting of senior officials in the rural areas. Second, the government has formally announced the decision for enhancing the powers of the local government substantially. It has been decided that officials of local level administrative units will be made accountable to elected representatives at those levels. It is hoped that as a consequence of these measures, administration will become more democratic and accessible to the people.

Women in Bangladesh villages have been performing important and valuable tasks in rural life since time immemorial. Yet that had been by-passed by new development programmes largely on account of sex discrimination. The Government of Bangladesh has taken firm steps to involve the womenfolk of Bangladesh in the development process. A Division of Women's Affairs has been established by the government to provide equal opportunities to women in all walks of life. Two types of programmes have been designed to integrate women in rural development. One category relates to self-employment projects based on supplying credit and the other to training and wage employment. A large number of women's cooperatives has been organized through various developmental programmes launched by both governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies.

The necessity of actively involving NGOs in the rural development process is now well-recognized in Bangladesh since, given their flexibility, they can and have proved to be innovative and forward-looking. Thus, at present there are more than 100 NGOs in Bangladesh working in the

rural sector. Many of them have shifted from a "community" to "target group" and from "relief" to "development" approach over the years. However, resources of most of these NGOs are very limited, as compared to the magnitude of the problems in Bangladesh. It is also felt that there should be closer coordination of the activities of NGOs so that no overlap takes place between the government and the NGOs and between the NGOs themselves. This will ensure more effective utilisation of the meagre resources of NGOs for productive purposes.

It is, however becoming increasingly difficult for a developing country like Bangladesh to accelerate the pace of rural development, because there is a great shortage of capital for undertaking any major scheme in the rural area. My delegation is therefore of the view that the present situation can be improved only if all the Member Countries accept the recommendations of WCARRD wholeheartedly and commit themselves to support and assist in the implementation of its action plan.

My delegation notes with great satisfaction the initiative and measures taken by FAO to implement the action programme so far. My delegation however feels that FAO should further intensify its effort to remove the constraints and impediments which are presently impeding the flow of aid resources from the developed to the developing countries so that a New Economic Order is put in-to operation by design in the not too distant future.

In this connexion, my delegation would like to make the following four proposals for the kind consideration of the Member Countries. First, there must be closer cooperation among the countries of the south for designing suitable strategies, for improving the lot of the landless rural poor. Secondly, multilateral agencies like FAO should pay more attention to the development of networks for marketing of off and on-farm enterprises in both domestic and international markets. Thirdly, emphasis should be laid on the development of appropriate technology and adequate funds should be provided for research institutions of the south for this purpose. Finally, regional institutes on rural development should be further strengthened. In this connexion, CIRDAP deserves special attention. This institution has not as yet received adequate assistance from the UN system.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to express its deep gratitude to Japan and other donor countries for the donation they have made to CIRDAP and my delegation would like to congratulate the distinguished delegation of Japan for the announcement they made this morning concerning further donations.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bangladesh, for giving us the benefit of Bangladesh's experience in land reform measures, in ensuring equitable access to inputs and credits on the part of the disadvantaged, in having people's participation in the developing process and also establishing women's role in the productive process in its due glory, through such measures as the establishment of the Land Reform Committee, the Rural Development Board, measures, to strengthen cooperatives and also the establishment and setting up of cooperative societies for the landless.

We also note that there have been actions taken by the government for administrative decentralization to ensure people's participation in the development process. The experiences that you have narrated I am sure will enrich the mutual experience of the Member Nations of FAO. We also note your comments on NGOs who are doing a good job, but as you seem to think, the resources are limited, and they also need some coordination amongst themselves.

We have noted your 4 suggestions regarding closer cooperation among the countries of the south and for multilateral agencies like FAO for undertaking activities for development of marketing networks, for development of appropriate technology and for strengthening of regional institutes like CIRDAP and CIRDAFRICA and so on. Thank you, Bangladesh.

T. SADAQA (Liban) (langue original arabe): Tout d'abord, je voudrais, au nom de la délégation du Liban, féliciter M. le Directeur général, le Dr. Edouard Saouma, pour l'innovation qu'il a intro-duite dans l'Organisation pour assumer la tâche qui lui a été confiée par la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural qui s'était tenue à Rome en 1979.

Cette Conférence a confié à l'OAA la tâche de mettre en oeuvre ses résolutions et son programme d'action, lequel peut être considéré comme un document historique et qui est un tournant radical dans la vie de la majorité écrasante de la population mondiale. Depuis cette date l'Organisation, sous l'orientation' de son Directeur général, a adopté les méthodes les plus efficaces pour traduire dans la réalité et dans la pratique le programme d'action en question et pour aider les pays membres à entreprendre des activités de développement appropriées à leur condition. Je suis fier de constater que notre Organisation a franchi une étape importante en introduisant les princi-pales lignes contenues dans le programme d'action, dans la plupart des projets et des programmes importants qui sont planifiés et exécutés par elle. C'est là une étape gigantesque qui a été bien réussie malgré les obstacles et les entraves, tout cela grâce aux efforts déployés par le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs et nous les en remercions.

La délégation du Liban souhaite qu'ils poursuivent leurs efforts avec la même détermination et le même enthousiasme car ce qu'ils font ne se limite pas à des principes d'action et à l'application des programmes, mais contient aussi des idées nouvelles concernant la vie des populations mondiales et tout particulièrement de la population rurale. Cette orientation nouvelle, l'Organisation s'efforce de l'enraciner dans l'esprit des responsables dans les pays membres, et les aide pour l'adopter comme base de l'élaboration et d'exécution de leurs programmes et projets nationaux qui vont nécessairement entraîner l'atténuation de la pauvreté de leurs populations actives.

Mon pays a participé à la Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient, Conférence qui s'était tenue à Nicosie du 25 au 30 octobre 1982. La délégation de mon pays a examiné le document de travail CL 82/8 qui résume les recommandations et les résolutions des conférences régionales qui se sont tenues auparavant. Ce que le document de travail en question contient n'est qu'une preuve évidente et une confirmation de l'intérêt très grand accordé par les pays membres aux problèmes du développement rural dans toutes les parties du monde. Il contient aussi un soutien catégorique à tous les projets et à tous les programmes exécutés par l'OAA dans le domaine du développement rural. La délégation du Liban appuie fermement le document de travail CL 82/18 dont nous discutons à l'heure actuelle. Nous remercions et félicitons le Dr. Islam pour l'exposé complet qu'il nous a donné des activités importantes entreprises par l'OAA en vue d'exécuter le programme d'action établi par la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural que j'ai cité précédemment. Je cite plus particulièrement les activités suivantes:

1) Les missions de haut niveau qui effectuent des visites dans les pays intéressés au développement rural pour les aider à examiner leur politique sur la réforme agraire et le développement et pour élaborer leurs projets d'aide immédiate dans ce domaine.

La délégation du Liban soutient fermement ces missions et espère que l'Organisation enverra de nombreuses missions pour répondre aux besoins des pays membres.

2) Je voudrais rendre hommage aux efforts rendus par l'OAA dans le domaine des activités spéciales relatives au développement rural, entre autres:

a) la participation populaire pour planifier et mettre à exécution les projets relatifs aux populations rurales, leur donner l'occasion d'émettre leur opinion et de prendre les décisions rémunératrices pour leur vie et leur travail;

b) l'intérêt particulier apporté par l'Organisation à la femme en matière de développement rural et agricole; l'aide apportée à la femme pour avoir un rôle efficace et son droit à jouer un rôle égal à celui de l'homme dans la majorité des activités auxquelles elle participe dans de nombreuses régions du monde;

c) la formation des cadres qui travaillent dans le domaine du développement rural. La délégation du Liban appuie la priorité accordée par l'Organisation pour développer et améliorer le facteur humain dont le développement technique et scientifique est à la base même du développement et de l'amélioration des ressources naturelles et financières. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous estimons que les programmes de l'Organisation doivent se concentrer sur la formation des agriculteurs notamment les petits exploitants, hommes et femmes. C'est là une tendance judicieuse qu'il faut encourager et appuyer et à laquelle il faut garantir tous les moyens financiers nécessaires;

d) nous appuyons la coopération établie par l'OAA avec les autres organisations affiliées aux Nations Unies et qui oeuvrent dans le domaine du développement rural, à titre particulier, je cite la coopération qui a eu lieu entre l'OAA et un certain nombre d'organisations internationales en vue d'élaborer le programme des indicateurs socio-économiques pour surveiller et évaluer les programmes de la réforme agraire et du développement rural.

Nous saluons et encourageons l'échange des expériences dans ce domaine entre les pays eux-mêmes et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous demandons au Directeur général de poursuivre les séminaires de consultation entre les pays afin qu'ils puissent profiter de leurs expériences réciproques. La délégation du Liban voudrait réitérer son appui à la création du bureau régional pour le développement rural au Proche-Orient et espère que l'OAA fournira les efforts nécessaires pour la création de ce centre et pour l'aider à commencer son activité, étant donné son importance dans le renforcement des activités de la Région du Proche-Orient dans le domaine du développement rural.

En conclusion, je voudrais tout d'abord souligner un point important, à savoir que le succès de toutes les activités de l'OAA et le succès des autres organisations internationales, en matière d'aide apportée au développement rural, dépendent essentiellement de nous-mêmes, nous les pays concernés par cette question, dépendent de l'efficacité de notre réponse et dépendent du soutien national que nous donnons aux projets de développement national.

A titre d'exemple, je cite le rapport qui sera préparé par l'OAA sur les réalisations de ce Programme et qui sera présenté à la Conférence générale en 1983; l'aide apportée par les pays concernés dans la préparation de ce rapport sera considérée comme une contribution efficace au succès de ce Programme. Ensuite, je voudrais m'adresser à tous les pays, et particulièrement

les nantis d'entre eux, pour qu'ils appuient ce programme par leurs contributions et leurs dons financiers lesquels n'ont pas atteint jusqu'à présent la moitié de la somme qui a été fixée par la Conférence mondiale en 1979. Ce qui est dépensé dans ce domaine, bien que modeste, sèmera les graines valables pour des programmes plus grands qui seront précieux et qui seront accomplis par les pays eux-mêmes. En conclusion, je voudrais réitérer l'appréciation de mon pays pour les activités entreprises par l'OAA en vue d'exécuter le programme d'action élaboré par la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural. Je voudrais réitérer mes félicitations au Directeur général et à ses collaborateurs pour l'effort gigantesque qu'ils déploient.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Lebanon, for your general expression of appreciation for the FAO-sponsored activities in the field of the WCARRD follow-up, and for your support of the points made generally in the document issued by the Secretariat on this issue, underlining the importance of high-level missions which have been visiting countries in the preparation of plans, strategies and programmes, and also underlining the importance of human factors in the rural development process, particularly in the form of training. We note your approval of the co-operation between the FAO and other agencies in the setting up of the Centre for Regional Development of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Near East.

MS. M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): On reading the document Follow-Up of WCARRD, it states it does not provide a full survey of the FAO activities in this field. Most, if not all, of the FAO's activities in developing countries, including the food programmes, directly or indirectly influence the implementation of WCARRD objectives. On the other hand, while studying the document, you may arrive at the conclusion that FAO focuses too many of its activities on inter-agency co-operation and co-operation with non-governmental organizations.

The fear arises that all those works in fact hardly exercise any influence on agricultural development as on the implementation of the Programme of Agrarian Reform in single countries. The action at the country level also is to a large extent of the nature of general consultancy and training. It concerns even such matters as promoting people's participation and the role of women in rural development.

Thus it seems that in the past all adequate proposals were maintained at the root level and national and regional levels. In our opinion those proposals should be resolved in further work.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, for your valuable intervention. I must add here that I am going to cut down on my summing-up in view of the shortage of time which we are faced with. We still have quite a number of speakers who want to take the floor, and I would again repeat my appeal to the Members Nations here to be brief and concise.

H.H. CARABAÑO (Venezuela): En mi país estamos persuadidos de que el desarrollo rural integrado es condición esencial para salir del subdesarrollo y para que podamos alcanzar un grado razonable de autosuficiencia alimentaria.

Igualmente creemos que la reforma agraria es un prerequisite para llevar justicia y paz al campo.

Desde hace 23 años Venezuela adelanta un proceso de reforma agraria que, pese a sus dificultades e imperfecciones, ha logrado llevar justicia social al sector campesino. Mi gobierno, inspiración demócrata cristiana, ha puesto esencial empeño en otorgar títulos de propiedad sobre las parcelas a los beneficiarios de la reforma agraria. Estamos convencidos de que nada puede contribuir tanto a la estabilidad social ni existe un mejor estímulo para la producción como el hacer que sea el dueño de la tierra quien la trabaja.

Ya se cuenta por decenas de miles las familias campesinas que han recibido su título de propiedad; por ello, señor Presidente, no podríamos dejar de reconocer a la FAO la forma eficiente como viene ejerciendo el liderazgo que la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural le confió en este campo.

Por ello mi delegación desearía que se le recomendara un plan concreto de acción en el escenario más manejable como podía serlo el de la subregión. Se trata no sólo de obtener la ayuda y asistencia de FAO para promover esta cooperación de países en desarrollo, sino que bajo su coordinación se logre integrar los esfuerzos de otros entes como podría ser la Unesco o la OIT, así como el de los entes regionales como en el caso particular de América Latina donde funciona el Instituto Internacional de Cooperación Agrícola.

En este punto, nos reconforta saber que está entre los planes del Director General, este tipo de acciones tal como nos los hizo saber en la Conferencia Regional de Nicaragua. En beneficio de la brevedad, no vamos a repetir lo que aquí se ha dicho con tanta elocuencia, pero sí nos sentimos obligados a subrayar lo relativo al papel de la mujer en el desarrollo, la promoción de la participación popular, la importancia de los indicadores socioeconómicos sencillos, flexibles y aplicables, como aquí se ha dicho. Todas estas son áreas del programa que interesan de modo particular a mi país.

Queremos solidarizarnos con lo que dijo el distinguido representante de Noruega en el sentido de que las estrategias alimentarias que está promoviendo el Consejo Mundial, deben ser fortalecidas, ponderadas y dinamizadas, si se quiere, por la propia FAO. Ya mi delegación se refirió a la necesidad de esta coordinación cuando aquí se habló de la seguridad alimentaria.

Permítame enfatizar en el aspecto que se refiere a la educación rural, incluyendo en ella la capacitación y la extensión, que no sólo es prioritaria sino que debe tener la primera posición en cuanto a las prelacións. Confío en que el Consejo, al considerar todas las recomendaciones del Artículo 37, incluya ese acápite donde se formule la necesidad de la cooperación dentro de los países en desarrollo, y de éstos con los organismos internacionales.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your very stimulating experience you have in your country by which tens of thousands of landless people have become owners of land. We note that you would like to see more concrete action plans from FAO and also your stress on a food security-based approach and on rural education in regard to training and extension work.

M. NAANANI (Maroc): Ma délégation remercie le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé un document aussi concis et aussi lucide. Nous remercions également le Prof. Islam pour l'avoir si bien résumé.

Le Maroc, qui place le secteur agricole en tête de toutes les priorités, ne cesse de multiplier les efforts pour développer et promouvoir le monde rural. En plus des actions classiques de développement agricole, mon pays a entamé depuis le début des années 60 un programme de réforme agraire basé sur la distribution des terres aux petits agriculteurs et la constitution de coopératives agricoles. Actuellement, plus de 340 000 hectares ont été distribués, et nous comptons plusieurs centaines de coopératives qui bénéficient d'avantages sociaux dans le cadre du code marocain des investissements agricoles, et qui participent de manière efficace à la production agricole nationale.

Notre programme de réforme agraire s'inscrit dans un programme de réforme foncière puisque à travers la distribution des terres nous cherchons également à étendre les micro-exploitations qui caractérisent notre structure foncière et à les rendre plus viables.

Par ailleurs, mon pays a lancé il y a quelques années un programme de réalisation de projets de développement intégré. Ces projets ont l'avantage de tenir compte de toutes les composantes sociales et de l'infrastructure qui permettent de construire dans la campagne un environnement adéquat pour l'établissement de la population rurale. C'est ainsi que dans un même projet agricole nous réalisons, en même temps que les actions visant le développement agricole, les dispensaires, les écoles, l'électrification, l'adduction d'eau potable, les routes, etc., tout cela dans un cadre intégré.

En bref, le développement intégré et harmonieux du monde rural est le pivot autour duquel s'articule toute notre stratégie agricole.

M. le Président, permettez-moi d'exprimer la satisfaction de ma délégation quant aux résultats enregistrés par la FAO dans le cadre du développement agricole et de la réforme agraire. Nous nous félicitons du niveau du support fourni par la FAO à un grand nombre de pays pour les aider à élaborer des stratégies et des programmes nationaux dans ce cadre. Ma délégation se réjouit des efforts positifs fournis par la FAO pour promouvoir et rendre efficace la participation de la population à la conception et à l'exécution des projets.

Nous aimerions insister sur l'aspect de la participation de la population, que nous considérons comme l'un des moyens les plus sûrs pour la réussite de la planification et de l'exécution des projets, et pour le rattachement de la population à la terre.

Concernant le suivi et l'évaluation de la réforme agraire et du développement rural, ma délégation voudrait solliciter de la FAO une diffusion la plus large possible des indicateurs socio-économiques qu'elle a mis au point à cet effet, en collaboration avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies.

Enfin, ma délégation appuie pleinement l'ensemble du programme d'action de la FAO qui fait suite aux recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, et lance un appel aux pays donateurs potentiels pour soutenir ce programme en lui fournissant les ressources budgétaires nécessaires à sa réalisation.

CHAIRMAN: We are glad to note your emphasis on agricultural production and to learn about land reform measures and other measures you have undertaken to promote integrated and harmonious rural development. We also note your appeal to potential donor countries for allocation of additional resources towards WCARRD follow-up support.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays voudrait s'associer aux félicitations qui ont été adressées au Secrétariat pour toutes les initiatives que ne cesse de prendre la FAO dans le cadre des activités sur le suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et pour les résultats déjà atteints.

Le programme d'action qui découle de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural revêt pour nous une grande importance. En effet, cette conférence avait suscité beaucoup d'espoir, non seulement auprès des gouvernements, mais aussi et surtout auprès des masses rurales pauvres.

Mon pays, qui adhère entièrement aux recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, s'emploie depuis à promouvoir la participation populaire dans l'organisation du développement dans les campagnes et met un accent particulier pour accroître le rôle de la femme dans le développement rural, rôle longtemps limité à la seule production vivrière.

Nous nous félicitons donc que ce point de notre ordre du jour ait été longuement discuté à la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui a relevé, entre autres freins susceptibles de retarder la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes prioritaires de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, l'insuffisance des cadres. C'est pourquoi nous apportons notre appui total à l'action de notre Organisation dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la formation et de la vulgarisation et de la vulgarisation au service du développement rural.

A cet égard, nous exprimons l'espoir de voir la résolution sur la formation des cadres de haut niveau, adoptée à la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, trouver rapidement une application.

De même, ma délégation est heureuse d'apprendre que la FAO prévoit une équipe opérationnelle mobile sous-régionale chargée de promouvoir des projets visant à favoriser la participation populaire en Afrique au niveau du CPA.

A cet égard, nous exhortons la FAO à continuer à apporter son assistance à notre jeune centre de développement rural intégré. De même, ma délégation lance un appel aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils aident ce centre à bien fonctionner. Ce concours est d'autant plus précieux en ce moment précis qu'il éprouve quelques difficultés d'ordre financier. J'invite par la même occasion les pays africains qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à ratifier l'accord portant création de ce centre et à favoriser ainsi le développement de son action.

M. le Président, dans mon pays, le problème de la réforme agraire ne se pose pas comme dans d'autres pays puisque la terre appartient à ceux qui la travaillent. Malheureusement, tout le monde - et c'est la grande majorité - ne possède pas les moyens de l'exploiter convenablement. L'appui que nous sollicitons de la FAO et des pays donateurs consiste à mettre à la disposition des petits exploi-tants les intrants nécessaires et la technologie appropriée pour une exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles, et contribuer ainsi à extirper la pauvreté et enrayer la misère dans nos campagnes.

Nous appuyons les efforts faits par certains pays donateurs, notamment ceux du nord de l'Europe, et invitons les autres pays industrialisés à suivre leur exemple pour faire aboutir les activités développés dans le cadre de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your general endorsement of WCARRD's Programme of Action, laying emphasis on people's participation and women's role in the productive process. You emphasized the importance of education and extension oriented work and of training of high-level workers. You have requested assistance from FAO and also Member Governments of the Region for the development of a regional centre on agrarian and rural development in Africa. You have also requested other donor countries to follow the example of the Nordic countries in awarding financial assistance to FAO for WCARRD follow-up related work.

A. PRINDLE (United States of America): The United States delegation has reviewed the documents related to follow-up of WCARRD for this Council Session. The United States supports the action programme of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as adopted. As indicated in the Peasants' Charter resulting from the 1979 Conference, each government should formulate its

rural development strategies in the context of its own situation and its human, physical and financial constraints. We are glad that this theme has been repeated in earlier statements of Council Members in this Session and note especially the call for additional training and extension education.

Achievement of equitable rural development and economic growth requires appropriate national policies that stimulate increased production and improved distribution of food and agricultural products. In our view such a policy should facilitate the role of both the private and public sectors in ways which complement each other. The success of this programme is critical, especially in the areas of marketing and financing of small farmers. Broader private sector involvement will provide the additional investment and technology that is needed to modernize farm production, food distribution and marketing. We encourage national actions to meet country-specific needs before regional efforts are initiated.

The U.S. delegation supports FAO's interests in advancing the role of individuals and non-governmental organizations in the national decision-making process and in inter-agency monitoring and evaluation.

With respect to interest we all share in better coordination between international organizations, our delegation urges close coordination between international organizations. Our delegation urges close cooperation with institutions currently active in matters of agrarian reform and rural development in specific regions such as IICA in Latin America, as well as ILO. We would wish to avoid overlap and duplication of the agencies' work.

CHAIRMAN: We note your general support and endorsement of the action programme of WCARRD, laying particular emphasis on the importance of national policies facilitating the complementary roles of the private and public sector in rural development and you also urge close cooperation of the various agencies operating in particular regions to avoid duplication of efforts.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): In many countries, particularly in Europe, a growing importance has been attached to a relatively specific aspect of rural development which is the creation of alternative or optional non-agrarian job opportunities for farmer families in rural areas. The analysis and the exchange of information on the diversification of income sources in rural areas, so-called pluri-activity, has been included in the programme of European cooperation at the Twelfth Regional Conference for Europe.

The role of women in rural development is well recognized, particularly in my country in the situation with cases of small farms, mixed families and part-time farmers. The role of women in pluri-activity will be examined at the European Workshop organized by FAO and the Yugoslav government next June in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

As in many other European cooperative activities representatives of the developing countries will also participate. Our experience, as well as the other European countries, should be critically examined so that relevant models and patterns in rural development attuned to local conditions could be successfully applied in other countries, particularly in developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, representative of Yugoslavia, throwing light on your experience and also envisaging the need to examine critically the experience you have gained so far in determining the efforts that should be put in in specific situations with rural development.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation s'associe aux autres délégations pour féliciter le Secrétariat de la qualité du document CL 82/18.

En effet, pour mon pays, la République du Cap-Vert, la réforme agraire constitue la clé du problème, c'est-à-dire que l'on ne peut pas parler de développement rural et du monde rural sans une réforme agraire bien conçue et adaptée à notre condition spécifique.

Nous voulons porter à la connaissance de la 82ème session du Conseil l'importance que notre gouvernement donne au programme et aux suites de la CMRADR, et nous sommes heureux d'affirmer ici que l'aide efficace et constructive que la FAO nous a apportée dans le cadre de ce programme a commencé à porter ses fruits sur le terrain.

En réalité, la mission de haut niveau qui a visité mon pays, conduite par M. Rafael Moreno, avait élaboré en collaboration avec les responsables nationaux toute une série d'actions concrètes, et quelques-unes de ces recommandations sont en cours d'exécution, grâce surtout à l'intervention du PCT et de l'aide du Gouvernement de la Norvège.

Notre délégation ne manquera pas de saisir cette occasion pour demander aux autres pays donateurs ici présents de suivre l'exemple des pays donateurs de l'Europe du Nord, notamment de la Norvège. Nous demandons aux représentants des pays donateurs d'appuyer les programmes dans le cadre de la CMRADR pour que les recommandations qui ont été faites ne restent pas lettre morte, comme cela a été dit par le représentant du Lesotho.

Ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour appuyer les activités du centre régional, la CIRDAFRICA, soit au niveau régional, soit au niveau national. Par ailleurs, nous espérons beaucoup que ce centre joue son rôle dans le cadre de la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement, notamment entre les pays africains, dans le secteur agricole.

Pour terminer M. le Président, nous voulons affirmer l'importance et la nécessité de la participation populaire et celle des femmes à tous les niveaux. La formation des cadres à tous les niveaux pour assurer la planification et le suivi des programmes de développement rural doit figurer parmi les grandes priorités.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the useful intervention you have made, particularly noting the point that you request the potential donors to be a little more generous in helping FAO, following the example

of the Nordic countries, to carry out the WCARRD-related activities.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): Allow me to start with complimenting the Secretariat for having prepared the documents which are concise, to present a clear picture of what it is doing, what is being done in the framework of agrarian reform and rural development as a follow-up of the relevant conference held in 1979.

My delegation is aware, while conditions differ very widely from country to country in terms of physical and climatic characteristics, problems relating to rural reform and agrarian development have many things in common. The approach and emphasis may be subject to an adjustment dependent on the specific conditions of the countries, the customs and the level of instructions of the people concerned. One thing is certain, however, the result of the development programmes in the field, no matter how elaborate these are, and the pace with which rural development takes place are to a very large extent dependent upon the participation of rural people who actually do the work in the fields, who exercise the profession of farmers or farm labourers with the physical help of their families and relatives. In the light of the foregoing my delegation takes note with interest that in the documents several paragraphs are devoted to education, training and the role of women and of use of rural development. This being the case it can be said that in countries with large population in rural areas like Indonesia, women and rural youth can play a much more important role in development provided we are better organized, well informed and well prepared to do the work on a continuing basis. This is obviously a matter of education which should gradually emerge from education framing and extension. The magnitude of such undertaking should by no means be undervalued since it deals with millions of people. Hence the training of extension works at all levels of organization should be given generous attention. After all, it is a matter of developing strong will and determination among the masses to obtain tangible results.

As regards the regional and sub-regional level, there would be advantages if various countries in the region or sub-region would benefit from the exchange of experience in the implementation of agrarian reform and rural development. Such a change may give rise to new and sound ideas which contribute to accelerating the pace of progress which has been slow and, in many cases, stagnant. Activities at this level should also give opportunity to the key farmers or progressive gentlemen farmers. My delegation invites FAO to give more emphasis on this issue.

My delegation is satisfied with the ideas contained in the last part of the document, particularly in paragraph 37. Additional resources will be indispensable to support WCARRD follow-up programmes in developing countries. Many developing countries, may be all of them, need external assistance in implementing programmes for follow-up to WCARRD. They need both funds and expertise. For this reason my delegation expresses concern that the target of US\$ 20 million has not been achieved so far. Agrarian reform and rural development should be regarded as inseparable. In the cause of progress those should go hand-in-hand. Much has been said on this subject. Guidance and suggestions have been made at country level and regional as well. Now the time has come to start to accelerate the work without further delay.

CHAIRMAN: We are happy to note your adherence to the principle and programme of action of WCARRD, laying particular emphasis on education, training, role of women and youth in development. Your point on additional resources required for the purpose by FAO has been noted and those of us who attended the last regional conference in Asia and the Pacific in Djakarta, would like to say your principles of equity and stability, the equity part must be another expression of your adherence to the principles of WCARRD.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): In considering document CL 82/18, the Thai delegation would like to express our gratitude to FAO in helping the Member countries, including Thailand, in the follow-up and implementation of WCARRD.

In this connexion the Thai delegation would like to inform the Council of the development in our country. The Government has already set up a National Coordinating Committee for agrarian reform and rural development policies and programmes. This Committee has already started working with full cooperation from FAO's experts in the Regional Office in Bangkok.

In response to the last Conference's recommendation, the Thai Government is preparing the first report on integrated rural development in order to submit to the Twenty-second Session of the Conference in 1983.

During the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference in Djakarta FAO made a proposal to assist member countries with country reports. We consider this proposal of great help to assist member countries in this respect.

The Thai Government has launched her Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan since 1982. Its aim is to eradicate poverty in the remote rural areas. To meet that end various activities have been taken by the Government, such as harvest processing and storage build-up and improving nutritional intake for the people in rural areas. More activities of this kind will be carried out.

As a Member of CIRDAP, Thailand has recently held a training course on integrated rural development in Bangkok and is now preparing a workshop on this subject in the North East.

For the full benefit of the Members of CIRDAP, the Thai delegation would like to request that FAO give more support to the activities of this Regional Development Centre.

In the field of people's participation in the Regional Development Programme, it is gratifying to note that FAO has continued its assistance to this kind of activity, as indicated in paragraph 8. But it is with regret that we find that the fund to this programme is so limited that only a few countries get benefit from this programme.

It is the hope of my delegation that all potential donors will contribute additional extra-budgetary resources to support this programme.

CHAIRMAN: We are happy to note the progress in Thailand on the WCARRD Follow-up actions. We also note your request to potential donors to be more generous in their contributions to FAO.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon): I would like to associate my delegation with those, especially Panama and India, which strongly stressed that the whole programme of the following-up to WCARRD is actually the foundation of all rural development and agricultural production. I think if we are going to make any real meaningful progress in the field of agriculture it is for us to give the maximum efforts on WCARRD follow-up.

We know that all forms of development depend on people who are capable and competent to carry out the development efforts, to plan them, to identify the problems and to be able to execute throughout development programmes. It is therefore in this light that my delegation support the appeal made by the delegation of Nigeria, which has been supported by Lesotho, Kenya, Zambia, Congo and other delegations, that FAO gives maximum possible support to the resolution which was supported by the Regional Thai Conference on Africa on the training of high level manpower. As has been said by the delegate of Lesotho, it is not just training at the highest levels but also to have a balanced programme which will take into consideration all levels of manpower required, so that they can effectively plan and carry out development programmes which will to some extent meet the objectives and recommendations of WCARRD.

FAO's present efforts aimed at assisting governments in developing appropriate institutional structures is well appreciated. My country is presently involved in thinking out the whole process and trying to develop the whole concept of rural development, to redefine it, and try to implement or bring out the institutional framework under which it can be organized. Currently we are thinking of having appropriate village communities through which all sorts of inputs and training can go in reaching the rural masses. So far it is still being discussed, and we hope in the near future to come out with a well-defined and appropriate structure.

My delegation is happy to note that a workshop on shifting cultivation was organized recently. We hope that concrete programmes will emerge from the results of this Conference leading to programmes aimed at developing improved and alternative systems of farming which will replace the shifting cultivation. In many fora we have already heard shifting cultivation being blamed for degradation of the environment, especially in removing forest cover.

The development of socio-economic indicators is well appreciated. It is an excellent approach aimed at providing a solid base from which from time to time governments can measure their own inputs, their own efforts, their own achievements in carrying out all the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. As can be noted in the document, my country participated in the pilot studies which are conducted by FAO aimed at developing the socio-economic indicators, and I think the delegation of China clearly brought out that they should be simple, they should be those kind of indicators which can be handled easily by the governments concerned.

My government strongly supports the establishment of regional centres for integrated rural development. We note with pleasure that the centre for integrated rural development for Africa is now operational and already has 16 members. My country is following with great interest the activities of the centre and hopes to ratify in the not too distant future the agreement of the establishment of the centre. My government appeals to the Director-General to continue giving strong support to the centre and to make all possible efforts to appeal to donors to contribute to its activities.

Turning to Part VI of this document under (b) my delegation strongly urges all donors who are in a position to do so to increase their support to the programme on the Follow-up of WCARRD. We also invite Member Governments concerned to join regional centres and we also hope to follow the example of others to do so in the near future.

Concerning the national coordinating committees, I think this is an area which could to a very great extent try to solve the problems caused by inter-agency cooperation. With regard to paragraph 32, I find it a little difficult to say that each agency will be evaluating or monitoring its own activities. As I understand it, FAO is a lead agency for rural development in the ACC. Therefore I would expect that at least at the international level FAO would be the coordinating agency for international organizations. But at the country level it remains the prerogative of each recipient country to coordinate activities. But I think there should be a clear definition somewhere so that all agencies which are involved in assisting developing countries should be able to find a mechanism through which their efforts could be coordinated so that they are not at cross purposes.

In (e) we invite all Member Governments to participate fully in the programme for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development and to prepare national reports and conduct in-depth studies. I hope that my own country will be able to do so.

CHAIRMAN: We note your general support for FAO sponsored activities in the Follow-up to WCARRD and your endorsement of the issues listed on page 7 of document CL 82/18. You have particularly emphasized that FAO should be the lead agency for coordinating rural development activities, which I believe we all support. You have also emphasized in line with what has been stated by other countries of Africa the need of training, particularly training at the higher level as well as training at the operational level. We are happy to note the steps that your country has been taking to promote rural development.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippines is committed to the objective of agrarian reform and rural development. In the year 1972 the President of the Philippines declared all lands dedicated to the cultivation of rice and corn under land reform. Since 1972 several million hectares of land have been transferred from land owners to the farmers who till the land. These land transfers have been effected without any drop in productivity as had been predicted by agricultural economists and scientists. This has been made possible because the land reform programme was not really just a land transfer programme but it was accompanied by a package of services implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture, and under this programme the productivity of these lands not only not diminished but increased substantially. In fact it was during this period from 1972 onwards that the Philippines achieved substantial increases in rice production, and the Philippines from being a traditional rice importer became marginally an exporter of this grain.

With regard to the Programme of National Strategies, Plans and Programmes indicated in document CL 82/18 FAO has taken an active role in helping countries in the preparation of these programmes. We would like also to indicate that the Philippines has already prepared a national food sector strategy. We also note that several missions have been mounted with the purpose of helping finalize or prepare programmes of this kind for several countries. We want to know how this would jive with existing plans and and how some sort of coordination would be effected.

This delegation would also be pleased to know how many countries have been selected for this high level mission and what criteria have been used for the selection of these countries. Likewise we would appreciate some information on the source of funding and the amount of funding that will be required for each of these missions. We would appreciate having this kind of information.

CHAIRMAN: We are happy to know about your commitment to the WCARRD declarations and programme of action particularly about your integrated land reform programme which apparently led to the transformation of the Philippines from an importing country to a rice exporter. You had wanted to have some more information about the high level missions that have been sent out about the composition source for funding and so on, and I believe the Secretariat should be able to provide you with that information in due course.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): The follow-up work of FAO in the area of agrarian reform and rural development presented in document CL 82/18 shows this subject has been accorded high priority in the work of FAO. My delegation wishes to give support to the efforts of FAO in this area.

With reference to promoting people's participation, my delegation welcomes the assistance which FAO is giving, as set out in paragraph 8, and wishes to support the approach in paragraph 11 where it speaks of improvement of institutional and organizational arrangements for delivery systems of inputs and services to small farmers by way of decentralization of government services and participation of local farmers' organizations. The area of education, training and extension is also indispensable to significant progress in agrarian reform and rural development. My delegation therefore supports the emphasis which has been placed on this activity. We feel that rural people who now operate at marginal and submarginal levels can with training and education be enabled to raise their production and living standards, at least in a small way, but with cumulative benefits of some magnitude for the community as a whole.

My delegation hopes that the FAO will be successful in raising the necessary contributions to deepen this and other aspects of this work. In this regard, I wish to commend the Nordic countries for the initiatives they have taken in making contributions to this important work and would wish to encourage other donors to be forthcoming with the much needed financial assistance.

The area of monitoring and evaluation is considered by my delegation to be a very vital component in the implementation of the programme. In this regard, Barbados is pleased to participate in the pilot studies relating to the process of setting up benchmarks and targets for monitoring and evaluation.

Before closing let me mention that Barbados is implementing two programmes in land reform. One programme makes land of varying acreages available to young new farmers on a long lease basis. The second programme is aimed at reforming the old plantation tenantry system by legally permitting plantation tenants to purchase at a minimum price determined by statute the land which they have

been working as tenants on the plantations for a number of years. All the necessary inputs, such as irrigation, credit and extension services are included in both programmes.

My delegation believes that developing countries must take measures appropriate to the country's circumstances in the area of land reform to give landless workers in agriculture adequate land so that they will have a real stake in the total national development of their country. Moreover, the opportunity given to them for land ownership will improve their social and economic status and remove their feeling that their position in society is compromised because of the work they are doing.

Finally, my delegation wishes to give its full support to the proposals and issues set out in paragraph 37 of the document.

CHAIRMAN: We note your support and endorsement for paragraph 37 of the document, and we are happy to learn about your country's experience particularly in regard to the land reforms and tenancy projects, and we also note particularly that you are urging potential donors to follow the example of Norway and other Nordic countries to contribute more generously to the FAO for WCARRD follow-up activities.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta) : La délégation de la Haute-Volta félicite elle aussi le Secrétariat de l'OAA pour la qualité du document que nous examinons présentement. Au sujet des indicateurs socio-économiques, la Haute-Volta est confrontée à une série de difficultés dont principalement la fiabilité des données. Effectivement, nos différents services disposent de statistiques mais malheureusement celles-ci sont basées sur des estimations qui le plus souvent ne correspondent pas à la réalité. La délégation de la Haute-Volta demande à l'OAA d'apporter un soutien à notre pays afin de lui permettre d'améliorer cette statistique. Ce soutien pourrait concerner l'expertise, le matériel technique et logistique. A propos de la participation de la femme au développement, de l'accès des agriculteurs les plus pauvres aux facteurs de production, la délégation de la Haute-Volta n'ignore pas l'importance de cette catégorie de personnes du milieu rural. Malheureusement, il faut reconnaître que les conditions auxquelles les prêts sont faits dans nos pays ne permettent pas de favoriser toujours une promotion globale et intégrée de nos populations.

La délégation de la Haute-Volta souhaite voir la FAO jouer un rôle auprès des organismes donateurs pour que ceux-ci apportent une assistance financière plus active à des conditions abordables pour la plus grande partie de nos populations rurales.

En ce qui concerne la participation populaire au développement, la Haute-Volta a adopté depuis 1974 le développement communautaire comme principe d'intervention, principe grâce auquel existent actuellement des groupements au niveau de la plupart des villages. Ces associations qui s'orientent vers la forme coopérative sont actuellement responsables des activités d'octroi et de récupération du crédit. Elles assurent pour au moins 30 pour cent la collecte des produits commercialisés.

Le seul handicap sérieux à l'évolution de ces groupements concerne les problèmes de gestion. Pour y remédier, un programme d'alphabétisation en langue nationale est en exécution. Il s'agit là d'un problème de formation dont la nécessité est ressentie à tous les niveaux, aussi bien au niveau agriculteurs qu'au niveau des agents chargés de l'encadrement des paysans.

Nous encourageons fortement l'OAA à accorder une priorité spéciale aux problèmes de formation de nos pays, formation qui garantirait de façon certaine le succès des projets au profit des populations rurales.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you, Upper Volta, and we note that you have run into difficulties in regards to collecting quantitative information on the socio-economic indicators, indicators against which the monitoring and evaluation progress is going to be made, and you have requested support, perhaps technical assistance type support from FAO. I think FAO-UNDP funds may be available should FAO try.

We have also learned about your community cooperatives as a key to rural development, and we have noted your emphasis on special priority to be accorded to the problem of training in line with the request that has been made by other African countries.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan) : First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to convey congratulations to Professor Islam and Mr. Moreno not only for the introduction this morning but for all the work that they have been doing in line with WCARRD follow-up because we in Pakistan recognize that rural development is perhaps the most important aspect of development in developing countries per se. In Pakistan, like in most developing countries, the social fabric is for all practical purposes divided into two different segments. There is the urban segment, which is comparatively more rational, more modernized and more industrialized, and consequently it is more articulate and can put its demands on the system and can get away with whatever limited resources the developing countries do possess. As compared to that, the rural sector, which as the massive population is thinly spread out, inarticulate, comparatively illiterate, traditional and agricultural. The consequences are that in the race for development, the urban sector keeps getting all the plums and the rural sector remains behind, and we recognize that unless both these sectors can be completely integrated in the march for development, there can be no development as such.

It is under these circumstances that we view with caution the advice that there should be free market play and free economic play into these sectors, because we recognize that unless a developing country makes a conscious effort to ensure that the limited resources of the country are spread out into the rural areas, there would be no development in the rural areas if you go purely on the question of economic return and the market economy. We say this because we have been making attempts at different approaches to rural development in our country. We started off way back 20 years ago on what we call the trickle down method. We presumed that pumping of lots of resources into the rural areas for building the economic and social infrastructure would bring both the rural and the urban sector at the same level. Unfortunately, we discovered that the trickle down method does not work unless the social and economic structure of the rural areas is modified, perhaps drastically, because we discovered that whatever limited resources were channelized into the rural areas, those were siphoned off at the top by people within the rural sector who had the political and economic clout. It was only after these experiments that we discovered that what is needed is not only pumping of resources into the rural areas but also modifying and changing the socio-economic structure by conscious efforts, and consequently we discovered that it is very important to have agrarian reforms; not only agrarian reforms but also to build up institutions for ensuring the active participation of people into the decision-making of the rural areas. After a number of experiments, we feel that now we have arrived at a position where we can perhaps look with hope for the future of our rural sector, because now we have achieved and are attempting what we call the rural integrated development programme, recognizing that rural development is a multisectorial programme and a multisectorial discipline where none of these factors can be ignored at the cost of others.

We also recognized that the services which we have to give to the small farmer have to be decentralized and taken to his doorstep and we have therefore established institutions, local government institutions as well as cooperative institutions, all of them going into what we call a focal point. We are attempting to bring down to this grassroots level all the inputs and services, participation of people and all the services that we can think of.

In the last three to four years that we have been making these attempts we have discovered that this has borne fruit and we have achieved some success, but there is a lot left to achieve. We are making the attempt, and we hope that FAO will give us support, and we will also get financial resources.

Speaking of people's participation we also recognize that unless women in the rural areas are integrated into this system there can be no substantial achievement. We have, therefore, been making concise and systematic efforts to integrate the women in the rural areas into the whole process. In the local institutions at the grass-roots level we welcome the election of women to the councils, and at times we demand special seats for these women at these councils to ensure that women are participating and are represented in them. In the same manner, at a different level we have set up a women's ministry or division to make sure that not only in the rural areas but in all sectors of society women's role and importance is highlighted, and legislation to ensure that is also keeping pace with this.

Talking of only one more issue, which is the social and economic indicators for monitoring and evaluation we are in cooperation with and with the help of FAO attempting to develop some of our own indicators, because we feel it is the place and the time, and the conditions prevailing in the country at the time, which are important before you can use any of these indicators.

We are aware of the fact that in doing this, measuring the social and the economic progress in rural areas is not an easy task, particularly the poverty, because the employment in the rural area is usually seasonal and spread out and the employment of the women in the sector is not easily calculated. Recognizing this, we hope with the help of the FAO that we will be able to come up with some more tangible socio-economic indicators.

Before I conclude, I would like to come to paragraph 37 of the document and indicate that we are in agreement with most of the recommendations of this document. Particularly, we wish to urge the potential donors to contribute an extra-budgetary contribution, as we feel that it is a very, very important sector.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Pakistan. We recognize you consider rural development is the most important aspect of development, and we are particularly happy to hear your analysis of the complex relationship between urban and rural development. In the context of overall development you have cautioned us against free play on one mechanism. In your opinion, governments have to make conscious efforts to promote and stimulate rural development, at least in the initial stages. I think most of us agree with this.

You have also emphasized the need, not merely to pump funds into the rural areas, but also to have a change of the socio-economic infra-structure. We are particularly happy to hear from you about your country's experience; you have been talking of administrative de-centralization, giving women due importance in the productive process, and development of your own socio-economic indicators, but we have no doubt there will be many who would like to know more about that experience and maybe there will be something there for others to emulate.

We also noticed your support and endorsement for paragraph 37 of the document which made the points which are for the consideration of the Council, and we particularly note you have asked the donor countries to be more generous in their contributions to FAO for the WCARRD follow-up activities.

We have now completed the list of speakers as far as Member Countries are concerned unless anyone else would at this stage like to indicate they wish to take the floor.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Being the last cab on the rank I will be brief, but I would like to place on record my country's support for the follow-up of the work of the WCARRD Conference.

We certainly see the Programme as a significant achievement in a range of sensitive issues in the field of agricultural development. New Zealand, since the WCARRD Conference, has been looking to increase the proportion of its bilateral assistance allocated to agriculture and rural development, and it has grown from 17 percent in 1979 to almost 30 percent in 1981.

Two particular areas in particular we are giving attention to - one is agricultural research and development, particularly the production of our neighbours in the South Pacific; and two, on the question of agricultural training where we are trying to make available provision for a wider range of students from developing countries to come to New Zealand to study in the various agricultural colleges there in areas of particular concern. Thirdly, under this heading, we have been able to provide support to the School of Agriculture in the South Pacific, which is a regional institution

where students throughout the Pacific train in agriculture.

Other delegations have expressed their support for the follow-up to the WCARRD Conference, a support which New Zealand would like to echo.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate for New Zealand. We are pleased to note your endorsement of the WCARRD principles in general, which have been expressed through the mounting assistance you have been giving to rural development in the adjoining areas.

I have now two Observers on my list, and unless there are any other Member Countries wishing to speak I will give the floor to the Observer from the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

A.S. ALWAN (UN Economic Commission for Western Asia): On behalf of the UN Economic Commission for Western Asia I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and your colleagues, for being chosen to preside over this important body. I would also like to congratulate Professor Nurul Islam for his clear interpretation of the document under discussion.

Agricultural and rural development is one of the major concerns of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia. Though the importance of agriculture has declined during the recent past, it continues to play an important role in the overall socio-economic development of the region. Agriculture, besides being a major source of income, after petroleum, to the majority of the population, provides the non-agricultural sectors with food, raw materials and labour. It should be noted, however, that agricultural development of the region has not been up to expectations. The rate of growth in food and agriculture production has been quite low in most of the countries of the region; the gap between the domestic production and consumption has become larger. Consequently the self-sufficiency ratio for the major food commodities has sharply declined during the recent years.

The UN Economic Commission for Western Asia has observed these developments in the agricultural sector in the region with concern. In its Programme of Action, the problems of food and agriculture and rural development rank amongst the highest priorities. In the relatively short period of time since its inception in 1974, the Commission has played a significant role in support of agricultural development and cooperation. This has been made possible by the exemplary cooperation and the joint efforts with the Food and Agriculture Organization, through the joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division which has been able to tackle these problems on three major fronts, namely: agricultural planning and adjustment, agricultural and rural institutions, and regional cooperation.

In follow-up to the World Conference on Rural Reform and Rural Development, the Economic Commission for Western Asia participated in the inter-agency efforts conducted under the leadership of FAO to achieve programme development, promote policy action and increase investment activities towards the benefit and well-being of the rural population of Yemen Arab Republic and Jordan. A report was prepared covering socio-economic development strategies and policies and rural development; food security in rural areas; and farm price policies and agricultural development. The mission identified a number of high priority projects for immediate implementation, namely planning and coordination of rural development, strengthening community development services, review and evaluation of farm organization and farming systems; and study of delivery systems of agricultural services in rural areas.

A report was completed on the review of selected rural development projects in the Republic of Iraq, including an assessment of their objectives and their performance against WCARRD objectives. An in-depth case study on rural poverty alleviation in Egypt is expected to be completed by the end of 1982. The study examines questions on why and how the incidence of rural poverty has been brought about and to what extent the national development strategy has the elements of anti-poverty as laid down in the WCARRD Programmes of Action. Causal factors are defined and the impact of policy actions on the alleviation of rural poverty assessed.

The Commission at its Ninth Session and the ECWA Committee for the Programme at its First Meeting, held in Baghdad - the permanent headquarters of ECWA - in May of this year stressed the vital importance of food, agriculture and rural development in the region and accordingly ranked those ECWA programmes as of the highest priority and importance. With the rather modest resources at its disposal, it can be safely vouched that ECWA will continue its efforts judiciously and efficiently to use these resources with a view to clarifying some of the major issues of, and in promoting action towards, agricultural and rural development.

It is hoped that, in future years, ECWA will meet the challenges of its mandate and will continue to assume its catalytic role also in the field of food and agriculture and in promoting national development through regional action.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director from the Economic Commission for Western Asia, for giving us a useful, account of the steps that ECWA has taken to alleviate poverty in Western Asia. We wish you further success in the future.

M.P. CRACKNELL (Observer for International Federation of Agricultural Producers): At this very late hour I have reduced my notes by half, so in any case I will not be so long as I intended to be.

IFAP appreciates the opportunity of addressing a few words to the FAO Council. IFAP is all about rural development; we have had a more or less intensive relationship and partnership with FAO ever since 1946, and we are very glad this is continuing in 1982.

We participated actively in the World Conference back in 1979, and IFAP was a prime mover of the people's participation resolution follow-up to WCARRD at the Twentieth Conference of FAO. IFAP is convinced that change will only come about if rural people can organize for self-help, but also organize in order to have spokesmen. People in rural areas generally, while they have mouths to eat, have no mouths to speak with, and we believe this is one of the reasons for the imbalance between rural and urban developments which the Pakistani delegate mentioned a few minutes ago.

For this reason, IFAP's objectives in the field of programmes and objectives, which are modest, are to assist in strengthening farmers' organizations, the services which they provide to their members.

In London last June we organized a seminar where 30 developing countries' farmer representatives took part on the subject of food and agricultural policies from the farmers' point of view and as a result of that seminar, we are publishing right now some detailed guidelines in order to help farmers' organizations to take responsible action vis-a-vis their governments; for instance, the last collection of data and presentation of the case of their farmer members requesting certain programmes and policies from governments.

We believe that FAO would do well to look to existing spontaneously created international non-governmental organizations for feasibility studies for identification of the right partners in their programmes in rural areas to assist them in running projects, etc. We would view with some suspicion international groupings of NGOs which are supported by FAO, just as we view with some suspicion cooperatives in developing countries which are sponsored by governments. IFAP is ready, and certainly able to collaborate with FAO in this area, as it does in other areas, in the future as we have done in the past. The Director-General - I am flattered that he should be here while I am speaking - confirmed FAO's willingness to strengthen FAO's relationship with IFAP and with its members, of course, in the speech he made to our General Conference in June this year; but despite several precise efforts on our part with regard to WCARRD, we find very little echo from the Secretariat of FAO. For example, we were not invited to the consultation in November in Nairobi, although a colleague of mine farmed in Nairobi for fourteen years and could perhaps have contributed something to that meeting.

Therefore we hope we will be associated with the regional meetings mentioned in paragraph 35. We do not believe that institutions need to be created but more frequent consultations, we believe, would be very good between FAO and international non-governmental organizations who do represent the rural people about whom you are speaking, be these NGOs, trade unions or cooperatives or womens' organizations or, of course, IFAP itself. If you would bear with me for a couple of minutes, I have one or two comments on the documentations; they will be very brief. First of all, I would like to say that we support the emphasis on the need for understanding of trainers with respect to extension in rural areas, which is mentioned in paragraph 16. We also support the concept of monitoring of programmes which is mentioned in paragraphs 19 - 25. We encourage our own members to contact the country representatives of FAO but of course also of the World Bank and of the EEC, for example, in their own countries; and we are writing to them with updated lists of names and addresses of those people presently. However, I must say that our members sometimes have a little difficulty in seeing the relationship, and this has been mentioned already, between various international organizations' initiatives. If I may take a single example, for instance our members in Gambia are seeing initiatives of the World Food Council or at least inspired by the World Food Council, of FAO, and of the EEC Commission, and they sometimes find it difficult to see where they fit and where those various initiatives fit together.

Finally, we were looking at paragraph 37. We are very happy with all the points made but we would be very glad to see a final addition which would be a sub-paragraph (f). I do not think it is normal for observers to present proposals of this type but perhaps one government on the drafting committee might like to take it up. It would read as follows: "Encourage governments to associate people's organizations with the conception and implementation of rural development programmes" because we feel that if you do not do this, you will be doing development for the people and not with the people, and it was our understanding that the whole point of WCARRD was to get a little bit more with the people.

Although I have several pages more of notes, I will stop here. Thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for briefing this Council on the cooperation that your Organization had with the FAO and for generally undertaking activities in making things a little easier for the agricultural producers.

Now we have come to the end of our list as far as speakers are concerned and, for your benefit, I might as well tell you that between this morning and now there have been 39 speakers who have taken the floor, 36 of them Council members and three observers. This is just one list of the members that have taken part in the discussion on the state of food and agriculture. This shows the interest we all have in WCARRD and we probably now know a little more about the state of development of WCARRD follow-up than we did when starting the deliberations this morning. I think some of the delegates during their interventions have raised points which may be needing clarification and Professor Islam also may have noted certain points on which he would like to make some observations. So I would now request him to give us the benefit of his appreciation and also clarifications as they have been revealed in the interventions by delegates here.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We are very happy to note and are indeed thankful for the general support of the Council for the follow-up activities which FAO has undertaken in cooperation with Member countries. I would confine myself to answering a few of the questions which have been raised during the debate. A number of questions have been raised about the WCARRD follow-up missions.

One was: which are the countries to which WCARRD follow-up missions have been sent? Nine countries have already received them: Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Yemen, Oman, Jordan, Benin, Cape Verde, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia. Three others for which preparations are under way, are Lesotho, Philippines, Mozambique. At the last regional conference for the Near East we had requests from Libya and Syria for follow-up missions. We have been asked: what is the criterion on the basis of which WCARRD missions are launched? The criterion is a very straight-forward one: we do so at the explicit request of the government of the country concerned.

About the cost of each of the missions, it depends on the country concerned, the size of the nation, the duration of the stay of the members of the mission, we would estimate roughly about US\$20,000 for each WCARRD follow-up mission. So far as the sources of financing for these missions are concerned, these have been received from SIDA and Norway. Of course staff members, when they join the missions, are paid by FAO itself. The coverage of the missions' exercise in terms of depth of analysis and extent of dialogue between the missions and governments vary from country to country. We constantly try to improve the content of the exercise through more systematic preparation at the Headquarters in the countries with the cooperation of the Member Governments as well as through inter-agency discussions, before we visit the countries.

Questions have been asked as to how many countries have already adopted strategies and programmes as specified in the WCARRD Programme of Action. We expect a systematic answer to this question from the Member countries who send their reports of the WCARRD implementation to the next FAO Conference. We have already sent to the Member countries preliminary guidelines for socio-economic indicators as well as a format for the preparation of the report for the Conference. The Secretariat was asked whether the country reports which have to be submitted for the ACC conference would be available for distribution to the Member countries. In order to keep down the cost and amount of documentation, we have not provided for their distribution. We will produce a comprehensive synthetic analysis based on the country reports which will be both quantitative and analytical. This will of course be published and discussed at the FAO Conference. The country reports in the original language will, however, be available with the Secretariat if any particular delegate would like to have access to the individual country reports.

We have been asked to indicate which of the countries, where we have sent WCARRD follow-up missions, have also adopted food strategies. As far as we are aware from the published figures, four of the countries have prepared or are preparing some form or other of food strategy or food policy documents. FAO has offered to assist at the request of the country concerned in the formulation of food strategies. We have, for example, already been involved in assisting Tanzania in the preparation of their food strategy with extra-budgetary resources from DANIDA. We agree with the delegate of Norway that WCARRD's Programme of Action does indeed provide the foundation of food strategies and since the principal components of such strategies for agricultural and rural development are in fact stated and spelt out very clearly in the first part of the Programme of Action of WCARRD, it integrates consumption, production, distribution, employment and poverty alleviation in an integrated, comprehensive manner.

Questions have been raised about the coordination of the United Nations agencies and organizations, both at the international, regional and national levels. As we have already stated, at the international level coordination takes place through the activities of inter-agency ACC task force, and rural development - of which FAO is the lead agency - we have established various panels on specific subjects on which other agencies act as convenor. For example, or people's participation that acts as convenor, on monetary and evaluation the World Bank has up to now been acting as convenor.

At the regional level we have inter-agency meetings for coordinating our activities at the regional level and at the country level we rely most importantly on the foundation of national coordinating committees, which is believed to be the most effective method of coordination not only between the various administrative agencies at the national level but also between the United Nations agencies.

Furthermore, in terms of the WCARRD follow-up missions, we have achieved a significant amount of coordination, since our follow-up missions are participated in on many occasions by representatives of other agencies. We have been asked to report on the progress of work on the preparation of guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development at the country level. We have already prepared a first draft on these guidelines which we are preparing in collaboration with the other UN agencies under the auspices of the ACC task force on rural development. We have analysed different sets of guidelines and I am attempting to arrive at a uniform sort of guideline for use by governments as well as agencies. We have been advised to keep our socio-economic indicators programme simple, reliable and flexible; and we indeed believe this is the only way this programme can be effective. We have supplied to the member countries a list of code indicators which we believe can be used already on the basis of available data. Of course we are planning to refine them as we are going along and are holding next month an expert consultation on the ways in which such indicators can be refined.

As many delegates have already pointed out, this exercise is a long-term one and has to be integrated with the improvement of statistical systems in each of the member countries. We are very happy to note the delegate of Japan has announced a contribution of \$160 000 to CIRDAP in Bangladesh for 1982. We hope very much that other member countries will effectively contribute to CIRDAP as well as to CIRDAFRICA located in Tanzania.

As far as the preparation, the progress on the establishment of the Regional Centre for Integrated Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of Latin America and the Caribbean is concerned, the delegate of Ecuador has already informed the Council that steps are being taken to expedite the ratification of the agreement.

On the question of shifting cultivation in Africa I would like to inform the Council that we have undertaken already a number of steps in this respect. One is a study on the technical and agronomic aspect of shifting cultivation entitled "Ways to Improve the Technical Production Aspect of Shifting Cultivation". Secondly, we have also completed a study on the subject of the socio-economic and institutional aspects, with recommendations for action. This draft is under review and will be distributed to Member Governments.

We have also organized this year in Nigeria in the University of Ibadan a workshop which discussed the environmental, economic and social aspects of shifting cultivation with a view to improving the curriculum of keeping this subject at university level.

Questions are asked as to what we are doing about the increasing participation of women in follow-up WCARRD action. Such participation can be in two ways, either as members of the mission or as nationals who are consulted by the mission when they visit the country themselves. We have attempted to promote women's participation along these lines. A large number of delegations have emphasized the importance of high-level training of manpower in Africa. FAO has already undertaken an analysis of its experience in training manpower for rural development and agrarian reform in Africa. ICARD has already undertaken an analysis of its experiences in training manpower for rural development and agrarian reform in Africa. Studies of training and extension services in Africa have been conducted in 10 countries in Africa to identify training needs and to conduct training activities. It is planned to conduct a continent-wide assessment of training and prepare an action plan. An inventory of training institutions in Africa is under preparation for use by the African countries and for the promotion of TCPC activities. The Director-General has under consideration the recommendations of the African regional conference relating to the training of high-level manpower in Africa. We also hope the CIRDAFRICA will play an important role in the training of trainers. That is all I have to say at this stage.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Islam, for the excellent clarifications and the appreciation of the facts you have given us.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think in our previous intervention we requested four pieces of information, first the amount and the funding available for the high-level missions for the follow-up of WCARRD and then the number of countries for these missions and what countries have been chosen. We have heard some answer to the last two, but I think we have not heard answers to the first two questions. I would appreciate if we could receive some information on this.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I thought I gave answers to both the questions about the list of countries as well as the amount of money spent on each of the missions and the criteria of the selection of the countries. Shall I repeat the answers, Mr. Chairman? I have indicated the nine countries to which missions will be sent; Sri Lanka, Democratic Republic of Yemen, Oman, Jordan, Benin, Cape Verde, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia and preparations are underway for three other missions, Lesotho, Philippines and Mozambique, and at the Near East Conference we have been requested also for follow-up missions from Libya and Syria. About the criteria of selections, I stated the selection is at the request of the countries concerned. About the expenditure, I stated it depends on the size of donation, on the country concerned, the duration of the stay, etc. and on average we estimate about US\$ 20,000. I also stated the source of funds in the past had been from the extra-budgetary resources from SIDA and Norway; and as far as the FAO members who take part in the mission, of course, we bear the expenses,

CHAIRMAN: I think we have had adequate clarification on the points that were raised by the delegates. If there is no further clarification being asked, I think I can get on.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I do not know whether I have not been clear, but the question I was asking was regarding the amounts and the source of the funds available for these high-level missions for WCARRD. This was all the information I wanted.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is the best answer we can give the delegate of the Philippines. You can keep on asking a third time, a fourth time, but the answer is the same; \$ 20,000 from the Nordic countries, with the name of the nine countries. But I'm sorry we have taken too much time on this debate.

CHAIRMAN: It is customary for the Chairman of the meeting to add his bit by way of summing up the discussions at the end of the discussions; but in this instance, the subject of follow-up of WCARRD has been so widely, adequately and pointedly covered that very little has been left for me to say, particularly after hearing Professor Islam's clarification and the appreciation he has given of the facts connected with WCARRD follow-up. I was cautioned in view of the time constraint that has been caused because of a series of engagements that we have this evening, not to re-sum up the summing up that I have already done. I have decided to refrain from doing my bit which I earlier thought I might have to do; but before I declare this agenda item as closed, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartiest thanks to the delegates, to the Council first for lending their support to my election as one of the three Vice-Chairmen and basically for the cooperation they have extended to me this afternoon and this morning for carrying out the task that was before us successfully. Thank you once again, delegates.

Another thing I would like to mention in this connection is that we have noticed that we have had 39 speakers on this agenda item 10 concerning WCARRD follow-up which only shows the measure of interest which Member countries take in this subject. Now in generating this awareness and this interest among the opinions, particularly of the Third World, I think we would all agree that FAO has made significant contribution over the last few years, I think the follow-up has been relatively better than in many other fields which are even conceptually older. Quick actions have followed each other and FAO has responded promptly and enthusiastically to the Member governments' requests for technical assistance and that type of project. I think sincerity is discernible behind the steps FAO has undertaken. It has the capability and the intention to help. What it may be short of is funds; I am sure as the efficacy and usefulness become self-evident the funds will actually be coming in greater measure. I would only like to take this opportunity of recognizing this fact by offering my congratulations to the Director-General of FAO for the endeavour and efforts this Organization has been making in the WCARRD follow-up activities.

I would like to thank you for hearing me and giving me your valuable time. With these words I declare the discussion on this agenda item closed, and I would request the delegate from the Philippines to discuss his issue directly with Professor Islam. I am sure he can satisfy him with all the replies to all the enquiries he may wish to make.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I asked a very simple question and I think I got a partial answer but not the answer to the entire question that I asked. The question that I was asking was the amount of resource available for these high-level missions and the sources of these resources. Now I got a partial answer saying that some of these amounts came from the Nordic countries, but I did not receive any information as to the amount available for these resources and that was precisely what I was asking.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is very difficult to understand the question other than what has already been answered. One possible interpretation is how much money has been allocated by the extra-budgetary resources for this activity, but no straightforward answer can be given to that because the extra-budgetary resources have not been allocated specifically and only for this activity. They have been allocated for a variety of purposes in follow-up so that I would suggest that we follow the Chairman's ruling and have a private discussion on this so that we can isolate the precise question which is being asked and then, if necessary, isolate the precise answer if it is available.

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente independiente del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: We are grateful to the Vice-Chairman for chairing this session.

11. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities

11. Rapport intérimaire sur les activités de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation

11. Informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación

R. MORENO ROJAS (Director, Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Me corresponde a continuación presentar a ustedes la evaluación de los resultados de la conmemoración del Segundo Día Mundial de la Alimentación y referirme brevemente a sus perspectivas futuras.

En el documento CL 82/19 que tienen ustedes al frente se presenta un resumen general sobre los resultados de la celebración del Primer Día de la Alimentación en 1981 y se entrega información sobre el estado de preparación para el Día de este año con los datos que hasta junio se tenían a disposición. Basado en este documento como información de base entregare a ustedes antecedentes adicionales a partir de los informes que estamos recibiendo, y hemos recibido hasta el día de hoy de parte de todos los países en los cuales se desarrollaron actividades relacionadas con el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Múltiples fueron los eventos que este año se llevaron a efecto, tanto a nivel internacional, regional y nacional.

A nivel internacional aquí en Roma, en la sede de la FAO, se desarrolló durante los días 14 y 15 de octubre un coloquio de alto nivel que por iniciativa del señor Director General congregó a un selecto grupo de 25 eminentes personalidades independientes provenientes de todas las regiones del mundo y portadoras de las mas amplias y variadas experiencias tanto en sus propios países como en su larga trayectoria internacional.

Estas personalidades, aceptando la invitación del Director General, realizaron un profundo debate sobre las orientaciones y prioridades que el problema de la alimentación debe tener en nuestro tiempo contemporáneo. Los participantes en el coloquio eligieron para presidir sus trabajos a un respetable y eminente hombre internacional el doctor Raoul Prebisch, un latinoamericano de larga trayectoria.

Después de un arduo y fecundo trabajo, que incluso se prolongó hasta la medianoche del viernes día 15 de octubre, este grupo de personalidades eminentes aprobaron un documento titulado "La declaración de Roma sobre el hambre", en el que se analizan los distintos caminos posibles a seguir en el contexto económico y político para enfrentar los graves problemas del hambre y de la desnutrición en el mundo.

Es necesario recalcar el carácter de esta declaración que, expresando las opiniones individuales de los participantes en el coloquio, quienes sin portar representación oficial de gobiernos, organismos a los que ellos pudieran estar vinculados, reforzaron las directrices y orientaciones que tanto la Conferencia de la FAO como este mismo Consejo han venido formulando en el curso del último tiempo para poner fin a la dramática situación del hambre y de la pobreza que en la actualidad enfrentan tantos millones de seres humanos en todo el mundo.

El día 16 de octubre se desarrolló en la sala plenaria de la FAO un acto solemne en el cual el doctor Prebisch dio a conocer la antes mencionada declaración de Roma sobre el hambre, y en esta solemne ceremonia, junto con el Director General de la FAO hicieron uso de la palabra también otras dos distinguidas personalidades, su Alteza Real el Príncipe Talai bin Abdulaziz al Saud, de Arabia Saudita y el senador Amintore Fanfani, Presidente del Senado de la República Italiana. Todos los oradores desde

los más diversos puntos de vista analizaron los problemas mundiales del hambre y de la desnutrición y lanzaron un vigoroso llamado a la Comunidad Internacional y Nacional para acelerar el crecimiento en los países en desarrollo y para dar prioridad tanto al aumento de la producción de alimentos como a la distribución más equitativa de los mismos y de los beneficios que se obtengan entre todos los pueblos y todas las naciones.

Por otra parte, en la sede de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York se realizó otro acto solemne que contó con la participación de todas las delegaciones que están atendiendo los trabajos de la actual Asamblea General; de particular significación fue la intervención central realizada por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. En dicha ocasión también hicieron uso de la palabra el señor Kamanda wa Kamanda de Zaire, Vicepresidente del Consejo Económico y Social, el señor Gabriel Saab, representante de la FAO ante las Naciones Unidas y los representantes de todos los grupos regionales presentes en la Asamblea General.

A nivel regional se celebraron ceremonias conmemorativas en todas las sedes regionales de la FAO. En África, la ceremonia principal se realizó el 16 de octubre en la Estación Agrícola de Abokobi en las cercanías de Accra, donde participaron cerca de 1 000 campesinos que habitan en las 22 aldeas que reciben servicios de la Estación y que se dedican principalmente al cultivo del maíz, casava y hortalizas. Otra ceremonia similar en la misma región contó con la presencia de los miembros del Cuerpo Diplomático, funcionarios del Ministerio de Agricultura y una buena cantidad de niños en edad escolar.

Cabe destacar que la Oficina Regional de la FAO para África recogió y seleccionó como tema central para este año el tema de la energía y la producción de alimentos, para lo cual fue preparado y distribuido masivamente un documento técnico sobre el tema.

En América Latina y el Caribe se llevó a cabo una ceremonia en la ciudad de Santiago de Chile, en la cual el orador principal fue el conocido actor mexicano Mario Moreno, "Cantinflas". El representante de la FAO, a nombre del Director General, le hizo entrega de un reconocimiento público por su destacada y prolongada labor de profundo contenido humanitario en apoyo de los sectores más desvalidos. Las palabras sencillas, pero de gran carga humana que esta persona pronunciara tuvieron una gran repercusión en todo el continente, como lo acredita la gran cobertura de prensa que recibieron sus palabras, así como también la carta del Director General de la FAO que fue presentada a él en dicho día.

La Oficina Regional seleccionó como tema técnico de discusión la situación alimentaria y nutricional en América Latina, todo un documento que fue preparado y vastamente distribuido.

En la Oficina Regional para Asia y el Pacífico se realizó también una significativa ceremonia que contó con la presencia de Su Excelencia el Primer Ministro de Tailandia y otras personalidades regionales y nacionales. Esta ceremonia, en conjunto con el simposio regional sobre la Alimentación: Derecho Prioritario, que se realizó con la Universidad de Kasetsart, constituyeron los puntos culminantes de diversas actividades desarrolladas a nivel regional.

La extensa cobertura de prensa, radio y televisión que le fue otorgada a todas estas actividades son prueba clara y testimonio de la relevancia e impacto que ellas adquirieron en el mundo.

A nivel nacional, es prácticamente imposible dar cuenta de la totalidad de las iniciativas que se desarrollaron en todos los países.

Habría que comenzar diciendo que con ocasión del Día Mundial de la Alimentación el Director General de la FAO recibió más de 55 mensajes de Jefes de Estado y Gobiernos, de Ministros de Agricultura o Relaciones Exteriores y de dirigentes de organizaciones internacionales y regionales reiterando su apoyo a la iniciativa del Día Mundial y también su compromiso por esforzarse a fondo en la solución de los graves problemas del hambre y la desnutrición que la FAO enfrenta en su propio trabajo.

Particular impacto tuvo en muchos países la alocución y mensaje que enviara a la FAO y al Director General Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II, quien igualmente formuló un llamado desde su "Angelus" el domingo a todas las personas de buena voluntad para que ejercieran a través de la solidaridad activa todos los esfuerzos para eliminar el flagelo del hambre en la tierra.

A juzgar por las informaciones recibidas hasta ahora formalmente de los países podemos decir que en más de 138 países en todo el mundo se desarrollaron actividades importantes con motivo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Entre ellas podemos destacar las reuniones de agricultores y trabajadores rurales, los días de campo, las visitas públicas a los proyectos del terreno de la FAO, las muestras y exposiciones especiales, seminarios y debates sobre las causas del hambre y las soluciones propuestas y el trabajo de la FAO en el país, artículos y reportajes en periódicos, programas de radio y televisión, concursos literarios, artísticos y educativos, especialmente destinados muchos de ellos a escolares, la concesión de premios a los agricultores más destacados y la edición de sellos, monedas y medallas conmemorativas.

Destacada mención merecen las actividades que la República de Italia, país que hospeda la sede central de la FAO, organizó este año para celebrar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Especial relevancia tuvieron las actividades programadas por el Comune di Roma que incluyeron, entre otras una ceremonia especial en el Campidoglio con la presencia del Alcalde de Roma, señor Ugo Vetere, y el Director General de la FAO; un concurso periodístico que se encuentra abierto en este momento y culminará en abril de 1983 premiando las mejores contribuciones que los periodistas italianos realicen sobre el tema del hambre y que se publiquen en diarios, revistas, prensa especializada en agricultura, agencias de prensa, radio y televisión; igualmente se realizaron exposiciones especiales en el Museo della Civiltà Romana, en el Museo del Folclore e dei Poeti Romaneschi, y en el Museo Ostiense; una visita en barco a lo largo del río Tiber a los lugares históricos de la Roma antigua a través de todos los siglos que han tenido significación en el problema del hambre. Estas actividades fueron difundidas en Roma y en Italia a través de un hermoso afiche diseñado por el propio Comune di Roma. Por último, cabe mencionar que por iniciativa de la señora María Pía Fanfani, esposa del Presidente del Senado de la República Italiana, se realizó una primera exclusiva para la ciudad de Roma de la película Alejandro Magno.

A la luz de las informaciones antes recogidas resulta claro que recientemente la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación está adquiriendo una dimensión de vastas proporciones. En 1982 se recogieron los frutos del trabajo iniciado en el año precedente. A partir de este año podemos decir, y como se recoge en el documento que ustedes tienen a la vista, que hay elementos ya para formular algunos juicios evaluativos en los cuales se puede incluir el importante trabajo de las organizaciones no gubernamentales a lo cual quisiéramos mencionar que este año el Director General de la FAO recomendó involucrar al máximo el número posible de organizaciones de este tipo en la planificación y puesta en marcha del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y tenemos el agrado de anunciar la positiva respuesta recibida de las organizaciones no gubernamentales tanto de nivel internacional como nacional que sin desmayo han apoyado la celebración de este día en todas sus actividades posibles.

Las ONGs han podido utilizar las oportunidades y canales que ofrece el DMA para dar a conocer al público sus programas de trabajo y preocupaciones que orientan su quehacer.

No es fácil prever las perspectivas futuras del Día Mundial de la Alimentación dada la vastedad y riqueza de esta celebración, pero sí podemos decir que esta fecha se va insertando como un evento importante. La atención de los pueblos y de los gobiernos de las diversas latitudes de nuestro planeta nos llena de gratísimo orgullo al constatar que la solidaridad va encontrando su camino para superar los obstáculos que permitirán en el futuro erradicar la pobreza y generar una sociedad más justa y libre.

Quisiéramos, finalmente, manifestar que el señor Director General ha dado especial importancia a las celebraciones nacionales del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y ha instruido a todos nuestros representantes y técnicos que trabajan en los distintos proyectos de campo para que le den su apoyo irrestricto, y dentro del campo específico de sus esfuerzos, a las celebraciones nacionales.

Especial llamado ha hecho el Director General a la incorporación de iniciativas en los Ministerios de Educación, así como igualmente al invitar a todas las Organizaciones e instituciones religiosas de todos los credos para que ellas alcen su voz y se unan a los esfuerzos que se vienen realizando para movilizar la conciencia humana en torno a la importancia que hiciera la celebración de esta fecha. Para ello es necesario que destaquemos la eficiente e innegable colaboración de 104 Comités Nacionales que se crearon para apoyar la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y que han venido desarrollando esfuerzos para coordinar sus actividades.

Ha sido altamente placentero para la FAO y la Secretaría del Día Mundial de la Alimentación trabajar en conjunto con este tipo de Organizaciones.

Sería muy conveniente que todos los países miembros de la Organización procedieran en 1983 a reiterar el mandato a dichos Comités o a establecerlos, si no lo hubieran hecho todavía.

Las dificultades financieras también requieren un mínimo de atención. En 1982 recibimos una sola contribución, que mucho agradecemos, de parte de Jamahiriya Árabe Libia, y que fue utilizada en apoyar las actividades del DMA en diversos países considerados de menor desarrollo relativo. Reiteramos ahora nuestro llamado a los países desarrollados o a quienes estuvieran en condiciones de hacerlo, de analizar las posibilidades de otorgar pequeñas contribuciones voluntarias para mejorar aún más en los años venideros el impacto que esté teniendo el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Por último, corresponde a las Organizaciones no Gubernamentales hacer esfuerzos especiales para lograr la participación activa de las comunidades locales y de base en las iniciativas del DMA. Solo de esta manera se puede llegar efectivamente a quienes producen y consumen los alimentos; a quienes de una u otra forma se ven más afectados por los problemas del hambre, la desnutrición y la pobreza; a quienes pueden, desde diversas perspectivas, prestar su contribución a la solución de los problemas enfrentados.

Quisiera terminar diciendo que sobre la base del trabajo mancomunado de organismos internacionales, gobiernos, organizaciones no gubernamentales y personas individuales, estaremos haciendo efectivo el ejercicio del derecho humano a la alimentación, sin el cual el derecho a la vida carece de sentido. La alimentación es un derecho prioritario.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Moreno. I know that a number of delegations would like to speak on this topic.

J.M. BULHÃO MARTINS (Portugal): C'est avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme que mon pays a donné son adhésion aux commémorations de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, ne la considérant pas comme une simple occasion d'attirer l'attention sur les problèmes alimentaires, mais comme le terme de la campagne annuelle qui est maintenant conclue.

Comme nous l'avons déjà dit, le Portugal ne produit pas la majeure partie des aliments dont il a besoin. Cependant, nous ne sommes pas dans une situation de grave insuffisance alimentaire. Aussi les commémorations de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ont été orientées vers l'éducation nutritionnelle. On a essayé d'expliquer comment il est possible de remplacer des aliments importés par d'autres que nous produisons, avec la préoccupation d'éviter les exagérations qui se vérifient dans le domaine de la nutrition et qui coûtent très cher à notre pays.

En analysant les bons résultats que nous avons obtenus, nous avons l'intention de poursuivre dans cette voie car nous sommes convaincus de réussir.

L'année dernière, nous avons cherché à informer la population sur les problèmes alimentaires mondiaux. Nous continuons cette année, avec une nouvelle préoccupation : sensibiliser la jeunesse à ces questions. Durant l'année, 22 interventions directes ont été menées auprès de différents groupes de population et au mois de septembre on a organisé trois réunions, au nord, au centre et au sud du pays, avec des centaines d'instituteurs de l'enseignement élémentaire qui, pendant une journée, ont été informés de ces questions et invités à transmettre ces informations à leurs collègues et à leurs élèves. En conséquence, beaucoup d'étudiants des divers degrés de l'enseignement se sont adressés à la commission nationale de la FAO et ont demandé des renseignements et de la documentation sur le thème de la faim dans le monde. Cela est très important, parce que cela est réalisé au niveau de la jeunesse qui s'est montrée très sensible au problème.

En outre, on a incité la publication d'articles sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde dans les grands quotidiens et la presse régionale, dont le nombre a dépassé la centaine. On a imprimé également le sigle de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation sur des objets à grande diffusion : un million de boîtes d'allumettes, des briquets, des plumes, des rasoirs, etc. La Commission nationale de la FAO émet dans une station radiophonique d'audience nationale un programme hebdomadaire sur les activités de cette organisation dont les dernières émissions ont été consacrées à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Le président de la commission nationale de la FAO est intervenu dans des programmes radiophoniques durant la Journée mondiale et les deux jours qui l'ont précédée. La télévision a diffusé des spots FAO aux heures de plus grande audience, et plusieurs journaux ont publié des éditoriaux à ce sujet. En coincidence avec la commémoration de la Journée mondiale, une édition spéciale de la Loterie nationale a largement contribué à divulguer l'événement. Toutes ces activités et initiatives n'ont représenté presque pas de dépenses parce qu'on a réussi à obtenir des collaborations à tous les niveaux.

Nous considérons donc très utile l'échange d'informations concernant la commémoration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation dans les divers pays, parce que l'expérience d'un pays peut toujours servir à un autre.

SRA. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Nos vamos a referir al tema 11 "Informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación" en base a la acogida que ha dado el Gobierno de Panamá al establecimiento del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y al enfoque que ha dado al mismo. Pero antes, permítame felicitar a la FAO en general, y en particular a la Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria, así como al coordinador de las actividades conmemorativas del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, Ingeniero Rafael Moreno, por los éxitos logrados.

El Gobierno de Panamá ha visto en esta fecha la oportunidad para que, tanto a nivel de nuestro país como en todo el mundo, este día sea la culminación anual de la divulgación y concientización de la necesaria urgencia que hay tanto a nivel nacional como internacional de alimentar adecuadamente a la creciente población mundial, y más que todo, hacer comprender a la gente la importancia del problema del hambre, tanto por parte de los que la padecen como de aquellos que, por fortuna, no la llegan a padecer, así como la importancia de los problemas de la desnutrición y la pobreza, y lo que es más importante, ¿qué es lo que se puede hacer para resolver ese derecho humano, derecho de todos, símbolo de justicia y de verdadera paz?

La fecha debe permitir igualmente aumentar la conciencia de la opinión pública acerca de la naturaleza y las dimensiones del problema de la alimentación desde un enfoque muy sectorial y de solidaridad, tanto nacional como internacional. Dentro de este contexto, mi país instituyó mediante disposición legal, el 16 de octubre, Día Nacional de la Alimentación haciéndolo coincidir con el Día Mundial de la Alimentación aprobado por la 20ª Conferencia de la FAO y ratificado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Igualmente, previo al Día Nacional de la Alimentación, Panamá instituyó el 8 de octubre como Día Nacional del Productor y de las Ciencias Agropecuarias.

Para conmemorar el pasado mes de octubre las anteriores fechas, se desarrolló un programa que involucró a productores agropecuarios en general, tanto individuales como organizados, previéndose la participación de la mujer productora así como de profesionales de las ciencias agrícolas, logrando involucrar a Ministerios como el de Educación, Salud, Trabajo y de Planificación y de Política Económica.

Se realizó del 15 al 17 de septiembre el primer Seminario Nacional sobre Planificación de la Alimentación y Nutrición que se constituyó en evento nacional preparatorio a la Segunda Conferencia sobre Planificación de la Alimentación y Nutrición, que ha debido celebrarse la semana pasada en nuestro país.

Pero, para que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación vaya más allá de declaraciones retóricas de buenas intenciones, este Consejo debe acoger lo expuesto en el párrafo 21 del documento CL 82/19 "Informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación" y relacionar estos señalamientos con el fortalecimiento de las orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional, muy en especial, con las orientaciones número III y IV que en estos momentos, analiza y estudia el Grupo de Contacto establecido por este Consejo para tal fin, y que esperamos estén realizando positivos y fructíferos contactos. Somos de la creencia que la aplicación de orientaciones como éstas, contribuirán a lograr los objetivos en que se fundó el establecimiento del 16 de octubre, Aniversario de la Fundación de la FAO, como Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Finalmente, mi delegación está haciendo entrega a la Secretaría Especial del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, del documento que recoge el Programa de Actividades, que el pasado mes de octubre se celebraron en Panamá, tanto del Día Nacional de la Alimentación como del Día Nacional del Productor y de las Ciencias Agropecuarias.

Ms. P. IMPERIALE (Italy): Italy is conscious of the primary importance of the world food problems and has therefore supported the decision taken by the Conference to establish World Food Day on the 16th October. My delegation wishes to underline the excellent performance of the Secretariat and to draw the attention of the Council to the various initiatives and activities which have taken place in Italy to celebrate World Food Day.

Firstly, special messages were sent by the President of the Italian Republic and by the President of the Council of Ministers to the Director-General. Secondly, I would like to recall that the intervention of the President of the Italian Senate to the celebration organized at headquarters is another sign of the special interest that Italy attached to World Food Day.

Allow me to give you in brief a few elements concerning some initiatives which have taken place in our country. Upon special instructions, all Italian schools were informed of the food and agriculture situation, of the results achieved through common forces by the international community and of the problems which are waiting for a solution.

A great number of local communities have focused on the problems by issuing special publications or by organizing exhibitions and lectures. I wish to mention the very special effort made by the Comune di Roma and Mayor Vetere; the Director-General referred to it in his speech before this august Council. World Food Day is significant in its implication as being a great intention of the mass media. They broadcast a special intervention of the Director-General. A number of other private networks have also participated in the celebration of the World Food Day.

To conclude, I wish to express our availability for the next World Food Day celebration in 1983.

T. SADAQA (Liban) (Langue originale arabe) : Au nom de la délégation libanaise, j'aimerais féliciter le Directeur général, le Dr. Edouard Saouma, pour le succès sans précédent obtenu lors de la présentation du problème de l'alimentation à diverses occasions, et surtout lors de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation à laquelle ont participé 143 pays sous l'égide de leur président ou de leur Ministre de l'agriculture.

Le soutien total accordé à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation que l'on célèbre pour la deuxième année consécutive est la meilleure preuve de la réussite de cette idée qui a eu pour but d'éveiller la conscience des responsables à l'égard des problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde, pour lesquels nous devons mobiliser tous les moyens dont nous disposons : qu'ils soient humains, matériels ou techniques.

J'aimerais remercier tout particulièrement M. Moreno pour la présentation qu'il nous a faite de tous ces problèmes. La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, par la présentation des problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition qui touchent plus de 500 millions de personnes à travers le monde, a constitué un dénominateur commun qui a servi à promouvoir la solidarité internationale des responsables dans le but de lutter contre la faim qui est le problème de l'humanité toute entière. Ceci pourrait constituer un élément favorable à l'amorce d'une discussion sérieuse qui pourrait aider à rapprocher les points de vue dans le but de trouver une solution collective. Le problème de l'alimentation a été présenté dans tous les forums aux niveaux national et international, grâce aux efforts de la FAO et aux directives du Directeur général et de ses collègues. C'est la responsabilité des peuples et des gouvernements d'être conscients de ces problèmes pour trouver des solutions convenables.

M. le Président, la lutte contre la faim dans le monde est une responsabilité collective. Cette responsabilité incombe à tous : individus, collectivités, institutions nationales et internationales, publiques ou privées. Il n'y a aucune différence entre les individus car tous nous assumons la même responsabilité. Il faut absolument que nous y participions tous sur un pied d'égalité. Dans ce domaine, la délégation de mon pays est très heureuse de constater que les organisations non gouvernementales sont tout à fait conscientes de leurs responsabilités et sont décidées à mettre fin au problème de la famine par tous les moyens. Nous encourageons ce genre d'initiatives et nous voudrions demander à la FAO de soutenir ces efforts.

Au nom de la délégation de mon pays, j'aimerais m'adresser à M. le Directeur général pour lui demander de faire le suivi de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous aimerions aussi lui demander d'apporter le soutien nécessaire à la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et ce pour garantir sa réussite et sa continuité. Nous nous sentons très fiers que notre Organisation, la FAO soit toujours la première à commémorer cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous devrions continuer à déployer cet effort tant que demeure le problème de la faim dans le monde.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): I would like to make a few comments on document CL 82/19 which is before us for discussion. The paper contains a summary of what was done last year to celebrate the World Food Day, and what was done during the early part of this year to prepare for the celebration of the second World Food Day, which was celebrated on the 16th October this year, and lastly has given an assessment of the impact of the event.

Kenya has been observing the World Food Day in 1981 and 1982. In our experience, we found the day to be an important day in our calendar, as it served to remind us of the importance of food which quite often is taken for granted when available in plenty. My delegation is therefore in full agreement with the assessment of the impact of the event, as contained in paragraph 21 of the report.

Celebration of World Food Day in Kenya is based mainly in districts, divisions, and locational levels. We emphasize celebrations at these levels, because these are the areas where the food producers are, and it is only by taking the celebrations at the rural administrative levels that we can enlist their participation in preparations and actual celebrations.

While deliberate efforts have been made to centre these celebrations in rural areas, they have also been organized at provincial levels and in the capital - that is Nairobi - where, as these

are the areas where consumers are concentrated, they also need to be made aware of the importance of food. In the two celebrations we have had, our ministries of agriculture and livestock development, which are the two ministries directly concerned with food production in collaboration with the FAO office in Nairobi, took a leading role in making arrangements for the day. However, other ministries such as the ministry of health, ministry of education, ministry of cooperative development, have also been involved in the preparations. NGO's have also been involved in the preparations. In both celebrations we have had a message which the President of Kenya, The Honorable Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, wrote to the nation. The message during this year's celebrations thanked farmers for the hard work they have done to enable the country to move from deficit in maize which we had about two years ago to a surplus situation which we are now enjoying. They were further warned against being complacent, and lastly he underlined the Government's commitment to ensuring agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. are made available to farmers at the right time, at the right place, and at reasonable prices that they can afford. The full text of that message is already with the FAO Secretariat. We are aware that one of the objectives of the World Food Day is to observe or to celebrate the founding of FAO. While we fully accept this objective, it is apparent in Kenya that we are using it as an additional agricultural extension tool, and we have no apologies to make for this. In view of this, my delegation supports the activities of FAO in relation to the World Food Day activities.

To conclude, I want to observe that October 16th, 1983, will fall on a Sunday, and this will be a day of other celebrations. The event being so new in the calendar, Kenya may be forced to bring it forward by one day.

T. SATONE (Japan): My delegation would like to introduce the activities which took place in Japan for the Commemoration of the World Food Day. As for the first World Food Day, my Government stressed the importance of the improvement of the self-sufficiency rate of food supply by utilizing the domestic agricultural resources in order to ensure the food security of my country which is one of the major important problems which my country is coping with.

This year, my government appealed to the Japanese people on the importance of international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture as well as the role which my country should take in the international community, with the understanding that the development of food and agriculture contributes not only to the improvement of food shortages but to the development purposes of the whole.

In the implementation of activities, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries planned and promoted the activities with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's office, Japan Broadcasting Association, so-called, and the Japan/FAO Association. The Japan/FAO Association which took the role of the National Committee of the World Food Day, also implemented various activities including the symposium and publication of pamphlets commemorating the World Food Day.

My government also utilized nation-wide, area-wide, and local newspapers, TV, Radio, and other media for the publicity activities.

In addition to this, five million packages of World Food Day packages of cigarettes were sold all over Japan. A symposium entitled The World Food Problem and Japan was held on World Food Day, and Dr. J.W. Mellor, Director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Dr. Saburo Ookita, President of the Internal and External Policy Research Institute, and Dr. Nobutane Kiuch, President of the World Economic Research Institute, attended the meeting and gave informative lectures. Sophia University in Tokyo held another symposium entitled Toward the World Food Day.

My government considers the World Food Day to be a very good opportunity to make the people further aware of the food and agriculture problems and plans to strengthen the World Food Day activities.

My delegation would appreciate it if the FAO Secretariat could provide more information materials such as TV programmes and films which could be utilized by all government and national committees for the promotion of the World Food Day activities.

CHAIRMAN: We will resume the discussion of this item tomorrow morning when we have about 20 more speakers. We are behind time in today's agenda, and I shall be grateful if members could be fairly brief in their interventions, because the country reports are also being received, as Mr. Moreno stated.

We are grateful to the Director-General for being present this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

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 82/PV/12

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING

DOUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

12ª SESION PLENARIA

(30 November 1982)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12 sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

11. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities (continued)

11. Rapport intérimaire sur les activités de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation (suite)

11. Informe provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación (continuación)

S.P. MUKERJI (India): The Director-General of FAO, Dr. Saouma, is to be congratulated on the initiative that he has taken in launching the World Food Day as an annual function all over the world. The first World Food Day was celebrated last year, and this year India, along with other countries, celebrated the second World Food Day with great gusto both on the part of the government as well as non-government organizations and the public. Last year, a message was sent by the Prime Minister herself, and commemorative stamps and coins were issued. The theme was Production of More Food Grains.

This year also the government of India observed the World Food Day with great enthusiasm. The President himself sent a message for this occasion, and the theme was Save Food Grains, both cooked as well as uncooked. Posters were issued by the Government of India, and commemorative coins were issued in a function at the Krishi Bharan, New Delhi, the Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture at the national level. Instructions were issued to the various provincial governments to observe the World Food Day, and as far as the information received, the State Governments at various levels observed the World Food Day with great enthusiasm. An essay contest was also held.

A seminar on World Food Day and production and saving of food was also held in New Delhi on that occasion. Audio-visual publicity was given at various levels.

I am very happy to say that the message which the Director-General of FAO wanted to be propagated throughout the length and breadth of the world, in India also went right up to the village level and to the village councils level, and at the village "panchayat" as we call them, the World Food Day was celebrated. Various organizations were involved, and they also participated.

We would like to keep alive throughout the year the tempo that was created so that the message registers in terms of actual implementation by production and saving of cooked and uncooked food throughout the year.

CHAIRMAN: I may mention that the country reports are sent to FAO on the whole observance, which are compiled and distributed. Members could mention any highlights or suggestions of additional improvement they would like to offer to make the programmes even more effective.

F. PAJENK (Yugoslavia): The World Food Day in 1981 was an opportunity for our heads of state to communicate information about the principles of our policy in the sector of food and agriculture, particularly in the region of national cooperation in this sector.

In the message of FAO which was broadcast by the mass media, the President of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia emphasized our responsibility and task in supporting the efforts of the developing countries and eradicating hunger and malnutrition, and in increasing the nutritional level of their population.

The need for the universal detente and disarmament was recalled as one of the paramount conditions for the creating of an international environment which would facilitate the achievements of internationally-agreed targets for the eradication of hunger. The establishment of an economic cooperation on the principles of an equal footing for the new economic order would recommend a substantial contribution to economic and social development of the developing countries.

The second World Food Day was used as an opportunity to undertake in-depth analysis of national priorities in the process of agricultural development. The central manifestation was a consultative meeting of the Association of Agrarian Economists of Yugoslavia which started on 16th November. The main topic was agriculture and agrarian policy of Yugoslavian target for 1983. In his statement, the President of the Federal Committee for Agriculture said: "the 16th October, World Food Day gives our domestic plans an important meaning and is an encouragement to keep our own food production in the focus of social attention. The increased production of food represents a strong basis and decisive level in the policy of economic stabilization in the country especially because of its reputation and prestige as a socialist non-aligned country in the contemporary development of the world."

We are very happy to note these successful world-wide activities which took place on the occasion of the World Food Day. The second World Food Day will be marked in history as the date when "Rome Declaration on Hunger" was adopted by the WFD colloquium held at the FAO Headquarters. We are convinced that the message contained in this Declaration will serve as an important benchmark orientation for our future work in our organization, as well as a guideline for our governments in elaborating their political objectives at national and international levels. We would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for this initiative as well as our thanks to outstanding personalities who participated in the World Food Day Colloquium.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): The delegation of my country would like to pay tribute to the efforts made by Mr. Moreno concerning World Food Day and the rhythm that he has kept up since 1981. The FAO resolution passed at its 20th session concerning the celebration of World Food Day provided an opportunity for all the institutions of all Member countries to bring their programmes for food and nutrition to the knowledge of their public so as to harmonize the solution to problems at an international as well as a national level. Ever since that resolution was adopted, my country has been keen to put it into practice. Consequently we have put into practice a number of activities in order to observe that day, but unfortunately in October 1981 a very unhappy event occurred and prevented us from celebrating the activities that year as we would have liked.

This year, our Minister of Agriculture held a national symposium attended by other Ministers concerned with Food Production, Food Policy, and Food Security, namely Ministers of Health, Irrigation, Land Reclamation, Education, Supply and National Development. This symposium was transmitted by the Egyptian T.V. Prizes were distributed among farmers who had achieved considerable crops and harvests. A special issue of our bulletin series published for farmers came out to celebrate World Food Day. A poster has been drawn. The Egyptian T.V. also showed programmes about FAO celebrations at FAO Headquarters and other features on agriculture throughout the world.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Si bien es cierto que la palabra más utilizada en este período de sesiones, la palabra "felicitación", podría sugerir la idea de que todo anda tan bien en la FAO que el Consejo a lo mejor no es necesario; sin embargo, debo señalar que los logros alcanzados durante estos tres años para ejecutar el mandato contenido en la resolución 1/79 son realmente notables. No obstante, es menester indicar que lo hecho hasta ahora sólo constituye el comienzo, es decir las bases de lo que en el futuro debe ser una gran estructura, un gran edificio, un auténtico rascacielos, de modo que se cree una corriente, a lo largo y ancho del planeta, de opinión pública que verdaderamente hinque las alturas del poder mundial cuyo tiempo parece estar preponderantemente dedicado a otros objetivos.

Para este propósito, la delegación del Ecuador se permite insinuar un redoblamiento de esfuerzos especialmente en lo que dice relación con "una mayor difusión permanente por los medios de comunicación social". Al respecto, la colaboración de los diferentes Gobiernos puede ser determinante, particularmente a través de los medios electrónicos de comunicación instantánea, cuyas ondas son de propiedad estatal, las cuales poseen una cobertura prácticamente total.

El Gobierno Ecuatoriano, que ha utilizado estos canales para estos objetivos, ofrece para una permanente difusión del material informativo pertinente una mayor utilización de estos canales, en una escala mucho más amplia que la que hasta ahora se ha venido observando, pues sólo creando una gran corriente mundial de opinión pública en torno a este tema medular, no sólo podremos combatir mejor al hambre y fortalecer a la FAO, sino que también podremos desplazar hacia el sitio que le corresponde a otros temas, como, por ejemplo, el de las armas que tantos recursos consume para, en definitiva, destruir la especie humana.

Debemos propender, por tanto, a anegar la esponja de la conciencia social con un mensaje permanente y sostenido, de tal modo que la erradicación del hambre se erija en objetivo fundamental de los diferentes Gobiernos.

Ms. J. S. WALLACE (United States of America): The United States joins with other members of the Council in noting the success of World Food Day activities. We also compliment the Director-General and the Secretariat on their efforts in helping to achieve an appropriate commemoration of the Day. We particularly note our appreciation of the extensive and able support of United States activities provided by Dr. Rimmel and his staff of the Liaison Office of North America.

Millions of people were involved in World Food Day activities throughout the United States. Public awareness and activities were facilitated by the Non-Governmental National Committee for World Food Day which included representatives of 262 organizations and by the United States Governmental Steering Committee for World Food Day. As noted in President Reagan's message to the Director-General, thousands of elementary, high school, colleges and universities, civic and fraternity organizations and local and state governmental bodies implemented programmes of a diverse nature to

fulfil the objectives of FAO in establishing World Food Day. The United States Congress passed a joint resolution on World Food Day again this year. The President issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and the governors of all 50 of the United States issued proclamations.

Post offices imprinted millions of pieces of mail over a 2 month period with a special cancellation message "World Food Day USA October 16".

Information packages were developed and distributed by thousands of individuals and organizations. USDA - the Department of Agriculture - distributed more than 5,000 pieces and packets of information. Our Agricultural Secretary Block taped interviews and public service announcements which were distributed to hundreds of radio and television stations. Many speakers from the Department of Agriculture, the Agency for International Development and the Department of State went throughout the country speaking on the subject. The major United States governmental observance programme was held in the Department of Agriculture's patio area on October 15 and World Food Day exhibits were provided by a number of governmental agencies and were on display for the whole week.

In our view, World Food Day has been and should continue to be an important and effective means of increasing public awareness and focussing attention on world hunger problems.

Sra. Doña M. I. CASELLAS (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación siempre considero una valiosa iniciativa la creación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y por ello se hizo eco para trasmitirlo al país, teniendo una importante acogida y alcance. El Congreso le dio relevancia y declaró el año 1984 el Año de la Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria basado en los postulados del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Nos complace ver que sobre la base de la experiencia de 1981 y mitad de 1982, muchos Gobiernos han reconocido que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación proporciona una oportunidad anual valiosa, logrando entre otras cosas, movilizar los recursos nacionales e internacionales destinados al desarrollo agrícola y rural. Asimismo, mi delegación quiere hacer constar los esfuerzos llevados a cabo por el Director General y el eficiente equipo de la FAO al cual se le ha confiado esta trascendente tarea para celebrar este Día, y con la esperanza de que cada año se realice con mayor entusiasmo.

Concedemos especial importancia en cuanto a exaltar los logros alcanzados por los organismos ya que de esta manera, dentro de la Comunidad de las Naciones los países donantes no se sientan defraudados de que los esfuerzos hechos hasta ahora no han sido inútiles, y no se debe interrumpir la intensidad de la lucha hasta que no se erradique el hambre en el mundo.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): I would like to thank Mr. Moreno Rojas for his introduction yesterday afternoon which gives us information on the commemorating activities in 1982 in various countries. We think the commemorating activities conducted in 1981 and 1982 have been successful. Now the question is how to continue such activities in the future, in the light of the resolution adopted by the 20th Session of FAO Conference.

Paragraph 15 of document 19 points out that FAO does not seek to put forward a package of activities. Therefore each country can choose the most suitable forms of activities, in accordance with the concrete conditions and the prospects of its food and agriculture issues. In our view, the success of the miscellaneous and interesting activities carried out in these two years is due to this guideline which encourages countries to bring forth their initiatives and creativeness into play; and only by so doing will such activities be a solid foundation. In this connexion we hope that such an approach will continue to form one of the guidelines for future World Food Day activities.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : M. le Président, ma délégation souhaite s'associer aux félicitations que nombre de délégations ont adressées au Directeur général pour toutes les initiatives prises en vue d'assurer, à travers le monde, le succès de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous lui sommes reconnaissants notamment pour le succès qu'a connu la célébration de la deuxième journée mondiale, telle qu'elle s'est déroulée à Rome, avec les innovations qui ont été apportées. Ma délégation salue tout particulièrement l'organisation d'un colloque composé de personnalités indépendantes qui, au terme d'une réflexion approfondie sur les questions alimentaires, ont abouti à la Déclaration de Rome dont les conclusions constitueront, nous l'espérons, un puissant détonateur dans l'opinion internationale qui pourra contribuer à " promouvoir la production agricole et alimentaire là où elle fait défaut.

Certes, d'aucuns pourraient faire remarquer que c'est là une déclaration de plus, qui vient s'ajouter au lot de celles qui existent déjà. Néanmoins, nous pensons que celle-ci s'inscrit parfaitement dans le combat que mène notre Organisation contre la faim, sous l'impulsion de son Directeur général.

Notre délégation pour sa part appuie de telles initiatives qui ont pour but de contribuer à attirer un peu plus l'attention de l'opinion publique internationale sur un fléau qui frappe une bonne partie de l'humanité. La presse internationale devrait y faire largement écho.

M. le Président, mon pays, qui depuis l'an dernier s'est associé à cet effort international visant à vulgariser les problèmes alimentaires et à mettre en lumière les difficultés que rencontrent les responsables de cette activité pour enrayer la faim et la malnutrition, mon pays dis-je, a participé activement à la célébration de la seconde journée mondiale pour l'alimentation. L'occasion a été ainsi donnée aux responsables de l'agriculture du Congo de s'adresser, par la voie des ondes et à la télévision, à l'opinion nationale sur la gravité du problème alimentaire et faire connaître les solutions actuellement mises en oeuvre pour épargner à notre peuple les souffrances engendrées par la faim.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation revêt donc pour nous une importance particulière, en tant que pays à déficit alimentaire et à faible revenu. Des débats organisés au cours de cette journée à travers notre pays ont révélé la nécessité de développer le dialogue entre producteurs et consommateurs, afin de garantir les intérêts des uns et des autres. Enfin, mon gouvernement, qui a fait du problème agricole et alimentaire de notre pays la priorité des priorités, ne pouvait laisser passer la belle occasion qu'offre la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation pour lui permettre d'inviter les producteurs à plus d'efforts dans l'amélioration de la productivité.

Nous renouvelons en conséquence notre attachement à cette journée, qui connaît un succès croissant, à en juger par le compte rendu fait hier par M. Moreno auquel nous rendons hommage pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer depuis l'an dernier afin de faire de cette journée un succès pour la FAO.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): The Thai Delegation would like to inform the Council that the Government of Thailand has attached great importance and given full support for the observation of the World Food Day. On October 16th the Government launched a programme inviting all the governmental and nongovernmental agencies and people from all walks of life to participate in the promotion of nutritional intake in the country. The improvement of nutritional levels had been emphasized in the field of production distribution processing. In Bangkok the Prime Minister delivered a speech emphasizing a better share in food distribution for those poorer people in the remote rural areas. An activity which is worth mentioning here is a joint arrangement between the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to hold a seminar on the topic of food comfort at Kasetsart University. Such a seminar was able to draw a large audience and the important interest of the people on the importance of food.

Though Thailand is a food-producing country a large number of people mostly in the remote rural areas are still facing malnutrition and under-nutrition. This fact is already stated in the food mission and economic and social development plan which has been launched early this year. More than two hundred villages have been declared the poorest area that need highest priority for development in the national plan.

To observe the World Food Day the Ministry of Agriculture and the authority concerned introduced it to the people in the rural areas where it was sought to improve the nutrient in food preparation so that people would change their habits of food consumption.

To mark the World Food Day, millions of fish of various species were distributed to farmers with the hope that they would give some nourishment to the poor people. It is the intention of the Thai Government to carry on this campaign on every World Food Day and to increase our activities throughout each year.

M. NAANANI (Maroc) : C'est avec intérêt et enthousiasme que le Maroc célèbre depuis l'année dernière la grande Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous considérons que cette journée constitue une occasion pour le monde entier, pour tous les pays développés ou en voie de l'être, de marquer une pause de quelques heures pour méditer sur le problème de l'alimentation et sur le problème de la faim qui détruit quotidiennement des vies humaines et qui menace la population de toute la planète.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation constitue également une occasion pour mettre en exergue les programmes et les plans qui doivent être mis en oeuvre pour accroître le niveau de la production agricole et réaliser l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

La Journée du 16 octobre 1982 fut commémorée chez nous par un ensemble d'activités, telles les tables rondes sur les problèmes de l'agriculture, les émissions spéciales à la radio et à la télévision, la publication d'un dépliant sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, l'émission de timbres,

etc. Mais le grand événement qui a marqué cette journée est l'inauguration du siège de la représentation de la FAO nouvellement installée à Rabat. C'est à partir de ce siège que l'appel du Directeur général de la FAO fut lancé.

Puis-je à cette occasion, M. le Président, transmettre à M. Edouard Saouma et à ses collaborateurs, les remerciements chaleureux de mon gouvernement pour l'intérêt qu'ils accordent au Maroc et qui s'est concrétisé par l'ouverture du bureau de la FAO à Rabat.

Enfin, M. le Président, pour ne pas allonger mon intervention, je voudrais insister sur l'appui total et sans réserve de mon pays au principe de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, et je lance un appel à tous les Etats pour qu'ils continuent d'oeuvrer pour que cette journée acquière le haut niveau que lui confère son noble objectif,

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In order to help you catch up with our time schedule I will refrain from giving an account about the celebrations which took place in the Federal Republic of Germany on the second World Food Day and just concentrate on a few points.

First, as expressed already by us, before the celebration of the first World Food Day, we are still of the opinion that in order to make a great impact for each World Food Day one topic should be chosen from the overall problems of the world food and agricultural areas, including fisheries and forestry. At the Eighty-First Session of the Council the delegate of India made a similar proposal. Such a topic could, for example, be prevention of food losses, drinking water, consumption of more locally produced food, maintaining ecologic balance, soil conservation, forestry and food, just to name a few. As a sort of hammering message, such a selected topic and the corresponding most striking points should be sent around the globe.

Secondly, a short paper of not more than four pages carrying headnotes and a few figures should illustrate the actual world food situation. The press and other media are, in our experience, more open-minded to such a rather short paper than to a long text.

Thirdly, certain criticism was raised in our country in connexion with the beautiful, but probably quite expensive, publication Food Comes First. I feel it is justified to ask whether this type of presentation is really necessary or whether the same aim cannot be achieved with a more modest form.

Fourthly, thought should be given to the idea as to whether a general hammering message for the World Food Day could be brought to the attention of the world population through television, as for example practiced by Unesco and also through schools. The television spot would have to be short and to the point of the selected topic. Once it was launched in one or few television chains, also in developed countries, others would most probably follow. Specific information material would have to be prepared for schools to make pupils aware of the problems involved if this idea were to be pursued. We note with satisfaction that also the Programme Committee in its action about the implementation activities of the organizations referred to both issues.

Fifthly and finally, the time factor plays a decisive role. Concept and details must be available in time, updated figures on the current world food situation can be given at the last moment.

S. AHMED (Bangladesh): We have read with interest the progress report on the World Food Day activities in document CL 82/19, that was introduced by the Director of Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division yesterday.

It was also a pleasure listening to other delegates from many other countries about the activities of World Food Day in various countries. It was particularly heartening to note that countries rich and poor have all taken an adequate interest in the programmes of the World Food Day activities.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned, with a population of over 90 million in an area of hardly 55 000 square miles, the importance of the mottoes like 'Food for All' and 'Food comes first' do not require any new explanation to our people.

We are very happy to state here that on World Food Day, both in 1981 and in 1982, we drew up extension programmes at the national and local levels, at district level, at divisional level and at village level. In fact the World Food Day programmes in Bangladesh started a few days before 16 October and many organizations, cooperatives and social cultural organizations continued their seminars, symposia and discussions even after 16 October 1982.

At the national level we organized a seminar at which we had a message from the Head of the Government. It was attended by the Ministers of Food and Agriculture. It was attended by government organizations, non-government organizations, private voluntary agencies, representatives of the donors, representatives of the World Bank, the Agency for International Development, and many private research and socio-cultural organizations. Papers were read out on food security issues, on agricultural

problems. We also organized essay contests for schoolchildren and also in colleges and universities and arranged for distribution of prizes. Farmers' rallies were organized throughout the length and breadth of the country. Special supplements were put out in the newspapers. Special programmes were arranged on television, radio, on the national hook-up. In organizing this programme in Bangladesh I must mention the contribution made by the dedicated band of staff in local FAO mission there. It was with active collaboration with them and their assistance that this programme was a success.

We wholeheartedly agree with the statement of the Director-General made on the first day at the opening of this Council that the World Food Day activities do not end at midnight on 16 October. Rather it marks the beginning and it sets the pace and the background for a new series of activities which will start from the next dawn.

We have been celebrating World Food Day for the last two years, and let us hope that successive world food days in future will enable us to have in our credit account a lot of achievements and a lot of success stories of which we can be legitimately proud.

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to Afghanistan, but first I would like to welcome the Afghan delegate because he has reached Rome with a great deal of difficulty due to travel problems.

M.H. PAIMAN (Afghanistan): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation congratulates the respected Director-General for the successful activity and inauguration of World Food Day at Member countries. The World Food Day is celebrated worldwide on 16 October every year in Member countries. It now has the higher attention of world opinion about the food problems.

Besides other factors affecting the food status, such as food losses at the time of harvesting, processing, canning, transportation, storage, insect pest infestation, or unnecessary consumption and other wastage, the main factor is unjust distribution of the food. So the countries should collect the concrete data of food consumption and analyse it carefully. Specially the food assessments must be used carefully and in productive ways, and it should have a creative effect on the socio-economic life of the people. For example, it can be considered for the programmes like constructions for agricultural development, water management, watershed, pastures, forestry, cooperative activities for rural development, land reforms, agrarian reforms, and land settlement for new land recipients, especially for nomads, and so on.

As far as nomads are concerned, especially in my country, we have approximately 2.5 million Afghan, nomads and most of them are livestock owners. For grazing their sheep and cattle they cross the border of the country every year. Especially it is customary for the Afghan nomads from ancient times to cross the border of the country along with their livestock during winter and return during the spring season when the climatic conditions are favourable. Therefore the above-mentioned nomads, which the Pakistani delegation presented as so-called Afghan refugees in the previous mission of the Council, under this title unfortunately received emergency aid from WFP. Anyway, for clarity I repeat that they are normal nomads and not refugees and the government has the plan of distributing the first-grade lands to them, like other peasants in our country, and according to the official announcement of the Afghan government they want to return to their native country, and I hope that they will get the opportunity to do so. Whenever these nomads receive their lands according to the land reform programme, immediately they need food constructions and settlement facilities on their lands besides other agricultural foods and technical and financial materials, especially in my country according to the second phase of the land reform programme which is going on right now. I hope that in future the Council and the WFP organization will consider a programme to help my country too besides other developing countries.

For this purpose in order to increase the agricultural production and do battle against hunger and malnutrition the modern agricultural technology must be utilized on the land. A concrete decision should be taken on food security and the developed countries should help the poor and developing countries and continue their full cooperation in future too, and mostly the farmers must be aided with different productive credits in the easiest way in order to increase the agricultural commodities.

The national food committee if it is formed of the member countries must be very active and through these committees many activities, such as the press, radio, television films, film projectors, meetings in rural areas of the farmers at village level must be done. Moreover, these committees must have regular meetings and the activity should not be limited to only one day; it should have a distinct programme to collect the concrete data and do a survey on different types of food losses or food wastage and should have the statistics of food consumption throughout the country.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been one of the first countries prepared to mark World Food Day on 16 October last year and this year too. The national committee composed

of authorized representatives of various governmental agencies has met several times so far for the above-mentioned purpose. The committee produced and minted memorial coins ranging from Afs 5 to Afs 500 last year and printed memorial stamps. It organized agricultural shows, press, television, radio, meetings, agricultural films, and many other activities this year. I hope that these activities will increase much in the future.

F.BREWSTER (Barbados): The Barbados delegation wishes to associate with the previous speakers to congratulate the FAO for its splendid work for World Food Day, 1982. Barbados was happy to be among the member states that made special arrangements for the staging of World Food Day on October 16. The day has now passed, but its impact on Barbadians will remain for many months. The Ministry of Agriculture in close collaboration with the Country Office of the FAO, the National Organization Of Women, the Ministry of Education, farmers' organizations, the business community and other service clubs used the occasion to give added thrust to the governments efforts to promote local food production.

In order to sensitize the public to the meaning and the significance of the World Food Day observance, we focussed on a public relations programme giving much advance publicity to the special programmes that were planned for. This was initiated in September by the Minister of Agriculture for Food, Hon. Doctor Richard Cheltenham, who also delivered a special message on World Food Day. One of the major themes in this message was that the ability of a country to produce food should be treated as a national resource to be maintained, improved upon and protected at all costs.

I would mention the three major events included in the Barbados programme of World Food Day activities. We staged a great harvest; on that occasion over 6 000 persons attended and participated in an open market which brought together all those persons and organizations involved in food production, marketing, storage and consumption. This great harvest proved such a success that it has triggered off a call for it to be repeated in subsequent years.

We held a one-day seminar and an awards ceremony for workers in food production at our Labour Club. This event was important because it allowed a large number of a cross-section of workers in food production, the farmer, the fisherman, the supermarket proprietor, the street vendor, among others, to come together for one day to express their views on how they saw food production and agriculture developing in the country. This seminar made a number of recommendations for implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture. Again, this aspect of World Food Day proved popular and will be continued in future programmes.

We also organized a livestock show at Greenland, one of the most rural districts in Barbados. This was important also because it afforded participation by community groups in one of the remote places in Barbados.

In addition to the three major events of World Food Day, the committee organized the distribution of thousands of vegetable seedlings and fruit seedlings of improved varieties to farmers and householders. It organized a number of fruit treeplanting ceremonies and presented numerous mass media events over a period of 10 weeks.

We feel that the member countries should continue to use World Food Day as an engine to carry their national plans for agricultural development forward. This we feel would help FAO to realize its goal of seeing national food security shared on a worldwide basis.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap Vert): Nous voulons, comme l'a dit notre Président, dans son discours d'ouverture ici au Conseil, féliciter la FAO pour l'excellent travail accompli pour l'organisation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et également pour l'initiative du Directeur général consistant dans l'organisation d'un séminaire auquel participaient beaucoup de pays afin de faire un bilan des réflexions suscitées par cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Notre gouvernement appuie sans réserve cette initiative et nous souhaitons qu'au plan national la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation soit organisée à tous les niveaux.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Cape Verde. It was a very brief but very important message.

M. TATIETA (Haute Volta): La delegation de la Haute Volta félicite le Directeur général de la FAO pour cette heureuse initiative qu'est la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Cette journée a été célébrée cette année avec beaucoup plus d'éclat que l'année dernière en Haute Volta. Quelques

semaines auparavant une campagne de sensibilisation et d'information du public sur les objectifs de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été menée par l'intermédiaire de la radiodiffusion. L'organisation d'un concours de développement centré sur des thèmes de production, de reboisement, de protection de l'environnement a été réalisée et a vu la participation de plusieurs associations d'agriculteurs au niveau individuel et collectif.

Pendant les trois jours qui ont précédé la manifestation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation des émissions télévisées ont été organisées; ces tables rondes ont vu la participation des services des ministères du Développement rural, de la Santé, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme. Les manifestations officielles ont débuté le 15 octobre par un discours radiodiffusé du Ministre du développement rural invitant toute la population à participer à la lutte contre la faim qui reste une réalité vivante dans notre pays et pour laquelle le gouvernement a déjà entrepris plusieurs mesures tendant à faire diminuer ce spectre au sein des populations.

La journée du 16 a été essentiellement consacrée à la visite d'une exposition présidée par le Ministre du développement rural. L'exposition a été organisée conjointement par les ministères du Développement rural, de la Santé, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme ainsi que du Service de l'Information des Nations Unies. L'exposition a attiré un grand nombre de citoyens et nous espérons que l'objectif a été atteint. La Journée s'est terminée par la distribution des prix aux lauréats du concours du développement. Ces prix en nature étaient constitués de divers matériel de production,

essentiellement de charrues, de charrettes et d'engrais.

Le Ministre du développement rural a clôturé la manifestation en félicitant les participants et les donateurs pour les sacrifices consentis quant à la réussite de la journée. En dépit de cette réussite de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation cette année, des efforts plus accrus seront déployés dans les années à venir pour décentraliser l'organisation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Cela permettra à cette manifestation d'avoir un impact plus important sur les population.

D. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): A lot has already been said about the World Food Day activities here in Rome and in many other countries of the world. I only want to say that the occasion is serving as a very effective means of informing the mass media and the public at large of the activities of the Government of Nigeria with regard to agricultural development and to food production in particular. This year it was a week-long series of activities in which radio and television discussions, radio broadcasts, symposia, a nation-wide essay competition and an agricultural exhibition were staged. This concerted effort covering a whole week of activities is bringing the people closer to the government, and I believe the FAO should do everything possible to keep it alive. Any funds reasonably expended on World Food Day activities is money well spent.

Following on the observation made by Kenya yesterday, that the day falls on Sunday next year, it might be necessary for the FAO Secretariat to advise governments to stage mass World Food Day activities before that day, leaving only radio broadcasts or some other events that would not require mass activities to be staged on the actual day that falls on Sunday.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiéramos agradecer, señor Presidente, por su amable conducto al doctor Rafael Moreno por la magnífica presentación de este tema.

En Cuba, igual que el primer día que se celebró el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, se dio gran importancia este año a esta conmemoración. Se efectuaron varias reuniones de coordinación para determinar las actividades efectuadas por el Comité organizador, que está presidido por el Ministro Presidente del Comité Estatal de Colaboración Económica. De estas reuniones surgió el cumplimiento de las actividades siguientes, entre otras: un seminario sobre los aspectos fundamentales del hambre en el mundo organizado por la Unión de Periodistas de Cuba; una exposición efectuada en el Ministerio de la Agricultura titulada "Productos del Agro en manos del pueblo". Esta producción fue cultivada en el centro de semillas mejoradas de ese Ministerio; se efectuaron programas radiales de la televisión también sobre la significación del día; se hicieron comunicados especiales alegóricos al día en las revistas técnicas del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ministerio de la Alimentación; se celebraron conferencias técnicas acerca de sistemas avanzados de producción y alimentos efectuadas en el Ministerio de la Alimentación; se convocó a un concurso de pintura cuya convocatoria abarca hasta el mes de diciembre sobre el tema de cómo ven los niños el hambre y la alimentación en el mundo. Este concurso se convocó por el Ministerio de Educación. Se escribieron artículos especiales en los principales diarios que se circulan en nuestro país y uno muy específico sobre la significación del día 16 de octubre publicado en esa misma fecha; se efectuaron entrevistas con representantes de la FAO en nuestro país en la revista de Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños sobre la importancia y significación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación; se celebró un acto central en un proyecto de riego y drenaje que es ejecutado por la FAO y del cual es beneficiario el Ministerio de la Agricultura, participando en el mismo técnicos, trabajadores y dirigentes de varios organismos nacionales así como representantes de la FAO. Finalmente, se envió un mensaje al señor Edouard Saouma por el Presidente del Consejo de Estado y Ministros de Cuba y Presidentes del Movimiento de Países no Alineados, Comandante Fidel Castro, con motivo de la conmemoración de ese día.

En realidad, nuestro país seguirá dando el calor apropiado a la conmemoración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Desgraciadamente, esta difusión mundial no puede ser aún portadora de un mensaje optimista sobre la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo. Creemos, sin embargo, que nos trae un llamado de alarma por la suerte de la creciente marcha de seres humanos que sufren hambre y desnutrición, especialmente en los países subdesarrollados donde según distintas informaciones la cifra pasa de los 800 millones.

Siguiendo la idea expresada por el distinguido delegado del Ecuador, consideramos que nunca jamás se ha evidenciado con tal fuerza la íntima conexión que existe entre la lucha por la paz y el esfuerzo en aras del desarrollo, en la lucha contra el hambre y por salvar a centenares de millones de personas de las condiciones de vida infrahumana, de las enfermedades evitables, el analfabetismo y la muerte prematura. En ese sentido mi delegación considera que todas las personas sensibles y preocupadas por el futuro debemos reconocer a la FAO, al Director General y al personal de la Dirección de Recursos e Instituciones y Reforma Agraria por los esfuerzos que realizan en esta cruzada contra el hambre, el atraso y el subdesarrollo.

Nuestro país se solidariza plenamente con estos objetivos y estará siempre dispuesta a contribuir al logro de ellos mediante su modesto concurso y el esfuerzo de nuestro pueblo trabajador.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Since we still have plenty of work to do, I shall be very brief indeed. In commenting on this year's activities of World Food Day, an earthquake has shaken public opinion to increase awareness of national and international food problems, thus mobilizing world food reserves for agriculture and rural development. In accordance with the possibility of our means, Angola has also observed World Food Day, and messages were broadcast on TV and radio, and although not on the same day due to the engagements of the relative Ministers, I am pleased to announce that a multistorey building has been given in Luanda, the capital city of Angola, to the international organization of the UN so that they can carry out their work there.

For some countries which have been independent for many years, the observance of World Food Day may not have the same significance as in the case of Angola, which has been independent for only seven years, and more than 80 percent of its inhabitants live in the countryside. Therefore, this year's celebration of World Food Day has helped us not only to identify but also has taught us how to go about resolving some of the most acute problems which our country is facing in rural areas. Therefore, taking into account the success of this year and its positive impact on the world's public opinion, my delegation is pleased to congratulate Dr. Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, and all officers who contributed to this successful event, and wishes to give its support and cooperation towards

further commemoration of World Food Day until hunger is successfully eradicated from the surface of the earth.

G. KELLEY SALINAS (México): México considera que un elemento fundamental para crear conciencia sobre el hambre y la malnutrición es la difusión intensa y generalizada sobre la natural implicación de ese gravísimo problema.

En este espíritu mi país ha empeñado importantes esfuerzos para difundir las actividades conmemorativas del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Estas van desde el uso de los medios masivos de comunicación hasta acciones concretas de puesta en marcha de programas en contra del hambre.

Mi delegación se felicita por la forma tan entusiasta como la comunidad internacional se ha identificado con los esfuerzos de la FAO y de su Director General por poner a la alimentación y a la agricultura en el primerísimo plano de las preocupaciones del mundo entero. México se solidariza plenamente con esta tarea.

Ms. G. LAPOINTE (Canada): The World Food Day activities held throughout the country led by the federal and provincial governments, NGOs and schools, involved thousands of Canadians. The main objective of the celebration was to increase Canadians' awareness of the world food situation, of the efforts being made to help solve the food problem.

At the federal level an open house was held at agriculture planners' headquarters which highlighted the sights and sounds of the Third World. The open house was officially opened by Eugene Whelan, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. A contest was held nationally inviting students who prepared an essay on the theme Solution to World Hunger. Agriculture Canada Research Stations participated by organizing open houses and distributing pamphlets and information.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for the excellent brochures provided for the occasion.

To give just a very few examples of what was done at the provincial level, in the province of Ontario, World Food Day material was included in the Ministry of Education's curriculum, Tips for Teachers. The University of Guelph held a special talk on the Potential for Bio-Technology in the Expansion of the World Food Supply.

In Alberta, World Food Day brochures were circulated to all elementary schools, and promotional kits were distributed to chapters of the Alberta Women's Institute.

In British Columbia, 350 schools, 50 churches, and 3 universities participated in various activities. A seminar was held at the YMCA which included the Director-General of the Canadian International Development Agency's NGO Division and the former head of FAO's Freedom from Hunger campaign.

In Newfoundland, the Commonwealth Youth Association held a mock-parliament featuring Food Conditions in Developing Countries. In Nova Scotia, a workshop was held on World Food Policy. In Quebec, the Union des Producteurs Agricoles et la Cooperative Fédérée de Québec published background material on World Hunger for inclusion in their publications. Finally, in Quebec also, McDonald College and Laval University held a series of programmes and lectures and debates on World Food Problems.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We are lagging so far behind that I am tempted to restrict my intervention to my brief I have received, which says "for reporters: information only".

World Food Day was celebrated in Pakistan in a most fitting manner. However, I have a distinct temptation to associate myself with other members of the Council who have given their wholehearted support to the celebration of the activities of World Food Day, and we wish to convey our appreciation to the Director-General, Professor Islam, and Mr. Moreno, and also to the Italian Government who have hosted the two World Food Days in 1981 and 1982 and the Headquarters where we had the opportunity of participating, and we found that very stimulating.

In this context we may make a very small suggestion -that the Headquarters celebration of the World Food Day perhaps could involve a little more activity from the whole staff of FAO, and they could get if nothing else, a little motivation and re-thinking on the subject.

On the same lines the delegate from Germany in the morning suggested that the World Food Day should be referred to a specific subject, and the delegate was echoing the solution from the Indian delegation. We tend to differ on this, as we think the World Food Day should try to reach as many people as possible on that particular day, and not be restricted to a particular target. If you pick a specific subject for World Food Day such as Soil Conservation or Food Losses, you will presumably reach only a specific target group in mostly developing countries. We suggest World Food Day activities should increase awareness not only in developing countries but also in developed countries where you have the policy makers, and need their assistance for all the activities which are being undertaken by FAO and other organizations.

We therefore feel, that although there should be a balance, there should at the same time be a little more effort by the policy makers and other groups within the developed countries where this awareness should be generated. In this context, we are very happy to learn the details of the activities which the delegate of Canada enumerated. We feel these would really go a long way to helping the FAO and other organizations.

Before I conclude, I would also, with your indulgence, like to take this opportunity to respond very briefly to the delegate of Afghanistan on a subject on which I do not wish to enter into a controversy. However, I do appreciate the kind remark that one minister made, about what he calls "nomads" and we call "refugees", perhaps it is a semantic discussion but he suggests they could go back to their homeland. We agree wholeheartedly and we also hope the same thing. We have given them shelter on purely humanitarian grounds; we cannot push them back with their brothers, but we do hope and wish they will go back to their homelands and lead a life of honour and dignity.

In this context, I would also take the opportunity to invite the distinguished Minister to come to Pakistan at any time he wishes on a short visit.

ADANG HARTAWAN (Indonesia): I might be the last speaker on this item, therefore I would like to restrain myself in order to be brief. On behalf of the Indonesia delegation on this particular occasion, allow me to associate myself with the other delegates in extending my highest appreciation to Dr. Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO, on initiating the World Food Day activities throughout the world. It has been crowned with success.

My delegation fully believes that the commemoration of the World Food Day each year is an extremely important event in order to increase public awareness for the sake of activating the people nationally or internationally to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world today. My

Government as a member of FAO, has committed itself to observe the World Food Day every year. For the past two years successively Indonesia has commemorated World Food Day activities in a very extensive manner. Also in the future we shall always celebrate that particular event, like many countries in the world. As an example, our 1982 celebration of World Food Day activities a couple of months ago, among others, had a message with the theme of Increasing Food Production through the aim of post-harvest technology. During a television interview our Minister of Agriculture and the representative of FAO in Indonesia held a Discussion Panel among the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the experts on agriculture throughout Indonesia with the main topic of How to Improve Food Production and Quality through the Development of Post-Harvest Technology.

Publishing of folders, posters, speakers, multi-performances, and last but not least, holding a special Agricultural Fair -all the above activities have been implemented simultaneously through Indonesia.

Sra. Doña . D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): En la Conferencia de 1979, Colombia, junto con Hungría y otros países, fue copatrocinadora de la Resolución 1/79 que estableció el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. El pasado 16 de octubre, el nuevo Presidente de Colombia envió un mensaje al Director General destacando la importancia de estas actividades y el papel fundamental de la FAO. Por lo tanto, Colombia es partidaria del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Después de escuchar todas las declaraciones de los países que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, hemos observado con complacencia que, en todos ellos, en una forma u otra, se ha celebrado el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, motivo de gran satisfacción para la FAO y para su Director General, quien ha sido el ideólogo. Pero, pensamos que esas celebraciones pueden cumplirse de manera más racional, positiva y económica. Después de largo debate sobre este tema, la delegación de Colombia ha decidido exponerle algunas ideas que esperamos serán bien acogidas por el espíritu pragmático y comprensivo de la Dirección General de la FAO.

Hemos oído que se han emitido estampillas, que se han elaborado paquetes de cigarrillos, de fósforos; que los congresos han aprobado declaraciones especiales que se han hecho por concientizar a la gente sobre el problema del hambre. Pero, en cambio, no se ha oído que en algún país se haya dado de comer en este día a tal número de niños, o que se haya promovido una acción en favor de alimentar a un grupo de niños hambrientos o malnutridos. En fin, esto es lo que queríamos decir para que en adelante se aplique un criterio más práctico en la celebración de este Día.

S. CADENASSO FERROGGIARO (Observador por Chile): Primero de todo, deseo felicitar al señor Rafael Moreno, quien, bajo las orientaciones del Director General ha sido el impulsor de la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, desplegando toda clase de iniciativas para que los Gobiernos le dieran la verdadera importancia que tiene.

En mi país se celebró el día 16 de Octubre en conjunto con la Oficina Regional de FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, cuya Sede se encuentra en Santiago de Chile, y con asistencia del Ministro de Agricultura y otras personalidades.

El Ministro tuvo la responsabilidad de hacer uso de la palabra sobre este acontecimiento por Red Nacional de Radio y Televisión para que fuera escuchado y visto por todos los niños de los colegios y escuelas, y por toda la población en general. Además, se emitió una serie de sellos alusivos al Día Mundial de la Alimentación, como asimismo se realizaron concursos de pinturas escolares referidas al tema, y se premiaron a pequeños agricultores rurales en las diferentes provincias que habían obtenido un mayor rendimiento en la producción agrícola.

El contenido del coloquio expuesto y elaborado por distinguidas personalidades mundiales, creo llamará la atención de todos los Gobiernos sobre el flagelo del hambre. Espero que cada año tenga mayor relieve a nivel mundial la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación para beneficio de toda la humanidad. Y termino felicitando, de nuevo, al Director General por haber implantado este Día Mundial.

P. VANDOR (Observer for Hungary): The two-year short history of World Food Day shows that this event has become a very important instrument in the formulation of public opinion throughout the world on agricultural and food issues. The national and regional ceremonies and special meetings here in Rome and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York are indeed a new network of global fora at our disposal. We are very happy to note that in the framework of World Food Day ceremonies here in Rome, FAO convened a special consultation of high-level personalities from all the regions of the world. The Rome Declaration on Hunger helped FAO greatly on focussing attention of all concerned to the alarming problem of food production.

We hope that this idea can become a successful tradition for the future and we offer to think over, together with the senior officials to FAO concerned, as to what can be done during the coming years

in order that World Food Day celebrations can maintain this very high effectiveness and impact which we had this year.

The delegate of Colombia dwelled in particular on a practical approach and as an example mentioned that food could be given on this Day to children. I think the aim of World Day and of our entire activity should not be aimed at giving food for children on one day, but that our aim should be to give food for children throughout the whole year, all 365 days of it.

Ms. V.E. BETTON (Observer for Jamaica): The observer delegation of Jamaica would like to associate itself with previous speakers in congratulating FAO on having initiated activities to celebrate World Food Day. Jamaica fully supports the celebration of this event and is convinced that it has made a significant impact both internationally and at the national level to increase awareness of the need to give priority to agricultural development, in particular to stimulate efforts to increase food production.

In Jamaica appropriate activities were also staged to celebrate this day. We would like to support the continuation of this important event.

M.P. CRACKNELL (Observer for International Federation of Agricultural Producers): We in IFAP are also very impressed by the success that the World Food Day has had after only two years. IFAP is now giving its support on an international level to World Food Day and also by circulating to our membership throughout the world to try to get them active also in World Food Day celebrations. We have had some difficulty with certain of our developed countries farm organization members in taking an active interest, and we think this is a pity because more and more people tend to think that food comes from the grocery store, and we think this is an opportunity for them to tell people that food comes, in fact, from farmers.

The North American Representative, Mr. Frank Shefrin, whom some of you have known in the past here, was in fact Chairman of the Canadian National Committee for World Food Day. We believe that World Food Day should continue to be observed and that progress is very welcome in the coming years; but could I say we believe you should not let World Food Day take control. The success of World Food Day is the fact that it concentrates on a single day, and we believe that this should continue to be the objective.

If I might remind you in closing, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign's original objective was almost exactly that of World Food Day when it was founded 20 years ago under the direction of my predecessor, Mr. R. Savary; in fact he was the first coordinator of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. We would find it a pity if World Food Day began to expand on either side of the 16th of October to build up, as the Freedom from Hunger campaign did, into something more than what was originally intended. We do not mean to say that the Freedom from Hunger Campaign is not an excellent programme but we think we should continue to focus World Food Day on the 16th of October.

T.E.C. PALMER (Observer for Sierra Leone): We could not resist the temptation to throw in our voice to this lively debate on this important topic, especially when we have had a cross section of views of the members. Even though we are here in an observer capacity, we feel that we could at least add our own contribution also towards the discussion. We agree with the previous speakers who have recognized the importance of World Food Day. We also agree that the objective should not merely be limited to production of food in developing countries: we believe that there should be some further thought in the direction of the policy and even the approaches to be considered, particularly in developing countries but also in developed countries, under the World Food Day activities programme. We agree with this particular approach because we believe that World Food Day is primarily of a promotional nature. That is why we would like to see a wide spectrum of activities both from the developed and developing world.

We have received reports of successes from the developing countries and we have seen how they could react to incentives, particularly if they are given the necessary assistance and guidance in the direction and approaches. Consequently we would like to throw our weight behind the contribution of Pakistan, that at least the coverage should be given also to the audience from the developed countries to be aware of the problems encountered in the developing countries; and World Food Day is a very good medium to propound such an exercise.

We wish to observe that Council members should at least raise the point of creating different or new approaches by which they can assist FAO in drawing up new programmes or even to concentrate or sharpen focus on successful projects or programmes in previous activities.

R. MORENO ROJAS (Director, Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): En primer término, Sr. Presidente, quisiera agradecer en nombre del Sr. Director General las palabras de apoyo y aprecio que se han expresado por la unanimidad de las delegaciones que han hecho uso de la palabra al reconocer los esfuerzos que el Sr. Director General ha venido colocando en la celebración de este Día.

Como muy bien ha sido mencionado por varios distinguidos oradores, la forma en la cual el Día Mundial de la Alimentación se realiza radica, principalmente, en la responsabilidad de los Gobiernos Miembros; son ellos quienes orientan, deciden, organizan y difunden las actividades que en cada país se llevan a efecto. La labor de la FAO en un esquema muy reducido y modesto con una Secretaría compuesta prácticamente por dos personas de modo alguno puede promover ni incentivar más allá de lo que el interés nacional diga, lo que en cada país pudiera ser realizado. Por lo tanto, lo que aquí los delegados nos han entregado como información, que agradecemos, será recogida en el informe que se preparará y posteriormente será circulado a todos los países miembros para difundir la labor que se ha realizado como experiencia en 1982. Esta labor será gran mérito de los países mismos y no mérito de una Secretaría que solamente ha hecho de difusor de algunas ideas principales.

Se recogen con interés y aprecio las sugerencias que se han formulado por los distinguidos delegados en el sentido de dar énfasis al material y al trabajo con los sectores estudiantiles: escuelas, liceos, universidades, niveles educacionales. Compartimos plenamente la inquietud expresada por los señores delegados en el sentido de que éste es el segmento que en mayores condiciones se está en posibilidad de recibir y a su vez de difundir al interior de cada comunidad y los valores del problema de la alimentación y la preservación de los recursos naturales en los cuales ellos deberán desarrollarse.

Igualmente tomamos con interés la sugerencia para expandir aun más la participación de los funcionarios de la FAO, tanto a nivel de la Sede como a nivel de los proyectos de campo y ya se han iniciado en el curso del presente año interesantes iniciativas en conjunto con ello, las cuales esperamos expandir aún más. Recogemos con especial interés las sugerencias para realizar a nivel nacional mayores esfuerzos de descentralización de la celebración, sin ánimo de disminuir el significativo impacto que tiene, el que el Gobierno central, los Estados, realicen actividades en torno al Día Mundial de la Alimentación, difundan sus objetivos los Jefes de Estado y autoridades máximas del país, utilicen los medios de televisión, de radio o de prensa escrita. Creemos que un impacto cada vez más creciente de este Día se lograría simultáneamente en la medida que sean incorporadas en forma más activa la mayor parte de las organizaciones no gubernamentales, culturales, religiosas y de otra índole que existan a nivel nacional y, al mismo tiempo, que estas actividades sean llevadas cada vez con mayor energía al nivel mismo de la base donde se encuentra la comunidad campesina y la comunidad productiva en el medio rural.

Quisiéramos terminar nuestras palabras manifestando que hemos discutido largamente a nivel de la Secretaría la posibilidad de individualizar un tema, un tópico cada año, y hemos llegado a la conclusión de que existen pros y contras para ello. El delegado de Hungría ha señalado alguno de ellos porque, en general para la organización y temática del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, tenemos que tomar en consideración la existencia de realidades muy diversas. Una realidad para hacer un esfuerzo simple de síntesis sería la del mundo desarrollado y la del mundo en desarrollo. Estas percepciones no siempre se encuentran de la misma forma en los distintos países, no obstante ello hemos iniciado la selección de algunos tópicos centrales, y esperamos poder avanzar aun más sobre ello, manteniendo este criterio de flexibilidad que es el que naturalmente los países deben interpretar en su propia realidad.

Agradecemos los comentarios de los jefes y representantes que han usado de la palabra y tendremos también en cuenta las sugerencias para minimizar los gastos y los costos de algunos de los elementos que pudieran ser empleados en esta actividad.

CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the thirty Members of the Council, four Observer countries, and one nongovernmental organization, making altogether thirty-five delegations who have participated in this discussion. As Mr. Moreno has stated, a number of valuable ideas have been given, but I would also like to add my words of admiration and congratulation to the Director-General and his very dedicated staff for making within such a short span of time, within two years, World Food Day one of a great deal of importance around the world. I think it has certainly caught the imagination of the political leaders and people alike and I do not know of any comparable observance which has attracted such a wide-spread interest. It is natural, food is such an important item. I feel this occasion should be utilized for articulating the political will in particular. I agree with those who said the day is particularly important to channel the political will and the political commitment to resolving problems of hunger and malnutrition. In fact President Marcos of the Philippines, when he addressed the World Food Day convocation in the Philippines, mentioned this particularly, drawing examples from countries which had made progress in agriculture, and he said three things are important: political will is number one. Without it, whatever may be the other possibilities, they will not be realized. The professional skill or technology and the people's participation are the other two essential ingredients. When all these three are married, namely, political will, the professional skill or technology and people's

participation, then we see the desired degree of progress. Therefore, I think the World Food Day is a timely initiative in achieving this.

I would particularly commend those who mentioned about children and schools. The delegate from Italy made a mention that in Italy they have channelled all the schools in the participation and I would commend this to the developing country representatives because more than in developed countries, in developing countries the vast majority are youth. In India, for example, over 50 percent of the population is below the age of 21. It is ultimately these people who ought to be made aware of the potentials and problems of food production and hence this emphasis on youth is one which is very important, in addition to the political leadership.

I would like to conclude my observations by reading out a particular paragraph from the Rome Declaration on Hunger adopted during this World Food Day, to which the Director-General made a reference and many delegations have made reference: "We believe that it is now possible to end world hunger by the year 2000. More than ever before humanity possesses the resources, capital, technology and knowledge to promote development and to feed poor people, both now and in the foreseeable future. By the year 2000 all the world's people and all its children can be fed and nourished." This is an important statement coming from very distinguished people with practical experience but it reminds me very much of what the late President Kennedy said while opening the first World Food Congress in Washington in the 1960's. He said very much the same thing. "We have the technological capability and we have the resources to obtain freedom from hunger by the end of the decade". That was the early 1960's. Similarly I quoted the 1974 World Food Congress Resolution . but I would like to suggest to the FAO Administration, taking the clue from one of the delegates, let this be a sort of milestone chart. If we adopt 2000 now as a sort of implementable strategy there must be a countdown every year. It is like a spaceship launching where you have a countdown, so many days, but here it is a number of years. So the milestone chart issued on the occasion of the World Food Day by FAO, and I think we recommend to every country that they have a similar countdown. If there are a 100 million people malnourished in that country every October 16th let it be a stocktaking day so that these do not remain pieces of rhetoric there. The fact remains that unless there are instruments of making the rhetoric into reality they will always remain rhetoric and this is what we should avoid. The late President Kennedy made two statements at almost the same time. At the World Food Conference in Washington he said: "We have the resources and the capital to end hunger". Soon afterwards he also said the United States should put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The man on the moon was realized but the problem of the hunger has been postponed to 2000 A.D.

So let this be an occasion then for stocktaking, for generation of political will and education awareness and at the same time a kind of a strategy of a political will to organize a countdown country by country and we need this awareness from the people, this is what we have achieved, this is the goal, and from there we go on.

I want to thank again all the speakers for your cooperation because a large number of delegates have spoken within a couple of hours, that only shows how delegates can communicate very briefly and precisely.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS

16. First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1982-83 Biennium

16. Premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1982-83

16. Primer informe sobre reuniones no previstas y anuladas en el bienio 1982-83

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : The document before us on this item is document CL 82/20 entitled The First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1982/83 biennium. This is a periodic report which is always submitted to the Council at the autumn session. I believe it is self-explanatory. It reports firstly on thirteen unscheduled sessions giving details of the title, estimated costs, the attendance and the category of meeting. It reports on sixteen sessions which were cancelled for various reasons and gives the reasons for the cancellations and it finally reports on three changes in attendance at meetings since the beginning of this year. Here again the explanation I hope is clear, as well as the cost implications.

CHAIRMAN : I think it is a very clear document. Mr. Shah has further clarified the position and unless some delegate wants to ask any question I would like to proceed to item 12.

12. Format of Medium-Term Objectives and Programme of Work and Budget

12. Présentation des objectifs à moyen terme et du Programme de travail et budget

12. Modo de presentación de los Objetivos a Plazo Medio y del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto

CHAIRMAN : We will take up now item 12, Format of Medium-Term Objectives and Programme of Work and Budget, CL 82/11, paras 1.74 to 1.84. and 2.17 to 2.97.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee) : I agreed with my colleague and friend, Mr. Abeyagoonasekera, Chairman of the Finance Committee, not to repeat each other because our position in both Committees was virtually the same, so I will start the ball rolling and he will continue.

The Programme Committee in May at its Forty-Second Session had a brief preliminary debate on the Medium-Term Objectives format and though it might have been very easy for the Programme Committee to arrive at a full agreement on what to advise the Council on the issue, yet we decided to postpone our final position until September so as not to pre-judge the position of the Finance Committee and take up the same issue with another one which is very closely related, that is the changes in the format of Programme of Work and Budget document.

I will not go into a fairly long history of the medium-term objectives in FAO. I think it is enough to say that the Council and the Conference already indicated their basic preference and wanted only the committees to go into detail and refer back to the Council what they actually want to recommend.

On the medium-term objectives, we had no difficulties in arriving at full agreement in my Committee. To be frank, we did not discuss the whole matter. The decision was arrived at in this way: I asked my colleagues only to indicate (following, as it were, a roll-call procedure) without any elaboration one of the four options. All of my colleagues in a record time of a couple of minutes all indicated their preference for (iv). So then we spent some time to see how it was to be done; and we found that the model suggested, which is now incorporated as Annex B to the Programme Committee report, page 32, and subsequent pages in the English text, should be recommended to the Council.

Regarding the next issue, the Format of the Programme of Work and Budget; we welcome very much the proposals of the Director-General who has suggested to the committees some improvements in the programme of work and budget document following the suggestions and general stand of both Council and the Conference to take necessary steps in reference to the permutations related to the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget. I think the position in the Finance Committee was the same; in fact no major radical changes were necessary, but we agreed that some improvements were possible and desirable. I will very briefly indeed refer to the improvements that we agreed on in both committees. We first decided to retain the table showing the breakdown of funds at the programme level by regional sources of finance and organizational units. Secondly, we fully concurred with the Director-General that the table at the beginning of the programme narrative and the main table showing estimates by sub-programmes, including draft approximation of extra-budgetary resources should be consolidated in a new so-called synoptic table. After really considerable debate we agreed that the synoptic table should be structured in the way shown in Annex C to the Programme Committee's report which starts at page 27 of the English text. Since it was physically impossible to insert another column showing the cost increases, we decided that the structure account should be as shown in the Annex and we felt that the cost increases could be worked out quite easily from the table. Our advice was also to retain the changes in resources, so-called changes in the resource base at the sub-programme levels. I will stop now and my colleague will continue.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman of the Finance Committee): As the Chairman of the Programme Committee has mentioned, both our committees were requested by the Conference and Council to consider whether the Medium-Term Objectives document should or should not be incorporated into the Programme of Work and Budget document for 1984/85. The Chairman of the Programme Committee has just conveyed to you the views, proposals and recommendations of his committee regarding this proposal. We considered the options presented to us during our deliberations and agreed with the Programme Committee's recommendations that we should incorporate sections dealing with the medium-term context in the Programme of Work and Budget by presenting the long-term goals and strategies at the beginning of the major programmes on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and also by including a statement on Medium-Term Objectives at the programme level when relevant and useful.

We were informed that on the basis of current standard costs of documents and staff time the corresponding savings would be approximately \$30 000. An example of the narrative prepared on this basis is attached to the report of the 43rd Session of the Programme Committee.

At our 50th Session we were also presented with proposals for streamlining the contents of the Programme of Work and Budget. Three standard tables operate for each programme. One table placed at the beginning of the narrative gives the budget summary. Two larger tables appear at the end of the narrative providing (1) financial estimates by sub-programmes with estimates of regular programme staff resources in man years and (2) breakdowns of total estimated resources by region, fund and unit. As some of the information given in these two tables is already available in the table which is given at the beginning of the narrative, the standard table estimates by region, fund and unit could be eliminated. This would result in reducing the number of pages of the Programme of Work and Budget by 30, or 10 percent of its present size. In terms of savings in costs it amounts to approximately \$40 000. Similarly, the budget summary and estimates by sub-programme could be incorporated into one table. This table would give for each individual programme and sub-programme the full information by having separate columns showing (1) previously approved allocation; (2) net programme changes and cost increases; (3) total allocation for the biennium; and (4) the breakdown of corresponding staff resources in man years. The estimated saving on account of this change would amount to approximately \$10 000.

Since the Chairman of the Programme Committee has left it to me to deal with the other important item regarding information on the posts, and in deference to the views expressed by the delegate of Germany to inform about the actual field post situation which would allow them to discuss this when the budget position is being discussed, I would like to speak on this item at this stage. At our last two sessions we also looked into the feasibility of presenting to the Council and Conference a more simple and a clearer picture of the various categories of staff employed at FAO headquarters and in other locations under the Regular Programme as well as other funds. It was felt that the present highly detailed tables giving information on individual posts by organization, unit, grade, and their qualification in tables A, B, C and D of Appendix C of the Programme of Work and Budget could be presented in the form of aggregated information.

Then, Mr. Chairman, at this stage I have to give you a little of the background information because it will enable you to understand the rest of what I have to say. According to information given to us at the 49th Session, until 1972 staff in both Professional and General Service categories occupying Regular Programme posts were given permanent appointments after the satisfactory completion of the probationary period of service. From 1972 it altered radically. Only Professionals with seven years' service and General Service categories with three years' service were eligible for permanency. The Council at its 64th Session wanted the Director-General to develop a system of codifying posts to distinguish those which were of a continuing nature and those which were fixed term, short and temporary. On the basis of information provided to the Committee by the Director-General, the Finance Committee at its 34th Session recommended classification of posts under three categories: firstly, posts which could be classified as continuing; secondly, continuing but filled on a fixed term basis; and thirdly, posts which were non-continuing. The Council at its 64th Session while accepting the recommendations also warned the Director-General that he should not build up a large core of continuing staff, to ensure that there could be a reasonable turnover of staff, and at the 66th Council Session they further wanted the subject kept under regular review.

At the 49th Session of our Committee we observed that there were diverse types of posts presently in FAO's cadre, varying types, grades, personnel services, which were loosely referred to as posts although they differed considerably in character, particularly as regards established posts or short assignments of different types. Under the provision of personnel services in the chapter 'Appropriations and Programme Narratives' it covers not only established posts but also short-term temporary employment, for example experts and consultants. Therefore the Committee felt that although the various statistics appear in different documents, they could give misleading impressions. Therefore a suitable statistical method had to be used. The Committee stressed the need to present information on posts on the basis of the analysis of the different forms and lengths of employment under the Regular Programme, posts funded from support costs and other extra-budgetary funds, posts provided from the field project budget's financed from extra-budgetary funds and the Technical Cooperative Programme and temporary contracts of less than one year in all locations. We were presented for the first time with statistics for Regular Programme posts as at 1 January 1982, and the Committee requested the Organization to furnish the Committee with similar information with regard to other posts and contracts financed from other sources. In accordance with this request the Secretariat furnished further information for the period 1 January to 30 June 1982 during our 50th Session.

For the Committee's views and recommendations your attention is drawn to paragraphs 62 to 77 of our report of the 49th Session and tables 1 - 5 at the end of paragraph 77 and to the statistics of personnel services appearing in tables 1 - 5 at the end of paragraph 2.72 of our 50th report.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for indicating the recommendations of the two committees. The first relates to the development of an integrated document by a proper merger of the Medium-Term Objectives document with the Programme of Work and Budget document. The second is about the streamlining of the contents of the Programme of Work and Budget document. The advantages, including the financial savings, have also been indicated by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): The United States can accept the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees as reflected in document CL 82/11 regarding the incorporation of the Medium-Term Objectives document into the Programme of Work and Budget document and the proposed streamlining of the latter document. We have only one real point or reservation on this. While we support the incorporation of the Medium-Term Objectives document into the Programme of Work and Budget document, we would point out that the United States continues to support the principle of medium-term planning as approved by the Conference in Resolution 9/69 at its 15th Session. The separate document that we have had until now for Medium-Term Objectives not only provided a useful comprehensive overview of FAO's medium-term plans and objectives but also constituted in our view tangible evidence of adherence to Conference Resolution 9/69. In the absence of a separate document, if the Council so decides, we would propose that the Council's report include a reaffirmation of its continuing support of FAO's use of medium-term planning.

A. FEQUANT (France): En ce qui concerne le mode de présentation des objectifs à moyen terme, la délégation française appuie le choix du Comité du Programme qui recommande d'incorporer le document sur les objectifs à moyen terme dans le Programme de travail et budget. Ainsi les objectifs à moyen terme apparaîtront beaucoup plus clairement lorsque la Conférence analysera le Programme de travail et les propositions budgétaires correspondantes. Cette option permettra une économie de 30 000 dollars environ sur le coût de la documentation et regroupera pour chaque programme l'ordre de priorité entre les activités qui figure actuellement dans le document sur les objectifs à moyen terme ainsi que les variations budgétaires par sous-programmes qui sont données dans le Programme de travail et budget.

Toutefois, il serait souhaitable de modifier parallèlement la présentation de l'ordre de priorité entre les activités de chaque programme, afin d'accroître la cohérence du nouveau document et de faciliter son examen par les délégations. Serait-il possible de présenter cet ordre de priorité par

sous-programmes plutôt que par groupes d'éléments de programmes comme c'est actuellement le cas ? En effet, les variations budgétaires sont données par sous-programmes dans les tableaux du Programme de travail et budget. Il serait donc nettement plus utile de pouvoir également disposer d'un ordre de priorité établi au niveau des sous-programmes pour l'examen des propositions budgétaires correspondantes.

En ce qui concerne le mode de présentation des tableaux du Programme de travail et budget, la délégation française apporte son soutien aux propositions du Comité du Programme. Elle appuie tout particulièrement l'introduction, dans les tableaux budgétaires de chaque programme, des variations de budgets par sous-programmes qui n'étaient pas fournies auparavant. Enfin elle souhaite, comme le Comité du Programme, que les tableaux normalisés des descriptifs du budget-programme ventilés par régions, fonds et unités, soient conservés car ils sont indispensables pour comparer les prévisions budgétaires par programmes qui figurent dans le budget-programme et les tableaux budgétaires par unités organisationnelles qui sont donnés en annexe 2 au Programme de travail et budget.

S. AHMED (Bangladesh): My delegation has gone through the proposal for changing the format of the Medium-term Objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget, as contained in the Secretariat document CL 82/11, with special reference to four main options and the example narrative as Appendix B of the document. My delegation would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Members of the two Committees on their hard work and valuable recommendations.

My delegation agrees in principle with the recommendation of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee that the Medium-term Objectives document be merged with the Programme of Work and Budget Committee, including the relative order of priorities among activities and on the basis of the example narrative given in Appendix B of the document. This will eliminate unnecessary duplication of standard statements and information, retaining main information required for taking decisions, and at the same time result in savings of documentation cost and time.

Similarly, my delegation also agrees in principle with the recommendation of the changing of the format of the Programme of Work and Budget document in the manner stated by the Committee. This will also reduce the size of the document and eliminate unnecessary duplication, resulting in savings in costs.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): Members of the Programme and Finance Committees did a commendable job, and I wish to thank them for that. We support most of the recommendations. The merging of the Medium-term Objectives into the Programme of Work and Budget does not only reduce the amount of documentation we have had in this forum but also saves the Conference and Council time when the agenda comes up for discussion. I remember we used to discuss them separately. We feel that these changes should not be at the expense of our getting adequate information on the matters brought for discussion. The example given seems to indicate this will not be the case and I hope this will be so.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation takes note of the proposal of the Programme and Finance Committees to merge the Medium-term Objectives document with the Programme of Work and Budget document. Our preference was to maintain the Medium-term Objectives as a separate document, but my delegation could for the time being go along with the proposal if the majority of the Council Members wish to follow it. But we would like to know how then the Organization will present its Medium-term Objectives in the context of the United Nations system. Other international organizations still maintain their Medium-term Objective plans, and we think that a certain exchange of views on Medium-term Planning and Objectives between agencies within the United Nations system is necessary.

With regard to establishing a clear order of priorities, I would just echo what was voiced by France.

With regard to streamlining the Programme of Work and Budget document, my delegation welcomes the incorporation of the aggregate figures on personnel given in documents CL 82/4 and CL 82/11, which allow a general overview and are as such an improvement. But it is the opinion of my government that these figures cannot replace, as suggested by the two committees, the detailed figures about staffing given in Table C of the Programme of Work and Budget document, where those figures are given in complete form. Such tables on four pages only are, in our view, absolutely necessary for assessing personnel staffing. Such an assessment basis is needed at national and international levels. We would therefore like to appeal for Table C to be maintained. . Once the fully reliable computerized system of personnel services is in operation and new statistics are at hand, this issue could then be ,reconsidered.

A.F. BOTHNER (Norway): I would like to address briefly the question of the format of the Medium-term Objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget, and again I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. In the deliberations leading to the approval of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, the Nordic countries have long been of the opinion that in order to give consideration to the global food and agricultural situation in the medium- and longer-term, the document Medium-term Objectives would assist Member governments in evaluating the immediate priorities in a wider perspective. The document has in past years indeed also served that purpose. It has, however, become evident that the total documentation for the Programme of Work and Budget has grown considerably and that cross-references and overlapping have made it more difficult to study the documentation with the aforementioned perspective and overview in mind.

The Nordic countries have taken note of the discussions which have taken place on this subject in both the Finance and Programme Committees and the new proposals set out in their report.

Having given due consideration to the proposal of merging the two documents by incorporating the sections on Medium-Term Objectives in narrative sections of the Programme of Work and Budget under each programme as shown in the example narrative included in document CL 82/11, the Nordic countries agree to the change proposed. According to the example narrative, we noted that the separate table including estimates by region, funds and unit, as found in the present Programme of Work and Budget of each programme, has not been included in the example narrative. As we find this table useful from the point of view of cross-references, we propose that it be retained. In this connexion, may I share with you and other Members of this Council the concern of the Nordic countries that in the process of merging these two documents, the special aspects of cross-organizational objectives and means of action might be lost, and we would request the Secretariat to find a way of preserving the helpful cross-references and overview.

CHAIRMAN: I would also like to take a minute to recognize the presence of Minister Arturo Tanco, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines. We are happy that he is here, and he has informed me that he will speak in the afternoon.

You are most welcome to the Council. Thank you for coming.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation supports the proposal of the Programme Committee on the merger on the Medium-term Objectives with the Programme of Work and Budget.

With regard to the example narrative for the Programme of Work and Budget contained in Appendix B, my delegation is quite happy with the format but would like to suggest that sub-programme 2.1.1 be extended to include assessment of changes in resource use with particular reference to expansion of area under cultivation, irrigation and afforestation. If developing countries are assisted to the extent by which such changes could be measured, it will enable planners as well as policy-makers to measure the success of their programmes in more precise terms. Fortunately, the FAO has very advanced facilities in remote sensing which could be adapted to this area of need. This may be a matter of detail, but I think it is of concern to my delegation.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): It has always been our conviction that the documentation presented, particularly with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO, should be comprehensive, clear and concise, allowing all member nations to fully understand and monitor the budgetary process. Medium-Term Objectives should be viewed as a means of setting out specific priorities for FAO and ones which Member States may assume will ultimately be translated into budgetary and programme proposals. Canada agrees with the recommendation of the Programme and Finance Committees that the former separate Medium-Term Objectives document be merged with the Programme of Work and Budget 1983-84.

With regard to the proposal to streamline the tables in the Programme of Work and Budget by combining the two tables, budget summary and estimates by sub-programme into one synoptic table, we are in full agreement so long as it is clearly spelled out how cost increases can be quickly calculated.

The proposal by the Secretariat to replace Tables A, B, C and D in Appendix C in document C 81/3 by more aggregated information such as that in the September 1982 Report of the Finance Committee will, in our view, not only save some staff time but also present a clearer picture of the distribution of posts within the FAO,

I would like to ask a question of the Secretariat with respect to the table on page 46 of document CL 82/11 where at the bottom of the page it indicates temporary contracts of less than 12 months. It seems to me that if we are trying to measure the amount of staff time expended in this area, a somewhat finer measurement could be arrived at than plus or minus one year.

J.C. AJMANI (India): My delegation has noted that the Programme and Finance Committees have reviewed the question of the format of Medium-Term Objectives and supports its recommendations that the document on the Medium-Term Objectives be merged with that of the Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation also feels that the Medium-Term Planning Profile need not be scrapped, as it is a useful monitor. It can and should feature in the proposed integrated document. This should meet the point raised by the United States, as well as fulfill the need for clarity, simplicity and economy stressed by the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committee.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation has carefully studied the paragraphs concerning medium-term objectives in our document and would like to say that we are pleased with the general presentation especially as regards the programmes' organization, so we have no specific comments on this, but we would like to reserve the right to try to come back on document CL 82/3 when it comes before us. We agree specifically with the paragraphs 1.74 and 1.78 of this document-in other words, the merger of the two documents, the medium-term objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget, so as to avoid duplication and make savings.

T. SATONE (Japan): Concerning the merging of the Medium-Term Objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget', my delegation would like to support the interventions of the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): First of all, we are grateful for the work carried out by the Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees in reviewing this difficult question of the format of the paper formerly presented on Medium-Term Objectives, and its relationship to the Programme of Work and Budget. We speak as people who were originally very much in favour of the separate Medium-Term Objectives paper. I think we spoke on this subject in the 1979 Conference. With the development of the format of the Programme of Work and Budget, the role of the separate paper, Medium-Term Objectives, has become more difficult to find, and it is perhaps significant that the debate at the last Conference on Medium-Term Objectives was combined with the Programme of Work and Budget debate.

In principle, however, and subject to examination of the result of the new format when looking at the 1984-85 Programme of Work and Budget, we think a case has been made for the amalgamation of the work, and welcome the saving in costs which will result. We believe that the proposed format, as given in Appendix B in the report of the Programme Committee meets all the requirements.

We also support the proposed revision of the PWB, especially the new tables.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I will indeed be very brief, since we are members of the Programme Committee and we have studied this question during the Programme Committee, so we just want to record, for the record, that we think the merging of the Medium-Term Objectives as suggested by the Programme Committee should meet all the concerns, including the concerns expressed during today's debate.

Since the Medium-Term Objectives subsequently retained in the new format should not form any problem at all, we once again wish to endorse the new format of the Programme of Work and Budget.

. Sra.Doña O. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Seremos sumamente breves. La delegación de Cuba apoya la recomendación de fundir los documentos de los Objetivos a Plazo Medio y el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. En realidad, ésta fue una solicitud de la pasada Conferencia que mi país apoyo. Sin embargo, nos preocupó en aquella ocasión y nuevamente lo planteamos, el que no queden lo suficientemente explícitos los diferentes objetivos de trabajo de la Organización. Llamamos la atención a los respectivos Comités, especialmente al Comité de Programa, a fin de que se tenga debidamente en cuenta este aspecto.

En cuanto a las revisiones intermedias planteadas, nuestra delegación quisiera plantear su preocupación en el sentido de que, tal vez, estas revisiones pudieran quitar en parte nuestra confianza a los comités que hemos elegido, y que, en realidad, entendemos no es la intención del Consejo.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee) : I will really be very brief. First of all, I want to express our sincere thanks on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, for the support given to the views of the Programme and Finance Committees. Of course, we are fully aware that certain delegations to the Conference were obviously in favour of the separate Medium-Term Objectives document but we thought it would be very valuable, and even desirable, to incorporate whatever is relevant from the Medium-Term Objectives document into the Programme of Work and Budget itself, thus avoiding a certain over-lapping. What is important is how the new arrangement would relate to the rest of the UN system. Of course, the principle of Medium-Term Planning is agreed in the UN system, and I do not really see any risk and I do not think it would do any harm to the rest of the system, since the whole UN family has access to the documentation and from the Programme of Work and Budget they would realise quite clearly FAO's Medium-Term Objectives.

The issue was raised that perhaps priorities should also be shown at a sub-programme level. I think that budgetary allocations themselves quite clearly point to the priorities given to the FAO, especially as one compares the proposed Programme of Work and Budget with the Programmes of Work and Budget in the past biennia. The budgetary allocations quite clearly indicate the priorities at that level, so we studied the whole matter, and this aspect also, and found that the priorities should be given as in the past at the level of major programmes.

All questions related to posts I will leave to my colleague, Mr. Abeyagoonasekera, and only reassure the delegate of Norway that the Committee suggested that although we were aware that some obligations would be attained, we suggested a table showing the breakdown by regions, sources of funds and units to be retained so as to make easier the task of all delegations, especially those within the FAO Conference.

These are only a couple of comments that I wanted to make.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman of the Finance Committee): First of all, I wish to thank the many distinguished delegates who expressed appreciation for the work done by the Finance Committee, and I am most grateful to them. I only want to pick up one point resulting from the remark made by the delegate of Germany - the appendix he referred to within the Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee felt that though this information was provided, it was not a very clear presentation of all the posts. An attempt was being made for the first time during the 50th Session to give us this information. We feel this information could be developed later on. Personally I have no objection to this table being retained. However, the Committee wanted to take note that an attempt was being made for the first time to give this information in a more suitable shape for us, which was not available earlier. Besides this, I do not have any points to make on the question

raised by the Delegate of Canada, regarding the use of consultants. I think this question could be left to the Secretariat.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : I am most grateful for the very clear debate which has resulted in our getting all the guidance and instruction we sought from the Council, and I am thankful to the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for not only having presented their proposals, but for having dealt with some of the questions which were raised in the debate.

There are a few points, however, which still remain to be answered, and I will address myself to them.

The delegate of the United States and the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany both emphasised that the concept of Medium-Term Planning should not be forgotten and should not be lost on the wayside. Here I can be very clear. All that has been under consideration and discussed was the merger of one document, the Medium-Term Objectives document, into another document on Programme of Work and Budget. The fact that the Council sees its way to agreeing to the merger of those two documents does not, of course, mean that the concept of Medium-Term Planning and the concept of a Medium-Term approach is neglected or will be neglected. I do not believe the Director General would think of this Organization, or think of directing it, in terms of only one biennium to another. Of course he will have, and will give the necessary direction to the Secretariat, a medium-term concept in all its activities, but this I believe need not be a cause of concern to the Council.

A related question was also raised about how FAO would maintain its dialogue with other organizations in the United Nations system on the system of medium-term planning. Here again, there is an established procedure among the Organizations to circulate their Programmes of Work and Budget. As our Programme of Work and Budget will include sections of Medium-Term Objectives, this provides all the opportunities required for consultation. In addition, under the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the ACC, there is a consultative committee on substantive questions of programme matters, and this committee carries out in-depth reviews, cross-organizational programme analyses, by sector, not only for the biennium but also for the Medium-Term. I believe that this established practice which we follow with our sister organizations should satisfy the requirements of the Council.

The Delegate of Norway referred to, for example, the "narrative" of the Medium-Term Objectives incorporated in the narrative of a programme on natural resources, and reminded us that of course the tables which would normally go in this narrative have not been reproduced in the document. I would like to reassure the Council that the narrative excluded the tables for reasons of economy only, and the Council's decision on the tables it precisely wants in each narrative will of course be included in the final document.

The Delegate of Canada finally raised the question of the table of personnel statistics on page 46 of document CL 82/11, and he asked for a breakdown of temporary contracts of less than 12 months. This breakdown is given in the preceding table on page 45, but if he should require any further information of course we should be happy to provide that to him.

I hope I have dealt with all the questions, and I am at your disposal.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much, Mr. Shah. I would like to compliment you on the clarity of your explanations. Shall we then adopt the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committee in connection with the Medium-Term Objectives, and any other points raised by Members.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I merely wish to voice that my delegation has not stated that the Director-General would lose sight of medium-term objectives of the Organization -not at all. What we were rather concerned about is, if this document does not exist any longer as a separate document, how FAO would present its medium-term objective within the context of the UN family. But we need not pursue this and perhaps I can get an answer eventually.

C.R.BENJAMIN (United States of America): I really was not prepared to say anything but now that I have the floor I might reiterate that I do not think it would be a bad idea still to have some Council reaffirmation of the principle of medium-term planning in our report.

CHAIRMAN: I think everyone will concur with the United States Delegate and I hope the Drafting Committee will take note of it, with the whole exercise of medium-term objectives, and Mr. Shah has reassured us that the Director-General will not in any way dilute efforts. After all, the current objectives will have to be in terms of medium-term objectives, it is a presentational matter. So with this I thank all the Council members. We thank the Programme and Finance Committees for going into this in great detail in two meetings and giving us their recommendations in such specific terms. I also thank Mr. West and his colleagues and all those responsible for preparing such valuable material.

15. Reports of the Forty-second and Forty-third Sessions of the Programme Committee, and Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Finance Committee
15. Rapports des quarante-deuxième et quarante-troisième sessions du Comité du programme, et des quarante-neuvième et cinquantième sessions du Comité financier
15. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 42° y 43° del Comité del Programa, y de los periodos de sesiones 49° y 50° del Comité de Finanzas

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): I wish to highlight only the main issues that we considered in addition to those that the Council had already studied. First of all comes the introduction on the review of current FAO programmes which actually occupies most of both our reports from the 42nd and 43rd session. I think it is quite natural, and it has always happened, that a newly-elected programme committee, a couple of months after the Conference spends some time to clarify its own understanding of its mandate and the method to be pursued; and indeed this time we really spent in May a considerable time on that issue. We reached a general agreement that the basic thrust of our review of current programmes should be on FAO methods of work and approaches, making sure to what extent FAO methods are in compliance with the priorities and objectives approved by the Conference.

However, as a secondary objective, at least, we also agree that the Committee would go into allocations of certain programmes and sub-programmes and whenever the Committee is in full unanimity, we then express our view which would be basically addressed to the Director-General but also to the Council, with regard to allocations in the future. Of course we also agree - I have always felt it was the most natural procedure - that whenever a member of the Committee felt strongly about allocations, this should be recorded in our report. Of course we agreed on the language, and how to do it. We also discussed a number of general points, especially adequacy of information. We agreed that all basic information was available, performance, support and review of programmes. Issues were raised for example with regard to the adequacy of information on regional offices, then field support programme management and so on; but these were actually the main issues.

You will find our comments in the report of the Programme Committee from our 32nd session. I could not go into any details, of course. We considered a number of programmes. I might only add a word of my personal satisfaction; and I really am very much satisfied that the Programme Committee members expressed a very keen interest in programme reviewing, as never before, at least as far as I am able to remember. We were struggling for time; we usually extended our scheduled work for one hour to complete our debate. Literally speaking thousands of questions were raised, additional information sought and we had a very detailed debate indeed on all programmes and sub-programmes.

I am equally pleased to say that some programmes that had not received enough attention in the past, this time received full attention. I am referring in particular to the library and I also wish to refer to the documentation and publication programme.

One final phrase: in May we considered the core technical programme of FAO, that means natural resources, crops, livestock, research support and rural development. At our last session we studied Conference and Council services, policy direction and planning, inter-agency affairs, liaison and protocol, library, documentation systems and publications.

May I draw the attention of the Council to one fact only: on page two of our last report from our September session there is a list of items to be covered by the next performance report. Perhaps the Council may wish to make certain comments on it.

On separate issues, I do not think I need to introduce the World Conference on Fisheries Management. I realize that Mr. Carroz will cover that point together with other information he will then provide to the Council. If necessary in the course of the debate, I might be asked to explain the position of the Programme Committee. We generally supported the proposal of the Director-General to postpone the technical and the political phases of the Conference so as to make sufficient time for very careful consultations and preparations for the Conference.

On the issue of the use of consultants 1980—81 you will find references in paragraphs 1.65 — 1.73 and also information in appendix A to our programme, because we felt the documents were prepared for the committees, so we asked the Secretariat to reproduce the substantive parts of documents so as to make clear to the Council on what basis we work. We very much agreed with the document; we especially welcomed the work of the Interdepartmental Working Group on use of consultants and short-term personnel services. We were in agreement with the new categories and new definitions of experts and we specially underlined and we actually concentrated on the expertise from various parts of the world. We found that further progress had been made with regard to the experts from developing countries as well as national institutions. I shall not make a reference to the figures, but we also, while commending the Director-General for the progress made, very much want to encourage him to pursue vigorously the same line in the future.

We expressed some concern with regard to the imbalance between different groups of countries and we felt that gradually in the future a much more proper balance should be established. We once more reiterated our preference for the positive discrimination principle and I need not go into it because the Council took a very clear cut decision on this principle some two years ago.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to add my word of appreciation to the members of the Programme Committee, since I was present part of the time: they went with great thoroughness into all the items put before them.

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 82/PV/13

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

13ª SESION PLENARIA

(30 November 1982)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13 sesión plenaria a las 14.35 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION – RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS – INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)
15. Reports of the Forty-second and Forty-third Sessions of the Programme Committee, and Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued) in particular:
15. Rapports des quarante-deuxième et quarante-troisième sessions du Comité du programme, et des quarante-neuvième et cinquantième sessions du Comité financier (suite) en particulier:
15. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 42 y 43 del Comité del Programa, y de los períodos de sesiones 49 y 50 del Comité de Finanzas (continuación) en particular :
- Personnel Matters (continued)
 - Questions de personnel (suite)
 - Cuestiones de personal (continuación)
 - World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development (continued)
 - Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches (suite)
 - Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros (continuación)
 - Use of Consultants 1980-81 (continued)
 - Emploi de consultants en 1980-81 (suite)
 - Empleo de consultores en 1980-81 (continuación)
 - Import Licenses for Equipment for Official Use (continued)
 - Licences d'importation de matériel et fournitures à usage officiel (suite)
 - Licencias de importación de equipo para uso oficial (continuación)

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): To begin with I should like to draw the attention of the Council to the two Reports of the Finance Committee which I shall be constantly referring to during the course of my introduction as well as later on when the substantive items come up for discussion in the agenda. The document CL 82/4 refers to the Forty-ninth Session of the Finance Committee held in the spring of 1982. Document CL 82/11 refers to the Fiftieth Session of the Finance Committee, held in the autumn of 1982. The table of contents appearing on page (i) of document CL 82/4 and page (iii) in CL 82/11 gives the order in which the items were dealt with. You will notice that they conform to the same pattern in both sessions, we have taken the budgetary matters first, financial matters, personnel matters, organizational matters, and other matters for information. Under each category the subjects dealt with are also listed, those matters which are for discussion and/or for decision by the Council are shown separately in a caged page. Your attention is drawn to these items particularly.

Since our reports embody our views, recommendations and decisions on these important issues at this point I should like to refer to a few of them briefly, even though some of them are listed as separate items on your agenda. When we refer to the financial position of the Organization we are basically talking about contribution matters, the cash position of FAO, the present level of contributions achieved on the current year of assessment and of the possible consequences to the Organization resulting in delayed payments of contributions. Since this item will be dealt with when we take up item 13.1 I will be presenting to you the Committee's views and recommendations at that stage.

At the Forty-ninth Session we reviewed the financial position of the Separation Payment Scheme Fund as at January 1981, together with the report on it by the actuary. In order to meet the Organization's liabilities under this scheme for staff paid under Regular Programme and under Extra-Budgetary Funds the Committee has made specific recommendations. These appear in paragraph 37 of our Report in document CL 82/4.

During our Fiftieth Session on the financial matters we considered the audited accounts for the Regular Programme for 1980/81, UNDP 1981, and World Food Programme 1981, along with the External Auditors, report on these. Our notes appear in the relevant paragraph 2.36 to 2.53 of our Report. Since this item appears separately under the Council's agenda item 13.2 I shall be presenting to you our recommendations on these audit reports when that item is taken.

Under Personnel Matters at our Forty-ninth Session we were informed of changes necessary in the payment of dependency allowances between salary surveys in accordance with the International Civil Service Commission's recommendations. We were also informed of adjustments necessary in the rates of allowances for dependent children of staff in the general services and related categories with effect from the 1st July 1982. Since these changes involve substantial cost increases for 1982 in the payment of these allowances under the Regular Programme and support Costs, the Council's attention is drawn to paragraphs 48 and 50 of our Report of the Forty-ninth Session.

At the Fiftieth Session we were informed of certain changes in salaries and allowances for staff in the professional and higher categories. We were also informed of the approval by the United Nations General Assembly at the Thirty-Fifth Session of a dual system of pensionable remuneration for staff in these categories which have been recommended by the International Civil Service Commission. I am getting on to technical matters but I hope you will forgive me, as this is inevitable in discussing

this item. Since a distinction was made between pensionable remunerations for benefit purposes which is presently adjusted on the basis of the US Consumer Price Index and a pensionable remuneration for contribution purposes which should continue to be adjusted on the basis of the weighted average of post adjustments, in the calculation of separation payments which is now being adjusted only on the weighted average post adjustments and not of movements of the Consumer Price Index, changes in the FAO Staff Regulations to provide for using gross salary adjusted by movements of the weighted average of price adjustments, less staff assessment, for calculating separation payments would become necessary. The approval of the Council to change staff regulations 301.155 and 301.162 and authorize the Director-General to amend staff regulations to give effect to these changes in salaries and allowances, therefore, is necessary.

In this connexion I wish to draw the attention of the Council to paragraphs 2.51 and 2.63 of our Fiftieth Report.

In regard to the General Service Category II, the International Civil Service Commission has made certain recommendations on the methodology for between survey adjustments at headquarters duty stations. These are referred to in paragraph 2.64, 2.68 in our Fiftieth Report.

Since the item on personnel matters is listed separately in the Council agenda under item 15, I shall be drawing your attention to the relevant decisions at the appropriate time.

Under Organizational Matters we reviewed eight Joint Inspection Unit Reports presented to us at the last two sessions and since we have already dealt with this item last Friday I will not dwell on it.

Also on Organizational Matters, at both sessions of our Committee we discussed and reported at length the present situation regarding Headquarters Accommodation or rather the inadequacy of facilities in order to cope satisfactorily with the demands made on the FAO and also in having to operate in two places, thereby incurring additional expenditure. Since most Council Members are conversant with the problem, I will not go into details at this stage. I shall only say that the situation remains unchanged. The Committee's views appear in the paragraph that follows this item in the Report. In view of the delays encountered we are making certain specific recommendations and these will be discussed when we take up item 14. At that stage the Secretariat will also report to you the latest position regarding the negotiations with the host government on this matter. I might add, however, that our concern on this matter took a serious turn in view of another development. I refer to the litigation with the landlords of Building F. Since this subject is being dealt with separately under item 18 when we take up the Report of the CCLM I will be referring to the possible financial implications of an unfavourable court decision at that stage.

Under Other Matters, during both sessions we were verbally informed of delays and refusals in obtaining duty free import licences for equipment and materials which the FAO had been regularly importing for official purposes. The Director-General also referred to these rather annoying and irritating instances which amount to a violation of certain articles which are in the agreement. The Committee felt that any increases in expenditure arising unnecessarily as a result of such developments would have to be reported to the Council immediately. The Council would be provided with more information on this matter, particularly in regard to the recent discussions that FAO has had with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representative of Italy when this subject is taken up under item 15.

Under the heading 'Matters of Information' I wish to draw attention to two items which are of considerable importance, namely our consideration of a report submitted to us on duty travel in the 1980/81 biennium and the report on the use of consultants in 1980/81. Your attention is drawn to paragraphs 2.4 - 2.7 and paragraphs 2.10 - 2.12 of our report of the 50th Session.

At the 42nd and 46th Sessions of the Finance Committee the Committee considered the report on duty travel for the biennia 1976/77 and 1978/79. Since they provided useful information the Committee had requested the Director-General to submit at regular intervals similar reports on duty travel relating to costs incurred by the various branches and to analyse the frequency of travel. It is well known that air travel costs have risen tremendously over the years. Therefore the need to keep travel under control becomes more important.

We noted that most of the travel had been undertaken by departments entrusted with the programmes of development. The Department of Agriculture has taken up almost 50 percent of the total amount of travel costs. The bulk of the trips under the regular programmes have been undertaken by P4s and P5s. We should also notice that the key activities each year could change and in the 1980/81 biennium the highest expenditure on travel has been for animal disease control.

The Committee was also informed of the recent arrangements made with the travel agencies which have resulted in the Organization making savings through reimbursements made by the travel agency in the volume of travel involved. We were informed that this had resulted in FAO increasing savings from \$517 000 in 1980 to \$978 000 in 1981. Incidentally I may mention that an inspector from the Joint Inspection Unit had mentioned that FAO was the only organization which had this kind of arrangement. Any savings from travel will be credited to miscellaneous income and this would ultimately go to the Member Nations. The present savings constitute around 7 percent of the Working Capital Fund.

On the use of consultants by FAO, since we have a separate item I shall not be discussing this item at this stage.

In conclusion I would like to say that in presenting this introduction to the two reports of our Committee I have tried to be as brief as possible. Since we will be taking up some of the more important items this afternoon in items 13, 14 and 15, more information will be provided at that stage.

Before I conclude I wish to state that my Committee had the fullest cooperation in our work from the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the Directors and from all the senior and secretarial staff during our sessions. The Director-General addressed us on two occasions at the Joint Sessions of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee when very important subjects such as contribution matters or headquarters accommodation issues were discussed. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme and his staff were very cooperative and patient with us during the session on the World Food Programme work, particularly in discussing the external auditors' reports and supplementary budgetary estimates for 1982/83.

Mr. Chairman, you yourself, by attending our sessions when important issues were being discussed, lent us valuable guidance and assistance drawing on your own experience in these matters. On behalf of the Committee I wish to express our deep appreciation. We look forward to working in the future sessions of our Committee with equal dedication.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for this very lucid and succinct report on a number of complicated issues which you presented with a great deal of clarity. We are grateful to you and members of your Committee.

A. DOUEDARI (Syria) (original language Arabic): I apologize if I repeat something which has already been said. This is due to the fact that I was not present at all the sessions because I have been called out. I did so much wish to be able to be here so that I could benefit from the experience and ideas of all the other members.

I would like to say briefly that the Syrian delegation is very satisfied with the report on the World Food Programme. I would like to thank Dr. Ingram and congratulate him on the very successful work he has been carrying out, particularly over the few years that he has been working with it. We are sure that the World Food Programme will continue to expand its activities despite the problems that it is facing primarily due to the lack of financial resources.

I have noted the document of the CFA and we would approve all the recommendations in it. We also support the proposal of the Director-General aiming at reconsidering the concept of food security. We would particularly like to render homage to the Director-General for the great efforts he is making in this field.

We would also like to express our support for paragraph 16 of this report in which it is stated that one-third of the commitments should be made in cash for the IEFR. My country has a particular interest in the World Food Day and we would like to congratulate FAO for the work that it has done in this regard. It has been able to make world opinion more aware of the problems of hunger and malnutrition and its effects throughout the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to associate myself with what has been said by all the other delegates in regard to the recommendations of the Finance and Programme Committees as well as to give our support to the medium-term-objectives as presented by the Finance and Programme Committees. I also agree on the insertion of the document on medium-term-objectives in the report of the two committees in order to avoid duplication and make savings.

I pay tribute to the two committees for their efforts and reserve the right to discuss other items of the agenda later.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): According to the decisions finally reached in the Council as regards the agenda, with your permission, Sir, I am going to make a general statement on the report of the Programme Committee now under discussion.

My delegation reserves the right to intervene again on the different points included in this item if it thinks it is necessary.

My delegation would like at the outset to express its position regarding the present organization

of the work of the Programme and Finance committees. We believe that the existing four-year cycle of reviews as established by Rule XXVI 7 (a) (ii) of the General Rules of the Organization is less than fully satisfactory, and that there is room for improvement in this important activity. In fact my delegation would like to see more time of the non-Conference year session of the Council which is usually held in the autumn of the even years being devoted to a more comprehensive and better review of the Programme of Work and Budget. The autumn session of the even years, like the one we are presently holding, should allow more time to discuss and review the performance of our Organization according to the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the previous Conference. If we analyse our agenda we will see that out of 19 working meetings only one of them is scheduled for a proper discussion of the Programme. Except for a few items, like ones dealing with the world food and agriculture situation, the World Food Programme, world food security and forestry, substantial subject matters are not presented in such a way as to occupy the relevant part of our time. JIU reports and sundry matters of form, not of substance, like the format of documents, the question of unscheduled and cancelled meetings, World Food Day activities, legal matters, important as they may be to the functioning of FAO, if taken individually seem to demand a disproportionate space in our agenda, and may take an undue amount of time. My delegation believes that the presentation of the agenda itself should be such as to follow the general priorities recommended in the Programme of Work and Budget. In the present arrangement, under which the Programme and Finance Committees are now working members of the Council, they will hardly have the opportunity to read reports or discuss the implementation of the so-called major programmes, not to speak of the other programmes, approved by the previous conference before the new Programme of Work and Budget comes up for consideration and decision. My delegation believes that a number of distortions could be avoided, and a better allocation of resources accorded to the approved priorities could be established, if the Council had a fuller opportunity to follow the implementation of the programme previously approved. My delegation is ready to consider any proposal on this matter. We are willing to take part in any discussion which would aim at redefining the present rules so that the Council may have an adequate opportunity to renew the approved Programme of Work and Budget before taking up the new one.

Coming to the documents containing the Programme and Finance Committee reports that we must examine in this session, we see some interesting features. I will limit my remarks to the reports of the Programme Committee, of which I am a member. In the report of the spring session we see a curious thing. According to the traditional summary presented in the first or second page of the document there are no matters requiring decision, nor even discussion, by this Council. Yet the Committee reviewed the programmes concerning natural resources, crops, livestock, research and rural development, the very essence of the agricultural effort undertaken by FAO in the developing countries. Are we all happy with the way that these programmes were conceived and are now being implemented? Is everything perfect in such crucial areas as these mentioned? Have all the members of the Programme Committee expressed their full satisfaction with these programmes? I doubt it, Mr. Chairman. But let us go to the next report, the report of the autumn session of the Programme Committee. What are the matters set out for discussion or decision by this Council? Except for the establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific we are invited to decide on the question of the format of documentation, the question of duties for the Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. One might wonder whether the Member Nations are really taking this Organization as seriously as they should. My delegation is not arguing that we should shun our duties and not take the decisions that are required from us. But is that all, Mr. Chairman? Do we not have any substantial theme for the Programme to discuss, to try to improve, to change, to suppress?

With your permission I will make a few comments on some of the Programme matters included in both the reports of the Programme Committee, even though we are told that in one of them there is no matter requiring discussion.

Brazil being a member of the Programme Committee, I can tell you that there are matters for discussion. There was even a lively discussion in the Committee even though it was decided that the report would make no mention of such discussions, though discussions were centred on the question of allocation of resources to the different programmes, even though there was no question, of course, of revising the budget. A number of delegations, including my own, expressed concern at the unsatisfactory level of resources allocated to some technical and economic programmes, like natural resources, crops, livestock and others. When compared to certain other programmes which do not contribute directly to increases in agricultural production nor to improvements in agricultural productivity, such deviations from the approved priorities become even more apparent and are therefore even less acceptable. We, the Members of the Council, and as Members of this Organization in general, know we are not perfect. Therefore, we are likely to take decisions sometimes which may be improved later on or which should be subject to revision on a next occasion. A number of factors may contribute to that effect. We become conscious of them when we recall the busy and exciting days of the regular Conference. We may not have access to all the facts either because of lack of time, because they require a great amount of reading to be understood, or simply because the information was not easily available.

Our Programme of Work and Budget is a 300-page book stuffed with figures and tables. It requires careful reading in order to enable a delegate to perceive all its implications to analyse and compare programmes not only on a cost-benefit basis but from the viewpoint of the main objectives and priorities of the Organization. Very often enough time is not available. Not all countries can afford an expert programme analyst in their delegations, and above all, in practical terms it is almost impossible for a group of interested delegations to prepare and submit any substantial proposal which might imply any change in the Programme of Work and Budget.

In the opinion of my delegation, this situation increases the practical responsibilities of the Council. We believe that the Council should take advantage of the non-Conference year session in order to go back in a deeper and more extensive way to the Programme of Work and Budget. This effort will certainly be favoured by the absence of time pressure in the discussion differently from what happens during the Conference. We believe that the Organization as such has only to gain from this constant checking of the approved programme against the different stages of its implementation. This method might also facilitate a closer following of the changing reality of the developing countries in the agricultural sector. It may eventually allow a better analysis of the support that FAO is bringing them. It is in this spirit and in order to illustrate some of the remarks just made that my delegation will offer in connexion with the reports under consideration a brief analysis of the programme of work which is being implemented in the present biennium.

Let us first take a look at the original document, CL 82/3. This is the basic document containing the Programme of Work and Budget for the present biennium. In paragraph 5.4 of the explanatory notes, we see a diagram which represents the distribution of resources among the different chapters. According to this diagram, 44.7 percent of the budget is distributed to the technical and economic programmes, while 55.3 percent of it is distributed to the remaining chapters. A first look at this distribution could dispel our fears as to a reasonable allocation of resources in the regular budget, but a deeper and more careful inspection of the document is more likely to show us that this distribution can be improved in many ways. If we utilize the approved priorities as a yardstick to evaluate the allocation of resources in the budget, we may discover some disturbing deviations. They should deserve the attention of this body so that in a constructive way this Council may help the Director-General with suggestions and recommendations in the drafting of the next Programme of Work and Budget. It may also help enlighten the Member states for its discussion.

It is the view of my delegation that too much time is taken during the Conference by the discussion of the level of the budget so that too little time is left for the analysis of the structure of the budget itself, and little or no time in practice remains for any meaningful proposal to redistribute resources from one programme to another, from one chapter to another.

The case of the programmes that require our attention in this Session of the Council could be illustrative. I refer to the basic programmes which were reviewed at the spring session of the Programme Committee, namely natural resources, crops, livestock, research support and rural development. If we compare each one of these fundamental agricultural programmes to the programme called General Policy and Direction, we will see that each one of them is allocated much less resources than General Policy and Direction. In fact, the allocation for natural resources is half the allocation distributed to General Policy and Direction. Crops is barely two-thirds, livestock is a little more than one-third, not to speak of research support, which receives only one-sixth of the amount distributed to General Policy and Direction.

I am not going to deal with other so-called major programmes like fisheries and forestry. The allocation for fisheries is only three-fourths of that of General Policy and Direction. The one for the whole of forestry is barely half of it. Those programmes might well be called minor programmes. The only really major programme in the budget seems to be the Technical Cooperation Programme, which has the biggest single allocation in the whole document. One might think that the Programme entitled Agriculture gets the biggest allocation, but in fact agriculture is divided into nine programmes, and none of them gets as much money as TCP or General Policy and Direction. The

second biggest single allocation in the programme is for FAO Representatives, and the third is for the programme entitled Support Services Administration. Moreover, if the delegates take the trouble to study carefully the different components of the technical and economic programmes, in particular the ones included in the spring report of the Programme Committee, they will easily see that non-substantial items like food policy, food information and programme management are responsible for a sizeable proportion of the allocation in that chapter. This situation corroborates one's concern that in fact the original document mentioned earlier in my intervention should be redesigned. There are reasons to indicate that the resources allocated to programmes which contribute directly to increase in agricultural production and to improvements in agricultural productivity amount only to about one-third of the budget and non-substantial activities may amount to about two-thirds of the budget. When I say non-substantial activities, I am not saying they are irrelevant, I am saying they should be the object of a very close examination by this Council and by the Director-General in order to try to establish the right balance among the different chapters, keeping in mind the approved priorities as well as the need for the indispensable emphasis on the technical and economic programmes.

My delegation would like to underline that it offers the present remarks in a very constructive spirit. Our comments on the allocation of resources arises out of our deep respect for the tasks

and the responsibilities of the Director-General. My government recognizes the enormous efforts undertaken by FAO under the Director-General's guidance in order to accomplish its duties in the developing world. It is precisely in order to facilitate this task that my delegation would like to propose that in the non-Conference year session of the Council, more of its time should be reserved for a broad general debate on the programme. My delegation believes that such a debate would allow Members of the Council to participate in a more concrete way in the preparation of the new Programme of Work and Budget. The different Committees of the Council like the Forestry Committee, the Agricultural Committee and the Fisheries Committee should study and discuss the technical and economic programmes of the Organization, but at the same time, my delegation believes that it is the constitutional obligation of the Council to take an active part in keeping the Programme of Work and Budget under constant review and in making the recommendations it deems convenient for its permanent adjustment to the approved priorities and, if necessary, for a timely correction of course in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

K. HADDAD (Lebanon): I have listened with interest and some bewilderment to Brazil. I would like to know why he has prompted this far-reaching intervention. We have heard the Chairman of the Programme Committee and have the Committee's report. There was no issue arising from the Programme Committee which has warranted this wide-ranging intervention. We do not need to tax our memories unduly to recall that our Conference and this Council have clearly and vigorously approved the priorities and strategies of the Organization, particularly as they have been identified and pursued since our Sixty-ninth Session in 1976.

Before the debate proceeds any further, I would strongly suggest, Mr. Chairman, that you request the Director-General to offer us his views.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Like you and all Members of the Council trying to follow what Brazil was saying with close attention and noting the motives which have prompted him to put this forward, as he explained them, and the constructive spirit in which he said he was doing it, it seemed to me that essentially his intervention falls into two parts. The first is one of procedures as established by the Basic Texts or by the Council itself, and the other was in essence a preview of the next Programme of Work and Budget, at least the Brazilian delegation's views thereon. They are, however, connected to some extent, as I see it and as I will try to explain.

On procedures, what you have before you is the report of the Programme Committee on its review of some of the programmes in the Programme of Work and Budget. Under the Basic Texts the Programme Committee has from time to time to review the long-term objectives of the organization - not programmes or priorities as such. As part of that, it has for many years now, fifteen at least I think, undertaken a four-year cycle of reviews, taking sections of the Programme of Work and Budget at different sessions over the four-year cycle.

so, inter alia, this means whilst the Programme Committee as an institution goes on, the members change even during that process.

It was established at least ten years ago that these reviews should be mainly for the benefit of the education of the Programme Committee, and subsequently of the Council, in order to see how the programmes were working and what activities were going on, to achieve a better understanding of the technical part of the organization.

The Finance Committee does not perform comparable reviews of those chapters of the Programme of Work and Budget which fall under the Finance Committee, although in the nature of things personnel

and financial matters are constantly before them and come up as separate matters for decision as at these sessions.

The reviews were basically for the education of the Programme Committee, and subsidiarily of the Council. However, about eight or ten years ago the Council decided it was spending too much time in rather pointless discussion of what the Programme Committee had already discussed and that in future it would in fact note the views of the Programme Committee on the programmes, and for several years now the Council has not asked for or wanted to discuss those sections of the Programme Committee Report which have contained their comments following their reviews of the particular programme at that Session. On the contrary, the Council decided that, time being short, it could not spend adequate time on the discussion of programmes at length, but should concentrate only on those matters which required decision. As the delegate of Brazil noted, there was nothing from the first Session which required decision, and those matters from the second Session of the Programme Committee which did require decision "are in fact before you as separate items. You may remember I explained this on the first day when discussing the agenda, that the Council had decided some time ago it only wanted on the agenda those items which were for decision.

There were one or two other procedural points which came up in the intervention we have heard and one or two of them I must say surprised me. It was suggested, for example, that it was a duty of the Council to keep under review the implementation of the current programme. If you examine the Basic Texts I do not think you will find this. The Basic Texts talked at length about the functions of the Council and there is a whole page on the Council's duties in relation to the world food and agricultural situation and related matters, which would of course cover world food security and such matters as the establishment of a Food Security Commission.

In section 2 there is another page, only half of which deals with current and prospective activities of the Organization, but that half page is very specific. It refers to the summary and draft Programme of Work and Budget as submitted by the Director-General for the following financial period, not the current one, but the future one in the form submitted by the Director-General. It also refers to the activities of the Organization in relation to the UNDP, and then it refers to taking any necessary action with respect to the technical activities of the Organization.

May I observe en passant with regard to the technical activities that in one of the interesting commentaries we have just heard there was a reference to the TCP as if it was something separate from agriculture.

As I have observed in the past, what is the TCP unless it is agriculture, forestry and fisheries? It is not something separate. It is classified for budgetary purposes as being separate, but its whole substantive content is direct action in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, or rural development or nutrition. It is directly in response to member governments' own priorities. The demand is made by the government itself in accordance with its perceptions of its immediate requirement. There is no clearer expression of the government's priorities other than the TCP project' It is agriculture in the broad sense.

As I said, there is nothing in the Council's functions under the Constitution which requires it to consider the question of programmes, their implementation in the present biennium, or indeed their shape in the next biennium. The Council is pledged to consider the proposals put to it by the Director-General under his exclusive responsibility for proposing a Programme of Work and Budget, and it should be remembered that he proposes the Programme of Work and not just a budget. Here of course one can sympathise with the distinguished delegate of Brazil - that it is the programmes and not just the budget level which should require attention.

Unfortunately, in the past there has been a great deal of attention on the level as such rather than on the programmes, but this is not an indication that there has been a controversy over programmes and priorities which would have occasioned concern by the Council, so that it would have to contemplate changing the Constitution, or changing its previous decision on procedure.

I could quote to you from various decisions taken by the Council and its subsidiary bodies with regard to the current Programme of Work and Budget. There is no suggestion in them that there is something wrong with them requiring constant attention and review. Of course, nothing is perfect and things can be changed and circumstances change them, and when this happens the Director-General comes to you with proposals for programmes for budgetary transfers which appear in the report, but for example the Joint Programme and Finance Committee Session said about the present budget that they fully supported the present strategy and budget proposed and considered they were consistent with the present situation and in accordance with previous policy guidance by the Council and Conference, so the Programme Committee itself was saying "We have had guidance from the Council and Conference and the priorities are in accordance with that."

It was said also that it was generally felt that the organization deserved commendation for its priority programmes, the quality of the service provided to the governments and the economy and efficiency which it had shown in the implementation of activities.

So there is no crisis situation here, or visible situation which would seem to call for a change in the Constitution or adopted procedures. I could go on with quotations from the Council and Conference, but I think I have made my point from the records of the Programme and Finance Committee itself.

Finally, because I would not like to detain you too long, I would point out that the Programme of Work and Budget in its summary form is due to come before you next June, which is the crucial session of the Council. But before then priorities will have been considered by the major Council committees qualified not merely to judge on technical aspects but also on policy aspects. As I think you will find from their terms of reference, they are concerned with policy and not just the technical concept - I am referring to COAG, COFO and COFI.

In addition you will have the report of the Programme Committee itself. At this Session already you have the recommendations of the regional conferences, and there are many statutory bodies which are also reporting, and of course there are many individual views expressed directly to the Director-General in meetings with him. So I do not think it can be suggested there is a lack of guidance to the Director-General in the preparatory and pre-formulation stages of the Programme of Work and Budget.

This is all I should say at this point, although if some other points should arise, I hope you will again give me the occasion to speak.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: My attention has been attracted by one sentence, that the Council should check the approved Programme of Work to see whether there was deviation in the allocations. If the Council wants to perform such a duty, as the distinguished delegate of Brazil suggested, it must do so during this Session.

This means that the Director-General must provide the Council with a report - another document - on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget during 1982.

The Conference has reserved this right for itself. It has requested me to prepare a document on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83 as well as on the implementation of the field programme both of which will be considered by the Conference.

So as the Deputy Director-General has said, there is nothing in the Basic Texts which asks the Council to check whether there is a deviation in the allocations made in the Programme of Work and Budget.

My understanding, subject to correction, is that once the Conference has approved the Programme of Work and Budget then it is up to the Director-General and his staff to implement it and take the responsibility. We can provide information at any time on progress.

I wish also to make another remark about the agenda. The agenda for this Council is extremely important. We have constitutional and legal matters which relate to the future of this Organization. We have also the recommendations of the regional conferences, which have an impact on the details of agricultural programmes all together. We have also the creation of the Regional Commission for Food Security in the Far East which starts its work next year, and we need the Council's approval.

We have also to keep under review the world food situation which to my understanding is one of the major responsibilities of this Body.

CHAIRMAN: I thank both the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General for their additional clarifications and information.

S.S.BALANZINO (Italy): At this stage I have a point of clarification. There are some items which are referred to in the Finance Committee report which bring my government to the forefront. What I would like to know is whether the Chairman of the Finance Committee will touch upon the items in detail later on, or whether his intervention at the beginning has been exhaustive.

CHAIRMAN: We will come to this specific issue later. We are now on item 15, and you are thinking of items 13 and 14, on which there will be some introduction later.

N. KISHORE (India): About personnel matters, my delegation has noted that the United Nations General Assembly has yet to approve the recommendations of the ICSC. By the end of this Council Session the approval of the General Assembly may not be available. As the changes are proposed to be made from 1 January 1983, and as the next Session of the Council will be held in the middle of 1983, my delegation feels that it would be appropriate to authorize the Director-General of FAO to amend the staff regulations, to give effect to the changes in salaries and allowances as approved for the United Nations by the General Assembly.

It would also be in the fitness of things to authorize the Director-General to use his discretion in the applications of the changes in salaries and allowances approved by the United Nations General Assembly. The Director-General may, however, report the reasons for not implementing certain recommendations to the next sessions of the Finance Committee and the Council.

My delegation supports the proposal that the Director-General be authorized to amend staff regulations to give effect to the changes in the salaries and allowances approved for the United Nations by the General Assembly.

As regards the World Conference on Fishery Management and Development, my delegation fully supports the organization of the Conference. My delegation feels it would be in the fitness of things if the technical phase of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development takes place in May 1983, and the session of the Committee on Fisheries takes place in October of 1983. This will give 4 to 5 months to FAO to prepare the report and circulate it to members of Governments who would be able to have adequate time for making further suggestions for the consideration of the Committee on Fisheries.

My delegation also supports the proposal that the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development should be open to all the members of the FAO or of the United Nations or its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As regards the use of consultants, my delegation shares the concern of the Programme and Finance Committees over the excessive concentration of recruitment of consultants from a limited number of countries. My delegation supports the suggestion of the Programme Committee to have a policy of positive discrimination in favour of equally qualified applicants from developing countries and the use of more local consultants in order to reach a more balanced distribution. We also support the suggestion that FAO country representatives, regional offices and permanent representatives of governments to FAO should be instrumental in putting forward more names of suitable consultants and institutions for inclusion in the FAO roster,

A.H.EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My delegation has taken the floor this morning in connexion with document CL 82/4. We shall now confine ourselves to document CL 82/3 and we wish to congratulate the Secretariat for its excellent preparation and presentation of this document. We welcome FAO activities aiming at preparing an integrated system of food crops and encouraging the use of organic fertilizers. We have benefitted from the Organization's experience in the employment of energy and also from the experience of two friendly countries, India and China, as well as technical assistance in the use of the remote sensing system for land census and classification. We attach great importance to FAO's Programme on crops and other sub-programmes, particularly that on selected seeds.

We also wish the implementation of the proposed regional project for improvement of food crops productivity which is at the basis for achieving food security. I also wish to pay tribute to the economic and social effects of the regional olive production project and its effect on the population in certain hit areas.

We also welcome the Organization's efforts for improving the situation of the rural population through income increase and employment by encouraging them to raise the silkworm. We also support all the campaigns for desert locust control which have their effects on all countries which could have been victims of infestations.

We also welcome the priority given to emergency programmes for controlling animal disease and the intensification of efforts for regional cooperation in the area of animal health and thus limiting the spreading of animal diseases. My country wishes to thank the Organization for its immediate response when we were threatened with rinderpest disease in some parts of the country. We also wish to express our satisfaction in connexion with research programmes in developing countries and providing training to the citizens of those countries in the area of implementation of research and management of research.

We also welcome any system of coordination between research institutions, be it regional or sub-regional. I wish to point out the importance of both AGRIS and CARIS, considering that my country is among those who benefit most from these two programmes. We also wish to inform the Council that, convinced of people's participation in rural development, we have set up a special ministry

that concentrates on this effort and we are mobilizing all national efforts for agricultural development; and we have set up banks that will be financing national projects in this area. Also, there must be credit available in order to satisfy the requirements of rural development.

My delegation wishes to express its interest in rural development and particularly within the area of follow-up of WCARRD, particularly in the area of education and training, for their effective results on rural development. Moreover, there must be a broad public information system for the rural area. We wish to pay tribute to the Organizations Technical Cooperation Programme for it can always solve immediate problems in the area of food and agriculture. We wish to congratulate the Director-General for his continued efforts in supporting this Programme.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): At this juncture of our debate we wish to refer to only two points. First, personnel matters. With regard to the issue relating to personnel matters and the staff regulations, we agree with the position adopted by the Finance Committee. In particular, my delegation has no objections to the new financial regulation for the Separation Payments Scheme Fund as recommended on the basis of an actuarial review. Under this scheme established on 1 January 1975 separation payments are granted to the General Service staff leaving the Organization.

Paragraph 35 and following of the report of the 49th Session of the Finance Committee outline this issue. My Government assumes that separation payments equivalent to one month's salary for each year of completed service are also granted by private enterprises in Rome paying the best salaries, as the principle, that the basis of salary of the General Service is the locally best possible employment conditions-, must also apply to the separation regulations.

The suggested criteria for the adjustment of the dependency allowances for the General Service between salary surveys as mentioned in paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Finance Committee's report before us, can be supported by my delegation. The same applies to the new rates suggested as from 1 January 1982 for the dependency allowances spelled out in paragraph 47.

My delegation wishes to reiterate in this connexion the position that the regular submission of updated and complete information on the staff situation, in particular on the established and/or the actual filled posts, is to the interest of all member states of the Organization.

My second point concerns the reviews of programmes carried out by the Programme Committee and set out in document CL 82/3 and CL 82/11. We wish to thank the members of the Committee for its thorough review. We will take their findings into consideration when we study the next Programme of Work and Budget and when we review the current Programme of Work and Budget at the 22nd Conference.

As regards the reviewing of the current Programme of Work and Budget, we wish to voice again that we would consider it convenient if this were done previously to the discussion of the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget; that is to say, we would prefer at the Conference that, first, the current Programme of Work and Budget be reviewed before we discuss the forthcoming one.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): La delegación del Ecuador cree que la exposición del Brasil debe ser debidamente aquilatada en su aspecto constructivo. Mucho me temo que por una reacción instintiva de los mecanismos de defensa propia equivocadamente, aunque de buena fé, se conduzcan las cosas hacia un derrotero inapropiado; si se valora en términos constructivos la intervención del delegado brasileño no tiene porqué tomarse su postura como una crítica contra nadie en particular; en especial deseo referirme a los funcionarios de la Organización, pues parece que así lo han tomado y creo que esto es erróneo, más bien debe entenderse esta exposición como una crítica constructiva al propio Consejo antes que a los funcionarios, pues en casi todas las organizaciones públicas y privadas actuales en el mundo los Consejos o directorios se limitan simplemente a aprobar lo elaborado por los ejecutivos y los técnicos de la organización respectiva, de tal forma que esta labor directora termina limitándose a degustar lo que está preparado; en la práctica incluso puede ocurrir que mejor sea así antes que los directorios pretendan sumergirse en un mar para el que no tienen los pulmones necesarios; pero ningún extremo es bueno, de modo que pueda devenir algo nocivo dejar casi todo librado al buen criterio de los técnicos y ejecutivos por muy capaces y brillantes que sean.

En tal virtud, la delegación del Ecuador apoya la propuesta concreta del delegado del Brasil en el sentido de que el Consejo trate preferentemente en su agenda en la reunión previa a la Conferencia los asuntos relacionados con los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, los cuales evidentemente son los medulares de la Organización.

La delegación del Ecuador está firmemente convencida de que con una resolución de este tipo haremos un gran bien a la FAO, a la Conferencia, al Consejo, a sus técnicos y funcionarios; creemos que esta es una oportunidad que no se debe dejar pasar.

A.R. TANGO, Jr. (Philippines) : Allow me first to state that I will be neither long nor controversial for a change! Since I missed congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election last November, allow me to compliment you on your adroit handling of the Chair, as usual, and to congratulate both the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Abeyagoonasekera, and my old friend, and sometimes adversary, Mr. Trkuija, for his very able handling of the Programme Committee. It seems he will die in that post, the length of time he has been occupying it! Of course, we do not wish you to die, Mr. Trkuija!

Allow me also to compliment the Director-General, Mr. Saouma, for his very excellent statement, which I have been reviewing with particular interest to the outlining of the very critical situation of the Third World in terms of overall economics. I believe with him that there is a need for a global food programme. I believe with him that it is time, in fact, with the Delegate of Brazil, that the Programme Committee does concentrate on some of the suggestions that have been made and on the guidelines set by the Director-General at the beginning of the Conference. It is important to discuss details but I think it is also important to state general directions and guidelines and for the Programme Committee to have, as part of this review, an overall overview of the situation.

My delegation, of course, welcomes also the statement of the Director-General on World Food Security and on the successes of the regional conferences; his meetings with 70 ministers of agriculture cannot be but useful to this body and to the cause of eliminating hunger in the world.

In this age of tight finances we welcome his statement that - well, his desire to collect, and I believe that many of the countries are beginning to pay up - his statement that we will cut expenditures to the extent possible, his desire to sharpen the expenditures and to aim it at the high priority activities which, of course, gives the Council the additional problem of being much more perceptive and much more rigid in terms of keeping this Organization adhering to the priorities established.

In view of the fact my Chairman is also my colleague in IRRI, allow me to take this opportunity, with your permission, to mention that we celebrated World Food Day by celebrating the fusion between science and political will. In the Philippines we celebrated October 16th by having my president,

President Ferdinand Marcos, come to the International Rice Research Institute, both to inform as well as to be briefed on the latest developments in the field of rice technology and science. It is after all symbolic that his visit combined with the scientific accomplishments of this very dedicated band of thirty or forty scientists that had led to Philippine rice production succeeding to the point where, when we used to import 600 000 metric tons, this year we are exporting 300 000 metric tons of rice.

Perhaps a few of you know that our very Chairman present here today is the new Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute and we consider ourselves blessed and fortunate that he accepted this post, the first Asian to head an international agricultural research institute. We are very proud of him, and we really only consider him to be on loan to the FAO.

But research, that remains in laboratories, such as the very competent laboratories of IRRI, is useless unless it is fused with political will, and it is my hope, among others, that the FAO can in fact link up more with the thirty international research institutes supported by the CGIAR and serve as the conduit to bring the technology, the new scientific discoveries, the pest resistant strains, to the research and extension services of the developing countries. It would seem to me that greater emphasis in this direction, which I note in our agenda, is also being taken up by the Council, might be of great interest and certainly would be of great profit to the developing countries. I believe on a world-wide scale that this is one of the most urgent tasks of the FAO, to take this technology, developed at a cost running today at \$130 million, \$150 million a year, to bring to the least developed countries, for them in turn, hopefully, to bring to their own farmers, and other growers and centres of production in their own countries.

A word before I end on the proposed establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific. If I am not mistaken, this is the first of its kind, at least as far as food security is concerned and we, Ministers of Agriculture, meeting in Indonesia last May, agreed that this was indeed a vital priority in the establishment of some modicum of security for the hungry people in Asia.

Since I am leaving tomorrow, I thought, with your permission, that we would voice not only our support but our urgent request that this be approved by the Council and forthwith, as has been outlined here, implemented by the Director-General. We, of course, note a subject that was of some controversy, the welcome by the ESCAP of the creation of such a commission and we note also in the resolution the stated desire of FAO through this commission to establish linkages with ESCAP. We hope that this will lead, not to any further duplication of activities, but to one network that will protect the hungry people in Asia and the Pacific.

It only remains to thank you and the rest of the Council Members. We are coming back into the Council this year, this is our re- maiden speech, and so we thought that we could make a few comments of this nature. We hope to be able to participate even more actively in the activities of this Council and of the Conference.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya) : My delegation generally endorses the views of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee as expressed in these documents. In particular we would like to emphasize the need for a balanced distribution of consultancies between groups of countries and underline the importance of using competent local consultants in those countries where these are available. In this regard I support the use of FAO regional offices and member country permanent representatives based here in Rome in identifying suitable candidates and institutions in specific areas of consultancies. This is important.

Regarding the World Conference on Fisheries Management, I support the views that are expressed in the document but I do not know if I may just go into a little bit of the subject matter, with

your permission. I wish to propose that inland fishery development be given attention. We believe that Africa has a great potential in inland fishery development and discussions on the subject will be very useful to FAO, which is already involved in this work, and to us governments. In addition, I would like to see the subject of fish handling by small fishermen discussed. My delegation believes many activities in these two areas are people's activities and fall within WCARRD's Programme of Action in People's Participation in Development. I have gone into this because paragraph 1.98 shows consultations are going on what will be discussed and I think this is a forum which could also be used for these kinds of consultations and that is why in this spirit I have made these remarks.

T. SATONE (Japan) : Firstly, my delegation would like to state our position on personnel matters. We feel that concerning the situation of altering or increasing staff salaries within the UN system, including FAO, the ICSC should finalize and be consistent to its own policies. This is because of the fact that the ICSC has a specific type of authority, it is delegated to investigate and study personnel matters as a whole within the UN system from a neutral position. Therefore, it is much to our dismay that the ICSC did not adhere this autumn to its original policies and left this matter to be decided by the UN General Assembly. In regard to this matter of increasing the staff salaries within the UN system, we feel that it is not a matter to be decided by the majority at the UN General Assembly and FAO meetings without proper criteria and reliable data. If this matter is decided upon in such a way, then it means deviating from the present established system in which this matter was decided upon by comparison of salaries of Government officials in some countries. The result of this situation will create many problems for the future.

Consequently, we would like to urge the ICSC to reconsider this matter once again and after awaiting the final conclusion of ICSC, we could resume discussion on this matter at such meeting as the FAO Conference. Maintaining this viewpoint, we think that it is inappropriate to discuss staff salary increases at this FAO Council.

In regard to the proposal which was made by the Finance Committee document CL 82/11, to authorize the Director-General in his discretion to immediately apply to the FAO staff any future recommendations of the ICSC approved by the UN General Assembly; we respect the recommendations of the ICSC, however, in view of the fact that the cost of staff salaries shares the main part of the Regular Budget, and alterations in staff salaries is an important matter to be discussed at the Council or FAO Conference. Therefore, we have some difficulty in accepting this proposal that the Council authorize the Director-General in his discretion to apply immediately to the FAO staff any future recommendations of the ICSC approved by the UN General Assembly.

Secondly, I would like to comment on the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

First of all I would like to congratulate Mr. Carroz on his appointment as Secretary-General of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

My delegation greatly appreciates the supreme effort made by the FAO staff in preparation for the Conference as well as other various important meetings.

I would like to stress the point that the utilization of the marine resources is essential to the improvement of nutrition through increased supply of protein consumption.

My delegation is appreciative of the effort that FAO is making in strengthening its role to lead and guide the coastal countries, especially the developing countries, in their further development of fisheries resources.

Furthermore, my delegation is pleased, but also hopes that FAO will take a vital role in promoting at least a reasonable utilization of the fisheries resources in the EEZ through the cooperation of the coastal nations and the fishing nations, on the basis of the principle of rational utilization of fisheries resources which was agreed upon in the Law of the Sea Convention this past April.

Taking into consideration the whole situation, my delegation feels that the taking place of the World Conference at this point in time is rather significant and very important; and we believe that it will give us a very good opportunity to discuss the future development of fisheries as well as the ways and means for a reasonable management of the fisheries resources based on the results of the Law of the Sea Convention.

Finally, my delegation would like to comment briefly on the report of the 42nd Session of the Programme Committee concerning the evaluations and suggestions of FAO's activities in the current biennium.

The report reviews FAO's activities pertaining to the preservation of natural resources, the Biological Nitrogen Fixation, genetic resources conservation, utilization of root crops and vegetables, development of feed resources, research support and rural development.

My delegation would like to appreciate these various fields of activities.

By the way, we are hoping that FAO will look after the harmonious works pertaining to the gathering of information, investigation, research, discussion and recommendation of international measures and other areas concerning food and agriculture as a UN specialized agency qualified to treat such matters.

Recently the Organization is strengthening its tendency towards action-orientation. However, the information on the field activities, funded by the extra-budget, is circulated rather infrequently; except for the material on "The Review of Field Programmes" which is rather brief and not very concrete.

So my delegation is hoping that the Secretariat will consider providing some concrete information more periodically, by which members will be able to understand and easily review the current situation of FAO's field activities within the realm of budgetary allocations given for the distribution of information.

M. I. MAHDI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports what was said by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General. We also support the procedure presently followed by the Council and my delegation objects to any change in the procedure as regards the Council's approach to the priorities and objectives. The Programme Committee has made no recommendation to suggest an amendment in the present situation. The delegation of Saudi Arabia wishes to repeat its expression of trust in the Director-General of FAO. He has spared no effort to ensure that the activities of FAO reflect the aims and the needs of our Organization and the Member Nations.

A.K. KUOL (Sudan): My delegation has closely and keenly followed the statement made by the delegate of Brazil and his remarks on the Organization's programme. My delegation has also followed with interest the self-explanatory statement made by the Deputy Director-General and the precise additional statement by the Director-General himself.

In the light of the above-mentioned, my delegation approves and strongly supports the statements of both the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General on the issue.

My delegation notes that at present there is no necessity that calls for a change in the Programme of the Organization. Therefore my delegation fully endorses the Programme as stated by the Programme Committee.

Finally my delegation would like to renew and reiterate its support and appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat of the Organization for the tolerance and prudence with which they are carrying out their respective tasks, which in the opinion of my delegation is being done in accordance with the Rules and Procedures of the Organization.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): First as a member of the Programme Committee may I with your permission, Mr. Chairman, convey our appreciation to the Chairman of the Programme Committee who in a very articulate manner introduced the subject and conveyed the deliberations of the Programme Committee before the Council. We wish him long life and we assure him that other things being equal we are willing to suffer him for another three or four decades.

We are today looking at two reports of the Programme Committee and a report of the Finance Committee under this item. In the 42nd Session of the Programme Committee this four-year cycle of the Programme review was initiated and it was done under Rule XXVI of the Basic Texts. At that time also there was some discussion regarding the exact contents of the discussion. After some deliberations the Programme Committee decided that what it was conducting was a review of the Programme and that the Programme Committee at that stage was not competent to change any allocations and priorities which had been laid down by the Conference itself. Therefore I now wonder a little why this recognized principle of procedure has been questioned. I will take you to the Basic Texts again, to paragraph 7 (a) (ii) of Rule XXVI, which is very explicit, and with your permission I would quote from that Rule. The Rule requires the Programme Committee as such to do certain things, and 7 (a) (ii) requires that the summary and draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the ensuing biennium, particularly with respect to - and this is worth noting - content and balance of the Programme, having regard to the extent to which it is proposed that existing activities be expanded, reduced in scope or discontinued. It goes on "the extent of coordination work between the different technical divisions of the Organization and between the Organization and other international organizations", which means that during the 40th and 41st Sessions of the Programme Committee while debating the draft Programme of Work and Budget we were supposed to look at the content, priorities and allocation of the Programme. We were not only supposed to do that. I presume that in our limited ability we managed to do that, and we put in a report to the Council which the Council duly approved and all the members of the Council had the requisite time and ability to look at these different priorities and allocations. From there it went to the Conference and again all the members had the desire, the ability and the time, particularly when some of the delegations to the Conference are multi-member delegations, then at the request of the Programme and Finance Committee before them. So as far as I can see, as far as the procedures are concerned, which are laid down now, there is ample opportunity for all Member Nations to look at the priorities, the contents and the allocation of the programmes and it is approved at the level of the Conference with the approval of all Member Nations. I personally would feel terribly embarrassed if after having attended the Conference and approved the Programme of Work and Budget I had to come back and say, "No, I do not know where the contents are, I do not know where the priorities are". The flaw would lie with my delegation and not with the procedures. I feel that we have been going through it all along. Therefore perhaps to answer my Government before they fire me I have to tell them that I have looked at all the Programme of Work and Budget and the priorities, allocations, etc. in the reports of the Programme which came from the Programme Committee to the Council and the Conference. So I feel that all Member Nations, all delegations, have the opportunity, not at one stage but at three stages, to do this. So there is no flaw in the procedure. So we can go along with that.

After I have made these general remarks I want to make only one reference to the issues that we have been discussing under item 15, and this at the cost of repeating myself, because I have brought up the same issue during the Programme Committee, and that is regarding the use of consultants.

We appreciate the efforts being made by the Director-General and FAO in the direction of getting more consultants from developing countries but feel that much more has to be done yet. The consultants from the developing countries are far too limited in number. I was looking in the morning at some of the tables, and just for your curiosity, Mr. Chairman, I saw that there are three countries from which we have 467 consultants, and from the Asian, Near East and African regions - not countries, regions - we have only 331 consultants. This imbalance has to be removed as soon as possible, so we would again urge the Director-General and FAO to use positive discrimination as far as possible but without, of course, losing the efficiency required in going in this direction.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation has carefully studied the reports of the Forty-second and Forty-third Sessions of the Programme Committee and the report of the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Finance Committee and the recommendations made therein. At the outset, I must congratulate the Chairmen and Members of these two Committees for their very hard work and the valuable recommendations made by them.

Regarding personnel matters, my delegation fully agrees with the Finance Committee that the Council authorizes the Director-General to amend the staff regulations to give effect to the changes in the salaries and allowances approved for the United Nations system by the General Assembly.

Regarding the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, my delegation agrees with the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Fiftieth Session of the COFI be re-scheduled from May to October, 1983 and the final policy phase of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development be held in May 1984 and that it should be open to all member states of FAO and of the United Nations.

My delegation also shares the views and endorses the recommendations of the Programme Committee on other subjects and specifically on Public Information, including the new Annual World Food Report, the Information Programme for World Food Day, Documentation and Publication Programme, the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs. My delegation shares the views of the Committee at the excessive concentration

of the appointment of consultants from only a few countries, and with the position that there should be a better distribution of appointment of consultants between the groups without, of course, reducing the quality of the consultants' categories.

In this connexion, I must mention that after going through the reports of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, my delegation is convinced and satisfied that the Director-General is not only trying to implement the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, but is also making untiring efforts and personal initiatives to economize on the costs, improving the means and effectiveness of the Organization and its programmes for the service of the poor of the world by projecting the problems of the world food and agriculture as well as the role of FAO both in the developed and the developing countries. These reports are commendable and should not only be continued but further extended, keeping in view the theme that food comes first.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation voudrait associer sa voix à celle des délégués qui l'ont précédée pour féliciter les deux comités ainsi que leur président qui ne se sont pas départis de leur réputation pour nous présenter des analyses complètes, précises et concises contenues dans les documents soumis à notre examen. Nous voudrions exprimer notre appui aux résultats des travaux des deux comités qui sont présentés dans ces documents.

Ma délégation voudrait vous rappeler que nous sommes partisans de toutes les procédures qui feraient économiser du temps et de l'argent à notre Organisation. Ma délégation est d'avis que le Conseil doit jouer son rôle conformément aux textes fondamentaux et nous sommes heureux que les priorités dégagées dans le Programme de travail de la FAO soient correctement exécutées et nous en sommes gré au Directeur général de notre Organisation. A ce sujet, nous sommes satisfaits du travail qu'effectuent les comités mis en place par le Conseil. Bref notre délégation apprécie la manière dont le Directeur général traduit nos préoccupations et met en oeuvre les priorités dégagées par les instances appropriées de notre Organisation. Nous voudrions profiter de l'examen de ce point de notre ordre du jour pour rappeler que la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, tenue à Alger en septembre-octobre derniers, a approuvé la manière dont la FAO met en oeuvre les priorités telles qu'elles se dégagent du document soumis à notre examen. A cet égard, nous réitérons les préoccupations de cette conférence qui appuie sans réserve le programme de coopération technique et nous demandons que, conformément à la résolution adoptée à Alger, les ressources affectées à ce programme soient accrues lors du prochain biennium, en raison de la facilité de la mise en oeuvre de ce programme ainsi que les services précieux qu'il rend dans tous les domaines couverts par les activités de la FAO, à savoir l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches. Ma délégation approuve la tenue de la conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches en deux phases et je réitère le souci de mon pays de voir débattre, au cours de cette réunion, les problèmes qui concernent la pêche continentale. Pour ce qui concerne l'emploi des consultants nous appuyons sans réserve les recommandations des comités.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Après les interventions des délégués qui m'ont précédé, il ne me reste qu'à développer quelques points. Nous avons écouté attentivement ce qui a été dit et nous voulons appuyer ici entièrement la déclaration du Directeur général adjoint, M. West. En effet, en ce qui concerne la procédure nous partageons le principe et la position prise par certains délégués africains ainsi que par le Pakistan. Avant de terminer je voudrais attirer votre attention sur le fait très important que pour nous le PCT est un programme vital, agricole qui appuie surtout les projets de terrain et les petits agriculteurs, tout au moins dans mon pays. Ce n'est pas un luxe. Nous voulons être clairs sur ce point et désirons souligner ainsi que l'a déclaré l'honorable délégué du Congo que la résolution qui a été adoptée à Alger l'a été par les ministres des pays africains pour ce qui concerne le PCT. Voilà les quelques observations que je voulais faire.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Toujours l'inattendu arrive, a dit un de nos écrivains... et en effet, la délégation française s'était fait inscrire pour parler des pêches et c'est ce qu'elle fera, mais elle avait considéré en même temps qu'il y avait d'autres points à l'intérieur du point 15 sur lesquels elle désirait intervenir. Plutôt que de faire deux interventions on me demande maintenant d'amalgamer ce que je devais dire dans l'une et ce que mes collègues devaient dire dans l'autre. Je suis donc un peu pris au dépourvu et vous savez comment sont les mauvais élèves qui vont devant un professeur, quant on les interroge: ils commencent par ce qu'ils savent le mieux. Vous permettrez donc que je commence par les pêches. Non pas pour pêcher, mais parce que je connais mieux le sujet.

Prenant la parole sur la préparation de cette conférence mondiale sur les pêches, je tiens tout d'abord à remercier vivement le Directeur général ainsi que M. Carroz, et tout le Secrétariat pour nous avoir présenté un nouveau document, le document CL 82/LIM/3 et a répondu à notre demande en nous présentant une synthèse remarquable des vues exprimées au cours des différentes conférences régionales tenues cette année. Ce document nous précise d'abord très clairement les objectifs de la

future conférence dans le cadre de la formulation de stratégies et de programmes permettant une utilisation aussi complète et efficace que possible des ressources de la pêche, à partir de là, notre objectif c'est la contribution apportée par ces produits à l'alimentation et, par suite, à la sécurité alimentaire. Ensuite nous trouvons un objectif indispensable: "Assistance aux pays en développement quant à l'aménagement et à la mise en valeur des pêches elles-mêmes", et, enfin, suite de l'assistance, c'est "Encouragement à la coopération internationale entre pays développés et pays en développement dans ce domaine". Le document qui nous est soumis regroupe ce que j'avais souhaité: six rubriques, six têtes de chapitre, si on préfère, dans lesquels on trouvera les différents sujets qui pourraient être envisagés pour en discuter et tâcher de leur trouver des solutions, sous réserve, bien évidemment, d'une étude plus approfondie. Ces rubriques paraissent correspondre aux objectifs définis et ma délégation espère que la future conférence sera en mesure d'y apporter les réponses adéquates. En tous cas, dès à présent, je puis dire que ce document nous sera fort utile et qu'il constituera une base solide de réflexion et de commentaire pour les entretiens que, du moins nous le souhaitons, et nous l'espérons, le Secrétariat et le Secrétaire général de la conférence en particulier pourra avoir avec notre administration, comme avec toutes celles qu'il estimera devoir rencontrer. Me souvenant de ce qu'on avait fait lors de la conférence sur la réforme agraire, j'ajoute qu'il serait également profitable que les pays qui le désireraient ou avec qui le Secrétaire général de la Conférence ne pourrait s'entretenir puissent adresser à l'OAA dans les prochains mois des commentaires écrits sur les thèmes envisagés de manière qu'au mois de juin prochain lorsque notre Conseil se réunira à nouveau, il puisse être saisi d'un véritable projet de l'ordre du jour. Cependant, malgré tout le bien que nous pensons de ce document nous avons encore quelques observations et quelques questions d'ordre pratique à adresser au Secrétariat. Peut-être et même certainement ne pourra-t-il y répondre en totalité. Mais en tous cas, il pourra nous donner son opinion, nous faire part de ses intentions, de ses idées, au stade actuel, nous fournir une première estimation ou une évaluation, forcément encore générale, des dépenses, La première observation est un conseil de prudence. Il faut éviter, il convient d'éviter, toute interférence avec la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer en ne tentant ni de légiférer, ce qui ne serait pas de notre compétence, ni même d'essayer de définir des sortes de règlements cadres destinés à assurer le contrôle et la surveillance des pêches ou de tenter la mise au point d'un accord à conclure entre un pays ou un autre en vue de l'exploitation des droits de pêche dans les zones économiques exclusives.

Il s'agit là d'un domaine qui relève de la compétence des Etats, un domaine où l'on rencontre des situations très diverses et qu'il serait vain de vouloir traiter de manière uniforme. Mais bien évidemment une telle observation ne signifie pas que la pratique de la pêche doive évoquer l'image d'une jungle où les plus forts écraseraient les plus faibles. Nous savons fort bien que parmi les accords de pêche en vigueur certains, hélas, peuvent être assimilés à ce qu'on a pu appeler des traités inégaux. Au contraire, nous considérons que, dans de telles négociations de même que dans l'exploitation des stocks partagés, il conviendra par exemple d'avoir présent à l'esprit un souci de collaboration et le cas échéant d'assistance aux pays en développement pour qu'ils soient de plus en plus à même de développer leurs ressources.

Ma deuxième remarque concerne l'organisation pratique de la Conférence. Deux phases sont prévues : technique, réunion du Comité des pêches à l'automne 1983; politique, réunion à un niveau élevé (et c'est celle-là que j'appelle, pour simplifier, la Conférence) au printemps et probablement à la fin du printemps 1984, je suppose, mais peut-être le Secrétariat pense-t-il que la première phase, tout en étudiant les différents sujets inscrits à son ordre du jour, est destinée à remplacer ce que nous avons eu pour la Réforme agraire, c'est-à-dire la réunion préparatoire. Quant à la seconde, à caractère politique, elle va travailler à partir des documents qui auront été élaborés dans le premier stade lors du Comité des pêches et sera sans doute amenée pour couronner ses travaux à adopter une déclaration ou un ensemble de principes - peu importe les mots d'ailleurs - qui devront être mis en oeuvre par les Etats dans le domaine des pêches; mais la tâche qui va consister à discuter utilement de tous les sujets sera très vaste et j'aimerais demander si l'on envisage de répartir, lors de la Conférence proprement dite, les sujets entre plusieurs commissions comme on l'a fait lors de la Réforme agraire.

Il y en avait eu alors deux, l'une concernant les problèmes nationaux et l'autre concernant plus spécialement le domaine international et, question annexe, comment et par qui seront examinées les questions relevant des pêches continentales et de l'aquaculture. En effet, les spécialistes de la pêche en mer ne sont pas les spécialistes des pêches continentales.

Durée de la deuxième phase de la Conférence : si j'ai bien trouvé dans un document, le CL 82/21 que le Comité des pêches, première phase, est prévu pour durer 10 jours, en réalité cela ne donnera que huit jours de travail pratique car c'est à cheval sur deux semaines. Nous ignorons tout de ce que peut être la durée de la conférence politique. Enfin, dernière question - et ce n'est pas la moins délicate - à combien faut-il évaluer le coût de la Conférence dans son ensemble ? Je suppose que les dépenses correspondant à la première phase, préparation des documents, déplacements, réunion du Comité des pêches lui-même sont déjà prévues dans le budget en cours qui relève du biennium 82/83 et, pour la Conférence du printemps 1984, disons juin 84 peut-être, il me semble que ce sera le

budget du prochain biennium, celui qui sera fixé par notre Conférence en novembre 1983. A-t-on déjà une idée de ce que cela représentera dans le budget ? Est-ce que cela n'entraînera pas une majoration sensible du budget 84/85 du moins au titre du chapitre qui est consacré à l'organisation des réunions, ce que j'appellerai l'intendance de la FAO pour les réunions internationales ? Avant de conclure sur cette première partie, je souhaiterais rappeler une fois de plus que ma délégation désire que la Communauté économique européenne puisse participer pleinement aux deux phases de la Conférence. Certes, et à moins de modifier les textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, la Communauté n'est pas membre de celle-ci en tant que telle. Cependant, nous pensons qu'il doit être possible de trouver de manière pragmatique des formules qui lui permettront - comme d'ailleurs nous avons eu le plaisir de le constater au cours de la présente session du Conseil - d'intervenir dans les débats en même temps que les Etats et non pas seulement après que toutes les délégations soient intervenues. Vous savez en effet qu'en matière de pêche il existe chez nous une politique commune définie par le Conseil des ministres de la Communauté qui est ensuite suivie, contrôlée et éventuellement expliquée ou défendue par la Commission.

Cela étant dit, je suis obligé de changer de casquette et de passer au deuxième thème de l'intervention, c'est-à-dire aux remarques sur les rapports des 42ème et 43ème sessions du Comité du Programme. Tout d'abord, il faut que je félicite les deux présidents de ces comités qui ont été élu ou réélu tout récemment. En outre, la délégation française se félicite qu'à la demande de la délégation brésilienne l'examen des programmes soit inscrit à l'ordre du jour de la présente session du Conseil en raison même de l'intérêt des observations et des suggestions figurant dans les deux derniers rapports du Comité du Programme. A ce titre, nous nous permettons d'attirer l'attention du Conseil sur certaines suggestions du Comité du Programme qui concernent un certain nombre de points.

Tout d'abord les Bureaux régionaux : nous souhaitons, comme d'ailleurs l'a fait le Comité du Programme, que le prochain "Examen du Programme Ordinaire" donne des informations plus précises sur les activités des bureaux régionaux et en particulier sur la manière dont les crédits alloués à ces différents bureaux régionaux se rattachent aux sous-programmes techniques. En effet, nous avons pu constater que les crédits alloués aux bureaux ne sont pas ventilés entre les sous¹ programmes dans l'annexe 1 du Programme de travail et budget, mais que cette ventilation est faite seulement par programmes techniques. Evidemment, il serait souhaitable de nous fournir à l'avenir cette ventilation par sous-programme pour chaque bureau régional. Quant au soutien du Programme de terrain, je note que le Comité a été informé que, contrairement à ce qui se produit pour les bureaux régionaux, il est impossible de ventiler avec tant soit peu de précision les crédits totaux entre les sous-programmes techniques parce que les ressources extrabudgétaires allouées aux divers sous-programmes sont difficiles à prévoir (c'est une citation tirée du Rapport du Comité). Ce n'est qu'après, par le biais de "l'Examen des Programmes de Terrain", qu'on peut vraiment savoir comment les ressources consacrées au soutien des programmes de terrain se rattachent aux différents sous-programmes. Nous souhaiterions une fois de plus voir figurer dans le prochain "Examen des Programmes de Terrain" la ventilation par sous-programme technique des ressources consacrées au soutien des programmes.

J'espère que ce que nous demandons ne sera pas trop difficile, trop compliqué et n'alourdira pas une fois de plus la tâche du Secrétariat. Je crois qu'il doit être possible d'arriver à quelque chose de concret. Enfin, nous verrons... En ce qui concerne le soutien de la recherche, la délégation française appuie la suggestion du Comité du Programme (paragraphe 77 du CL 82/3) qui estime souhaitable de reconsidérer la présentation de ce programme dans le Programme de travail et budget afin de faciliter les futures délibérations et de donner une image plus complète de l'ensemble des activités exécutées par l'Organisation en matière de la recherche. Quant au choix des thèmes évalués en profondeur dans "l'Examen du Programme Ordinaire", nous avons noté que, durant les futurs cycles d'examen des programmes, le Comité ferait certaines suggestions sur les thèmes à traiter dans "l'Examen du Programme Ordinaire". Nous souscrivons pleinement à cette initiative et tout particulièrement quant au choix des sous-programmes et éléments de programmes qui seront évalués en profondeur lors de "l'Examen du Programme Ordinaire".

Quant aux bureaux de liaison, encore une observation que je suis amené à faire : nous appuyons la suggestion du Comité du Programme selon laquelle on doit envisager à l'avenir de regrouper quelques-uns des services assurés par ces bureaux auprès des différentes institutions des Nations Unies à New York, Genève et Washington, afin de réduire les coûts.

Sur le Service des conférences, la délégation française appuie la proposition du Comité du Programme (paragraphe 15 du document CL 82/11) pour réduire encore le nombre des lettres-circulaires et dire que l'on devrait coordonner les réunions des différentes institutions, notamment celles installées à Rome.

Je voudrais faire encore quelques observations sur des questions que je qualifierais de documentation en général. Pour la Bibliothèque, ma délégation a été étonnée - c'est effectivement curieux et c'est une lacune sans doute regrettable - que la Bibliothèque de la FAO n'ait pas une collection complète des documents sur les activités de terrain de l'Organisation. Elle appuie donc vivement la recommandation du Comité du Programme pour que les unités techniques et opérationnelles de l'Organisation coopèrent activement pour faire parvenir cette documentation à la Bibliothèque.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne la Division des Publications, nous appuyons également les recommandations du Comité en vue d'éliminer les disparités encore existantes pour l'échelonnement de la traduction et la distribution des documents dans les différentes langues de travail. C'est une chose que tous les délégués réclament d'année en année. Il y a quelques améliorations, mais cela n'a jamais été parfait. Il faudrait peut-être aussi une souplesse accrue dans les méthodes de distribution pour que les gouvernements ne reçoivent que les documents dont ils ont effectivement besoin, compte tenu des sujets traités dans les réunions auxquelles ils sont invités. Ceci ne veut pas dire qu'ils ne doivent pas avoir une documentation complète de toutes les activités de la FAO mais par exemple il me semble injustifié qu'ils reçoivent - et en disant cela, je me rends compte des difficultés que le Secrétariat aura à donner suite à cette remarque - le même nombre d'exemplaires des documents préparatoires pour les sessions de la Conférence ou du Conseil et pour un certain groupe intergouvernemental quelconque. Je prends l'exemple du Groupe intergouvernemental sur les fibres dures. Les fibres dures c'est très intéressant. Il faut que les membres participant à ce Groupe reçoivent les documents. Mais il n'est peut-être pas nécessaire qu'on en reçoive autant d'exemplaires que ceux destinés à préparer la Conférence. Ce serait une économie importante. Je crois qu'un contact délégation par délégation pourrait régler le problème. Le Secrétariat, en liaison avec les délégations, pourrait réviser la liste de distribution des documents en fonction des sujets traités.

En conclusion, la délégation française souhaite que le Conseil accorde une place plus importante dans ses travaux à l'avenir à l'examen des programmes et aux suggestions correspondantes du Comité du Programme. Les recommandations du Conseil pourraient ainsi être prises en compte pour la préparation du prochain programme de travail et de budget de l'Organisation.

A.F. BOTHNER (Norway) : Like the preceding speaker I should like to comment briefly on the proposed World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The Norwegian authorities take, considerable interest in this Conference which, if well planned and executed, could mean an important step forward in this vital area. My delegation and my Nordic colleagues as well, agree that the meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries could be postponed until October 1983 in order to give it better time for the necessary preparations. We also agree that the Conference itself should be held in May 1984.

The Governments of Finland, Sweden and Norway also agree to the participation by all countries with interests and concern in fisheries, in the World Conference on Fisheries, as proposed in the report of the Programme Committee. My delegation and those of the other Nordic countries on the whole find that the synthesis in document CL 82/LIM/3 could serve as a good basis for further work on the preparation of the draft agenda for the Conference. The objectives and the key issues are presented in a clear and precise manner. We do, however, feel that there is one basic aspect that could be given special attention during the preparatory work and the Conference itself : that is the relationship between fish and nutrition. By that we mean not nutrition in a narrow, technical sense but in a broad policy context; and that is on the role of fish as food.

The Council yesterday at great length discussed WCARRD. In the view of the Nordic countries, these very principles should also be applied with regard to fisheries development, that is, people's participation, the role of women, etc. In short, fish should not only be considered as a commodity for sale and exports but as a food for people for domestic consumption.

The Norwegian authorities, do, as I say, take a great interest in this aspect and would be prepared to organize in Norway an international expert seminar with limited participation on this issue. Through the organization of such a seminar the groundwork could be prepared for including language to the above-mentioned effect in the draft agenda.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America) : My delegation has listened to the comments that have been made regarding the need for this governing body to have a point in the agenda at which serious attention can focus on the report of the Programme and Finance Committees with great interest. This is a serious topic and one that we believe merits discussion and decision. When we pause to consider the overall budget making cycle of FAO, when we pause to consider this cycle we must realize that following the meetings of the various technical committees and bodies that form the programmatic input of our agenda as well as meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees, there is not a single opportunity for Member Governments to discuss Programme ideas cast against their resource implications. The Director-General is under a constitutional duty to present the provisional Programme of Work and Budget at the next Council Session, and once we have ended our discussions in this Session of the Council, the content and shape of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium will in effect be cast. This is our final chance to offer our advice and recommendations to FAO's Programme managers.

My delegation therefore joins with those who support changes in the agenda of the Programme and Finance Committees and of the Council's consideration of the reports of these Committees. We believe that this Council requires a process that more adequately allows us to offer our thoughts on this process based upon an integrated examination of the Programme together with its budgetary

implications. In our view this Council should urge the Programme and Finance Committees to sweep clean those parts of their agenda that inhibit their performing this important function. We support the proposals of the French delegation with respect to the need to have more information on the regional offices.

Another important step that should be taken is for the Secretariat to provide the Programme and Finance Committees with information at the Programme element level. In the FAO we are faced with a situation in which Member Governments are called upon to approve a Programme of Work and Budget framed at the sub-programme level. This is like having to decide whether or not to buy a diamond necklace that you have never seen and that lies sealed in a paper bag and you cannot see it and thus you have no idea of its value, its merits and shortcomings. The major governing bodies of this Organization have two more opportunities to examine activities in such detail, and we believe they should have the informed advice of the intergovernmental committees in their expert capacities, such as the Programme and Finance Committees on the fine tuning needs of this Organization's Programme of Work and Budget.

In this respect my delegation strongly supports the Programme Committee's report in paragraph 1.7 of document CL 82/11 where the call was made for more detailed information on certain budget items. Without such information my delegation believes Member Governments cannot effectively carry out their responsibilities to supervise FAO's management and make informed decisions on Programme directions.

Let me now turn to the question of fisheries. We would like to commend the Secretariat, and especially the Department of Fisheries, for the work done in preparation for the World Fisheries Conference. Since it was proposed in 1979, the Fisheries Conference seems to have taken on somewhat of a life of its own. Originally it was conceived as an expanded version of COFI to be held in 1982. It has since been felt that there was a need to turn it into a two-level conference, one phase of a technical nature in 1983 and a policy phase a year later. As we the participating States prepare ourselves for this Conference, we are concerned that planning be coherent, that the agenda be clearly and carefully delimited and that everything be done in close consultation with participating States. These principles have already been clearly enunciated in the Council and Conference Sessions in 1981 and we believe should be reaffirmed by this Session of the Council,

As part, of its mandate for consultation FAO solicited the views of Member States in the round of regional conferences held this year. The synthesis of views expressed on preparation for the World Fisheries Conference in document CL 82/LIM/3 is thus a useful first step in arriving at an agenda

and we appreciate the work of the Secretariat in moving us this far forward. In order to further advance the work of the Fisheries Conference, we recommend that this Session of the Council go another step and request the Secretariat to present a detailed agenda for the World Conference, to the June 1983 meeting of the Council for its discussion and approval.

Turning to the financial cost of this meeting, the budget for the current biennium contained a sizable amount to provide for holding the World Fisheries Conference. Since this has now been divided into a two-phase conference, with the policy phase to be held in the next budgetary period, we assume there are consequent savings for the current biennium. We would like to have as soon as possible an estimate from the Secretariat of the amount that will be spent during the current biennium for the technical conference and during the upcoming biennium for the policy phase of the Conference. We view this Conference as an important and timely meeting and we will extend full cooperation towards making it as full as possible to optimize the value of the Conference. We cannot overemphasize the need for careful preparation and intensive consultation with the interested Member Governments including adherence to a timetable that will permit the next meeting of the Council to express itself with respect to a preliminary and tentative agenda.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation generally agrees with the major findings, conclusions and proposals contained in the report of the Programme and Finance Committees. We would like to make a few short comments on some issues contained in the reports and also on some proposals and the ideas submitted or mentioned by previous speakers.

First, concerning the reports, we would like to say that my delegation considers the review of the Programme a very useful exercise offering a lot of indispensable information which can serve as elements for our Member Governments - at least for my own - involving their position concerning the next Programme of Work and Budget.

We also wish to endorse the proposal for adjustment of pension allowances. As for ideas and proposals mentioned in previous discussions, we wish briefly to share the view of the Delegate of India concerning the proposal that the Director-General be authorized to implement recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly. As for the Brazilian proposal, in our view it amounts to an initiative to change the FAO constitution; and I fully endorse the statement of the Delegate of Pakistan.

As for the opportunity or possibility for governments to influence FAO's Programme, I think that the existing practice is efficient and sufficient. In particular I wish to stress the importance of review or two-phase activities of regional conferences. This is a very important instrument in reviewing the current Programme of Work and Budget and evolving proposals and ideas for the next biennium. My delegation does not see any reason for changing this existing practice.

R. de MEIRA FERREIRA (Portugal): Firstly, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for the excellent report they presented to us.

Secondly, my delegation would like to join the delegate of Brazil in the pertinent suggestions made regarding the programme of organization, and we are happy to see the prominence now given in our order of the day to the report of the Programme and Finance Committees.

My delegation would also like to make a few comments regarding the next World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Portugal considers this Conference of the utmost importance, not only because each individual country can benefit largely from the exchange of experience it will provide, but because it will help initiate a new order of world understanding, namely in the fields of fishery management and development, which are the main proposals of the Conference.

In Portugal, although the fishing sector did not present a great relevance to the GNP compared with the other sectors, it has considerable importance at the regional level due to the populations that are greatly dependent on the sea for their living. On the other side, if the crisis of the fishing sector is world-wide, affecting countries mainly with less resources in its EEZ, my country on the contrary has a very extensive EEZ, with a great volume of resources - but these resources are not yet duly assessed and, in general terms, our fishing fleet is insufficient and technically inadequate. We are also convinced that in a certain way we can take from the sea the food which is not easy to find in the agricultural field due to the characteristics of our land and climate, not totally favourable for most of the basic cultures, namely cereals. In order to cope with these deficiencies, the Minister of Agriculture, Trade and Fisheries has been preparing a five-year plan on fisheries which, if it is finished in time, will be included in the budget for 1983. This plan is also very important if you consider that Portugal is in the process of negotiations to join the European Community, and we must adopt our legislation to that of the Common Market where we have to safeguard our position and avoid being overpowered by those countries technically more developed.

Everything which is said confirms the interest my delegation attributes to this Conference; and in general terms, as we have already said on previous occasions and at the last Regional Conference for Europe held in Sofia, we are willing to give our support to the initiative given by FAO. In this sense at the Sofia meeting we suggested that some subjects be included in the agenda of the Conference which we think are of common interest and must deserve general consideration. Also in Sofia, there were a number of points emphasized by a number of delegations, some of which in our view must be stressed, (I am sorry if I am going to repeat some of the points just raised by the delegates of France and the United States) : the conference must be carefully prepared in collaboration with the member countries. The Conference, after having in mind the fundamental change which occurred in the regime of the oceans by the Conference of the Law of the Sea should avoid discussing subjects already dealt with by this Conference of the Law of the Sea.

Another point of concern to several delegations and one my delegation shares regards the financial implications of the Conference; we know that this is a topic supposed to belong to the technical and organizational part which must be discussed by the Committee on Fisheries at its next session, but we also believe its importance deserves a special reference and if possible a first exchange of views or information in this forum.

Finally we should like to refer to the timing of the two-phased programme for the Conference. In order to be realistic and taking into account what happened with the preparatory phase of the Conference of the Law of the Sea, in spite of its much larger scope, we are of the opinion that this type of conference needs such a careful preparation that sometimes all eventual attempts to place it in a very rigid or precise timetable can only damage its objectives and compromise its results. It is better to walk slowly but well.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al intervenir en este debate a estas alturas, tenemos la impresión de que la conclusión fundamental a que se podría llegar es la de que las intervenciones del distinguido colega de Brasil y de otros representantes han contribuido a destacar, una vez más, la importancia de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas. A través de los cambios que se han introducido en la composición de esos Comités, sigue vigente su condición de ser los dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo. Nosotros creemos que esos dos Comités, particularmente el Comité del Programa, deben seguir cumpliendo la revisión de los distintos aspectos del Programa que lleva a cabo, de

acuerdo con los ciclos establecidos, y que la mejor utilización de ese ejercicio que hace, particularmente el Comité del Programa, por parte del Consejo dependerá de la forma más o menos intensa y cuidadosa como los Miembros del Consejo nos ocupemos de las recomendaciones que nos haga el Comité del Programa.

Después de estas consideraciones de orden general, vamos a limitar nuestra intervención al solo punto específico de la Conferencia sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros. Es muy poco lo que tenemos que decir a este respecto, puesto que estamos muy de acuerdo, en líneas generales, con lo que han dicho los colegas de Noruega en nombre de los países nórdicos, y Estados Unidos y Portugal, particularmente.

Creo que ahora, en este momento, no es conveniente adelantarnos un poco a los acontecimientos, como tal vez ha pretendido hacerlo el distinguido colega Elmanowsky de Francia, un poco entusiasmado por el interés que le despierta esta Conferencia. Creo que, por el momento, el Consejo debería limitarse a apoyar las recomendaciones concretas del Comité del Programa, que son las mismas que las del Comité de Finanzas, sobre el aplazamiento de mayo a octubre de 1983 de la reunión del COFI, que servirá de reunión preparatoria de la Conferencia, y luego, será necesario un intervalo de seis o siete meses entre la Preparatoria y la Política, para que haya tiempo de distribuir los documentos y que los Gobiernos los estudien. De tal manera, que la Política debería celebrarse en mayo de 1984. Todo esto debe adelantarse cuidadosamente, en estrecho contacto con los Gobiernos.

Creemos que, como ya se ha dicho, el documento CL 82/LIM/3, que ha sido distribuido, es de gran utilidad, contiene una síntesis de los objetivos que fueron definidos en las Conferencias Regionales para esa Conferencia Mundial. Yo creo que en este documento y en los comentarios que han hecho los Miembros del Consejo, la Secretaría tiene ya bases esenciales para prepararnos un proyecto de Programa, un proyecto de Agenda que consideremos en nuestra reunión del verano próximo.

Sobre los Gastos, creo que esto no debe preocuparnos; lo esencial es que haya un adecuado saldo entre la relación costo/beneficio. Estamos seguros que el Director General, como en anteriores ocasiones, procederá con cautela y con austeridad, y en el proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del bienio entrante nos presentará sus propuestas sobre asignaciones presupuestarias. Podríamos también acaso pensar en la posibilidad de que se arbitren fondos extrapresupuestarios en forma tal que no se grave tan acentuadamente el Programa Ordinario de la Organización, el nivel del presupuesto que • corresponde al Programa Ordinario de la Organización.

Naturalmente, todo esto lo decimos de una manera muy flexible, y repetimos, tenemos confianza en la acción eficaz que al respecto cumplirá el Director General. Creemos que el colega de Francia se refería a coincidencias de fechas, a declaración de conjuntos de principios, a selección de temas.

Todo esto es prematuro empezar a discutirlo desde ahora. Estoy seguro de que el Director General de la FAO seguirá todo esto con atención, y en el momento oportuno nos presentará las propuestas pertinentes.

Sobre la asistencia a esa Conferencia, estamos de acuerdo en que sean los Miembros de la FAO, también los de Naciones Unidas, los del Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica, y hemos tomado nota del interés que ha anticipado el colega de Francia, sobre la participación pragmática -parece que dijo pragmática- de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Nosotros no dudamos de que esa participación se va a cumplir; cito el ejemplo de este Consejo, y a través de nuestras deliberaciones aquí y de nuestra participación en el Grupo de Contacto, hemos podido constatar que esa participación de la CEE no sólo es pragmática sino políglota, multifacética y afortunadamente constructiva.

M. NAANANI (Maroc): Je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, féliciter le président du Comité du programme et du Comité financier pour la bonne présentation des documents que nous analysons.

Je crois qu'il serait irrationnel de notre part, après tout ce que nous avons dit auparavant et tout ce qui a été dit par d'autres délégations et dans d'autres réunions, de déclarer aujourd'hui que le programme de la FAO n'est pas efficace ou qu'il présente telle ou telle anomalie. Ma délégation considère que le processus d'analyse du programme de travail et budget, est, jusqu'à preuve du contraire, le meilleur. Ce n'est peut-être pas parfait, mais c'est en tout cas le meilleur auquel nous sommes arrivés après une longue période riche en expériences.

Ma délégation se félicite de la conception des programmes et de la manière hautement efficace avec laquelle ces programmes sont exécutés sous les directives et la bienveillance du Directeur général de la FAO. M. Edouard Saouma ne nous a habitués jusqu'à présent qu'au sérieux et au courage avec lesquels il veille à l'élaboration et à l'exécution du programme. C'est pour cela que nous lui devons, et à juste titre, toute notre confiance. Ma délégation tient à appuyer les recommandations des Comités financier et du programme et particulièrement celles relatives à la répartition géographique et à l'utilisation des consultants. Nous appuyons également et fortement la tenue de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des terres.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación quiere expresar su apoyo a los informes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en todas sus partes. Nuestro país ha seguido una línea de apoyo en toda su amplia gestión para el desarrollo de la agricultura en los países necesitados.

A estas alturas creemos que la FAO ha cumplido, por lo que nos parece que todo lo que pueda propender a incluir cuestiones que institucionalmente no estén reguladas reglamentaria o estatutariamente son, a nuestro juicio, necesario examinar con sumo cuidado. La FAO tiene un Comité de Programa y un Comité de Finanzas que, como expreso la representación de Colombia, se pueden considerar los dos más importantes y a nosotros, a los países, nos incumbe hacer a estos dos Comités más eficientes y analíticos. Si además tenemos un Consejo con la amplitud y el tiempo que tenemos para discutir, creemos que éstos son los instrumentos encargados de vigilar y establecer los controles sobre el ejercicio de la FAO. Vamos a utilizarlos.

Creemos firmemente que el Programa de Presupuestos y la FAO pueden tener un análisis profundo si se quiere, pero dentro de los niveles institucionales creados. No entendemos los cambios procesales como nuevas instancias hoy, cuando estamos planteando con fuerza reducir reuniones, conferencias, direcciones y personal. Pensamos que hay que hacer más eficiente la instancia establecida y no pedir otra especial que pueda cargar el presupuesto; en fin, sobre este punto estamos en contra de toda modificación.

Específicamente nos interesa la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca y recordamos la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural como un evento que a nuestro juicio salvó una etapa histórica en el desarrollo rural en nuestro universo, y decimos que salvó una etapa histórica porque este evento se efectuó como segunda etapa de una anterior conferencia mundial, pero que lamentablemente no perduró. No tuvo, diríamos el suficiente poder como para que sus acuerdos pudiésemos haberles chequeado. Nos presentamos a la segunda Conferencia de Reforma Agraria con unos antecedentes muy leves de la primera.

La reacción de la II Conferencia a nuestro juicio más importante, fue llevar a cabo una preparación metódica y profunda con un Comité de Expertos y con un Comité Preparatorio, que se nos presenta ahora, y que sería el primer Comité Técnico.

Estamos totalmente de acuerdo con esta estructura y queremos proponer que dentro del mecanismo de presentación de trabajo de este Comité previo se vaya pensando en elaborar un plan de acción como en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, que fue un plan de acción, creemos, que como mecanismo simple y conocido de soluciones prácticas, es el más objetivo que tenemos en estos momentos. Nos preocupan las conferencias si no se lleva a cabo una metódica y rigurosa evaluación y de un plan de acción que nos pueda marcar el paso futuro.

Finalmente, y no queremos adelantarnos, sobre las materias a discutir, la situación a enfocar, la Conferencia pensamos que debe de aportar todo lo discutido y no resuelto, ya que no tiene objetivo una conferencia si las situaciones no están resueltas.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon) : First let me say that at the start of this afternoon's debate I was looking for a seat between the United Kingdom and the United States of America so that I could use my country's full name, the United Republic of Cameroon, and escape from this seat here. I knew there would be a lot of comments coming from my neighbour, so since I could not escape from that seat I am sitting next to him.

I wish first to congratulate the Chairman of the Programme Committee on the excellent presentation of his report and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. I can only assure you that as a member of the Programme Committee I would like to see our distinguished Chairman occupying that chair for many more years, because of the experience he has gained over the years which is very useful in tempering some of us who come with a lot of impatient questions. I think his macho attitude on the Committee is very welcome.

As I have not had the opportunity to welcome my distinguished friend and colleague and former Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Bel Hadj Amor, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to see him sitting there as Director of Personnel. I am sure he is taking good interest in looking after our Organization. Having occupied the job of Chairman of the Finance Committee he must be very cost-conscious of this hungry Organization.

First, in discussing the documents before us let me express my support for the position which was taken by the delegate of Pakistan on the discussions carried out in the Programme Committee relating to consultants. We can only add our voice to his, that the Director-General should spare no efforts in seeking and recruiting consultants from developing countries using all channels of communication available to him. If the problems are problems involving developing countries, if you have people from developing countries they will be much better placed in trying to advance solutions to these problems.

On the matter of personnel my delegation supports the position taken by the Finance Committee. I think they have looked at it thoroughly and the recommendations should be endorsed by this Council.

On the World Fisheries Conference my delegation supports it. I think it will make some meaningful contribution to the fisheries policies of a lot of countries and especially in this new area of the EEZ. As was well discussed in the Regional Conference for Africa, the World Fisheries Conference should at least have a major emphasis on inland fisheries, because this area is of particular concern to Africa. As we know, virtually all fisheries collected from inland waters are consumed by human beings, whereas a good proportion of fish captured in the ocean goes to other purposes. So on that score the African delegations would like to see a major emphasis on inland fisheries in this World Conference on Fisheries.

Generally on the Programme report, being also a member of this Committee, I think I am little Used when I say that my delegation endorses the recommendations of the Programme Committee, so I will not go into a lot of detail. I can only say that a lot of lively debate took place in this Committee, both in the 42nd and 43rd Sessions, and I do not think that the liveliness of the debate will decrease as the years go by. I think it will continue and I hope that this Council will continue to give guidance to the Programme Committee.

Let me address myself for a moment to the question raised by the delegate of Brazil. Without going into a lot of detail, I think you can say that through his efforts we now at least have an item on the agenda. Some delegations say that he has brought out that the Programme Committee and Finance Committee should be given the same amount of seriousness as other committees.

On the procedures, the opportunity of discussing the whole aspect of the next Programme of Work and Budget, in the opinion of my delegation in this matter rules will not help us very much. Sometimes rules tend to confuse, depending on what section of the basic rules you look at.

Let us look at the whole procedure which goes into forming the Programme of Work and Budget. We have COAG, which is a technical committee which discusses technical sections of agriculture. We have COFO, which is a technical committee which discusses forestry and makes recommendations. We have COFI, which discusses fisheries and makes technical recommendations. We have the Committee on World Food Security, which also makes recommendations and gives guidance to the Council and to the Conference. We have grains. We have jute. Indeed we have the regional conferences, and I had the privilege of participating in the last Regional Conference for Africa, in which many issues of vital importance to Africa were discussed. We have brought up issues here in this Council session. A lot of delegates highlighted the matters which were discussed at the Regional Conference for Africa - TCP, training and more technical cooperation among developing countries, regional programmes, all these were brought out.

Finally, we have this Council itself which of course places a very major role in shaping the policies of this Organization. Then we have the Conference, which has the final say. It is a matter of judgement of saying when debate should be in this Council. But I think we have an agenda item which is discussed at some length in the Council which is called the State of Food and Agriculture. Any delegation coming here one year after the execution of the new Programme of Work and Budget would have had time to put its ideas together. The delegate of Brazil took a lot of time to make a consistent argument, but I would say he could have an opportunity, or any delegate could, to include his views in the existing State of Food and Agriculture, because in the final analysis this Council can say if you wish to put more emphasis on research it was brought out by many delegates, if you wish to put more emphasis on training it was brought out by many delegates, if you wish to put more emphasis on soil conservation it was brought out by many delegates, if you wish to put more emphasis on food security that was brought out by many delegates. If that is not a direction to the next Programme of Work and Budget, what is it? I think this Council can play that role and play it effectively. I think the Council has played it effectively and will continue to do so.

I am not saying that my colleague from Brazil is right or wrong, I am saying if we succeed in putting this item in a permanent place on our agenda. I think that the Council in exercising its normal traditional role and the Programme Committee carrying out seriously the work which is assigned to it can fulfil this mandate and guide the Director-General in the implementation or preparation of the next draft Programme of Work and Budget. It may not sound a satisfactory solution, but I think I have found ample opportunity in this Council session to voice my country's views, and in the Programme Committee I have spared no opportunity to present my country's views. I think the delegate of Brazil, being Vice-Chairman of that Committee and taking an active part in that Committee, would agree with me that if we put more emphasis on that Committee we can submit a report to that Committee and this Council and have these decisions taken seriously.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La delegation de la Haute-Volta approuve et appuie le travail fait par les comités des programmes et des finances. Elle soutient toutes les opérations entreprises dans les domaines de l'élevage, de la pêche, des productions végétales et du développement. Nous marquons notre accord à la déclaration faite par le Directeur général et le Directeur général adjoint de la

FAO. La délégation de la Haute-Volta est convaincue que le Conseil doit se limiter à ses prérogatives et faire confiance aux hautes instances en ce qui concerne les autres aspects du problème. La délégation de la Haute-Volta partage par ailleurs les autres points de vue évoqués de façon convaincante par les délégués du Congo, du Cap-Vert et du Pakistan.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): No tenía intención de participar en este tema pero la discusión que ha suscitado me hace manifestar en esta oportunidad al Consejo que como miembro del Comité de Finanzas participé en su discusión y apoyé las conclusiones a las cuales llevo el Comité; es por este motivo que no intervenimos para referirnos a cada uno de los temas que vamos a considerar durante este debate. Deseo, sí, manifestar que mi delegación no tiene ningún inconveniente en aprobar los informes de ambos Comités.

Ahora deseo referirme a los consultores. Consideramos que se debe hacer un mayor esfuerzo para que se contraten cada vez más consultores de países en desarrollo. Mi delegación desea destacar al Consejo lo aprobado por la Conferencia Regional de FAO para América Latina sobre su apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Apoyamos también la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, y realmente esperamos y confiamos que alcance los mismos éxitos que logró la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Por último, consideramos después de haber escuchado la declaración del delegado del Brasil y la intervención del doctor West que se trata de una cuestión que debe estudiarse cuidadosamente y que este Consejo debe decidir sobre la misma tomando en consideración el beneficio que para la Organización tiene que el Consejo estudie más a profundidad temas que estudian los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y que después informan al mismo.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): Since time is running short, and the discussion on item 15 seems to be almost reaching its end, I wanted to touch upon a sub-item that is included under item 15, and I refer to import licenses for equipment for official use. I am pleased to re-affirm that the Italian government has never ceased to honour the obligations arising from the Headquarters agreement. However, in recent times the following problem has confronted the Italian Customs and Excise Administration.: FAO has repeatedly submitted requests for clearance on sizeable quantities of various items indicated only under a general labelling. In view of the amount of material or equipment involved, the said Italian Administration has asked for a more detailed and clear breakdown of those requests. In some cases these procedures have taken some time, and consequently the pertinent licenses have been issued with delay.

We wish to assure FAO's Secretariat that this matter is being given most careful and proper attention by the Italian authorities which have already suggested to the Secretariat that representatives of the Italian competent administration be invited to pay a visit to FAO Headquarters and to receive an exhaustive briefing on the multiple and increasing needs of the Organization.

A. DOUEDARI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): I would like to add to what I had previously said two very succinct comments. First, my delegation supports fully the contents of the two reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and particularly in regard to the questions on personnel matters and those on consultants.

Secondly, I would have liked to discuss the proposal" which has been made by Brazil and supported by other delegations, though I realize that with the time limitations and the broad air showing on many faces, we will not be able to discuss this at length. The comments made by Mr. West as well as the Director-General and the statements made by Pakistan and other delegations make it possible for me to avoid having to repeat what has already been said.

I simply want to state here that my delegation fully supports what was said by Mr. West as well as the Director-General and Pakistan as well as other delegations and we do not feel that it is necessary to airanend the procedures of the Council. My delegation is convinced that the present procedure followed by the Council is effective. We would also like to renew our confidence in the policies the FAO has been implementing under the leadership of the Director-General, and we are very pleased with the very effective solutions which the Director-General has found for the benefit of all developing countries without exception.

T. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je me permets de reprendre la parole poarce que les déclarations que j'ai entendues sur la prochaine Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches ne pouvaient pas ne pas m'amener à reprendre la parole pour dire que, de l'avis de ma délégation,

il convient de laisser les mains libres au Secrétariat pour concevoir et nous soumettre un projet d'ordre du jour qui tienne compte des intérêts des pays maritimes pauvres. En effet, je pense qu'il serait dangereux d'enfermer le Secrétariat dans certaines suggestions visant à faire perpétuer la situation actuelle. L'espoir que notre pays place en cette conférence est grand car nous pensons qu'elle devra aider les pays en développement qui en sont membres à profiter largement des ressources immenses qui résultent de l'exploitation de leurs zones économiques exclusives et elle devra les aider à mettre fin aux accords déséquilibrés qui sont signés entre les pays maritimes en développement et les pays disposant de la technologie avancée et des investissements appropriés.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): A proposal has been made that the Council during the non-Conference year devote more of its time to debate of the programme of FAO. I believe that the most important work that a governing body of FAO could do is to discuss that matter which FAO is all about, that is, what FAO does, what it intends to do for its Member countries, particularly the developing countries, and that is indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget. I believe that more discussion on what FAO is all about cannot but redound to the benefit of this Organization. The more delegates are able to express their views on what FAO should do and what are there needs I think cannot but redound to the benefit of this Organization.

Cameroon has indicated that delegates have an opportunity to do this on the present set-up. They can do so in the examination of the reports of committees of the Council, like the COAG, the COFI, the World Food Security Committee, and also in the discussion of the situation of food and agriculture. This is true.

However, if delegates feel that the situation can be improved, I do not think we should refuse to study the means that I have indicated, by which the delegations are able to participate in a fuller way to the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Like Panama, I would therefore suggest that the matter be studied carefully and that we should come to a decision on this at a later stage.

H.H. CARABAÑO (Venezuela): Mi delegación pensaba solo intervenir para decir que nos encontramos entre aquellos que se suman al informe valioso de estos dos Comités y, por supuesto, que respaldamos en líneas generales sus recomendaciones. Sin embargo, también quisiéramos hacer alguna consideración de carácter principista.

Nos da un poco la sensación de que por la misma ligereza del debate muchas veces los miembros de este cuerpo al exponer sus puntos de vista no siempre logran la precisión del planteamiento que quieren y da lugar a interpretaciones que ciertamente pensamos nosotros no se corresponden a la realidad. Nos referimos a ello porque la intervención de la delegación del Brasil pareciera que ha originado unas reacciones que no se comparan con la intención que esa proposición fue hecha, por lo menos en los términos en que mi delegación la ha interpretado. Creemos que Brasil en modo alguno ha planteado que aquí se esté violando el texto constitucional; todos sabemos lo celoso que es el Director General en cuanto a defender ese texto; no ignoramos que lo que estamos haciendo ha sido dispuesto por el propio Consejo. De lo que se trata, entiende mi delegación, es de saber si ante las actuales circunstancias, de las que todos estamos informados, ayudaría o no a la FAO una revisión de esos procedimientos. En el camino de la perfección no hay límites, así lo ha reconocido el señor West, y nada indica que si esa revisión se hiciera sería necesariamente para modificar lo que se está haciendo; podría ser perfectamente ratificado, pero aun así saldría fortalecida la posición del actual equipo directivo de la FAO.

De eso se trata y, por cierto, que no podría hacerse una revisión en una Plenaria como ésta, porque en una Plenaria como ésta evidentemente nadie tendría el tiempo suficiente para discutir una cuestión tan delicada; en todo caso en una reunión como ésta podría, si acaso, decirse que se consideran o no dadas, las circunstancias para que esa revisión se hiciera y en ese caso eso tendría que hacerse sobre un documento preparado por el propio Director General o a nivel de los Comités.

Es por eso, señor Presidente, que nosotros entendemos que lo dicho por el Brasil no ha sido captado en toda su dimensión y también por ello es por lo que nos acogemos a la intención de las palabras del señor delegado del Ecuador.

Estamos conscientes que está dentro del ánimo de la gestión que inspira al Director General hacer causa común con todos los representantes de los distintos países de todas las regiones para que la FAO pueda superar con fortaleza este período de crisis que estamos viviendo la humanidad.

B.E. PHIRI (Zambia): My delegation would like to state at the outset that we welcome the views expressed in the documents we are considering now by the Programme and Finance Committees.

We run the risk of being de-railed from the business of discussion put before us when we bring in almost too many things that have not been on the agenda, but looking at the document we cannot quarrel with what the committees have done or have put before us. If we think that something more or something else should have been done by them or should have been prepared by them, then possibly we should have got down to the roots of the matter at the appropriate time.

Talking about personnel matters, we would like to state as we did before that there are very few African faces in United Nations organizations, including ours here. We urge the Director-General to continue the search for suitable personnel from developing countries, particularly Africa.

On the question that was mentioned, of funds and TCP, my delegation feels that adequate funds have not been allocated to this item. We would favour the increased support of the TCP so that more meaningful assistance could be given to recipient countries. On the question of changes in the salary scales, we will merely ask a question here because we note in the document that the General Assembly has already accepted the proposal of the International Civil Service Commission, so we ask - is there any possibility that a Council like this would reject what has already been agreed in the General Assembly, or is this matter in fact just placed before us for information?

As far as consultants are concerned, we think more use of local personnel should be made, for reasons that you all know. We understand this situation better than people who might come and look at the issues for only a few weeks.

As to what should be discussed in this Council, we agree with what has been said by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General. The Secretariat has prepared the items for discussion in accordance with the procedures which we ourselves established, and until those procedures are changed we expect the Director-General to continue preparing the Programme of work for this Council as he has done in the past.

The FAO is not a static organization. A lot has changed in the past few years, and I am sure a lot will change in the future, but timing is important. Change should not be made for the sake of change, but rather to improve the situation.

An example of a sort of change we welcome is the allocation of resources in the regular programme to personnel. At one time this was as high as 75%; it has been reduced over the past few years to something like 60% or so, and in fact this percentage could be reduced even further if we increased the resources of TCP, since it is from that chapter that tangible assistance could be given to recipient countries.

So while not disputing the intentions of the delegate of Brazil, we think that we should not just rush into change for the sake of changing things, and a thorough examination of this, possibly not by this Council but by a working party, may be considered as possibly the best way to approach the situation.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): I will be very brief. My delegation wishes to express its support for the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees. My delegation considers that the work as currently organized allows adequate opportunities for analysis and appreciation of the work of the Organization. In this regard we fully endorse the remarks of the delegate of Cameroon.

As regards the Fisheries Conference, my delegation supports the proposal for the holding of the world conference in two stages. The Conference would be of greater importance in making a contribution to the re-ordering of the management of world fisheries.

We also support the proposal in respect of the use of consultants, and would wish to reaffirm the usefulness and strength of the TCP programmes for developing countries. We therefore give the Director-General support in these areas of operations.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): At this late stage, my delegation does not wish to deeply analyse the questions under examination, and therefore we are only going to make a minor point. The delegation of Angola wishes to add its support to what the delegate of Cameroon said in relation to some of the proposals which have been advanced by the delegate of Brazil. However, we disagree with the delegate of Brazil on the question of the TCP, and on this matter we welcome the manner in which the Director-General has been dealing with this programme, and welcome the increase of the amount of money which has been allocated to the TCP.

Coming to the question of the World Conference on Fisheries Management, as you know, the waters of Angola are rich in these and other resources, and therefore everyone wants to fish in the waters of Angola. My delegation therefore looks forward to participating in this Conference as soon as possible, and fully supports the Secretariat on this matter.

Finally, on the question of import licences for equipment for official use of FAO we welcome the statement which has been made by the delegate of Italy, and we think that this question could be dealt with in a more expeditious way so that the goods which FAO needs for its efficient operations are not unduly delayed at the ports of entry into Italy.

G.J. BOXALL (New Zealand): On your advice, I shall be very brief and only address myself to the sub-item of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The range of topics which might be considered for the Fisheries Conference are listed in document CL 82/INF/3. These are very wide. We would be glad for the Secretariat to explain what they have in mind. In particular we see significant advances in the interchange of views and experiences as proposed by the World Fisheries Conference.

As the arrangements proceed there is a need for a clear definition of topics. For example, the possibility could include (a) management development of in-shore fisheries or (b) management development of deep water fisheries including migratory species. Both of the above relate to the objectives of fisheries in the coastal states, but we would note that the second topic which entails large capital expenditure does not necessarily follow from the first.

Another possible topic could be along the lines of management of the EEZ and joint approaches by foreign nations by countries with contiguous EEZs. The Secretariat will recall that we made similar general comments on the needs for clear delineation of the topics at the Asian and Pacific Regional Conference in Jakarta in June.

Finally, we note also that FAO intends to have an expert consultation in March 1983. Some further clarification of the experts' views on what the Conference should do would be valuable.

MS. V.E. BETTON (Observer for Jamaica): The Observer Delegation of Jamaica would like to make a few remarks about the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. We attach considerable importance to the holding of this Conference and we appreciate the efforts made by FAO in preparing document CL 82/LIM/3, the synthesis of views on this subject expressed at the regional conferences earlier this year.

As a small island developing country we hope that in this Conference an opportunity will be provided to identify the special needs and problems of such countries and for seeking mutual solutions to these problems.

Secondly, we also wish to use this opportunity to highlight the importance for developing countries such as mine of gaining the necessary information to enable us to make the best use of extended national jurisdiction over marine fisheries.

We also support the other issues listed in this document for possible discussion at this Conference. Jamaica is willing to work actively towards the success of the Conference and we thank the Secretariat for the work done in the field so far for preparations.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne) : Je ne sais pas si c'est un privilège d'être le dernier orateur, mais croyez bien que je n'en profiterai pas pour faire un discours sans fin, surtout à cette heure tardive.

Au contraire, la Communauté économique européenne souhaite tout simplement attirer l'attention du Conseil sur son intention de participer pleinement à la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur la gestion et le développement des pêches. En effet, la Communauté, au nom de ses Etats membres, exerce une compétence particulière en matière de gestion des ressources de pêche. Dans ces conditions, la Communauté et ses Etats Membres suivent avec intérêt la préparation de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur la gestion et le développement des pêches, et participeront donc activement aux travaux de la Conférence.

La Communauté et ses Etats Membres considèrent qu'il est indispensable, pour assurer la mise en oeuvre de la Conférence, de définir avec précision les termes de l'ordre du jour. Dans ce contexte, nous avons pris note de diverses recommandations faites par la conférence régionale de la FAO.

Nous remercions le Secrétariat qui a regroupé certaines de ses conclusions dans le document CL 82/LIM/3, questions qui devraient être plus particulièrement étudiées avant la fixation de l'ordre du jour. A cet égard, la Communauté et ses Etats membres considèrent comme fondamental d'éviter une répétition des sujets déjà discutés lors de la Conférence sur le droit de la mer.

Par ailleurs, la Communauté et ses Etats Membres considèrent que la Conférence devrait se concentrer sur un échange des expériences concernant les aspects techniques de la gestion des pêcheries et la collaboration entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement.

En outre, c'est avec plaisir que la Communauté et ses Etats Membres prennent note que ce sera la prochaine session du Conseil en juin 1983 qui discutera de l'ordre du jour.

CHAIRMAN: You may recall when the Chairman of the Finance Committee introduced item 15 he mentioned that with reference to sub-item 4, import licenses for equipment, the Secretariat may offer some explanation. The Ambassador of Italy has already made some comments; I now give the floor to Mr. Georgiadis who might explain the position with reference to this item.

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): We welcome the remarks of the Delegate of Italy regarding the latest development on the outstanding import license applications. However, I am sorry to say that there has been an unduly negative attitude on the part of one or

two customs officials because even after we provided the information requested, the breakdown requested, the customs authorities continued to refuse the issue of these licenses which were clearly for official material needed for the Organization's daily work. To give only one or two examples, there is photocopy paper lying in customs since last June; it covers one year's consumption, is imported from Sweden. All we had to prove is that the sizeable quantity which the customs authorities queried is for our consumption of one year; we shall not import any more until next year. Presumably this is still found to be too much and the paper is not released, so we are compelled to buy on the local market at a price over 30 percent more than the Swedish price.

There has been printing paper for our publications, cardboard - two years' supply this time - it is the paper we use for our publications, the cardboard for the covers, including that for the Programme of Work and Budget. And there are some other things like stationary, pencils; but also some small computer parts desperately needed for the maintenance of our computers in the World Food Programme, the DDC for the information system and which has to be imported because they have to be from the same manufacturer in Norway.

Examples of additional costs incurred for this which we think should be brought to the attention of the Council: so far we paid customs duties and demurrage charges totalling \$39 000. If and when we clear the goods that are still lying in customs, additional duties and demurrage charges would cost us another \$58 000. Some of the outstanding applications date back to 15 January, and despite the information provided they have still not been granted. However, there has been just one ray of hope recently when Ambassador Borin, whom we all know and who represented Italy at this Organization for many years, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, managed to have discussions with the Customs Officials concerned, and it seems that they have requested some additional information which we are glad to provide, of course. Perhaps there will be a breakthrough, but at this stage we cannot foresee when this will happen.

We particularly welcomed the help given by the Italian Diplomatic Mission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself because it is obvious that the customs department has been embarrassing the Ministry with its attitude. But of course, we feel it is our duty to bring all these things to the attention of the Council not only for the principle of one clear provision in the Headquarters Agreement not being observed, but also for the expense involved which will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars if it continues, and which will of course subtract these sums from the technical programmes.

Therefore, if the Council would share the Director-General's concern in this matter, it could perhaps be reflected in the report and be brought to the attention of the Conference; unless - as we hope - the situation is unblocked long before then. So, to repeat, we would welcome the visit of the customs officials and would be glad to show them around and explain to them the size of these buildings, the consumption of many materials we import, so that they can be convinced that everything that is imported is used for official purposes.

S. S. BALANZINO (Italy): I can only repeat that customs officials or rather representatives from the Ministry of Finance, have already expressed their readiness to enter in contact with the competent services of FAO and examine and discuss these points in depth. I shall refer to the people in the Ministry of Finance what has just been said and I can assure the Organization and the Council that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is doing its utmost to iron out these problems.

CHAIRMAN: I think Council members will agree: we shall record suitably our concern in this matter and also note with reassurance what the Delegate of Italy has stated; and we hope this matter can be resolved soon to the satisfaction of both the Government of Italy and our Organization.

J. CARROZ (Secrétaire general, Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches) : Si vous permettez, j'aimerais répondre brièvement à certaines questions qui ont été posées à propos de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches. Tout d'abord j'aimerais me référer à la préoccupation exprimée par plusieurs délégations, (en particulier les délégations du Kenya, du Congo et du Cameroun), en ce qui concerne la portée de la Conférence. Ces délégations souhaitent que la Conférence ne soit pas limitée à la mise en oeuvre du nouveau régime de la mer dans le secteur des pêches mais couvre également les eaux intérieures et l'aquaculture. Je tiens à les rassurer. Les conférences régionales ont en effet exprimé les mêmes préoccupations et la place qui leur est due sera reconnue aux eaux intérieures et à l'aquaculture. J'aimerais également assurer la délégation du Japon que les suggestions très utiles qu'elle a faites sur les objectifs et les sujets prioritaires ont été la plupart, sinon toutes, évoquées par les conférences régionales. Elles seront donc prises en considération.

J'aimerais maintenant répondre aux diverses questions posées par la délégation de la France et tout d'abord aux conseils de prudence qu'elle nous a donnés de ne pas rouvrir les discussions et les débats de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer. Je voudrais l'assurer que ce n'est pas notre intention. Nous l'avons répété à toutes les conférences régionales. Au contraire, je pourrais dire que le Secrétariat de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer a salué l'initiative de la FAO comme le premier effort au plan international pour examiner la mise en oeuvre du nouveau régime de la mer. Le délégué de la France a également appelé notre attention sur la diversité des conditions dans le monde en ce qui concerne la négociation d'accords bilatéraux en matière de pêche et je peux l'assurer qu'il n'est pas du tout notre intention de préparer des accords modèles. Le délégué de la France a posé des questions sur la structure de la Conférence elle-même. Je puis dire qu'à ce stade nous envisageons une Conférence qui tiendrait des réunions plénières pendant huit jours et comprendrait deux commissions qui se réuniraient quatre jours chacune et probablement simultanément. Il a également posé des questions sur la durée de la phase politique, mais je viens de lui répondre indirectement. Finalement, il a posé des questions sur les incidences financières du renvoi de la phase politique de la Conférence en 1984 et cette même question a été posée par d'autres délégations. Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne le problème des économies possibles qui pourraient être effectuées dans ce présent biennium du fait du renvoi de la phase politique en 1984, il nous est difficile de faire des pronostics précis du moment que nous venons de commencer les travaux préparatoires et que nous organisons toute une série de réunions spécialisées qui se tiendront entre janvier et mai de l'année prochaine. En fait, je n'excluerai pas la possibilité de faire des économies. Toutefois je n'aimerais pas susciter des espoirs exagérés car, au moment où le budget de la Conférence a été préparé il y a un peu plus de deux ans, on envisageait une réunion de 10 jours sans intervalle, en fait une réunion technique de sept jours suivie par trois jours de réunions au niveau politique. C'est à la suite d'une suggestion de la délégation des États-Unis que l'idée s'est imposée qu'il faudrait avoir un intervalle de plusieurs mois entre les deux phases de la Conférence. En ce qui concerne les coûts de la réunion de 1984, on les estime de manière provisoire à environ 600 000 dollars. Je dirais que la plus grande partie de ce montant servira à couvrir le salaire des interprètes et la traduction de plusieurs documents. Le délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande a posé des questions sur la réunion préparatoire qui se tiendra en mars-avril de l'année prochaine. Il y en aurait en fait cinq à cette époque. Je lui ferai parvenir le prospectus de ces diverses réunions.

Enfin, et je suis sûr que j'exprime l'opinion du Directeur général, j'aimerais exprimer notre gratitude à la délégation de la Norvège qui a proposé d'organiser dans son pays un symposium international sur un des sujets qui se rattachent directement à l'un des quatre objectifs majeurs de la Conférence mondiale sur la pêche. Je suis sûr que le Directeur général l'étudiera avec grand intérêt.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee) : I was very much tempted to use rather decorative words to express our thanks for the address to the Committees and the Chairmen, but I will refrain from that. I would only pledge my dedication and my colleagues' delegation that we continue our task with renewed energy and renewed determination, especially as we are now facing the most delicate part of our mandate, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Well, I could not help but say two or three words about what Mr. Tanco has said. He has given me a great honour by recognizing me as his old friend, if not an even greater honour by his indicating me, as he said, as his intellectual adversary at times. He did not add that we always agreed fully on principles and objectives but we differed obviously sometimes on methods.

With regard to one issue, of course, it is not my task to offer any comment on the position of governments in the Council. I trust that the basic objectives of the comments offered by Brazil, as addressed to the Council and not to the Committee, but there is one aspect at least I feel has very direct bearing on our work. This aspect might seem at first sight technical but it is very conceptual and it deals with the very core of our mandate in programme reviewing. It raised the problem of how to understand, how to interpret our mandate. Of course, the mandate given by Council was very general and we spent, as I indicated in my introduction, a considerable time trying to shape our own understanding of the mandate and we agreed fully that the first primary concern and the first primary task of the Committee should be to study details, activities and methods and approaches of FAO and to try to relate activities and methods and approaches to the priorities and objectives established by the Conference. I still strongly believe that it is the core of our task. Of course, the problem of our vocation is not to be singled out and I already indicated that we considered and all agreed that it should be a secondary task of the Committee in our programme reviewing. Of course, my friend Mr. Machado de Freitas kept insisting on the allocation issue, as he himself explained, on the instructions of his government, and he was obviously following the instructions of his committee as well. But as I indicated, my personal strong feeling was as I explained and I believe that most of the members fully agreed with my interpretation of our mandate. We have heard it would be premature to go into allocations just a couple of months after the Conference. The Conference had full opportunity and full access to all views and after all, Conference decided, not necessarily only the overall budget and the overall programme but all allocations by programme, and major programmes, programmes and sub-programmes. I trust that the Council will agree with the understanding of my own understanding and the understanding of the majority of the Committee. So if it is so, then we will continue along the same lines. Of course, whenever we agree that a certain supplement in relevant terms, should be given a certain weight we carry on accordingly. Whenever a single member felt strongly that allocations given to a certain programme or sub-programme were not adequate, of course the view was expressed. We use a language which is I think obvious to all Council members.

Finally, I have to clarify two or three issues. First of all, I have already indicated the delicacy and the complexity of the issue of programme elements, the insertion of programme elements into the Programme of Work and Budget document, but since one member at least spoke in favour, emphatically in favour, of incorporating programme elements into the Programme of Work and Budget, I am bound to say a couple of words more. As I indicated already, I asked the Secretariat and I made my own choice about five sub-programmes which in my view very well represented a cross section of FAO's technical programmes, just to illustrate what it actually implied. These five programmes are just to give you an idea, farm management and production economics, agricultural engineering and international food losses, food agricultural industries, marketing products. Five sub-programmes occupied in the present Programme of Work and Budget exactly 56 lines, that means slightly more than one page. If you are to incorporate programme elements in this case it amounts to thirteen more pages to make the programme elements meaningful, to make it possible for the Members of the Committee, let alone the Council and the Conference, to understand the meaning of the basic substance. I think it will be inevitable to extend substantially, and I want to underline substantially, extend the narratives about five to six times at least to show how the programme elements are grouped in the clusters, how these clusters are derogated to the priorities and objectives at the same level, at the sub-programme element level. Well, just to give you a very rough idea, my calculations show that if we were to do that the main object of the Programme of Work and Budget, that means the part which does not incorporate the introductory policies

and annexes, should be extended to about at least 2 000 pages. I wanted just to illustrate the delicacy and complexity of the issue. The Programme Committee decided, as I stated, to consider carefully the whole matter and then when we reach a certain full understanding of the issue we will report back to you.

Then two small things, reference was made on paragraph 1.7 of our report. It is really my duty to explain that paragraph 1.7 was only related to programme 1.2, Policy Direction Planning, and it was not the position of the Committee but was the position of two members. It seems necessary to introduce a sort of glossary of Programme Committee terms to make sure that our message gets across quite clearly, but whenever we use language that "the views were expressed by" obviously means that the majority views were expressed to that regard. The same relates to the reference made to paragraph 1.26 which was obviously the view of one member and certainly not the view of the Committee.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I must say that I was very gratified to note that almost all members agreed with the views, comments and recommendations made by the Committee. It is gratifying to note that we are on the same wavelength. This gives us a lot of encouragement to proceed with our work in the future with great earnestness and care. There is one point that I think I should touch on, the matter raised by the delegates of Japan and Zambia in regard to personnel matters. I should mention at this stage that on issues affecting the common systems, such as the level of professional salaries, it is for the FAO and other agencies of the United Nations to follow decisions taken in this regard by the United Nations Fifth Committee on the recommendations made by the International Civil Service Commission. It is more or less mandatory thereafter that agencies follow the recommendations made by the United Nations General Assembly. The recommendation that we have made in relation to personnel matters in our 50th Report was made at that stage because the Council meets in November and the next Council meeting is next year in June. So perhaps the implementation of recommendations will take more than six months if we do not bring this matter to the notice of this Council meeting. That is the purpose of bringing those items your attention to endorsement.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ; I am conscious that it is late, but I think I should clarify the matter for the distinguished delegates of Venezuela, of Ecuador, of Brazil and for all of you.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1982/83 is approved by the Conference with budgetary allocations for various activities. Neither the Programme Committee nor the Council can change the allocations.

Only the Conference which approves this document can amend it. This is the constitutional aspect. Some members indicated however, that unless they examine and revise the allocations, the exercise of reviewing the Programme is useless and that they should have authority to advise the Council on changing the budgetary allocations. Only the Conference can change it. The Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. The Programme Committee has no authority over the Director-General. According to the present rules and the Basic Texts, it can only advise him and the Council.

As far as priorities are concerned, I want to say to the delegate of the United States that as the Director-General, I am preparing now the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85. How do I prepare it ? First, on the basis of the report of the last Conference which includes many priorities, many orientations for the next Programme of Work and Budget. This is one thing. Then, on the basis of the medium-term objectives approved by the Conference, which also indicate what the objectives should be for the next five or seven years. Then, the Committee on Agriculture, which is made up of all Member States, gives priorities. It is technical but it also gives policy orientation. It indicates for example that more importance must be given say to plant protection, to animal diseases, to other programmes. Then, the Committee on Fisheries, on which all Member Nations are represented, also says which sector of fisheries is important, and indicates what is to be done in the next Programme of Work and Budget. Then, there are the CCP, the Committee on Food Security, the CFA, the Committee on Forestry. There is also the United Nations Conference on Outer Space asking FAO to participate in a programme of action; the United Nations Conference on Energy held in Nairobi; the General Assembly, and ECOSOC, as well as the five Regional Conferences, where your Ministers of Agriculture discuss as a permanent agenda item the priorities of the regions for the next biennium.

These Regional Conferences give me the most important orientation for the next Programme of Work and Budget, because they pass resolutions dealing with the priorities of the Region. In addition, I have 150 meetings in FAO during the biennium dealing with subjects such as Codex Alimentarius and many different other subjects. All of them indicate priorities for the next Programme of Work and Budget.

The Constitution has thus given the Director-General flexibility so as to study, with his staff, the ways to harmonize all those priorities. As the delegate of Cameroon said, we have heard many priorities being spelt out during this Council during the discussion of important documents such as the SOFA and the report on food security. I have noted many of these proposals.

There is, in fact, no single subject which does not receive high priority or some priority somewhere. Recently, I had a meeting lasting two hours with a very important group of Member Nations in FAO. I spoke to them about my views on the next Programme of Work and Budget. Not one of them was able to tell me that he had in mind some additional priorities. I am ready to receive delegates in my office to tell me that their governments have instructed them to give priority to this subject or that subject. I have the most difficult task later on to try to marry those priorities, and so far have succeeded 100 percent. There was always unanimity in the Council and in the Conference during my term about strategies and priorities. I can circulate to the Members of the Council the relevant extract of the final report of the Programme Committee to the Conference.

The only pomme de discorde has always been the level of the budget. On this, five countries have voted against the budget in November 1981, seven or eight abstained - much, much less than other organizations of the United Nations. I hope very much that for the next Programme of Work and Budget even fewer countries will vote against the budget. We will come to you with a Programme of Work and Budget based on all the priorities of all those hundreds of meetings.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): Perhaps, I was not clear enough. I did not say that I was trying to propose a revision of the budget. In fact I was very clear in my statement that there was no question of revising the budget. That is my first point. The second point is, I do not criticize the different allocations that have been approved by the countries. We are not criticizing the Director-General. This was not our aim. We are trying to improve the working and the functioning of the Organization. My third point is that I agree that the Constitution will not change this document C 81/3, but before we come to that stage. That is why I am proposing that the Council should have ample time to discuss and to make proposals and to review, based on the review of the past Programme of Work and Budget. I am not proposing to change that document. I am proposing that we should influence much more before this document comes to its final shape.

H.H. CARABAÑO (Venezuela): Ante todo quiero hacer una declaración de fe: Como católico la única autoridad que no discuto es la del Papa cuando habla ex cátedra. Quiero decir que el Director General sabe que yo lo he aplaudido siempre cuando ha dicho que está dispuesto a no dejarse arrebatar ni a renunciar sus facultades constitucionales; pero creo que también hay un derecho que no se puede negar a ninguno de los miembros de este Consejo, porque este Consejo dejaría de existir el día en que sus miembros no puedan expresar libremente sus opiniones.

Yo quiero decir lo siguiente: que a mí me hubiera gustado mucho más que después del debate hubieran tomado la palabra el Director General y el Subdirector y no inmediatamente después que presento su punto de vista el señor Embajador de Brasil, a menos que la intervención del Director General hubiera sido exactamente como lo ha hecho ahora al final.

Yo creo que este Consejo, como todos los cuerpos deliberantes, sabe que siempre es mucho más fácil manejar una institución centralizada que no un debate en colegios, por eso si el delegado de Brasil hubiera propuesto que aquí entráramos a proponer las modificaciones que nuestro apreciable Director General entiende que fueron las que se formularon yo no habría estado de acuerdo. Sencillamente el delegado de Brasil ha planteado una preocupación deseoso, como el que más, de perfeccionar las acciones de la FAO por cuanto todos sabemos que los países aportantes hacen planteamientos que quieren precisamente tener la convicción de que los programas de FAO responden a las necesidades que el mundo tiene. Nosotros sabemos que todo se está haciendo constitucionalmente, que la Conferencia decide después que el Consejo ha dado su punto de vista, pero nadie nos dice que no pudiera haber un procedimiento más perfecto. De manera que todo lo que se ha hablado es sugerir, por lo menos así lo entendió mi delegación, que pudiera pensarse en un perfeccionamiento constitucional del problema, es decir, dentro de lo que la Constitución establece.

Yo quiero aclararle al Director General que en ningún momento mi delegación ha apoyado algo que pretenda sacar las líneas de acción de la norma constitucional; somos respetuosos de esa norma jurídica y como le he dicho tantas veces al Director General hemos aplaudido en él la firme decisión con que siempre ha dicho que no está dispuesto a renunciar a sus prerrogativas constitucionales.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to now make my comments in two parts in summing up. The first is in relation to item 15 on the agenda. We have had a good discussion, and there were four specific issues which have been posed for the Council's decision: personnel matters, the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, Use of Consultants, Import Licenses for Equipment for Official Use.

I think it may be fair to say that having heard all the distinguished participants with reference to the first three items, we endorse the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, subject of course to some of the comments which have been made, additional suggestions which have been made about fisheries and some points in relation to personnel matters. But we endorse the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

With reference to import licenses for equipment for official use, we are concerned about this matter but we are greatly encouraged with the steps being taken by the Italian Government, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we do hope before the end of the year this matter can be amicably solved and all misunderstanding cleared, because it is obvious that it is the interpretation of certain rules that has caused some misunderstanding; it is not a question of the whole Italian Governments tremendous support to this Organization over the years.

Now let me come to the issue which has been discussed, first placed by Brazil, about the manner of examining the Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General has clearly explained how the process is done which also has been explained by several other delegates, the very large number of inputs, and here I am not talking only as the Independent Chairman of the Council; I also served as Chairman of Commission II in the- General Conference, which examined the Programme of Work and Budget. I think it will not be fair to say that the Council Members and those who attend the Conference on behalf of governments do not go into the matters in detail. They do their very best. In fact, I have sat hours and hours when the Programme of Work and Budget has been discussed, but what I think is important arises from what Brazil has said. It is a reminder to the Members of the Council that next year when the document comes from the Director-General's office to us, to the Programme and Finance Committees, at the June meeting of the Council, we should take adequate trouble to study it carefully and present our views so that at the General Conference there could be a general acceptance of both the Programme and the Budget. I think this is important I agree with the Director-Genéralo It is my fervent hope that next year' s General Conference will see that even with reference to budget, there will be no disagreement, because we should have examined the proposals carefully so that ultimately there is no difference of opinion at all. But it is my firm conviction that the Director-General, after all, enjoys our confidence, he has been selected by the governments concerned; he and his officers should have full freedom, because I think we should resist the temptation of causing paralysis by analysis, because I have seen this happen frequently. You can analyse a problem so much that it can paralyse an organization. I think that is not what we want. We want a dynamic and active organization, and it is here that we are should help.

However, I generally appreciate the comments that have been offered, the comments which have been initiated by Brazil, which show a concern that the Council should put its adequate input into a careful examination of the Programme of Work and Budget, and the occasion for this will come next year at the June meeting, and I think even now we should take note of this. It is a grave responsibility.

But meanwhile I think we should wish the Director-General and his staff all the best to implement the one which was approved at the last Conference so that they are able to give an excellent implementation report next time.

Items 13 and 14 will be postponed until tomorrow. I want to thank you all for the very interesting discussion this afternoon. The meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours

La seance est levée à 18 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 82/PV/14

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

14ª SESION PLENARIA

(1 December 1982)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours,
M.S. Swamlnathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Svaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 9.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swamlnathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION

- RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

- INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)

13. Financial Matters, including:

13. Questions financières, notamment:

13. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

13.1 Financial Position of the Organization

13.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation

13.1 Situación financiera de la Organización

D.H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): On item 13.1: at the 49th and 50th Sessions of our Committee, we reviewed in detail the financial position of the Organization with particular reference to the situation regarding payment of contributions for the present biennium, as well as with regard to the payment of arrears relating to previous biennia. In this connexion I refer to paragraphs 19 - 24 of our report of the Spring session held this year, which is in document CL 82/4; and to paragraphs 2.13 - 2.21 of our report of the Fall session, that is document CL 82/11. We noted that the rate of receipts of contributions for the current biennium had been at the lowest level on record from the inception of this Organization: only 27.98 percent of the current assessments had been collected by mid-May of this year.

At the September session the position improved slightly and at the end of October it stood at 56.17 percent of current assessments. Since then this information has been further updated and I would refer you to the document CL 82/LIM/1 which gives the latest position.

The latest position, I may repeat, is that as of 22 November, the Organization had collected about 79.95 percent of the current year's assessments. The Committee was provided with statistics on the pattern of payments in previous years and noted with serious concern the deteriorating situation. We discussed at length the implications to FAO if it had to draw on funds from the Working Capital Fund or the Special Reserve Account which were not only interest-earning but they were really giving an income to the Organization.

While we strongly underline the need to remind all Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions promptly, we also recognized that there were many reasons for delays, reasons ranging from hopeless and abnormal economic situations prevailing in certain countries, to those with prolonged civil and political unrest. The Committee also recognized there are other genuine reasons which prevented certain Member Nations from paying their contributions promptly, such as national budgetary appropriations which did not coincide with FAO's time schedule of payments; but in the case of some Members there did not appear to be such strong reasons which prevented them from paying regularly. The Committee therefore recommends to Council the view expressed for Member Nations to provide for the FAO contributions in their annual appropriations as a regular feature and to hold such amounts as contingency funds for the release of such payment when they fall due each year. At our September meeting the Director-General, in keeping with the assurance he gave the Council, outlined to the Committee the inevitable need for having to borrow in future if the present situation persists.

I will now come to the current situation. The situation as it prevails now has forestalled the need to borrow immediately. The most recent position relating to contributions, as I said earlier, is given in document CL 82/LIM/1. In addition to that I would like to give the further information which we received up to this morning. Four more members have paid up their assessment and as at 30 November the unpaid assessed contributions remain at \$42 321 277.89 and this is due from 77 Member Nations.

The Committee, being apprehensive on the financial implications of borrowing, reiterated serious concern regarding the irregularity of contribution payments and recommends to Council that Member Nations be required most earnestly to be punctual in their payments and also suggests that Member Nations inform the Organization of the timing of their payments. At this particular stage we cannot remain unconcerned bystanders because if the same pattern of payments is to prevail in 1983 the Organization will certainly face serious difficulties.

Before I wind up my introduction on this item I would wish to convey to you that the Committee would wish the Council to note and place on record the deep appreciation of the efforts made by the Director-General and the several permanent representatives with FAO to expedite payments of contributions by their governments in that while lauding these efforts, the need to pursue these efforts throughout next year should also be stressed.

P.J. SKOUFIS (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): In view of the details provided by the Chairman of the Finance Committee I can be brief in this intervention. The overall serious implications for all Member Nations of delay and non-receipt of contributions have been set forth in detail in the Chairman's report of both the Spring and Fall sessions of the Finance Committee and also have been brought to the Council's attention by the Director-General in his opening statement last week. While document CL 82/LIM/1 in the Finance Committee Chairman's report reflects a much more improved financial situation than had previously existed during 1982 as a result of substantial contributions recently received, the Council will note from paragraph 5 of that document that about one half of FAO's Member nations still have contributions outstanding for 1982 and previous years. However, in this regard I wish to report that the Islamic Republic of Iran has informed the Director-General that it will remit in early 1983 the amount of \$2 100 000 which will significantly reduce its outstanding obligations to the Organization. Likewise, the Federal Republic of Germany has informed the Director-General that its full 1982 contribution will be forwarded soon. Additionally the Director-General was informed that the contributions from the governments of Cameroon and Lebanon will be received shortly. When received these collections will be reflected in the appropriate tables and reports. In contribution in money for the present year in percentage terms it will be similar to previous years' collections.

While welcoming the final outcome for 1982 the Director-General will shortly be informing Member Nations of their obligations for 1983 in compliance with his responsibility under the Organization's financial regulations and it is hoped that in terms there will be timely compliance on the part of Member Nations with regard to their 1983 obligations.

As the Director-General mentioned in his opening statement, the problem of delayed receipt of contributions does not relate only to FAO but applies to most of the UN system. The executive heads of UN organizations during a meeting earlier this month of the Administrative Committee on Coordination adopted a statement concerning problems of cash flow and liquidity in the organizations of the United Nations system. The following are three of the points included in that statement: first, as a matter of principle, Member Nations should pay assessed contributions within the deadline established by the regulations of the organization since acceptance of the provision is an essential aspect of membership in the Organization and the obligations are legally binding having been assumed by international treaty; secondly, intentionally delayed payments based on domestic policies result in an unfair burden on Member Nations who continue to meet their obligations promptly and in full and thirdly, when income is not sufficient to cover current requirements funds must be obtained from other sources. The related cost either of interest earning foregone or interest charges incurred are a burden on all Member Nations, whatever their individual record in paying their contribution.

The Director-General in looking forward to 1983 takes notes of the recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Council that it make a strong appeal to all Member Nations to provide the financial support which the importance of the functions of the Organization merit. This can be done by honouring financial obligations promptly in the coming year and Council members are reminded, in accordance with financial regulations, that 1983 contributions fall due in January.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que sobre este tema el Consejo debe tomar nota de la situación financiera de la Organización, que a la luz del Documento LIM/1, es menos preocupante que en otras oportunidades. Esto nos tranquiliza un poco pues seguramente aleja la posibilidad de que se deba recurrir a préstamos que afectarían por igual a todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización, lo cual resultaría injusto en relación con aquellos Estados que pagan oportunamente.

Debemos igualmente reconocer en nuestro Informe los esfuerzos que ha hecho el Director General por estimular a los países a que paguen oportunamente sus contribuciones; pero deberemos reconocer la actitud positiva de aquellos Estados Miembros que han cubierto su contribución oportunamente o están haciendo esfuerzos para cubrirlas a tiempo, no obstante las dificultades que afrontan algunos de esos países.

Finalmente en nuestro Informe haremos una nueva exhortación a que todos los Países Miembros cumplan con la obligación de cubrir oportunamente sus contribuciones a fin de asegurar el eficaz funcionamiento de nuestra Organización.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I would first like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his introductory remarks on this item and amplified by Mr. Skoufis.

On the general financial position we are certainly most relieved that there will not now be immediately need to resort to the authority to borrow, which I think as all members of the Council and indeed, all members of the Organization would realise would be a very serious step and therefore while we applaud those members who have paid in we join in urging others to meet their obligations as soon as possible.

W. MAJOR (Canada): My delegation would wish to comment briefly on the financial position of the Organization. The delay experienced in the payment of contributions by Member countries may reflect not only their economic problems but also the concern over the rising level of the regular budget. We appreciate the Director-General's suggestion during his introductory statement to this Council that these factors would figure in his thinking in preparing the 1984-85 budget.

We have also noted that as in previous years FAO would be seeking by various ways to trim the costs of the Organization and we will await his report on the degree to which this has been successful.

We welcome the intensified efforts of the Director-General to collect contributions, not only for 1982, but also for previous years, of the 50% of the Member nations that we have heard this morning are still owing payments to the Organization.

Finally, I think although the financial position of the Organization seems to have changed greatly for the better over recent weeks we would still wish to reiterate our reservations over the use of borrowing as a mechanism to deal with financial difficulties in general.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has gone through the documents very carefully and also listened with interest to the introduction by Mr. Skoufis and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

My delegation also shares the concern of the Finance Committee expressed about the receipt of contributions of the Member nations of FAO. The amounts of arrears are about \$42 million as against \$25 million in the same period last year and this is the improved situation as we heard this morning.

There are some genuine economic and financial difficulties faced especially by the developing countries for which they could not make their payment as early as they should have done. Bearing in mind the financial and other implications of receipts of contributions my delegation would also urge upon all Council member countries to make the payment of their assessed contribution as early as possible in view of the important functions of the Organization.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): We have learned from document CL 82/LIM/1 that most of the Member nations of this organization have by now paid their assessed contributions and as a result the financial status of this Organization has improved. We feel happy and relieved for this new development. We are convinced that the just cause to eradicate hunger and malnutrition will inevitably attract wide support. We hope that the Member Nations will continue to render the Organization financial backing so as to ensure the successful implementation of the current biennial Programme of Work approved by the 21st Session of the FAO Conference.

While referring to the financial constraints facing FAO in his opening statement, the Director-General indicated that the reasons for late payment vary but he emphasized that undoubtedly the developing countries are faced with special difficulties. Bearing this in mind he pointed out that as far as possible new programme priorities will be met by the elimination of completed or lower priority activities and the Organizations efficiency must be further improved. We appreciate very much what he said.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There have been one or two comments in the debate which I would like to make some remarks about because they have stimulated my thinking.

First let me say that the Director-General shares the sense of relief that has been expressed in the Council. All of us who are concerned with financial matters share this sense of relief because in times of economic difficulties it is not the best policy to make more profits for the banks, which is what would have been involved had we borrowed. But I would like to assure those who referred to borrowing that if need arises, and it may well do so in 1983, there will be no hesitation whatsoever in resorting to borrowing. This does not mean that the Organization is spending money regardless of circumstances. On the contrary, owing to the measures taken by the Director-General earlier in the year, foreseeing the situation ahead, we are making savings wherever possible so as to slow down the rate of expenditure. Unfortunately those savings arise mainly from the freezing of posts or keeping vacancies for a long time, which is another way of saying we are cutting the Programme. I do not think it was the intention of the Conference when voting for the budget by a very large majority that the Programme should again be cut simply because some Member Nations were paying late. So although the Organization will exercise economy, let there be no mistake, we will resort to borrowing if and when the need arises. The Director-General has been given authority by the Conference to do so and he will do so, because the bills have to be paid every month.

One other remark stimulated concern on my part, and that is that the delay in payments which has been experienced this year may reflect concern over the rising level of the Budget. This is an idea which one might have suspected, but no Member Nation so far which has paid late has declared this to be its motive. Their motives as far as we know them have been parliamentary difficulties rather than economic or political difficulties. In fact those whose contributions have been most lacking for most of the year are the three largest contributors. So I do not think it can be said that those delays were motivated by economic concerns. Nor have they said that they have been motivated by political concerns, such as taking revenge for the vote of the Conference on the Programme of Work and Budget for the last time. But perhaps the delegate who made this point had better information than the Secretariat and we would be interested to discuss it with him privately.

Finally I would like to emphasize that we shall be in the same position again in 1983 unless Member Nations, in particular the 3 or 4 largest contributors, pay up early in the year. Their contributions, unfortunately from their point of view, but in accordance with the scales adopted by the Conference and in accordance with United Nations precedent, weigh more heavily than those of other Member Nations and if they are not forthcoming in the early part of the year we run into financial difficulties. Those financial difficulties are not only connected with the cash flow required month to month, they are connected with the earning of miscellaneous income. There was a point during 1982 when it was feared that the estimate for miscellaneous income in the Programme of Work and Budget could not be reached. You will recall that the Budget adopted cost more than the amount for which Member Nations are assessed, because the total cost of the Programme is reduced by an amount which we estimate will be earned in miscellaneous income, principally derived from interest on contributions. If that estimate proves to be too high because of delay in payments the Budget would cost more than had been required from Member Governments, and so we would have to have an additional assessment from the Conference in 1983. I am sure you all want to avoid that.

But even if that does not happen, and I sincerely hope it will not, there is still some cause for concern, because even if there is some miscellaneous income left over for distribution at the end of 1983, or rather in the year following that, then according to the rules as they stand, it would be divided in proportion to contributions among all Member Nations. Normally the largest contributors would get the largest slices of cash surplus distributed to Member Nations. It seems to be somewhat curious logic that those Member Nations should be rewarded with the largest slice of distributed cash surplus even though the amount had been seriously reduced by the delay in their payment.

So far we have never had to confront this situation in FAO, but I was interested to see the other day from a report of the proceedings in the Executive Board of ILO that they were taking under active consideration a scheme by which Member Nations will be charged interest on their contributions according to the amount of delay in the payment. I believe the sums mentioned were a 3 percent extra charge for the first 6 months of delay and 6 percent extra charge for the second 6 months of delay. Apparently such a system exists in one or two other international organizations. The Finance Committee may wish to consider, if this situation repeats itself in 1983, whether a similar scheme might not be proposed for this Organization in order to remedy the injustice done to those Member Nations who pay on time, because they are getting a lower amount of miscellaneous income in distributed cash surplus as a result of delay by others. If required to do so the Secretariat will discover from the organizations which have such schemes what the details of those schemes are and put them before the Finance Committee.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): After hearing the latest intervention I felt I should take the floor because I do feel that the remarks were a bit unfair. This is a universal organization and we all pay in proportion to our ability to pay based upon a United Nations formula. From that point of view certainly the United States' assessment is no more onerous or burdensome on us, perhaps even less so, than it is on many other countries in this room. Nevertheless we all share an obligation. We have a document before us which indicates that a goodly number of the Members of this Organization have not paid. In fact some who have already taken the floor this morning are nearly 200 percent in arrears of their total contribution, so that when it is inferred that somehow the return to the larger contributors is unfair when money is returned which arises from interest earnings, that is an unacceptable statement as far as we are concerned, because there are many other countries here who have not paid at all and yet would share in any benefit or any return that goes back to the member states.

In the case of my own country, we are just 1 percent in arrears at this point, which I do not think reflects badly on us in comparison with the situation of many others.

I would like to point out that there is a tendency to think that it is easy for some of the larger contributors to pay. In fact the money that we pay this and other international organizations is money that we borrow on the international market. That is not understood by a lot of people, but we have to borrow that internationally. So when we make our payments here we have to go into the market and borrow money to do it, as probably a good many other countries here do, except those that run surplus in their balance of payments.

Mr. West said that he had not heard any of the Member States who had been late in their payments say that they were doing so because of, or express any concern over, the rising level of United Nations expenditures. In the light of that remark I will say here that our policy of retarding our payments arises from a very real and growing concern in our Congress and in our Government over the rising level of expenditures in the United Nations system as a whole. It is not directed against FAO, but it is directed against the generally rising level of expenditures in the United Nations system. In fact we found it necessary to delay our payments to FAO this year because the Congress simply placed a limit on the amount of money that was available to our Government to pay to the United Nations system all our assessments, so we had either to go into arrears or get out of an organization. In fact we may still have to decide which organization of the United Nations system is least useful to us and get out. From that point of view I would point out that my Government has put it to me that the United States' contribution to FAO amounts to \$120 000 a day, day in day out, Saturday, Sunday, Christmas, New Year, every day of the year. They not unnaturally ask how the money is being used and of course I reply that it is being used very well here. But in looking at the utility and the way that money is used they point out to me that an alternative use of that money might be to give every non-OECD member of this Council \$1 million and ask them to use it for their own agricultural purposes, or we could give every non-OECD member of FAO \$400 000, and that would be an alternative use of that money, and ask them to apply it to agriculture. From my point of view, I think the money is better spent through FAO, but these are the kinds of questions that are being asked. Thus, in the years ahead, until the world recovers from the present economic difficulties that it is in, we do ask for the forbearance, consideration and understanding of our friends in the developing world, because we are all facing a very difficult situation, which was not of our making. We did not ask for it. It is damaging our primary industries as much as it is damaging those in the Third World. Until that situation turns around and we once again have a more buoyant situation in the world, however we are imposing severe restraints on ourselves, taking budgetary cuts in all departments of our government, and very frankly our Congress expects the UN system generally to apply the same sort of budgetary restraints.

I am afraid that over the years ahead, to be very candid with my colleagues here, that unless that sort of budgetary restraint is forthcoming, you could in fact see the United States taking an even more extreme position in some of the organizations.

CHAIRMAN: I think with these remarks now we could again reiterate Council's appeal to the 77 members who are yet to pay a total outstanding of over \$43 million to pay their arrears as quickly as possible and to all Member Nations to pay their dues for 1983 promptly.

13.2 Audited Accounts:

13.2 Comptes vérifiés:

13.2 Cuentas comprobadas:

(a) Regular Programme, 1980-81

(a) Programme ordinaire, 1980-81

(a) Programa Ordinario, 1980-81

(b) UNDP, 1981 (b) PNUD, 1981

(b) PNUD, 1981

(c) World Food Programme, 1981

(c) Programme alimentaire mondial, 1981

(c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos, 1981

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): In accordance with General Rule XXVII-7 (I) the Organization, the Committee considered the audited accounts of the Regular Programme for 1980-81 during its Fiftieth Session. The Committee's comments in regard to the External Auditors' observations and recommendations appear in paragraph 2.38 to 2.44 of document CL 82/11. In the course of our discussions, our attention was drawn to some of the salient comments made by the Auditor. I wish to draw your attention to a few of them.

The External Auditor commented favourably on the work of the Internal Auditor. As to his recommendations for strengthening of the staff of this office, this would have to be taken up in the context of its overall review of staff at the time the 1984-85 Programme of Work and Budget is being considered. While recognizing that there has been a positive overall impact of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme on field projects, the need to provide more information to governments regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme projects, particularly those guidelines relating to proper implementation, should be emphasized.

Our comments on the accounts of the UNDP for 1981 and the External Auditors' Report on the UNDP appear in paragraphs 2.46 to 2.50. The Committee agreed with the External Auditors' thorough, operational and administrative evaluation and recommendations and stressed the importance of issuing clear guidelines to field officers regarding their administrative responsibilities.

The Committee also reviewed the World Food Programme account for 1981, and this has been separately reported on to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

After consideration of the three reports of the Committee, the Committee now submits to Council a draft resolution to be forwarded to the Conference for adoption of the audited accounts. The draft resolution appears in paragraph 2.53 of the document under consideration.

W. MAJOR (Canada) : The three documents we have before us give us a picture of how FAO has utilized those resources from the Regular Programme, Trust Funds, and the UNDP, and also how WFP has conducted its field operations. Canada is pleased to support the efforts of the External Auditors not only to audit the activities of FAO and WFP but also to suggest ways in which the management of these programmes may be improved. We are pleased to note that except for a few examples, the External . Auditors' Report is a positive one.

We wish to recall four of his observations. The Auditor on page 17 of document C 83/5 points to the need for FAO to review its staffing of the Internal Audit Unit. The Auditor has noted some weakness in the controls related to computer purchasing and workloads. We note that FAO is improving the monitoring process for its 1200 TCP projects, and we would urge again that the services of the FAO representative or UNDP Resident Representative be fully utilized in both project approval and implementation.

Finally, it would appear from document C 83/6 that there is a danger - I refer to page 17 - that because of a lack of data there is a risk that UNDP funds are being used to promote some non-viable activities. We hope the Finance Committee's concerns about the length of time taken to assess such projects as the Cotton Project are also heeded.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has studied very carefully the reports of the External Auditor on the accounts of the Regular Programme 1980-81, document C 83/5, UNDP 1981, document C 83/6 and the World Food Programme 1981, document C 83/7.

My delegation has also gone through the report of the Finance Committee with particular reference to its comments and observations under the following subject headings: Review of the Office of the Internal Auditor, Technical Cooperation Programme Field Projects, Trust Fund Activities, Administration of Project Funds, Accelerated Development of Cotton Production, The Use of Air Freight to Transfer Equipment to Field Projects and last but not least, the World Food Programme 1981.

My delegation agreed with the views and recommendations of the External Auditors, and the Finance Committee met on these subjects. My delegation is happy to note that the External Auditors and the Finance Committee were pleased to accord high marks to the Organization in many cases because of good management of the affairs of the Organization.

I have also noted with great satisfaction that the management of the Organization has taken prompt action to implement the recommendations of the External Auditors and the Finance Committee in other cases, such as intensifying efforts to monitor project implementation, administration of project funds, FAO's execution of UNDP projects, etc.

My delegation would therefore agree with the recommendation of the Committee that the Council may submit to the Conference these Audited Accounts for adoption.

A. NAGA (Japan): Although we are prepared to endorse this report, we would like to make a few comments on the following points. After seeing the activities of TCP so far, my delegation would like to mention that it would be most beneficial if FAO could make more efforts to distribute the TCP to the countries which are really in need of aid, such as low-income food-deficit countries, especially from the aspects of utilizing effectively the limited resources available.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): My delegation would like to offer a few brief comments on two of the reports here before us. On the Regular Programme Audited Reports, we are very pleased to note the generally satisfactory report on FAO's management of its activities in particular. We are encouraged by the evidence of the high standards operating in the Office of Internal Audit, notwithstanding its present staff position.

One thing which appears in the report and which I know has been referred to in the Finance Committee's deliberations is that of poor communication especially between the Headquarters and Field operations. Breakdown, as we all know, is sometimes inevitable, given the distance between Field operations and Headquarters in all organizations. However, we hope that FAO will continue to give close attention to improvement in this matter, since failure to do so would jeopardize the success of an operation, and in particular, we support the Auditors' recommendation that the UNDP Resident Representative should be used as a channel of communication when there are no FAO personnel available.

The third point I wish to make was on TCP, but I can merely say that I support the comments made by Japan.

On the question of the UNDP Report, we are concerned at the high cost of experts which is indicated in paragraph 14 of document C 83/6. I could perhaps seek some clarification separately about whether these figures include only the salary and basic staff costs, as indicated in paragraph 12, or whether additional costs, such as office services and so on, are also included.

CHAIRMAN: Does any other Council member want to speak? Does anybody from the Secretariat want to offer any comments?

Well, with these observations, shall we adopt the Recommendations of the Finance Committee in paragraph 2.53 of document CL 82/11? The draft conference resolution has been appended in paragraph 2.53. We commend this draft resolution to the Conference and forward it to the Conference.

It was so decided

Il en es ainsi decide

Asi se acuerda

14. Headquarters Accommodation

14. Locaux du Siège

14. Locales de oficina en la Sede

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Since we discussed this item at the two last sessions, it is only appropriate that we report the position to Council. Item 14, Headquarters accommodation, has two aspects. One is the construction of new premises, and the other, the one of litigation which is being taken up separately under Item 18.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of Council to paragraphs 28-86 in document CL 82/4 and paragraphs 2.73-2.76 in document CL 82/11. During the 49th Session of the Committee we were informed in a verbal report by the Secretariat of the progress regarding indirect and permanent measures proposed by the Director-General for solving the problem of accommodation at Headquarters, and as you will recall, this was endorsed by the Council at its 79th Session. The Committee thereafter requested the Secretariat to keep this item on its agenda until some definite action was taken in this regard.

The Committee noted with disappointment that there has been little or no progress regarding the construction of new premises. However, it commended the Director-General for the efforts so far made, and advised him to renew his efforts, although it was clear there was no progress.

At the 50th meeting of our Committee we were informed of the most recent proposal to construct a new wing on the land which is immediately adjacent to the main buildings as a permanent solution to the problem. The Committee was informed that FAO had initiated at its own expense, and in agreement with the appropriate local authorities, the Commune of Rome, prior excavation work to ensure that nothing in the way of archaeological remains underground would hinder the work of construction on this proposed new site.

The Committee also noted that FAO would have to bear the additional expenses of approximately \$32 000 for the appropriate work.

The Committee now recommends to the Council that the new building to be built on land adjacent to the main building be taken up as a permanent solution to the headquarters problem.

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): In addition to informing the Council of the latest developments since the last session of the Finance Committee, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to summarise very briefly the history of this problem. It is a longstanding problem and there is an ever-growing pressing need for a quick solution.

I think it should be stated again and again that the Rome headquarters units have been split into two or more locations ever since 1961. We had to hire premises, apartments in blocks of flats on the Cristoforo Colombo, at times in the EUR about 10 kilometers away from here, and across the street; and abandon them when some more accommodation was made available by the Italian Government. It has to be stated also that the Italian Government has been very generous in providing additional accommodation as the Organization grew.

In 1964 it completed the construction of Building C on this compound. This was not sufficient, and we had to construct a prefabricated building, the so-called Building E, again on this compound, but still we had to hire huge blocks of office space away from here, and until 1980 we were in three locations. In that year the Italian Government had again generously made available Building D which was housing the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. That enabled us to abandon rented accommodation, which was expensive - Building G. Since then we still have to continue operations in two locations, and we still have about 900 staff members in Building F.

I do not think many delegates have seen the loss of time and efficiency caused by this split: the loss of time of many officers, including senior staff, travelling back and forth between two buildings on shuttle buses, the expenditure involved in running these buses, extra transfers, the duplication of services such as medical services, Credit Union and many others which could be translated into hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

A more pressing need arose from the very poor state of repair in which this prefabricated Building E finds itself now. It has outlived its life. It was built 17 years ago, and such prefabricated buildings are supposed to last ten or fifteen years. The Director-General can no longer take responsibility for what should happen there. Water pipes could burst, fires could start, the electrical system is not in good condition, so urgent repairs have to be undertaken, but where could the staff be put which are now located there?

Another important point that has to be raised is the fact that the proposals to construct additional space on the roof of Building D and a new wing in order to re-group all headquarters staff in one location is not for purposes of expansion. I think all members of the Council have seen the Director-General's policy since 1976, which is to reduce or at least not to expand the headquarters staff.

The Italian Government has been very conscious of these problems, and the idea of building a new complex to house all headquarters units and possibly other organizations in Rome, such as IFAD, if they wish to, was well received by the government and repeatedly announced, by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs right here in this building. But despite the wellknown generosity of the Italian Government in this respect - and there the Director-General has noted that other host governments of other UN agencies have not been that generous - it would be a scheme that would take many, many years to complete and would be very expensive. Therefore, because of the pressures, the Director-General had to examine with the Italian authorities other more practical solutions.

This proposal is now in front of the Council, as recommended by the Finance Committee in its report of the 49th Session, that is, to adopt as a permanent solution to the accommodation problem (1) the construction of about 70 rooms on the roof of Building D and (2) the construction of a new wing adjacent to Building C here on this compound, to enable us to bring over from Building F all the staff that are located there. This would enable us, of course, to abandon Building F and perhaps Building E, or at least perhaps vacate it temporarily in order to build it in a better shape.

It should be repeated here that this solution again demonstrates the intention not to expand the staff at headquarters, as some delegations might fear, since once the new spaces are occupied after we abandon Buildings F and E, there will be no more room for expansion. It will be filled again.

Now if I may turn on to the latest developments; first to the 70 rooms on the roof of Building D. Unfortunately there has been nothing after an administrative meeting held last January. The Ministry of Public Works needs to carry out further studies, but have not even given the authorization to do so. We took up the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week and they kindly undertook to take up the matter again with the Ministry of Public Works, but we are not aware of any results yet. It may be that the delegate of the host government has some later news to give us on this.

But this is urgent. It is also easier to implement this construction of 70 rooms, particularly because of the state of repair of Building E. If we could only have these 70 rooms, we could place that staff of Building E there until we can find some other solution, as otherwise we would have to rent some additional outside space again. However, I am afraid there is no progress on these 70 rooms.

On the question of the new wing, the situation is more difficult. It involves many government departments, many regional and municipal administrations, who have to give their agreement before a building permit can be issued. We have been greatly encouraged, however, by some favourable indications, particularly from the municipality of Rome, the Comune di Roma, to whom we sent a

rough sketch of where the building could be, and we received again counter-proposals, rough sketches for further discussion; but the Department of Archaeology is involved, and that is why we undertook these excavations. I am pleased to say the excavations were completed last week. No important archaeological remains have been found except an ancient Roman wall, but perhaps a building could be constructed around it, or the wall could be placed elsewhere. We have to await the report of the Archaeological Superintendency before any further consideration can be given.

However, there are several other difficulties. To obtain a building permit in the historic centre of Rome, to arrange the transfer of land which belongs to the Municipality, to the Central Government, to arrange for a loan for financing the project - which would probably require Parliamentary approval - and any unforeseen problems, would probably delay the project for a long time, or even block it.

The matter is urgent because as time goes on the crisis will develop. Therefore action has to be taken now. It is hoped that the Council will support the Director-General's actions and perhaps ask him to bring the matter before the Council of Ministers. I say the Council of Ministers because there are several ministries involved. There is the Treasury for financing, there is Public Works for the building, and several others, so unless we have a decision by the Council of Ministers itself the progress will be very doubtful.

It has also to be stated here with reference to the Conference resolution of November 1981, which appointed a Working Party of the Conference to discuss the matter with the Italian authorities at a higher level, that it has not yet been able to meet either the President of the Council of Ministers or the Foreign Minister.

It is therefore suggested that the Council should continue to give priority to this subject and request that the matter be brought to the Council of Ministers with a view to obtaining all the necessary Government decisions for the earliest possible implementation of these two projects - the 70 rooms on Building D, and the new wing. The Director-General would be prepared to arrange for appointments with the President of the Council of Ministers through the Foreign Ministry for himself and the working party of the Conference, in order to convey in detail the problem and obtain an early approval for the construction, together with financing and a detailed timetable for execution.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italie): Avec votre permission, je voudrais brièvement rappeler les faits principaux concernant la question des locaux du siège, en vue de préciser la portée des engagements italiens en la matière.

C'est en 1971 que le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Boerma, demanda aux autorités italiennes la cession du bâtiment D. Le Gouvernement italien, dans l'attente de pouvoir donner suite à cette requête, et à titre de libéralité unilatérale, décida d'accorder des contributions annuelles de 300 millions de lires qui ont atteint, en 1981, 3,3 milliards de lires. Dernièrement, l'Organisation a demandé que cette contribution qui, je le répète, est volontaire, soit mise à jour compte tenu du taux d'inflation du pays.

Le Gouvernement italien a encore une fois accédé aux requêtes du Directeur général de la FAO, et je suis en mesure d'annoncer que pour 1982 la somme versée par mon gouvernement sera de 450 millions de lires, ce qui correspond à une augmentation de 50 pour cent par rapport à l'année précédente.

A cela, il faut ajouter la somme de 7 milliards de lires environ que représente le coût de l'aménagement du bâtiment D, également soutenu par le Gouvernement italien.

Ayant ainsi complètement honoré les obligations découlant de l'accord du siège en la matière, le Gouvernement italien, pour démontrer sa bonne volonté, a décidé l'année dernière d'examiner avec bienveillance les idées soumises par la FAO concernant la création du Centre mondial pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. L'action conduite dès lors par l'Italie n'a jamais marqué le pas. C'est donc avec surprise que nous lisons les affirmations du rapport du Comité des finances dans les paragraphes 78 à 86 du document CL 82/4, et dans les articles 2.73 à 2.76 du document CL 82/11.

Actuellement, la situation est la suivante :

En ce qui concerne en particulier la construction d'un nouvel étage sur le bâtiment D destiné à accueillir 70 nouveaux bureaux, selon le projet présenté par la FAO aux autorités italiennes au printemps 1982, on a constaté que des progrès ont été accomplis, malgré les difficultés objectives dérivant de limitations de caractère urbain, architectural et technique auxquelles est soumis le centre historique de Rome. A l'heure actuelle, le projet est à l'examen de la Région Lazio où le Ministère des travaux publics a transmis le dossier, après avoir formulé son évaluation. Nous attendons donc les conclusions de la Région.

Quant au projet de construction d'un nouveau bâtiment dans le complexe de Caracalla, complexe qui est soumis à des limitations archéologiques et urbaines très sévères, son dossier marque aussi des progrès, ayant obtenu un avis de principe favorable de la part de la Mairie de Rome. Je me réfère

en particulier à l'échange de lettres qui a eu lieu récemment entre le Directeur général et le Maire de Rome. Comme M. Georgiadis l'a dit, des fouilles ont déjà été entreprises pour vérifier la présence éventuelle de restes archéologiques, et nous attendons le résultat de ces fouilles.

Il faut aussi ajouter qu'à plusieurs reprises la FAO elle-même a manifesté aux autorités italiennes sa satisfaction pour le progrès de la question.

M. le Président, je voudrais encore une fois souligner le caractère de libéralité qui est à la base de la position italienne à cet égard et, par la même occasion, je voudrais confirmer l'intérêt de mon gouvernement à ce que le problème des locaux du siège trouve une solution adéquate et rapide, compte tenu des limites objectives dont la nature découle de l'endroit choisi pour les deux projets, endroit qui fait partie du patrimoine archéologique national et dont l'aménagement est strictement réglementé.

T. SADAKA (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais féliciter M. Georgiadis pour son exposé très clair sur la question des locaux du siège de la FAO à Rome, inscrite au point 14 de l'ordre du jour. Il apparaît de cet exposé et des documents CL 82/4 et CL 82/11, que la question comporte deux volets.

D'abord, la construction de nouveaux bâtiments. La délégation libanaise déplore la situation anormale et les retards concernant la construction d'un nouveau bâtiment pour le siège de la FAO à Rome.

Nous voudrions exprimer toute notre gratitude pour les efforts du gouvernement italien en sa qualité de gouvernement du pays hôte du Siège. Nous voudrions exprimer également notre surprise pour tous ces délais malgré les nombreuses promesses du Président du Conseil et du Ministre des affaires étrangères de fournir de nouveaux bâtiments à l'Organisation. A ce sujet, nous voudrions pourtant exprimer notre surprise. Aucun progrès n'a été réalisé au sujet des 70 bureaux supplémentaires dont il est question au bâtiment D. Un accord avait pourtant été atteint en janvier 1981 pour commencer ces travaux; mais pour des raisons de forme pure, la question des transferts de fonds d'un ministère à l'autre, aucun progrès n'a été réalisé pour la construction de ces bureaux bien que l'Organisation en ait un besoin urgent.

D'autre part, en ce qui concerne la possibilité de construire une nouvelle aile sur le terrain adjacent aux bâtiments du siège, il existe certaines indications qui nous laissent quelque peu optimistes quant à un éventuel progrès mais, en dépit de cet optimisme, les événements nous ont appris que pour une raison ou une autre, telle ou telle administration italienne pourrait refuser ce qu'un autre aurait autorisé. Bien que l'année soit arrivée à sa fin, le problème n'a pas été résolu encore. Nous pourrions nous réunir une nouvelle fois au sein du Conseil pour réaliser que les travaux n'ont pas encore commencé dans la construction de la nouvelle aile. Aussi voudrions-nous prier instamment l'administration italienne pour que la question soit soumise au Conseil des Ministres italien afin que le gouvernement puisse prendre une décision officielle en ce qui concerne les travaux de construction, en vertu d'une loi promulguée par la Chambre des députés et tenant compte des crédits nécessaires. Si cette procédure n'est pas suivie il n'y aurait aucun espoir de voir les bâtiments construits et la crise dans laquelle se débat l'Organisation depuis des années définitivement réglée.

S.HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I only wish to make a very brief intervention, firstly to thank the Director of the Administrative Services Division for giving us a very clear idea as to how the Headquarters accommodation position is at present. My delegation feels naturally concerned about the current state of affairs on both alternatives originally conceived for solving the Headquarters accommodation problem which we understand is the construction of 70 rooms on top of Building D, or having a new wing in the new building. I understand the latter is no longer an alternative but is being considered as a substitute for accommodation that has been hired in building F, which is under litigation at the moment.

Having heard also the delegate of Italy, I think things are progressing and we have no reason to feel disappointed. We would, however, wish that further urgent steps be taken to resolve the issue so that FAO can get on with solid work. I am sure everyone agrees that we have lost much time and there is no further room for losing any more time. FAO should be able to get on with the solid work, also since it seems necessary in the interest of the efficiency of the Organization.

In this connexion, we agree, we think that the suggestion made by the Finance Committee that the Italian Permanent Representative be invited to participate in an informal meeting of the Committee on this subject during its next session, is also constructive and we endorse it. We recognize that the Italian Government has so far been extremely generous and considerate, and we have no doubt that in future FAO will be able to draw more on their sympathy and consideration.

Turning now to the question of Building F, I think the suggestion, the steps that are being envisaged of having a new building here to serve as a substitute, is also opportune and would be advisable if funds permit. In this connexion, we would like to take this opportunity also to endorse the initiative and steps taken by the Director-General of FAO in the matter of construction of the buildings and the rooms, and in generally solving the Headquarters problem of FAO.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais tout d'abord assurer les autorités italiennes de ma conviction que le gouvernement italien est beaucoup plus généreux et libéral que tous les gouvernements, ayant offert l'hospitalité aux Nations Unies, à New York, à Paris ou à Genève. Je veux être clair: d'après l'enquête que j'ai menée dans tous ces pays, les gouvernements n'ont pas fourni ou fait construire gratuitement des bureaux, comme le fait si généreusement l'Italie pour la FAO. Il ne s'agit donc pas du tout de mettre en cause la générosité et la libéralité du gouvernement italien dans les commentaires que je vais faire. En ce qui concerne tout d'abord la construction d'un étage qui comprendrait à peu près 70 bureaux - le 8ème étage du Building D - je souhaiterais rappeler que cet immeuble a été mis à notre disposition par le gouvernement italien qui a dû en construire un autre à l'EUR pour abriter le Ministère des postes et des télégraphes, le gouvernement a dû aussi assumer le coût de la réfection du building D, en dépensant 8 à 10 milliards de lires à cet effet. Cependant la question des nouveaux bureaux à ajouter au Building D n'est toujours pas claire. On nous a dit que le dossier avait été envoyé à l'administration du Lazio. Je voudrais savoir quelles sont les prochaines étapes. Nous avons commencé en janvier à discuter de cette affaire et aujourd'hui, en novembre, le dossier est encore au Lazio. C'est une affaire qui m'échappe pour le moment. Je ne peux pas vous dire si dans un an on aura commencé les travaux. Il n'y a aucun indice qui puisse m'autoriser à le dire. Deuxièmement, en ce qui concerne la construction d'une nouvelle aile, la question est vraiment très complexe. Voilà un bâtiment qui va coûter 40 à 50 millions de dollars au moins. C'est une grosse, très grosse dépense. On l'a souligné. Tant que je n'aurai pas reçu notification du Gouvernement italien qu'il y a une loi approuvée par le Parlement et allouant une somme donnée pour la construction d'un immeuble à tel endroit, je ne pourrais jamais vous garantir la construction d'une aile nouvelle ici, à Terme di Caracalla. Le Ministère des affaires étrangères fait tout ce qui est en son pouvoir mais cette affaire relève du Gouvernement, c'est-à-dire du Conseil des Ministres et jusqu'à présent, à ma connaissance, je ne dispose pas d'une seule lettre du gouvernement qui constitue un engagement. L'affaire n'est pas encore passée devant le Parlement, ni devant le Conseil des Ministres. Je prie le gouvernement italien de bien vouloir considérer la possibilité de prendre un engagement écrit à cet égard le plus tôt possible. J'insiste aussi auprès du gouvernement italien pour que la délégation des 7 pays membres représentant les 7 régions de la FAO et nommée par la Conférence générale en 1981. puisse lui transmettre les vœux et décisions du Conseil. Cela n'a pas été possible jusqu'ici et j'en comprends les raisons. Si nous n'avons pas été reçus par le premier Ministre c'est, m'a-t-on rapporté, parce qu'il n'avait encore rien de concret et de positif à nous annoncer. Cependant, nous serions satisfaits que cette délégation puisse voir le premier Ministre une première fois pour l'informer de la situation.

En conclusion, je voudrais encore rappeler que la FAO est très redevable au gouvernement italien de sa grande générosité.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I would like first of all to explain that for the question of the seventy bureaux, there are two instances that have to give their approval, the Ministry of Public Works and the Regional Government of Lazio. We have succeeded, and I repeat, succeeded two days ago to get the file out of Public Works and to have it transmitted to the Regional Government of Lazio. So let us say one step has been completed. This is a second step and we will concentrate our efforts on the Regional Government of Lazio to speed up our decision. There are no other instances, these two..

As far as the new building is concerned, the Director-General has asked for a written engagement. I understand his point and I share his concern as I shared the concern of the Committee and the Council but this engagement involves, as the Director-General said, \$50 million at least and in these times of tight money and inflation Parliament is not probably very easily convinced, or cannot easily be convinced, to disburse \$50 million. This is not to say that hope has to be lost, not at all, but a very special effort has to be undertaken by the Government to have the bill approved by Parliament.

I will certainly convey to my Minister, and through my Minister to the Government, your worries, your requests, your views and at this juncture I can only say that I hope that the reply will be positive and quick.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, para quienes tenemos el privilegio de residir en este país maravilloso resulta fácil y confortante sumarnos al reconocimiento que ha hecho el Sr. Director General sobre la generosidad y la atención con que el Gobierno italiano ofrece su asistencia a nuestra Organización.

El debate sobre este tema había comenzado con general expectativa, y tuvimos la impresión en primera instancia de que la declaración inicial que hizo el representante de Italia había tranquilizado esa atmósfera de inquietud.

Sin embargo, ahora al oír por segunda vez al representante de Italia tenemos la impresión de que esa situación no se presenta tan favorable como lo hubiéramos deseado.

Parece que, yéndonos muy bien, podríamos lograr la construcción de las 70 oficinas sobre el edificio D, pero que será muy difícil obtener los fondos para construir la dependencia o el ala necesaria en la Sección de Caracalla.

Comprendemos las dificultades objetivas a que ha hecho referencia el delegado de Italia, pero, sin embargo, como él ha dicho que el Gobierno italiano desea una solución adecuada y rápida quisiéramos preguntarle al representante de Italia si él podría darnos una fecha tentativa dentro de la cual pudiera construirse por lo menos las 70 oficinas sobre el edificio D. Quisiéramos preguntarle si hay los fondos para la construcción de esas 70 oficinas o qué otro factor podría estar influyendo en los retardos a que se ha hecho referencia.

Intervenimos en este debate también porque Colombia es uno de los 7 países que fueron elegidos por la pasada Conferencia para integrar un grupo de trabajo que asesorara al Director General y en ese propósito tratara de lograr contactos con funcionarios italianos de alto nivel. Recibimos copia de la carta que en febrero pasado dirigió el Sr. Director General al Primer Ministro italiano solicitando una audiencia para nuestro grupo de trabajo en cumplimiento de lo que había dispuesto la Conferencia y luego no tuvimos ninguna noticia más. Creemos que eso ha sido por lo menos una desatención de parte del Gobierno italiano a la solicitud que le hizo el Director General de la FAO, sobre todo si se tiene en cuenta, como lo saben los colegas de Italia ante la FAO, que se trata de un grupo de trabajo integrado por la Conferencia que es nuestro máximo Organismo Rector.

No conocemos los contactos que hayan podido existir entre la Secretaría de la FAO y los representantes de Italia ante nuestra Organización sobre esa carta del Director General al Primer Ministro italiano, pero suponemos que nuestros colegas de Italia hayan debido conocer ese texto e interesarse porque por lo menos se ofreciera una respuesta que no se ha producido hasta ahora.

Nosotros creemos que en esas condiciones el grupo de trabajo elegido por la Conferencia está en dificultades para cumplir lo que dispone la resolución que lo creó, según la cual deberíamos rendir informe a este período de sesiones del Consejo que está para terminar y también al próximo y, naturalmente, no vamos a poder cumplir esa disposición de la Conferencia porque no nos hemos podido reunir y el Director General no nos ha convocado porque esa misma resolución dice que nos convocaría el Director General si lo considerasen oportuno y conveniente y, naturalmente, si no hubo ninguna respuesta del Gobierno italiano el Director General no tenía los elementos indispensables para convocar ese grupo de trabajo. Por lo tanto, la delegación de Colombia propone que este Consejo pida a las autoridades italianas que conceda una audiencia al nivel que ellos lo consideren necesario al Director General y a ese grupo de trabajo, audiencia que debería cumplirse entre el momento actual y antes del verano próximo cuando se reúna de nuevo el Consejo, a fin de que ese grupo de trabajo pueda cumplir la misión que le encomendó la Conferencia.

Esperamos ahora tener un poco más de suerte con el Gobierno italiano; parece que afortunadamente va a ser Primer Ministro una eminente personalidad italiana, el Senador Fanfani, quien el pasado 16 de octubre confirmó el interés que él mismo tuvo en la iniciación de las actividades de la FAO en Roma y quien, además, tiene una trayectoria de brillantes servicios, no sólo a Italia, sino también a la Comunidad Internacional.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I would like very briefly to answer some points that have been raised. First, I forgot in my previous intervention to answer a point raised by the delegate of Lebanon, if the translation from the Arabic was correct. He said that the Italian authorities refuse that progress be achieved in the solution of the question. I would like to make it clear that our authorities do not refuse any progress. We are struggling with difficulties and problems but certainly there is no ill intention and no desire to refuse the requests of FAO.

Second, to answer the delegate of Colombia, I would like to say that at this juncture it is impossible for me to indicate even a tentative date for the passing of the law or the appropriation of the funds. This is a point that has to be brought up in the Government, and we hope to have a Government as of today, and then from the Government to go to Parliament. It is a procedure that takes some time. Every country has a Parliament and knows how these things go. But I would like to confirm our dedication to the question and our engagement in pushing this through and bringing it to the attention of the minister and trying to have this meeting organized between the Director-General, the Committee and the proper Italian authorities.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just one word, Mr. Chairman. As the delegate of Italy said, these matters concern several ministers. I think it would be appropriate if the delegation of the FAO Conference and the Director-General should meet the Prime Minister, in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of course. We could also later on have a separate meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As soon as Mr. Fanfani is confirmed in office we will approach him officially through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for such an appointment.

I again thank the delegate of Italy very much for the very frank and responsible attitude he has taken. I very much appreciate his assurance that the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is very well disposed to continue, as it has since 1951, to assist FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General. I think we have had a very detailed explanation of this item. There are three issues. There is the construction of 70 rooms on the 8th floor of Building D. We are very happy to hear the statement of the delegate of Italy that the Public Works Department has already approved this proposal. It has now gone to the regional government and we hope that by the time we meet in June progress will have been made. Also there is the problem of funding. Naturally these are matters that will be looked into. Progress is however poor regarding a new building. Apart from the archeological problems, the financial dimensions of the problem are also mentioned. We would again urge that the Director-General and the working group as soon as convenient to the Prime Minister may call on him and such other ministers as may be necessary and explain the position and the urgency of the request.

Thirdly, I would like on behalf of the Council to record our congratulations to Mr. Fanfani on assuming the very difficult position of Prime Minister, particularly in the context of his long association with and support for FAO. We are happy to record that he has assumed this position today, though it is a bed of thorns, not a bed of roses, and we wish him all the best in tackling successfully the many complex problems.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

18. Report of the Forty-second Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

18. Rapport de la quarante-deuxième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

18. Informe del 42º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y jurídicos

T. GLASER (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques) : Le CQCJ a tenu sa 42ème session du 27 au 30 septembre de cette année. Le rapport a été distribué sous la cote CL 82/5. La première question examinée traitait de l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO en Italie. Cette question s'était posée à cause d'un litige entre la FAO et le propriétaire de l'immeuble F loué par la FAO. Le propriétaire, au lieu de recourir à, un arbitrage comme prévu contractuellement, a saisi d'abord la Pretura civile di Roma et ensuite le Tribunal civil de Rome de cette affaire. La FAO n'est pas entrée en matière mais a fait valoir qu'elle jouit de l'immunité de juridiction selon l'article 16 de l'Accord de siège, mais le Tribunal civil de Rome a prononcé un jugement affirmant que le litige relevait de sa juridiction car le bail entre la FAO et l'INPDAI - c'est le nom du propriétaire - était de caractère privé vu que le siège de la FAO était situé ailleurs; deuxièmement, que la clause d'arbitrage contenue dans le bail était nulle et non avenue aux termes de la législation italienne.

Les deux parties ont interjeté appel contre cette sentence. Etant donné l'importance du principe en jeu, la FAO a décidé de demander directement à la Corte di Cassazione de se prononcer sur la question de son immunité de juridiction. En attendant l'arrêt de cette Cour, la procédure tant devant la Pretura civile di Roma que devant la Corte d'Appello a été suspendue.

Le CQCJ a noté tout d'abord que la Corte di Cassazione n'avait pas encore rendu de jugement et qu'on ne pouvait donc en évaluer les effets avant de connaître le libellé et l'exposé des motifs de la sentence. Le CQCJ a cependant estimé qu'il convenait de lui soumettre cette question étant donné que la Cour allait bientôt émettre son jugement et que le Comité devait pouvoir examiner en détail une question si importante et si complexe afin de pouvoir conseiller en temps voulu le Directeur général et le Conseil.

En outre, le CQCJ a fait remarquer qu'étant donné que la FAO et le Gouvernement italien étaient parties à l'Accord de Siège, ils avaient tous deux le droit de faire connaître leur interprétation de la section 16 de cet Accord. En conséquence, le Directeur général a eu entièrement raison de demander l'avis du Comité sur le bien-fondé de l'interprétation adoptée par la FAO au sujet de cette clause.

Ayant examiné les problèmes dont il était saisi, le CQCJ a conclu que les questions fondamentales qui devaient retenir particulièrement l'attention étaient les suivantes : 1) Quelle était l'interprétation correcte de la section 16 de l'Accord de Siège ? 2) Est-ce que, en présence d'une clause spécifique d'un traité, les principes découlant du droit international coutumier applicables aux Etats étaient valables pour déterminer la portée de l'immunité des organisations intergouvernementales ? 3) Quelles seraient pour la FAO les conséquences juridiques et constitutionnelles de la Corte di Cassazione qui ne reconnaîtrait pas pleinement son immunité de juridiction et quelles seraient les mesures à prendre pour sauvegarder à l'avenir ladite immunité ?

En ce qui concerne l'interprétation de la section 16 de l'Accord de Siège, le CQCJ a noté que cette clause est libellée comme suit (je cite) :

"La FAO et ses biens, en quelque endroit qu'ils se trouvent et quel qu'en soit le détenteur, jouissent de l'immunité de juridiction, sauf dans la mesure où l'Organisation y a expressément renoncé dans un cas particulier. Il est toutefois entendu que la renonciation ne peut s'étendre à des mesures d'exécution." (Fin de citation).

Ayant examiné la libellé de la Section 16 dans le contexte des dispositions analogues de traités et de leur application, le CQCJ a estimé qu'il était clair et dépourvu d'ambiguïté et qu'il faut donner à l'expression "immunité de juridiction" tout son sens littéral. Ainsi, le CQCJ fait sienne l'interprétation donnée à cette clause par le Directeur général, selon laquelle la FAO jouit de l'Immunité de juridiction dans tous les cas, à moins qu'elle n'y ait expressément renoncé.

A ce propos, le CQCJ a fait observer que l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO n'aboutit pas à un déni de justice car d'autres moyens ont toujours été prévus pour régler les différends et, dans le bail conclu entre la FAO et l'INPDAI, les parties sont expressément convenues de régler les différends par voie d'arbitrage.

Concernant la deuxième question, le comité a été d'avis qu'il n'était pas nécessaire, pour interpréter ce traité, de recourir à d'autres clauses ou principes juridiques, comme la distinction entre les actes jure imperii et les actes jure gestionis qui sont souvent observés sur la base du droit international coutumier en ce qui concerne l'immunité des Etats étrangers.

En ce qui concerne la troisième question, le comité s'est déclaré préoccupé par les conséquences juridiques qui surgiraient si la Corte di Cassazione rendait un jugement ne reconnaissant pas pleinement l'immunité de la FAO.

Du point de vue juridique et constitutionnel, le CQCJ a noté en particulier qu'un tel arrêt signifierait que la FAO serait exposée à des procès et même à des procès vexatoires devant les tribunaux italiens, procès qui pourraient se révéler longs et coûteux et être provoqués à l'occasion d'à peu près n'importe quelle transaction officielle effectuée en Italie. Dans le cas particulier du bail conclu entre la FAO et l'INPDAI, il est à prévoir que les procès concernant les arriérés de loyers et l'expulsion qui sont en cours respectivement devant la Pretura Civile di Roma et la Corte d'Appello seraient repris. Bien plus, le statut de la FAO et celui des autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, qui sont couvertes par des dispositions concernant l'immunité de juridiction identiques, quant au fond, à la section 16 de l'Accord de Siège, se trouveraient sérieusement compromis et l'exercice de certaines activités officielles serait soumis à l'examen des tribunaux d'un seul Etat Membre. En outre, l'interprétation restrictive de l'immunité de la FAO stipulée à la section 16 de l'Accord de Siège créerait un précédent regrettable, car des dispositions correspondantes figurent dans les deux conventions générales sur les privilèges et immunités des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées auxquelles sont parties un grand nombre d'Etats.

Pour toutes ces raisons, le CQCJ considère qu'au cas où la Corte di Cassazione rendrait un jugement qui ne reconnaîtrait pas pleinement l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO, le Conseil voudrait sans doute inviter le gouvernement de l'Etat hôte à trouver une méthode appropriée pour résoudre le problème en consultation avec l'INPDAI sans autre recours aux tribunaux italiens et sans tentative d'imposer l'exécution des arrêts au fond, car une telle tentative serait contraire à diverses dispositions de l'Accord de Siège et à la pratique internationale généralement acceptée. De même, le CQCJ envisage que le Conseil voudrait également inviter le Gouvernement hôte et le Directeur général à engager des consultations sur les mesures requises que le Gouvernement hôte devrait adopter sans délai pour sauvegarder à l'avenir l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO.

La dernière question que le comité a examinée concernait la revision des statuts du Comité consultatif de la recherche sur les ressources de la mer.

Il s'agit là d'un comité créé il y a près de 20 ans. Il paraît donc opportun de reviser ses statuts afin de les harmoniser avec les dispositions constitutionnelles en vigueur et les décisions adoptées par la Conférence au cours des dernières années, et de mettre à jour la terminologie utilisée dans les textes.

Le CQCJ convient que le texte des statuts révisés du CCRRM proposé par le Directeur général est conforme aux textes fondamentaux et aux décisions pertinentes de la Conférence. Etant donné que c'est la Conférence qui a autorisé le Directeur général à créer le CCRRM, le comité décide d'appeler l'attention du Conseil sur les statuts révisés du CCRRM sans préjuger de leur promulgation par le Directeur général.

Le CQCJ a noté qu'en conséquence, après la promulgation des statuts révisés par le Directeur général, il faudra soumettre au CCRRM, aux fins d'adoption lors de sa prochaine session, des amendements à son Règlement intérieur afin d'harmoniser ce règlement avec les statuts révisés.

En ce qui concerne cette question, le Conseil est prié d'en prendre acte, il n'y a pas de décision particulière à prendre.

Pour ce qui est de la première question, je répète que le CQCJ propose deux actions au Conseil au cas où la Corte di Cassazione rendrait un jugement qui ne reconnaîtrait pas pleinement l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO, c'est-à-dire inviter le Gouvernement de l'Etat hôte à trouver une méthode appropriée pour résoudre le problème en consultation avec l'INPDAL, propriétaire du bâtiment, et inviter le Gouvernement hôte et le Directeur général à engager des consultations en vue de sauvegarder à l'avenir l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO.

Voilà, M. le Président, mon rapport sur la dernière session du CQCJ. Entre-temps, le Secrétariat a distribué le document CL 82/LIM/2 qui met à jour l'évolution de la situation. En substance, il nous informe que la Corte di Cassazione a prononcé un jugement refusant de reconnaître à la FAO l'immunité de juridiction. J'aimerais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le fait qu'à ma connaissance ce jugement n'a pas fait l'objet d'une communication officielle du Gouvernement italien à la FAO. Du point de vue strictement formel, on peut donc dire que, pour le moment, il n'y a pas de litige officiel entre le Gouvernement du pays hôte et la FAO. Un règlement à l'amiable devrait donc encore être possible. Cela me paraît être une raison de plus pour adopter les mesures que vous propose le comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee) : Since the subject has been discussed at length, it is appropriate that I should reflect the Committee's views for the information of the Council. The relevant paragraphs in our Report of the Forty-ninth Session are paragraphs 87 to 94 and paragraphs 2.77 to 2.79 in the Report of the Fiftieth Session.

While the legal issues concerning FAO's immunity from legal process are of paramount importance to the Organization, both in regard to its current litigation and the possible consequences in other fields at a future date, the Committee expressed concern on the financial implications of an unfavourable judgement which would entitle the owner of Building F to arrears of rent increases amounting to over \$1 million, and of being evicted from the premises, particularly when there is no alternative accommodation available.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Si je prends la parole sur la question de l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO en Italie, c'est parce que j'y attache une très grande importance et qu'elle me préoccupe énormément.

Il s'agit d'une question qui affecte profondément le bon fonctionnement de cette organisation et risque de le compromettre au détriment de tous les Etats Membres.

Depuis 1969, l'Organisation a dû louer des locaux pour y installer une partie de ses bureaux, car les locaux mis à sa disposition par le Gouvernement italien ne suffisaient plus à ses besoins.

En 1977, les propriétaires du bâtiment, qui est connu sous le nom de bâtiment F, ont réclamé des augmentations rétroactives de loyers. L'Organisation a rejeté cette demande car elle estimait que les augmentations de loyers revendiquées par les propriétaires n'étaient pas légales. Notre bureau juridique a procédé à une consultation avec des avocats civils expérimentés qui ont estimé qu'en vertu de la législation italienne nous n'étions pas tenus de payer ces arriérés.

Au lieu de soumettre ce différend à l'arbitrage, comme cela était prévu dans le bail, les propriétaires du building F ont intenté deux procès devant les tribunaux italiens : l'un touchant les augmentations de loyers, l'autre visant à l'expulsion de l'Organisation du bâtiment F.

Dès ce stade, la FAO a immédiatement attiré l'attention du Gouvernement italien sur l'immunité de juridiction dont elle jouissait en vertu de la Section 16 de son Accord de siège. Cet Accord de siège est même devenu une loi votée par le Parlement italien. Comme le Conseil le constatera, le libellé de cette disposition qui vient d'être lue par le Président du comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques reproduite au par. 16 du document CL 82/5 est tout à fait clair et ne prête à aucune équivoque.

Le Gouvernement italien a aussi été invité à informer les autorités judiciaires compétentes de l'immunité de l'Organisation. L'a-t-il fait ou ne l'a-t-il pas fait ? Nous n'en savons rien. Néanmoins, conformément au conseil écrit - car j'ai reçu une lettre du représentant permanent de l'Italie auprès de la FAO me recommandant de présenter la question devant les tribunaux italiens - donc conformément au conseil écrit du Gouvernement italien, l'Organisation s'est fait représenter devant les tribunaux italiens. Certains diront : pourquoi êtes-vous ailé "vous mettre sous la coupe d'un tribunal puisque vous prétendez n'être pas responsable devant les tribunaux italiens? Nous l'avons fait, parce qu'on nous l'a recommandé par écrit et que nous respectons l'avis du Ministère des Affaires étrangères italien.

Nous nous sommes bornés à plaider notre immunité de juridiction, à faire valoir qu'une telle immunité n'entraînerait pas un déni de justice puisque le différend pouvait être réglé par voie d'arbitrage. En effet, dans le contrat entre les propriétaires et la FAO il y a une clause prévoyant qu'en cas de désaccord, les parties auront recours à un arbitrage.

Les propriétaires n'ont jamais voulu avoir recours à cette clause. Ils ont préféré aller devant le tribunal. Le tribunal civil s'est alors déclaré compétent pour entendre l'affaire.

Puisque son immunité de juridiction n'avait pas été respectée, la FAO a porté la question de son immunité de juridiction directement devant la plus haute instance judiciaire du pays, la Cour de cassation. Comme vous l'aurez appris par le Président du CQCJ, la Cour de cassation a déclaré que la FAO ne jouissait pas de l'immunité de juridiction dans cette action intentée contre elle par les propriétaires de l'immeuble.

Je ne veux pas vous entretenir ici de subtilités juridiques ni du raisonnement qui a amené la Cour de cassation à nier l'immunité de la FAO. Par contre, j'estime qu'il est de mon devoir de porter à votre connaissance les conséquences extrêmement sérieuses pour la FAO que ce jugement est susceptible d'entraîner.

Mais tout d'abord, pourquoi a-t-on prévu l'immunité de juridiction dans l'Accord de siège? Nous reprenons un texte déjà consacré dans les deux grandes conventions sur les privilèges et immunités des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées. Il existe en effet deux conventions accordant aux fonctionnaires et aux institutions des Nations Unies des privilèges et des immunités. Ces conventions sont adoptées par la plupart des pays membres. Elles ont été approuvées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, mais nous avons néanmoins, pour mieux souligner la nécessité de jouir de cette immunité, insisté pour avoir avec le gouvernement hôte un accord spécial, bien que le Gouvernement italien ait déjà reconnu les deux conventions. La FAO, comme les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, sert tous ses Etats Membres et a donc besoin de cette immunité pour être certaine d'être en mesure d'exercer ses fonctions au service de ses Etats Membres d'une manière entièrement indépendante. Pour cela, elle ne doit être soumise aux autorités d'aucun pays membre. C'est bien pour cela que la section 16 de l'Accord de siège est rédigée en termes aussi clairs et aussi précis.

En cela, la FAO ne se distingue pas des autres organisations des Nations Unies. L'Unesco, l'OMS, dont font partie des centaines de pays ne souhaitent être soumises aux autorités d'aucun des pays membres.

Cette indépendance est une question de principe, surtout en raison de ce qui serait susceptible d'arriver sur le plan pratique si l'Organisation ne jouissait pas de cette protection.

Je vais donc passer immédiatement aux conséquences de la décision judiciaire pour la FAO. Dans, l'immédiat, les procédures devant les tribunaux italiens, qui avaient été suspendues, en attendant la décision de la Cour de cassation, vont immédiatement reprendre leur cours. Il s'agit d'un million de dollars. Il n'est pas exclu de penser que les propriétaires puissent parvenir à faire expulser la FAO du bâtiment F. Pourquoi se gêneraient-ils ? Ils peuvent nous mettre dehors et peut-être même nous faire saisir, parce que si nous ne nous présentons pas devant la Cour, la Cour va nous condamner par défaut, et si nous ne payons pas, on va nous saisir. Nous allons au pire dans cette affaire-là.

Comment la FAO pourrait-elle travailler avec l'efficacité nécessaire dans de telles conditions, sous de telles menaces ? Le principe de l'immunité, entériné par un traité international, doit être défendu, et je suis certain que j'exprime la pensée du Conseil quand je dis que l'application de mesures d'exécution contre la FAO constituerait une grave entorse aux dispositions de ce traité et entraverait sérieusement les activités de l'Organisation, parce que la loi italienne de 1951 sur l'établissement de la FAO à Rome stipule aussi que nous sommes exempts de l'exécution des décisions du tribunal. Non seulement nous sommes exempts de comparaître devant les tribunaux mais aussi de l'exécution. Si je comprends bien la décision de la Cour, elle nous enlève aussi cette seconde disposition, c'est-à-dire que n'ayant plus l'immunité de juridiction, nous n'avons peut-être probablement plus l'immunité d'exécution. Donc on pourra saisir les biens de la FAO et extradier la FAO de ses locaux.

Mais l'arrêt de la Cour de cassation a des effets qui vont encore beaucoup plus loin. Il semble que toutes les activités considérées par les tribunaux italiens comme n'ayant pas un rapport direct et nécessaire avec les objectifs de l'Organisation, ou même que toute transaction considérée comme relevant du Droit privé puissent être désormais soumises à leur juridiction. C'est un domaine immense et très vaste.

Je vous demanderais de réfléchir un instant à ce que ceci implique en vous citant quelques exemples :

En premier lieu, les tribunaux italiens auraient un droit de regard sur les activités de la FAO en Italie. Ils pourraient exiger que la FAO fournisse les documents officiels internes ou comparaisse comme témoin.

Deuxièmement, chaque fois que la FAO passerait un contrat avec une société" italienne, elle s'exposerait au risque de se voir traîner devant les tribunaux en cas de différend. Aujourd'hui c'est un loyer, demain ce sera l'eau, après-demain des achats d'équipements. Il nous est impossible d'éviter de passer des contrats avec des sociétés italiennes car nous vivons en Italie... Vous pouvez imaginer ce qui se passerait si la FAO était traitée ainsi sur le territoire de tous ses Etats Membres et se voyait contrainte d'affronter des poursuites judiciaires souvent longues et coûteuses dans 152 Etats Membres en vertu de 152 législations différentes. C'est donc pour éviter une situation de ce genre que la section de l'accord de Siège a été rédigée en des termes si clairs et si précis; comme l'a dit le Comité des questions constitutionnelles juridiques, cette disposition doit être interprétée de façon à lui donner tout son sens littéral. Il me semble que le Conseil ne peut que partager cet avis. Je vous ai parlé des problèmes que me pose l'arrêt de la Cour de cassation, sans avoir jusqu'ici abordé la question de savoir quelles mesures devraient être prises afin de les résoudre. A cet égard, le Comité a reconnu qu'il incombe au gouvernement hôte de trouver une méthode appropriée pour résoudre le problème, en consultation avec les propriétaires du bâtiment F en évitant tout nouveau recours aux tribunaux italiens et toute tentative d'imposer des mesures d'exécution. Le Conseil sans doute partagera-t-il cet avis. Je dois ajouter ici qu'un échange de lettres a été négocié l'année passée avec le gouvernement pour étendre la définition du Siège, contenue dans l'accord de Siège, à tous les locaux occupés par la FAO. Actuellement cette définition n'inclut formellement qu'une partie seulement des bâtiments de la via delle Terme di Caracalla. Malheureusement cet échange de lettres n'a toujours pas eu lieu car nous devons attendre l'approbation du gouvernement italien. En tout état de cause, je compte sur l'appui du gouvernement italien pour le cas où il y aurait atteinte à l'inviolabilité des locaux de l'Organisation pour le bâtiment F.

Je vous rends compte de la situation dans le détail et avec un peu d'émotion peut-être car le Conseil termine ses travaux dans deux jours et ne se réunira pas avant juin prochain. Je vais devoir affronter moi-même ces problèmes. Il n'est pas question d'avoir une session extraordinaire du Conseil à ce sujet. Mais en tout cas il est de mon devoir d'indiquer toutes les conséquences de cette affaire, peut-être la plus grave dont le Conseil ait eu à se saisir. Même si le gouvernement réussit à résoudre le problème qui nous oppose aux propriétaires (et cela est possible), il reste encore à résoudre les conséquences d'ordre plus général et dérivant de l'arrêt de la Cour de cassation. Il semble évident que si à la suite d'une décision prise par les instances judiciaires, le gouvernement italien n'est plus en mesure de donner plein effet à ses engagements consacrés dans l'accord du Siège qu'il a conclu en 1950, celui-ci se doit de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour remédier à cette situation afin que l'immunité de juridiction de la FAO soit respectée à l'avenir. C'est seulement en entreprenant une telle action que cette Organisation, votre Organisation (et je souhaiterais que les délégués réagissent comme des délégués responsables d'une Organisation qui est la leur), pourra continuer à servir la totalité des Etats Membres en toute indépendance. Je dois vous avouer que si les organes directeurs de la FAO avaient su en 1950 que la section 16 de l'accord de Siège visant à l'immunité de juridiction de l'Organisation serait interprétée comme l'a fait la Cour de cassation, la FAO n'aurait sans doute jamais déplacé son Siège de Washington à Rome. Je voudrais conclure en exprimant le souhait très vif que le gouvernement du pays hôte prenne rapidement des mesures vigoureuses pour dégager l'Organisation de la situation fâcheuse dans laquelle elle se trouve actuellement en Italie et que le Conseil me donnera tout l'appui nécessaire dans ma recherche d'une solution qui sauvegarde l'indépendance, (et je souligne le mot "indépendance") et la bonne marche de cette Organisation dans l'intérêt de tous les Etats Membres.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, for so clearly bringing out the very serious implications of the present situation. We are grateful to you for taking so much trouble to bring the Council up to date on the wider ramifications of, not one single judgment, but the more serious and wider implications of not having the absolute immunity which the Headquarters Agreement provides.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): It seems that it is my day! The Italian delegation has reviewed with the greatest care the reports of the Finance Committee, documents CL 82/4 and CL 82/11, and the report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, document CL 82/5. It has also noted the contents of document CL 82/LIM/2.

Up to the present moment Italian authorities do not know the decision of the Corte di Cassazione because it has not been made public yet, hence they are not in a position to express any definite views on the matter. At this juncture it would seem rather inappropriate to draw hasty conclusions or considerations before the decision of the Corte di Cassazione is made available to the Italian authorities. As is clearly indicated in paragraph 10 of document CL 82/5 it was the initiative of FAO that prompted the Corte di Cassazione to render its sentence.

As to the Italian Government,, it is now bound to comply with the content of the verdict of the Court. Indeed, the sentence represents the only legal interpretation of the Headquarters agreement that Italian authorities can refer to. Sftould the decision of the Court be unsatisfactory to FAO - as it seems - two alternative solutions can then be envisaged.

The first solution could be the negotiation of an exchange of letters to interpret Article VIII, Section 16, and this instrument will then have to be submitted to the Italian Parliament for ratification to become a law of the country.

The second solution would be to implement Article XVII, Section 35, of the Headquarters agreement which provides for an arbitration procedure.

To conclude, my delegation would like to assure the Director-General and the Council that in the light of specific sections of the Headquarters agreement, the Organization is fully protected against any measures of execution - measures of execution are not implemented by courts but by government authorities - and that no such actions could ever be undertaken by the Italian authorities to enforce a court decision.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your most helpful statement.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): My delegation congratulates the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal flatters for his clear, concise and excellent presentation. At the onset we wish to make it plainly clear that the words being used in this intervention have their meanings limited by the custom of diplomatic practice and the principle of reciprocal respect - nothing more, nothing less.

Before analyzing the substantive issues arising from documents CL 82/5, paragraphs 5-23, and CL 82/LIM/2, the delegation of Angola would like to offer the following general comments.

First, the international law regarding the privileges and immunities of international organizations is an entirely modern development. However, after 1945 the position changed rapidly and dramatically because the number of international organizations, both worldwide and regional, increased swiftly.

Secondly, this increase brought with it the first attempt at formulating privileges and immunities for the various organizations on a general basis. The most important formulation has been the Charter of the United Nations, Article 104, which reads:

"The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and fulfilment of its purpose."

Furthermore, Article 105 has required that the Organization should enjoy "such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purpose."

Thirdly, as was laid down in Article 105, a detailed international agreement was negotiated for the application of the general provisions contained therein. This is the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on February 13, 1946. This Convention confers on the United Nations a wide range of privileges and immunities, namely it accords full immunity from jurisdiction and every form of legal process to the Organization. It also accords a wide range of exemptions from national exchange control and other financial regulations and exemptions from direct taxes, customs duties - we emphasized the words custom duties - and the prohibitions and restrictions on import of goods which are deemed necessary for the exercise of its functions and fulfilment of its purpose.

The policy and practice of most United Nations members has been to observe the provisions of the General Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

Fourth, the General Convention was used as a model for other international organizations having worldwide membership and responsibilities. The most important of the international agreements which follow the United Nations model was the Convention on the privileges and immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 1947. This Convention, I submit to you Mr. Chairman and to the Council, is applicable to FAO.

The analysis of the above-mentioned documents and specialized literature in the field of international law shows clearly that United Nations Member nations have usually refrained from acts or omissions which may prevent or hinder the international organizations from the exercise of their functions and fulfilment of their purpose.

Now we would like, *inter alia*, to turn to document CL 82/5 and to CL 82/LIM/2. I have read the reports and the information document concerning FAO's immunity from legal process in Italy, with concern; and the words and explanation of the Director-General have increased that concern. Our concern stems from the implications of the judgment of the Corte di Cassazione that were noted by the CCLM and the Finance Committee when unfavourable judgment was imminent. If the courts of other countries in which FAO operates were to adopt the same attitude as the Italian courts, the inconvenience could be multiplied to a point where the Organization could hardly carry out its functions at all. But it is not merely the inconvenience that has to be considered; there is the question of principle - and we emphasize the word principle - which must have been clear from the powers of the Organization that the only authorities that have the right to control its activities are the governing bodies. The Organization must be free to carry out its functions independently of the influence of any authority of an individual Member Nation.

The Director-General should place complete reliance on the Organization's immunity from legal process guaranteed by the Headquarters agreement, and he must do so with the Council behind him. The Finance Committee at its 49th Session gave full support to the Director-General's position and he should not allow FAO to be submitted to any judicial orders that were not consistent with the Headquarters agreement. This Council should give him the same support.

Here I take an opportunity to digress from the main line of my argument to say that we have noted with pleasure the information given by the delegate of Italy, namely that the decisions of the Court, are only enforced by the executive powers. The Director-General will, however, above all need the assistance of the Italian Government. It seems that the preceding concerned claims for rent and the order of eviction from Building F will soon be resumed.

The Organization clearly has immunity from measures of execution under Section 16 of the Headquarters agreement. The delegation of Angola would welcome an assurance to the Council from the Government that the necessary measures will be adopted to protect the Organization in this particular case and that appropriate action will be taken to ensure that the Organization's immunity from every form of legal process will be fully recognized by the courts in the future, so that the Organization will be able to exercise fully its functions towards the fulfilment of its noble purpose.

CHAIRMAN: In this matter more harm than good can be done by excessive discussion. Questions of judgement of courts are very delicate issues. The Chairman of the CCLM, the Director-General and the delegate of Italy have shown how the matter can be progressed further. I would therefore be grateful if Members would be as brief and as helpful as possible.

F.M. MBEWE (Zambia): I will follow your instructions, Mr. Chairman. From listening to the discussion of the Chairman of the Committee and the Director-General's words, one comes to the conclusion that we are in a difficult situation. I wish to pose a question at this point: in the rent agreement I believe there was a provision for arbitration as a source of resolving the issue. Why did the landlord choose to go to the courts? I suspect that probably he was aware that the Headquarters agreement is not backed by Italian law because often courts judge on the basis of what is written in their laws. I therefore wish to submit for correction by the Secretariat or the delegate of Italy that in fact, there has been a loophole in the Headquarters agreement; that it was not, apart from ratification, backed by a statutory instrument making it law.

If that is the case it is necessary that we make the correction as soon as possible because, as I said, courts make judgement on the basis of their laws and if something does not appear in their law the consequence is that they will make judgement in a different context and I think this is where the crux of the matter is.

N. KISHORE (India): My delegation views with concern and regrets that a world body like FAO has got itself involved in a court case on a matter which can be resolved outside the court. Without going into the legalities of the case my delegation is of the view that the FAO should enjoy an ambiguous immunity from the legal proceedings and the FAO should not be liable to criminal and civil suits.

The fact that the Corte di Cassazione has declined to recognize the immunity of the FAO from legal proceedings indicates that Article 8 Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement needs to be strengthened to make it clear beyond any doubt that the immunity exists and is inviolable and cannot be subject to any arbitration or legal suits. If this is not done the FAO will be exposed incessantly to legal proceedings for any acts of commission or omission by any of its employees, offices or organizations at the headquarters or anywhere else in the world. This is the most undesirable contingency and the Council should very urgently and earnestly urge that the matter should be resolved quickly.

My delegation appreciates the generous hospitality which the Italian Government has offered to the FAO. We would appeal to them that the FAO should be given the legal protection which a guest deserves from the host. They may consider by adopting suitable legislative measures or ordinances to place the FAO above legal proceedings and get the present dispute resolved amicably. It is also for consideration that in future the FAO should deal only with the host government so that the contingency of legal proceedings with any individual party or non-governmental organization does not arise. For instance, if FAO wants any building, land, etc., on hire, it should get them from or through the governments concerned and the FAO should not enter into any agreement with private parties.

My delegation again appreciates the hospitality of the Government of Italy and appeals to them to assure the requisite legal and administration protection to the FAO which is important and necessary for its smooth and efficient functioning. It is logical, consistent and reasonable that the FAO should be treated at least on par with other specialized agencies of the United Nations in the matter of legal immunity and administrative facilities by host governments concerned.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): Having heard the Director General and the Chairman of the CCLM, for which I thank them, I can only say that my delegation feels extremely unhappy about the turn the events have taken in regard to the litigation FAO has been thrown into with the landlords of building F, which has directly contributed to the concern that we now have about FAO's immunity from the legal process. We feel very gravely concerned about the implications that such a denial of immunity may have for FAO. We can try, and hardly over-emphasize, the importance of immunity to such an Organization.

For me and for my delegation it is somewhat difficult to appreciate, without knowing, of course, a lot about international law, that FAO's immunity from litigation should be called into question in spite of the clear stipulation to that effect that there is, as we understand it, in the Headquarters Agreement. However, without attempting to comment on a matter which perhaps continues to be subjudice it now seems to be the most desirable course, particularly after recently quoted court decision, to make efforts with reinforced and renewed vigour to try to resolve the issue of litigation if possible outside the court with the active help of the host government. If I understood the delegate for Italy correctly I thought he also mentioned this means as the first of the two alternatives he has indicated as possible ways of solving the problem. We are pleased to see a continuing spirit of cooperation, understanding and sympathy on the part of the host government.

We also entirely agree with the Director-General that the principles of immunity to international organizations must be defended. In the urgent interest of safeguarding that immunity for FAO from the legal process in terms consistent with the Headquarters Agreement, as well as in keeping with general international practice, my delegation wholly endorses the recommendation of the CCLM that the Director-General begin urgent consultations on the necessary measures to be adopted by the host government in this connection.

As regards the other item, namely the Revision of the Statutes of the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources, my delegation supports the action taken by the Director-General on this issue and endorses the recommendations of the CCLM as contained in paragraphs 23 and 28 of document CL 82/5.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): My delegation has studied the documents before us and considers the matter to be a very serious one indeed as it affects the immunity and premises of this organization. We are also very grateful to the Director-General for bringing us up to date on the difficulties which will occur following the decision of the court. The problem facing us is the decision of the highest judicial authority, the corte di cassazione that the Italian courts have jurisdiction in the dispute between this organization and the landlords. The far reaching implications of the court assuming jurisdiction in the dispute, and in many other cases of a similar nature, has called forth great concern from the Finance Committee as well as the CCLM. The Barbados delegation shares the concern of these committees at the implications of the judgement. Our understanding of the issue is that FAO is not maintaining that it is necessarily right with respect to these claims with the landlords. Its position is simply that the dispute should be determined by arbitration, taking into account FAO's independent status as an intergovernmental organization.

The Headquarters Agreement with the Italian Government sets this out very, very clearly in Section 16 which gives clear and unambiguous words which should also be given the literal meaning. My delegation feels that any denial of immunity or any retreat from its application in any way, interferes with the freedom and the independence of the Organization in carrying out its various inter governmental functions. I think, however, that the situation can still be amicably resolved. Indeed, the CCLM has drawn our attention to possible measures and I am very pleased to see that the Italian delegate has been able to reassure us that his Government is willing to take into account measures which can resolve the situation. I am particularly pleased also that the Italian delegation indicates that this can be settled by legislation through the exchange of letters. I feel that tackling the problem in this way will give the necessary arrangement to FAO to secure its immunity for the future and also allow it to receive the treatment specifically envisaged in Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement.

T. SADAKA (Liban)(langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de rectifier ce qui a été dit par le délégué de l'Italie au sujet de ma déclaration précédente. Ma délégation n'a pas du tout dit que le Gouvernement italien a rejeté la requête de la FAO. Ce malentendu est probablement dû à la difficulté de l'interprétation parce que, au contraire, nous rendons hommage à l'attitude du Gouvernement italien à cet égard. Nous regrettons cependant les retards qui sont intervenus à propos des nouveaux bâtiments.

Pour ce qui est de la question qui nous préoccupe en ce moment et pour ce qui est du litige avec les propriétaires du bâtiment F qui réclament l'évacuation de la FAO et le paiement d'arriérés de l'augmentation du loyer pour 1972/1982, je ne veux pas entrer dans les détails quant au fond de la question, parce que les documents qui nous sont présentés exposent la question de façon parfaitement claire.

J'ai entendu la déclaration, parfaitement claire, également faite par le Directeur général et par les Comités compétents mais la chose la plus importante est de savoir si cet arrêt reconnaît l'immunité de la FAO ou non. L'Accord de siège est clair et explicite. Nous avons remarqué avec une certaine inquiétude les interprétations données parce qu'elles ont l'air de mettre en doute l'immunité dont devrait jouir cette Organisation, conformément à l'Accord de siège. De plus, les jugements rendus par les Tribunaux italiens affaibliraient le statut juridique de l'Organisation en Italie et pourraient également constituer un grave précédent d'une portée très grande sur la FAO, les Représentations permanentes et les autres agences des Nations Unies se trouvant en Italie.

C'est pourquoi la délégation de mon pays approuve les rapports du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du CQCJ et tient à exprimer sa profonde inquiétude quant aux implications financières que cela pourrait avoir au cas où les tribunaux confirment le bien fondé de la demande de deguerpissement et du paiement des arriérés. Nous appuyons pleinement le Directeur général pour ce qui est de l'attitude qu'il a adoptée, c'est-à-dire qu'il ne faut pas que l'Organisation accepte quel-qu'arrêt que ce soit par quelque tribunal italien incompatible avec l'Accord de siège. Nous demandons au Conseil d'appuyer cette attitude.

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 82/PV/15

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

15ª SESION PLENARIA

(1 December 1982)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (continuación)

18. Report of the Forty-second Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)

18. Rapport de la quarante-deuxième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)

18. Informe del 42º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (continuación)

RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation has read document CL 82/5 and document CL 82/LIM/2 with great concern after hearing the Director-General's explanation on the subject. Further, we feel apprehensive at the unfavourable, turn of events that surely will lead to a number of negative consequences on the smooth performance and the longer-term functioning of this Organization. The problem is a delicate and a complex one and we do not intend to add anything more to make it even more intractable. We just want to say that our colleagues before us have adequately enumerated the consequences that will follow as a result of the decision of the court so far as it is known. My delegation would like therefore to associate itself with all the other delegations in calling upon the Italian Government to assist FAO in this regard and take all necessary steps to ensure that this matter be settled amicably.

CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed further I think it might be useful to hear from the Legal Counsel clearly what are the issues on which the Council should give its views so that we are clear when we record our proceedings that these are the items which ought to be considered by the Council.

LEGAL COUNSEL: First I will address myself to the specific question you have now asked. That is, what are the basic issues before the Council? I think the first one is the question of the interpretation of section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement, I believe that, from the speakers I have heard this morning, the Council supports the position that the Director-General has taken hitherto and which was in fact endorsed by the CCLM. That is to say, section 16 means exactly what it says; FAO is immune from all forms of legal process with the one exception, and that is the cases in which it has expressly waived its immunity. If it has not waived its immunity, it is immune from all forms of legal process. This is the provision which is set out in section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement and which also appears in the Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities both of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, to which approximately 100 countries are parties. That is I think the first issue which, if I have interpreted your interventions this morning correctly, you have actually decided.

This raises two more problems: first what is FAO going to do now that the Corte di Cassazione has decided that it is not immune from legal process. Here the problem divides itself into two. I think this is clear from the Director-General's statement this morning and also from the way the matter was handled by the CCLM.

There is a first and an immediate problem, and that is how to settle the dispute: i.e. what methods should be adopted to settle the dispute that has arisen with the landlords in the specific case of the lease. There I think some delegates have already indicated some of the ways in which this should be solved, and the delegate of Italy himself has given the Council assurances that no measures of execution would be taken against FAO. But that is only part of the problem. The other part is that the Italian Government, it is hoped, will find an appropriate method of settling this without recourse to the courts, that is not only with respect to measures of execution but also with respect to further proceedings which will now be resumed in the lower courts. On that, it would be helpful for the Council to give its views, so that the Director-General may know in which way the Council wishes him to proceed. It would seem from some of the interventions this morning, that at least some members of the Council agree that FAO should not be involved in any of the further proceedings. In which case if further court orders are served on FAO, or if attempts are made to serve further court orders on FAO in this particular case, these will be returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who would be asked to settle the matter in a way which would avoid further litigation before the courts. These are two parts of the first problem, which relates to the specific question of litigation with the landlords of Building F.

The second problem relates to the long-term effects of the judgement on FAO's status in Italy, and I am sure these effects will also apply to a number of other organizations; particularly those in the United Nations family who have offices of their headquarters in Italy. In fact some delegates have already remarked on this. There are various solutions, and one of them - and here I would like to refer to a point raised by Italy this morning - is arbitration. Now, the question of arbitration would only arise if there was actually a dispute between FAO and the Italian Government. If the

Italian Government takes measures which would counteract the judgement of the Corte di Cassazione, in other words, if the Government, as a whole, as opposed to just the judiciary, agreed with the interpretation given by FAO to Section 16 - that is the interpretation I mentioned before and which I believe has the Council's support - then no dispute will arise and the Italian Government can be expected to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation. As the delegate of Italy himself mentioned, there was also the possibility of an exchange of letters approved by Parliament, which would then be given effect through appropriate Italian legislation. This legislation would clearly show that FAO enjoyed immunity and would ensure that this immunity would be applied. The Courts would then have no doubts as to how to interpret the provisions governing FAO's immunity. As I said, if this can be pursued, then no dispute will arise, and it is purely a question of reaching agreement on an amendment, in one "form or another, to replace the existing provision.

Now, clearly this is a matter which takes time. The Headquarters Agreement of the International Fund for Agricultural Development took two years, I think, before it was actually ratified, and in this respect, we would of course hope that any remedial legislation that might be introduced would be put through Parliament as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we have the assurance of the Italian Government that measures of execution would not be applied against FAO. But if the new legislation took, say, two years to be introduced, other cases could conceivably arise, and we would wish FAO to be adequately "protected in that event.

Therefore, I think the task of the Council this afternoon is pursuing the discussions that it began this morning; is to stress the action that should be taken to remedy a situation which I think the Members of the Council agreed is a very unfortunate one, and thus to ensure that henceforth the immunity of FAO will be fully safeguarded so that FAO may carry out its functions in absolute independence. That, Mr. Chairman, I believe, is the general line on which perhaps the Council may wish to proceed.

Now, there is another, question I wanted to mention, and that is that I have a copy of the judgement, which we have been discussing. It was deposited at the Registry of the Corte di Cassazione in October this year, I shall be very happy to provide a copy to the representative of Italy so that he can study its contents and gauge the full effects that this judgement may have. The Secretariat has perhaps an advantage over Members of the Council, in that it has already seen the judgement, has read it, and has studied it very closely. I can assure you that the implications the Director-General described this morning, and the conclusions that we have drawn from the judgement, are extremely preoccupying.

The only other minor point I should mention, or perhaps repeat, is that FAO began litigation before the courts on the advice given to it by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in this respect I should perhaps again refer to something which the delegate of Italy said this morning. He said "Why did you go to the Corte di Cassazione?" Well, the answer is that rather than have protracted litigation before the lower courts and gradually work our way up, with a lot of waste of time and money, all the way to the Corte di Cassazione, and having already had its immunity disregarded by one of the lower courts, FAO felt justified in bringing it before a very high-level court, particularly a court which would be more accustomed to dealing with the treaty obligations of the Italian State, and one which would be perhaps more conversant with the principles of international law which apply to the case. I should also add - because this is a question which may have crossed the minds of some delegates - that by putting in an appearance, one might almost say under protest, the Organization never waived its immunity. It has always considered itself to be immune. It has done nothing more than plead its immunity and, in fact, on that question, the courts have never interpreted the action taken by FAO to have itself represented, as a renunciation of its immunity. The lower courts, in the same way as the Corte di Cassazione, merely said that they considered on the particular issue of immunity, that FAO's argument based on the wording of Section 16, was not well-founded.

I think I have covered the various points which have been made this morning, and I think I have given you some indications which might help orient the discussions which you are about to have.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Legal Counsel has articulated some of the issues, and also I am glad you referred to the last point because this has been agitating the minds of several delegations whereby entering into the litigation process inadvertently you have yourselves surrendered the right to be immune from every legal process, but I am glad you clarified that issue very well, that the appearance of FAO has at no time been at the cost of compromising this basic principle.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I will be very brief. I would like simply to point out to the Council that the suggestion that was given to FAO by the Minister of Foreign Affairs was a suggestion, it was not an instruction or a recommendation. FAO has very eminent legal advisors. It was up to them to evaluate, to assess the suggestion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and decide whether to go to the lower court or not.

Second, as to the appeal to the Corte di Cassazione, it was indeed a decision taken by FAO, probably in the hope of speeding up a procedure and getting a favourable sentence. Unfortunately, it has turned out to be a failure in that sense, in that the Corte di Cassazione has now rendered a sentence which is valid for ever and that we cannot reverse.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : I think the debate is now becoming very interesting. I would like to ask Italy whether the Italian Government believes that we are immune from legal process. Thank you.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy) : I have to refer to the sentence of the Corte di Cassazione. We are bound by that sentence. I do not have the text in front of me but if in that sentence it is said that FAO is not immune, there is nothing I can do.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : I think it must be recorded now, that Italy believes that based on the decision of the Corte di Cassazione, Section 16, FAO is not immune. This means FAO could be taken to court even by staff. If I have hesitated to distribute the judgement, it is because it could create serious problems for you. Further, many more lawyers would be needed in FAO to be able to cope since any supplier could sue FAO.

Nous finirons par avoir les huissiers dans nos locaux. Nous nous mettons dans une situation tout à fait impossible malheureusement.

A. RODRIGUO PIRES (Cap-Vert) : Ma délégation, après avoir écouté avec beaucoup d'attention l'exposé fait par le Secrétariat sur les documents CL 82/4 et CL 82/5, et après avoir écouté la brillante intervention du conseil juridique, a étudié très soigneusement toutes les questions relatives au problème que nous débattons et particulièrement en ce qui concerne le litige - je dis bien le litige - avec les propriétaires du bâtiment F où beaucoup de services de l'Organisation se trouvent situés. Je dois vous dire que ma délégation est très préoccupée et partage sans réserve la position prise par les autres délégations sur ce même problème. Nous insistons pour que l'immunité dont notre Organisation doit bénéficier soit inviolable - je dis bien inviolable - à tous les niveaux et respectée scrupuleusement en pratique.

Nous avons écouté également avec beaucoup d'intérêt la déclaration de la délégation italienne, et nous espérons que le Gouvernement Italien déploiera les efforts nécessaires pour aider la FAO et le Directeur général dans la solution de ces problèmes, afin que la FAO puisse accomplir les tâches qui lui ont été confiées, dans les meilleurs délais et dans les meilleures conditions, au service des pays membres.

Nous saisissons cette occasion pour appuyer la déclaration du représentant de la République d'Angola.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Je ne voudrais pas allonger un débat qui me paraît suffisamment complexe et délicat.

Au stade actuel de ce débat, ma délégation souhaite indiquer simplement qu'elle se rallie entièrement aux recommandations du CQCJ sur ce problème précis de l'immunité de notre Organisation. A cet égard, ma délégation souhaite apporter son appui à l'analyse faite ce matin par le délégué de l'Angola qui nous a fait un exposé fort approprié et documenté.

Nous sommes ici en face d'une situation qui demande une solution pragmatique, et nous pensons que la déclaration du délégué italien, ce matin, nous rassure quelque peu. Il ne nous reste plus qu'à émettre le voeu que le Gouvernement italien prenne toutes les dispositions pour garantir la stricte application de la section 16 de l'Accord de siège telle qu'elle a été citée par le CQCJ.

Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO ne doit pas se laisser entraîner dans des processus judiciaires auxquels elle n'est pas tenue, conformément à l'Accord de siège. Les Affaires étrangères du Gouvernement Italien devraient seules être habilitées à régler un tel litige.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta) : La délégation de Haute-Volta a écouté avec émotion et inquiétude les déclarations du Directeur général. Cependant, il nous donne l'espoir que le pire sera évité dans cette affaire, afin de permettre à notre Organisation de jouer son rôle éminemment humanitaire. Notre pays partage les positions du Directeur général dans ce différend, positions qui du reste sont conformes aux accords internationaux et à l'Accord de siège.

Nous souhaitons qu'un dénouement heureux intervienne dans les meilleurs délais car il s'agit là d'un problème très sérieux qui, s'il n'est pas résolu, pourrait affecter le fonctionnement de l'Organisation.

Ma délégation soutient l'argumentation présentée ce matin par le délégué de l'Angola.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): La delegación del Ecuador piensa que este Consejo debe apoyar totalmente la defensa de la FAO, que en este asunto está efectuando el Director General. No obstante es preciso señalar que el tono dramático de la situación se disuelve con lo expresado por el delegado de Italia en el sentido de que las autoridades de su país no ejecutarán ninguna medida que viole la inmunidad de la FAO. Fero, sin embargo, sigue pendiente el incomodo trance del trámite del Comité de Justicia por lo que me permito sugerir que este Consejo, en apoyo concreto de las acciones que está desplegando el Director General, debería dirigirse al Sr. Presidente de la República de Italia, Senador Pertini, a fin de poner en su conocimiento la viva preocupación por este proceso judicial, pues el Sr. Presidente Pertini es el Jefe del Estado Italiano y representa a Italia frente a los otros Estados, en este caso los países Miembros de la FAO.

La situación desde el punto de vista jurídico-político, considerando la forma republicana de gobierno de tipo parlamentario de Italia con tres funciones estatales separadas, se puede resumir en lo siguiente: un proceso a cargo de la función judicial, proceso éste que viola la inmunidad de la FAO. Luego, en una promesa de la función ejecutiva de no ejecutar ningún mandato que viole esa inmunidad mientras, entretanto, el Parlamento aún no trata el tema. Ahora bien, el Sr. Presidente de la República es el representante de estas tres funciones del Estado italiano frente a los otros Estados. Por esta razón el Consejo como una gestión propia podría dirigir a través de usted, Sr. Presidente, una comunicación al Sr. Presidente Pertini dándole a conocer la preocupación de este Organismo por la situación suscitada. El Sr. Presidente Pertini, estadista de gran inteligencia y sensibilidad, de gran prestigio no sólo en su país sino internacionalmente, posiblemente dará alguna atención a esta comunicación del Consejo en el sentido que él estime más conveniente.

Nuestra delegación en todo caso presenta esta propuesta como una gestión propia y directa del Consejo a través de su digno intermedio, Sr. Presidente.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): It would appear to my delegation that one of two issues may be involved in this problem. Either the headquarters agreement is not recognized by the Italian courts, at least to the extent that it is inconsistent with the laws of Italy, or that there is a basic problem of interpretation with the relevant clause in the agreement. Since it is reported to have been passed by the Italian Government, the former cannot be the case. It may be advisable for the CCLM to review the relevant clauses and if necessary prepare amendments, which would place the position of the Organization beyond doubt no matter how the agreement is interpreted. On such amendments which are proposed to the Italian Government, the Director-General should continue with diplomatic consultations with the Government.

Fortunately we have a very understanding and accommodating Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While this country should not encourage the Director-General to defy the courts, he should do his best not to allow a dangerous precedent to be created which would make the other UN agencies vulnerable, wherever they may be.

H. H. CARABASÑO (Venezuela): Yo, Sr. Presidente, no soy jurista pero entiendo que fuimos inducidos de buena fe a incurrir en un error de procedimiento cuyas consecuencias nos han metido en lo que parece ser un túnel sin salida. Es una situación preocupante no sólo para la Secretaría y para el Director General, sino para todos los miembros de esta Organización, sin excepción alguna. De modo particular debe ayudarnos a encontrar una salida quien de buena fe nos indujo a incurrir en el error. No obstante, pienso que aquí no se trata de buscar responsabilidades ya que se actuó de buena fe y basta; lo que importa es buscar vías para salir del atolladero en que estamos metidos y por ello hace falta el parecer de todos ya que el problema es de todos. Entendemos que estamos frente a dos situaciones, a dos cuestiones simultáneas, una en el orden de los principios, y otra de carácter pragmático.

El asunto de la inmunidad de todo procedimiento judicial es una cuestión en la que pienso que todos estamos de acuerdo, porque considero que ninguno de los Estados Miembros pueda pretender que la FAO tenga un régimen de excepción distinto al que rige en la Sede principal de las Naciones Unidas o de otras organizaciones especializadas.

Por lo demás el distinguido delegado de Italia ha hecho una declaración esta mañana clara, categorica que no deja lugar a dudas de que así lo ha entendido su país. Sin embargo, si le he entendido bien, parece que piensa que podría ser necesario algún nuevo instrumento que precise y consagre sin posibles dudas ese fuero, de hecho, no debe estar tan claro cuando los jueces dictaron su fallo, y si se trata de un fallo que no puede cambiarse, la situación es todavía mucho más grave. Creo que el nos dijo que la FAO no debe preocuparse porque ese fallo de la orden de desahucio por las autoridades se cumpla. Desde el punto de vista práctico, mi delegación piensa que esto podría tranquilizarnos en cuanto a los hechos, pero no en cuanto a los principios; pero estamos en una situación inestable por cuanto éste es un país donde la democracia funciona como en pocos países, y aquí la independencia de las distintas ramas del poder es clara y es posible que alguien exija que ese fallo del poder judicial se cumpla y el gobierno se encontraría en un conflicto de lealtades.

Pienso mi delegación que por esto se nos abren dos vías. En cuanto a los principios no hay sino una sola solución, que este cuerpo de manera unánime ratifique su convicción de que la FAO está asistida por este fuero. Y el otro, pedir al gobierno hospedante que con la buena voluntad, amplitud y generosidad que siempre ha demostrado hacia la FAO intente negociaciones con el propietario a fin de que quede sin efecto ese juicio y si es posible que haga proposiciones tal vez de una opción de compra, ya que el problema de los edificios para la FAO parece distante, de manera que por esa vía del hecho de una opción de compra podría dejarse sin efecto este fallo que siempre va a estar pendiente para la FAO como una espada de Damocles porque vendrá uno y otro juicio, tal como lo ha dicho aquí el Director General. Por lo demás, mi delegación respalda lo dicho por la delegación del Ecuador.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation wishes to support the report of the Finance Committee and the material contained in paragraphs 82-94, and particularly to support the report of CCLM and express our full agreement with the interpretation of Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement. This interpretation contained in paragraphs 16-20 of document CL 82/5. We also support the position of the Director-General on this issue. We think that the only partner of an inter-governmental organization is the government, and if it is a Host Country, it is the government of the Host Country.

We also share the opinion that the rationale of the immunity from legal process accorded to intergovernmental organizations is to ensure that they can carry out their constitutional functions independently. We are fully convinced that the solution of this problem will have, and has, far-reaching consequences for the work of this Organization. We have also learned from the previous discussion and from statements by various delegations that the legal position of the Organization is not certain, and this uncertain situation cannot be tolerated. It will always create difficulties for its work and its functions.

We therefore fully endorse the Director-General's proposal to undertake measures to solve the position of the Headquarters Agreement and other forms of immunity.

As for this particular case, we would like to express our firm belief that the Italian Government, as I said, — which, is the only partner of our Organization in this country - will find appropriate methods to solve this problem in the best spirit of international cooperation so clearly expressed by this same Government on other occasions.

A.H. EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): After having heard the statement of the Director-General as well as the Italian representative and the other delegations, here in the Council, my delegation would like for this Organization to be recognized as having full immunity, as is the case of other United Nations organizations, and that there be an application of the Headquarters Agreement in full. My delegation calls on the Italian Government to apply all measures so as to guarantee the Organization's immunity and to make the necessary amendments in the Headquarters Agreement so as to settle any dispute between the organizations and the landlords, not only because the Government of the Host Country must safeguard this Organization, but also because the Italian Government is one of the founding fathers of this Organization and has always emphasized the fact that this Organization should be considered as fully immune. We are sure that the Italian Government will make all necessary efforts to solve this problem.

SRA. DNA D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia ve que se está poniendo en tela de juicio lo dicho expresa y categoricamente en un convenio suscrito entre dos sujetos de derecho internacional: la República de Italia y la FAO por parte de la Corte de Casación, asimismo, lo expresado en acuerdos y convenciones internacionales sobre la inviolabilidad e inmunidad de los organismos internacionales.

El señor representante de Italia, quien, como él lo ha dicho, está hoy en el banquillo, ha mostrado la mejor disposición de su Gobierno para la solución de estos problemas y propuso esta mañana buscar un método apropiado para llegar a una solución, y, si no oí mal, el intercambio de comunicaciones para aclarar la interpretación de la Sección 16 del artículo octavo del Acuerdo sobre la Sede.

Compartimos plenamente lo primero, pero en cuanto a lo segundo nuestra delegación ve que la Sección 16 es supremamente clara, que no necesita interpretaciones y que es de una firmeza que no da lugar a intercambio de comunicaciones para lograr su aclaración.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): To avoid any misunderstanding, I had not intended to participate in this debate because as a member of the CCLM, the United Kingdom of course is associated with and entirely shares the views contained in the report of the CCLM. But having taken the floor and having listened to the statements of Mr. Roche - who is appearing, incidentally before us for the first time as Legal Counsel, and I would like, if I may, to offer him our congratulations on his appointment to this office - I have concluded it is not now necessary for me to make any substantive intervention on this topic, since it seems to me that the Legal Counsel has pointed the way for this Council and the action it should take. And I believe he is absolutely right and that we should therefore adopt the recommendations in the CCLM report.

However, I wish to make one point. While my delegation has no doubt at all that Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement means what it says - that FAO is immune from legal process - the question remains of the rental on Building F. We believe that this is a matter which is not resolved and cannot be resolved simply by resting of FAO's procedural immunity. We therefore share the views expressed by others and the hope that the Organization will try to do everything in its power to settle that dispute; and if it is possible that the Italian Government could use its good offices to ensure a just outcome on that question, then I believe they will be willing to do so.

As to the broader question on the Headquarters Agreement, in brief I agree very much with the comment made by my colleague from Yugoslavia, that the Council should have full confidence that the Italian Government will take all possible steps to resolve this matter.

B.E. PHIRI (Zambia): My colleague should have taken the floor but I think the point he raised this morning was that there appears to have been an omission and possibly what we can now do is to hope that the Italian authorities will correct the omission because it would appear this was the case, and that possibly no statutory instrument has been prepared and we do not know if this was done because the Legal Counsel did not mention this when he made his statement. And if an instrument was prepared we do not know why the question of immunity would have to come into dispute today.

As for the case that is before us now, we can only hope that the Italian authorities will find a solution to this which is amicable to all of us.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I want to clarify one issue which was raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom and who is a Member of the CCLM. If I understood you well, you stated that the Organization should be requested - or could be requested - to settle the dispute with the landlord about the rent with the help -of the Italian Government. You also said earlier that, as Member of the CCLM, you supported fully the report of the CCLM. I think there is a contradiction here. I want to read you the report of the CCLM which says that:

"The CCLM considers that in the event of a judgment being granted by the Corte di Cassazione that did not fully recognize FAO's immunity from legal process, the Council would wish to invite" - not me - "the Host Government to find a suitable method of solving the problem, in consultation with INPDAI - which is the landlord - without further recourse to the Italian courts and without any attempts to impose executions of any judgement on the merits, since this would be contrary to various provisions of Headquarters agreement"

In other words, what the delegate of the United Kingdom is asking is for me to negotiate with the landlord to avoid eviction and to plead not to pursue the matter in the Court; while the CCLM -of which you are a Member - is saying something quite different. What we have been saying to the Council is that we would appeal to the Host Country to kindly settle the matter on behalf of FAO, because they are the protector of the Organization in this matter with the landlord.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): It would not, I think, be appropriate for me to engage in a debate in this forum with the Director-General on this issue, but I fear that he has misunderstood what I said. The CCLM did not, as I recall it, engage itself in the merit or demerit in the question of

rental demand on Building F, and I believe we must distinguish the question of that issue in which -as the Legal Counsel and FAO have always said - the contracts which are prepared are prepared in a way which is intended in any case of dispute not to deny justice.

I do not want to enter into the debate but I am trying to distinguish between that and what I said is what I believe to be the fundamental point of the CCLM report is to entirely agree with the Director-General and the Legal Counsel interpretation of Section 16, and that is what I said. But perhaps, since the Director-General has, in effect, challenged and said that I have contradicted myself, perhaps after the Council or during the remaining days, I could speak to him or perhaps through the Legal Counsel.

CHAIRMAN: Please do so.

M. NAANANI (Maroc) : Ma délégation ne pourrait que s'indigner si une mesure quelconque ne garantissant pas l'immunité juridique de notre Organisation venait à être rendue publique dans le pays hôte. Ma délégation est satisfaite des démarches entreprises par le Directeur général pour sauvegarder cette immunité. Nous sommes sûrs que le Directeur général persistera dans cette voie et dans ces efforts. Nous l'appuyons car nous mesurons la gravité des conséquences de la violation de l'immunité juridique de la FAO. Nous avons entendu ce matin les différentes interventions du distingué délégué de l'Italie qui n'a cessé de donner la preuve de la bonne volonté du gouvernement italien à collaborer avec notre Organisation et lui fournir toute l'aide possible pour résoudre les problèmes des locaux du Siège. C'est pourquoi ma délégation aimerait lancer un appel fervent au gouvernement italien pour qu'il prenne toutes les mesures à même de garantir à la FAO les conditions normales de son fonctionnement. Ces conditions sont toutes définies, écrites : elles sont claires. Il serait dommage qu'au lieu de résoudre les problèmes de l'alimentation et de la faim dans le monde notre Organisation effectue des dépenses aussi réduites soient-elles à des fins autres que celles pour lesquelles elle existe. Nous sommes convaincus que notre appel sera entendu et qu'il sera pris en considération.

Sra. Doña M. IVANKOVICH De AROSEMENA (Panamá): Vamos a referirnos al Informe del 42º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que mi delegación aprueba, y en particular al tema "Inmunidad de Procedimiento Judicial de la FAO en Italia". El Comité de Finanzas estudio atentamente este problema, y sin lugar a dudas, expreso su preocupación ante el problema mismo y ante las consecuencias financieras. Mi delegación considera que se trata de un problema de compleja naturaleza jurídica, y en el Acuerdo de Sede suscrito entre el Gobierno de Italia y la FAO en 1950, en el artículo 8, sección 16, señala, -y aquí cito- : "La FAO y sus bienes, cualesquiera que sea el lugar en que se encuentre y cualquiera que los tenga en su poder, disfrutarán de inmunidad de todo procedimiento judicial, salvo en la medida en que en algún caso particular, la Organización haya renunciado expresamente a esta inmunidad", y sigue.

La sección 16 nos da una solución de forma clara y precisa cuando dice que la FAO goza de inmunidad de todo procedimiento judicial; que la FAO y sus bienes, cualesquiera que sea el lugar en que se encuentren y quienquiera que los tenga en su poder goza de la misma inmunidad; que la renuncia debe ser expresa, cosa que no ha sucedido por parte de la FAO.

Mi delegación desea apoyar el contenido del párrafo 23 del documento CL 82/5. Consideramos, sin embargo, que una debida comunicación a alto nivel entre el Gobierno de Italia, el Director General y el Comité nombrado por la Conferencia contribuiría a resolver definitivamente problemas que tienden a empañar las buenas relaciones que existen y deben existir entre la Organización y el Gobierno de Italia, como generoso huésped.

AMIDJON0 MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): I have listened attentively to the explanations made by the delegates of Council, the last question raised by the Director-General and the answer given by the representative of Italy. My delegation believes that the clue or the basis to resolve the problem is to write an agreed interpretation of the Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement. My delegation thinks, of course, FAO should avoid the legal process, should enjoy immunity as other UN organizations. I should like to underline what was said by the delegate of Malaysia that the delicate problem should be solved amicably. I believe that the Government of Italy is not too rigid and would be willing to conserve the immunity of the FAO, where Italy is one of its Member Countries.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): After listening to the Director-General and the Legal Counsel, and the concern which has been expressed by so many distinguished delegates from the Council there is very little for us to say, except to share our concern with the other members of the Council that it is very unfortunate that we are in such an awkward situation that instead of discussing more broader problems of food and hunger, we are discussing more local and specific problems of legal immunity. However, we also tend to look at the problem from two aspects. We see the more broader question of the legal immunity of FAO from any legal process in Italy, in the host country, and the second problem and the more specific problem, of the building F and the rent and eviction thereof. We feel that the second specific problem has emerged because the first broader problem has not been resolved. So we therefore urge the Director-General and we request the Italian Government to resolve the broader issue of legal immunity as soon as possible and if necessary have the requisite legislation to cover that so that the question once and for all is resolved, and there are no other further litigations.

As far as the specific problem of rental of building F and the eviction thereof is concerned, we wish to convey appreciation to the delegate of Italy who in the morning assured the Council that even if there was a legal verdict against the FAO it would perhaps not be executed. We appreciate that gesture, but we feel that is not the real answer because that would only solve one particular litigation regarding building F. What would be required would be broader resolution of the bigger question of the immunity of FAO from any legal process and consequences accruing from such legal process. So we are in agreement with the delegate from Venezuela when he pointed out that it is not only the question of one specific case, it is the question of the broader principle and we wish this to be resolved as quickly as possible. We are hoping that by the time the Council meets again - perhaps that is a very optimistic hope, but we still hope that by the time the Council meets again all the issues will have been resolved and we will have no such problems.

G. KELLEY SALINAS (México): La delegación de México se une a la preocupación y argumentación del Director General y de otras delegaciones, con respecto a este diferendo de interpretación en relación a la inmunidad que consigna el Artículo 16 del Acuerdo de Sede. Sostenemos el principio de que la FAO debe estar al margen del proceso judicial como prerequisite fundamental de independencia y autonomía en sus funciones. Parece ser que la Corte de Casación italiana tomó una resolución contraria a este principio. Mi delegación espera que se dé una solución no sólo práctica sino permanente de este problema. No parece suficiente la promesa hecha de muy buena voluntad del Gobierno italiano, de no proceder en ningún caso a la ejecución de las decisiones que violen la letra o el espíritu del Acuerdo de Sede.

Confiamos en que el propio Gobierno de Italia encontrará la forma de sostener la inmunidad de la FAO sin renunciar a los principios, también inviolables que consagra la Constitución de su país.

I.P. ALVARENGA (Observador por El Salvador): Nuestra delegación quería en esta ocasión en que por primera vez vemos al Señor Alex Roche en sus funciones de Asesor Jurídico, expresarle nuestras sentidas felicitaciones por su reciente nominación a tan alto cargo que estamos seguros sabrá defender, sabrá ejecutar con la habilidad profesional, con las características personales que lo distinguen.

El problema que tenemos entre manos, en lo relativo a los alquileres y en lo relativo al litigio con los propietarios del Edificio F es de una compleja naturaleza jurídica, en la cual entran en juego problemas del Derecho Internacional y de legislación interna italiana, especialmente en materia de arrendamientos, la cual es en extremo amplia y complicada.

Sin embargo, no es necesario ni creemos que se deba entrar en el fondo del litigio, pues lo que se necesita es aclarar, ante todo, si los tribunales italianos tienen o no competencia para enjuiciar a la FAO. Para la respuesta, nos bastan dos principios jurídicos de aplicación universal, al menos en los sistemas legales que derivan del Derecho Romano, como es precisamente el italiano. Hay un principio de interpretación que dice que cuando el tenor literal de la Ley es claro, no se debe consultar su espíritu. Segundo, otro principio dice que donde la Ley no distingue, no debe distinguir el intérprete. Como si no bastasen esos principios, sabemos que la aplicación del Derecho se rige, aparte de lo establecido por normas positivas, por lo que juzgan los grandes tratadistas, por lo que juzgan los entendidos. Uno de los juristas italianos más autorizados en la materia, el Profesor Ricardo Monaco ha escrito un tratado donde se analizan los problemas jurídicos de los organismos internacionales; y en un capítulo se dedica exclusivamente a dilucidar el problema de la inmunidad, considerando una sentencia emitida por un Tribunal en Trieste contra un organismo internacional en los años inmediatamente sucesivos a la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

El Profesor Monaco rebate esa sentencia y critica acerbamente al Tribunal. El Tribunal se fundaba en que ese organismo no tenía personalidad jurídica internacional reconocida, y por eso no le reconocía inmunidad. El Profesor Monaco dice que aun cuando un organismo internacional no tenga personalidad jurídica internacionalmente reconocida, debe gozar de inmunidad ante los tribunales para el mejor desarrollo de sus fines.

En este caso, pues, no vemos, sinceramente, de dónde puedan surgir dudas. Con base en lo anterior, nuestra delegación cree que es imperioso concluir, en primer lugar, que no ha cometido ningún error la FAO al haberse presentado a los tribunales, puesto que la sentencia de los tribunales que hasta hoy se han emitido, no se ha basado en esa comparecencia de la Organización, y lo mismo habrían decretado con o sin la intervención de la FAO. Segundo, que la defensa de la FAO debe continuar basándose en el respeto de la inmunidad, y que si en consecuencia se exigiese un proceso sobre el fondo del asunto, o sea, sobre los alquileres, la FAO no debe comparecer para no dejar ninguna duda de que respeta su inmunidad. Tercero, que se debe aprobar, desde luego como ya ha sido prácticamente hecho, el Informe del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales, particularmente en la recomendación de que se encuentre un método apropiado para resolver este problema.

Otra conclusión a la que llega nuestra delegación, es que se debe reafirmar, digo reafirmar porque ya fue aprobado en el respectivo Informe del Comité de Finanzas, la recomendación de este Comité en el sentido de que el Director General se niegue a cumplir cualquier sentencia de los Tribunales italianos, o cualquier mandamiento emanado de los mismos -cito Informe aludido-, que a su juicio no esté en consonancia con el Acuerdo de Sede.

Esto, que a primera impresión pudiera parecer una rebeldía ante las leyes italianas, que pudiera parecer un negar la soberanía del Estado italiano, no lo es tal. Simplemente, sería poner en práctica el derecho de la FAO. Finalmente, nuestra delegación sugeriría que si no hubiese inconveniente de tipo jurídico, la sentencia de la Corte de Casación se ponga a disposición, al menos de los Miembros del Consejo para tener más elementos de juicio. Además, sugeriríamos que el Director General examine la posibilidad y la necesidad de llevar este conflicto, sobre todo en lo que se refiere a la inmunidad, sobre todo en lo relativo a la cuestión de principios, a un Tribunal Internacional para que quede la cuestión definitivamente zanjada.

No quisiera terminar, y pido disculpas por lo extenso de mi intervención, sin señalar algo que no se ha mencionado y es que la inmunidad de las representaciones acreditadas sólo ante la FAO y no simultáneamente ante el Gobierno italiano derivan, en cuanto a privilegios e inmunidades, del mismo Acuerdo de Sede. Si a la FAO no se le reconoce inmunidad, nada impedirá que, en el futuro, aquellas delegaciones que no forman parte directamente de sus representaciones ante el Gobierno italiano, también sufran mengua en sus privilegios e inmunidades que les corresponden.

CHAIRMAN: As the Chairman of the Committee mentioned this morning there are two aspects, one relating to the revised statutes of the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research. Here we endorsed the recommendation of CCLM and I have noted it for our information.

Then there is the more important question with which the Council has been seized for the last two and a half hours, which relates to the immunity question.

I have put together a short Resolution on the basis of the comments of the delegations, the comments of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Director-General and Legal Counsel. If you agree with it we will incorporate it in our minutes as it is:

"The Council:

1. reaffirms the sanctity of Article VIII, Section 16, of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process;
2. appreciates and welcomes the assurance of the Representative of Italy on the Council that the government of Italy will ensure through appropriate executive action that FAO's immunity from legal action is protected until the time the implications of the judgment of the Corte di Cassazione are studied and appropriate remedial steps taken, if necessary through exchange of letters supported by legislative approval. In the meantime the host government is requested, in consultation with the landlords, to help in settling the dispute out of court;
3. authorizes the Director-General to take such steps as may be necessary to protect FAO's legal rights under Article VIII, Section 16, including refusal to submit to the legal process;
4. asks the independent Chairman of the Council to convey to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Italy and the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Italy the concern of the Council in this matter and seek their help in ensuring that FAO enjoys the status envisaged under the Headquarters Agreement, both in letter and in spirit;
5. requests the Director-General to keep the CCLM and Council informed of the steps taken and progress made."

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): There is a passage in paragraph 2 where you refer to protection or a guarantee by the Italian Government against legal action - in the meantime legal action. I would like to ask Legal Counsel or the Director-General what legal action means, if that has to be interpreted as exemption from execution.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We are sometimes going too fast. Let us be realistic. If action could be taken by the Italian Parliament to clarify more Section 16 of Article VIII - although I do not know how they can clarify it more because it already says "immune from every form of legal process". But anyway, they need another law to clarify this so as to modify the effects of the decision of the Corte di Cassazione. It may take some years, I do not know. We have been negotiating together for 9 years on the interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement. It took two years to have the IFAD Agreement passed by Parliament. 'Meanwhile we are very happy to hear that you will prevent the execution of any Court decision, because how the Corte di Cassazione has delivered its judgement, the Lower Courts will resume their proceedings, unless the landlord receives satisfaction in the meantime. In that case appropriate executive action would not be needed. But there might be others who have seen the documents submitted to Members of the Council and, as mentioned by the delegate of El Salvador, anybody can ask the court for a copy of the judgement. Thus anyone who has dealings with FAO may decide to sue us. Therefore we need protection, because it will take several months, or even years, before the Parliament will, in effect, overrule the Corte di Cassazione by passing a new law. If we are not adequately protected by immunity we may be faced with a number of judgements. I am not going so far as to ask the delegate of Italy to send me a signed letter about this commitment. I would certainly appreciate one, because I think this would constitute a specific undertaking that has greater legal significance than a passage in the report. But if you can send us such a letter, it will be very much appreciated and enable us to sleep soundly tonight,

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I stand to be corrected and I am seeking clarification. I did not quite get the full sentence in paragraph 2, namely the phrase which I think goes like this: until the time the implications of the judgment of the Corte di Cassazione have been studied. It is on this subject that I would like to seek the advice of Legal Counsel by referring to the decision of the Corte di Cassazione. How does this equate with the wider ranging principle that the Organization must be free to carry out its functions independently of the influence of any authority of an independent Member State. What I am saying is that one individual State or its judiciary system cannot influence the working of an international organization. This is the principle of international law which has been fully clarified by the delegate of El Salvador. So I am seeking the advice of Legal Counsel how this equates.

CHAIRMAN: Before I ask Legal Counsel to answer I would like to say that the second component of our Resolution has a short term and a long term. One is an immediate step, as was repeatedly emphasized - something immediate, the other is long term. That is why it has two parts to it.

LEGAL COUNSEL: In reply to the question raised by the delegate of Angola, I should like to mention that we have already looked at the judgment. In the meantime, and subject to assurances that we have been given by the Italian Government, we are in a grey area - that is, FAO can be sued, but no measures of execution will be enforced against it. The Director-General has already expressed his concern about this. In the light of the judgment as it stands now; FAO is liable to be sued by any Italian company that it deals with, possibly even individuals. Thus, we have to find a way to affirm what we thought was an absolutely clear provision. FAO will now probably have to negotiate with the Italian Government so that legislation can be passed to give to Section 16 the meaning that we had always thought it had until we learned the interpretation given to it by the Corte di Cassazione. As the Director-General said, we hope this can be done as soon as possible, because in the meantime we can be sued and we may get judgments against us. And the only assurance that we have is that measures of execution will not be applied against FAO. But of course we do not want to be in that situation, we do not even want to have any cases brought against us before the Italian courts. We would much rather, if for instance we have a dispute with a supplier, immediately to arbitrate in the way that we have always provided for in the past, and without any question of appearing before a national court. Moreover, under such arbitration, the complainant would be afforded a fair hearing. So, in the meantime, we are in this somewhat uncertain position, but some guarantees have been given to us by the Italian Government. We hope that, as soon as possible, there will be new legislation which will entirely clarify Section 16. After that we would hope that no further actions would be brought against FAO in the Italian courts, or if they were, that no Italian court would be in a position to interpret the provision on immunity from legal process in a restrictive manner.

While I have the floor, I might just explain that the Headquarters Agreement is part of Italian law. According to the Italian legal system, international treaties such as the Headquarters Agreement are then promulgated and become part of the national system by an appropriate law. The Headquarters Agreement is in fact in the Official Gazette and was promulgated a few months after its actual conclusion in Washington.

CHAIRMAN: I think with this clarification we adopt the Resolution.

J.J. GORMLEY (United States of America): I would like to apologise to the Council for arriving late. We have either neglected to or not received a copy of the Resolution. This is a very serious matter and we would like to hear or see the Resolution before any further action is taken.

CHAIRMAN: Well, the Resolution I have drafted here and then shown to the Director-General on the basis of the discussion, so nothing has been distributed. All I can do is read it, or we will have to make copies and circulate it.

J.J. GORMLEY (United States of America): With apologies to the Council again, we would like to hear it re-read.

CHAIRMAN: "The Council 1) reaffirms the sanctity of Article VIII, Section 16, of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process". That is number one. Number two: "Appreciates and welcomes the assurance of the Representative of Italy on the Council that the Government of Italy will ensure through appropriate executive action that FAO's immunity from legal action is protected".

The Legal Counsel has suggested here a small amendment: that "FAO's immunity from measures of execution" instead of "legal action"; I will read it again.

"Appreciates and welcomes the assurance of the Representative of Italy on the Council that the Government of Italy will ensure through appropriate executive action that FAO's immunity from measures of execution is protected until the time the implications of the judgement of the Corte di Cassazione are studied and appropriate remedial steps taken if necessary, through exchange of letters supported by legislative approval. In the meantime the Host Government is requested, in consultation with the landlords, to help in settling this dispute out of court.

"3) Authorizes the Director-General to take such steps as may be necessary to protect FAO's legitimate rights under Article VIII, Section 16, including refusal to submit to legal process.

"4) Asks the Independent Chairman of the Council to convey to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Italy and the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Italy the concern of the Council in this matter and seek their help in ensuring that FAO enjoys the status envisaged under the Headquarters Agreement both in letter and spirit", and finally, "Requests the Director-General to keep the CCLM and the Council informed of the steps taken".

J.J. GORMLEY (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Then shall I take it we proceed on this basis? We hope that things will work out all right, and the new Legal Counsel, I want to congratulate him on behalf of the Council; he has taken over at a critical time and with proper adjustment and discussion at all levels we hope this matter can be amicably settled.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi decide.

Así se acuerda.

- 19. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (continued)
- 19. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment : (suite)
- 19. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (continuación)
- 19.2 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions
- 19.2 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres
- 19.2 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de La FAO

CHAIRMAN : I request Mr. Sylla to introduce this topic.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL : Ce point comporte deux documents CL 82/INF/7 et Supplii. Ces deux documents comportent deux aspects, le premier est à titre d'information et le deuxième requiert une décision.

Conformément aux règles générales de l'Organisation, le Directeur général entre les deux sessions de votre Conseil et sur leur demande a invité la République démocratique allemande et l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques à participer à des réunions de l'Organisation pour les raisons indiquées dans les deux documents.

Le deuxième aspect qui appelle une décision du Conseil est indiqué dans le par. 4 du document susmentionné et dans son supplément N° 1. Il s'agit d'une part d'autoriser le Directeur général à inviter la République démocratique allemande et l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques à participer en tant qu'observateurs à la 7ème session du Comité de l'agriculture. L'autre décision concerne également l'autorisation que sollicite le Directeur général pour inviter à la conférence sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches tous les Etats Membres de la FAO, de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de ses institutions spécialisées ou de l'Agence internationale de l'Energie atomique afin de permettre à tous les pays qui s'intéressent aux pêches d'y participer, soulignant ainsi le caractère universel de la conférence envisagée.

CHAIRMAN : I take it that this has the approval of the Council. Thank you.

- 19.3 Abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East, and Change of Title of the Asia and Far East Commission on Agricultural Statistics
- 19.3 Suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie et en Extrême-Orient et modification du titre de la Commission des statistiques agricoles pour l'Asie et l'Extrême-Orient
- 19.3 Supresión de la Comisión Regional sobre Administración Rural para Asia y el Lejano Oriente, y cambio del nombre de la Comisión para Asia y el Lejano Oriente sobre Estadísticas Agrícolas

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL : You have before you the proposal to establish a new Commission on Food Security in the Region, and it is a long-standing practice endorsed by the Council that wherever possible, regional commissions and other statutory bodies which have outlived their usefulness or are of low priority should be abolished, so we do bring before you from time to time proposals to abolish statutory bodies. In that respect this proposal is not something special but part of a long-standing process, but I mentioned the other proposal because it is particularly relevant on this occasion to find something which can be abolished in order to make room for a new commission. You have not yet approved the establishment of the new Commission, but assuming that you do, this proposal would relieve the programme and the budget of a commitment which could then contribute towards the establishment of the new body, but in any case, as you will see from the document, the case for continuing with this Commission does not exist. It has hardly met over the last few years. On the last occasion when it met, very few members were represented, and I think except in one instance they were represented by local representatives of the governments in the capital and not by specialists sent from the various countries, so evidently it is not of high interest to the countries of the Region. This is evident from the practice rather than the theory. I dare say that many will feel that the subject is important. Indeed it is, but the abolition of the Commission does not mean that it is not important. It only means that this particular method of work is not found convenient by the Member Governments and that other methods of work on this subject are more profitable, and to that extent, of course, the Programme of Work and Budget will provide for other methods of work on this subject.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France) : On peut peut-être s'étonner que j'intervienne sur ce point, mais nous sommes membres de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique et comme cela se passe dans cette région je demande à intervenir à la fois sur la suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie et en Extrême-Orient et d'autre part sur la création d'une Commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire pour l'Asie et le Pacifique.

Nous sommes évidemment favorables à la tenue de cette Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations et à la création de la Commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire. Mais ce qui nous amène à prendre la parole c'est en quelque sorte la question financière, c'est-à-dire le financement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Certes, en lisant les deux documents pertinents, il y a d'une part le CL 82/14/Rev.1 qui traite de la suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations agricoles et de l'autre, c'est le CL 82/28 qui parle de la création de la Commission de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans les deux documents on parle de cette question. En particulier il est dit que la nouvelle Commission régionale pour la sécurité alimentaire pourra être financée grâce aux économies réalisées par la tenue de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations. On nous dit, tout particulièrement au paragraphe 12, je crois, du document CL 82/28, que l'on prévoit que la nouvelle Commission régionale tiendra une réunion de cinq jours en 1983. Le coût direct de cette réunion dépendra du nombre de langues utilisées (et on suppose l'utilisation des trois langues), le coût s'élèverait à environ 150 000 \$ E.-U. Ceci je crois est une dépense particulière à prendre sur le budget et à l'intérieur des organisations au cours des réunions de 1983. Par contre, on précise que les autres coûts de la réunion seront financés en partie par les ressources économisées grâce à l'abolition de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations, c'est le paragraphe 13. Donc, d'un côté nous avons une dépense de 150 000 dollars pour la tenue d'une réunion ce qui est normal, ceci étant prévu dans le budget de l'Organisation pour les réunions de 1983, mais ce qui m'inquiète c'est qu'il est stipulé que les autres frais seront couverts par les économies réalisées. Quand on se reporte au document CL 82/14-Rev-1 où il est proposé que la Commission régionale sur la gestion soit supprimée (c'est le paragraphe 6), on s'aperçoit qu'au paragraphe 7 on dit qu'il est envisagé que les objectifs de la Commission soient poursuivis dans le cadre de réunions ad hoc et de conférences-ateliers sur la gestion des exploitations ou de séminaires axés sur les besoins des petits exploitants. Si l'on doit faire des réunions ad hoc et des conférences-ateliers en substitution de la Commission régionale, cela est possible, mais il faudra financer ces réunions ad hoc ou ces réunions-ateliers et je me demande (je pense que M. West va répondre à ce sujet) où est l'économie réalisée par la suppression d'une commission si en même temps on prévoit des réunions spécialisées sur ce point. Est-ce que cette manière de faire ne va pas culbuter les crédits que vous vouliez reporter sur la Commission de sécurité alimentaire régionale ? Voilà la question.

RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): With regard to document CL 82/14-Rev.1 and CL 82/28, my delegation would like to raise the following points. When the proposal to change the title of the Regional Office for Asia was discussed during the 20th Conference, Malaysia indicated its full support based on the reality of the world political situation then. I do not want to repeat those remarks, but we feel the situation has remained the same today.

It is based on these realities that we welcome the proposal to change the title of the Asian and Far East Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

On the question of the abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management, I would like to recall the point made by you, Sir, in your closing remarks on Agenda Item 4. You emphasized that management of farms is vital to agricultural development. As agriculture proceeds from traditional to commercialized farming, the need to manage farms efficiently becomes crucial. The development of farming systems in the Asian and Pacific regions today requires the knowledge and practical application of modern farm management practices.

The different stages of development in these countries made farm management experiences of the members countries in this region useful to other members. In short, farm management knowledge is essential to farmers in this region.

It was based on this need that the Regional Conference approved the formation of the Regional Commission on Farm Management, to provide a forum for the exchange of experience for the benefit of member countries.

For some reason, this Commission did not function as effectively as we wished it to do, prompting the Director-General to propose its abolition with a view to using the resources thus saved for the initiation of another commission, currently a proposal to be established.

My delegation is of the opinion that before any decision is taken to abolish the Commission on Farm Management, the Regional Conference which proposed its formation in the first place should be given the opportunity to discuss this proposal of whether or not this Commission is still useful in serving its original purposes, and to consider its future.

In this regard, my delegation feels that this proposal to abolish the Commission on Farm Management should be taken as a separate item, and not in relation to the proposal to establish the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific, as stated in document CL 82/28.

When the resolution for the establishment of the proposed Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific was discussed at the FAO Regional Conference in Jakarta this year, there was no intimation there that the proposed Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific could only be established at the expense of another older Commission. We were informed then that existing resources would be adequate to support the operations of the proposed Commission.

My delegation is all for the proposal that any agencies that are no longer useful or effective should be abolished or scrapped to save costs. What we are merely suggesting here is that the question of the abolition of the Commission on Farm Management should be taken on its own merit and not in relation to the establishment of another Commission now under consideration.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the very clear expression of your views.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): Let me say a few words in connection with the recommendation that the Council should exercise its authority to abolish the Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East.

While taking note of the considerations which have given rise to such recommendations, my delegation would like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following: as set out in the document, the original Commission on Farm Management came into being in 1959 on the recommendation of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, which took place in 1958. The establishment of the Commission was referred to as a Working Party, and was aimed at stimulating and co-ordinating farm management activities and creating a clearing house for the exchange of information and experience among member nations in the region. There can be no doubt that at that time delegates representing countries in the region had valid reasons for supporting the establishment of the Working Party because of the significance we attached to the matters of farm management and extension activities.

It is regrettable, therefore, that the sessions of the Commission have not been attended by many of its members. The last two sessions were held six years apart. My delegation wonders whether this irregularity in attending the sessions should not be considered as one of the reasons why there has been less interest in the work of the Commission than in years past.

It is also true that in the last four years many more meetings of various FAO bodies have met not only in Rome but in various countries as well, and this fact may have attracted greater attention to the significance of these bodies which met at regular intervals.

However, the subject of farm management research and activities involving participation of the rural population has by no means lost its significance. This matter should not in any way be undervalued since it is very closely related to rural development.

My delegation has difficulties in supporting the views that the objectives of the Commission can be attained by means of holding ad hoc meetings or management training workshops or seminars oriented towards small farms. The needs of the Commission are more than that.

Coming to the question of abolishing or retaining the Commission, I must say that Indonesia is greatly attached to this Commission; the fact that Indonesia was the host of the last meeting proves that.

My delegation would like to suggest that the matter be thoroughly studied by the next Regional Conference for the Asia and the Pacific. The reason is that the countries of the Region could then have the opportunity to express their views and to make suggestions. No other forum would be in a better position to do that. The findings and the recommendations of the Regional Conference would then be considered by the FAO governing bodies, either the Council or the Conference; considering that it was the Regional Conference in 1958 which proposed the establishment of the Commission, it would be also proper to follow the procedure in requesting the next Conference to deal again with the matter before deciding on the abolition of the Commission.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): My delegation, and myself particularly, normally have a great amount of admiration for Mr. West's sagacity, analytical brain and wisdom, but we beg to differ today, Mr. Chairman. We beg to differ because of the way the item was introduced. Mr. West linked the two things together, the abolition and the establishment of the Commission, whereas on our agenda we have two separate items. We have 19.3 which is abolition and 19.4 which is establishment.

The reason we regret is that by linking them together you are more or less prejudging the issue. If you recollect, this issue was brought up before the Programme Committee, may be merely for information, but even there, members of the Committee very strongly suggested that the establishment of a new Commission should not be automatically linked with the abolition of another. We agree that if there are commissions that are not doing good work they should be abolished. We agree that there should be a dynamic approach towards the whole thing. We agree on all this but at the same time we insist that there should be no direct automatic link between the abolition of one and the establishment of another.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would take you to paragraph 1.95 on page 12 of the document CL 82/11, where it is stated - and I will quote - "It was emphasized that the creation of a new commission should not automatically entail the abolition of an existing body and the Committee considered that the proposal to abolish the Farm Management Commission should be considered as a separate issue on its own merits."

We agreed with this recommendation and we, through you, suggest to the distinguished members of the Council looking at the issue on its own merits entirely. When we look at the issue on its own merit entirely, this Commission on Farm Management was established by the Regional Conference on the recommendation of the Asian Regional Conference. Unfortunately this has not been referred to the Asian Regional Conference and as the distinguished delegates from Indonesia and Malaysia pointed out, it is but appropriate that this issue should be taken back to that Conference, the views of the Conference obtained and brought back. That is not only this Farm Management Commission but the whole question of the commissions in the Asian region should be referred back to the Asian Regional Conference and they should be asked to study the whole issue in the same way it was done in the Near East Regional Conference held recently in Nicosia. And the result in the Near East Regional Conference was that the then existing commissions were reduced and merged into five, which was a very rational solution. It entailed economy and meant that those which were not doing good work were merged together. That was the recommendation of the Regional Conference. Initially we had suggested that this issue should be taken back to the Asian Regional Conference, not only the Farm Management Commission but the Asian Regional Conference may be asked to look at all the Commissions existing in the Regions and come back with a more rational solution.

We therefore strongly urge that instead of taking a decision during this Council on the abolition of the Farm Management Commission, it should be referred back to the Regional Conference.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Thailand has been a member of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East since its inception. My delegation would like to express our position on item 19.3 as follows: First, we agreed with the proposal made by the delegate from Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan that it is too early for this Council to make a decision in this Session. We also believe that any decision to abolish the Commission for any reason should be referred to the Regional Conference for consideration.

Secondly, we were unhappy when we learned from document CL 82/28 that if a Regional Commission on Food Security is established, the costs of the meeting will be met partly through the proposed abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management. This surprised us since at the Sixteenth Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Jakarta of last June, we were informed by the Secretariat that FAO would allocate the existing funds for this new Commission; but no mention was made about the Regional Commission on Farm Management. Like the delegate of Pakistan, we understand that if we create a new Commission it does not mean the automatic abolition of the existing Commission, particularly as they deal with different matters and are not related to each other.

Thirdly, we also agree that we should examine further why only a few countries attended the last meeting of the Regional Commission on Farm Management. The poor attendance may be due to a lack of interesting topics or of qualified papers for discussion, or even insufficient allocation of funds. We do remember that occasionally we received regularly Farm Management notes from the FAO Regional Office at Bangkok.

Regarding the Asia and Far East Commission on Agricultural Statistics, my delegation has no objection to changing its title, but we are concerned that it may face problems like the Commission on Farm Management, in the future.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am happy to withdraw any impression that I might have given that there was an automatic link and that one proposal depended on the other; that was not my intention. The two proposals stand in full on their merits and should be considered separately. All I wanted to do was to remind the Council that it is the Council which establishes and cancels statutory bodies. They may be influenced by recommendations of other bodies, but it is not they who have the responsibility for establishing or abolishing statutory bodies. It is a general function of the

Therefore, though the matter was not raised at the Regional Conference because we did not at that time know the occasion was to arise as soon as the Conference had taken the decision, we asked the Regional Representative himself, Mr. Puri, to tell us what regional body could be abolished, so as to keep the number of statutory bodies down, as this was his suggestion and it was put forward, purely because of the record; I repeat: it has nothing to do with the importance of the subject. The importance of the subject is recognized in other ways. It is entirely to do with the record, and the record does not stretch back just to one previous session but to the last 21 years. And even though this administration may have failed in the way suggested by some of the delegates to make the Commission interesting enough or sensational enough to attract delegates, other administrations lasting over 21 years must not have been guilty of the same fault; I believe that is for the rest of the debate to ponder.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We greatly appreciate the very lucid explanation given by Mr. West. Recognizing the fact that it is the Council which abolishes or establishes such Commissions, I -through you, Mr. Chairman - appealed earlier to the Council that instead of taking a decision now, the Council may, in its wisdom, decide to refer the matter back to the Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East; and not only, I suggest further, to examine the question of abolishing of this Commission on Farm Management but to rationalize the whole system of commissions in the region, so that instead of having commissions which may overlap and be of no use or be poorly attended it may be possible to merge, and get the Commissions together. I make the same appeal to Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: We will take this up as soon as we have heard all the delegations.

N. KISHORE (India): As it is a matter relating to a particular region, my delegation strongly supports the views of the delegates of Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan, that the question of abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East should be first considered by the Regional Conference for the Far East. My delegation also feels that a review of other commissions and sub-commissions should also be undertaken simultaneously. However, for the present the Council may change the title of the Commission to read: FAO Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Pacific, so as to bring this in line with the Conference resolution adopted at the 20th Session of the Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Las delegaciones están tratando conjuntamente los dos subtemas 19.3 y 19.4. Vamos a proceder así para facilitar la brevedad de nuestra intervención. Deseamos apoyar a nuestros colegas asiáticos en el sentido de que no se suprima la Comisión Regional sobre Administración Rural para Asia y el Lejano Oriente sin consultar previamente a los órganos competentes de la región.

Deseamos igualmente apoyar el establecimiento de una Comisión Regional de Seguridad Alimentaria para Asia y el Pacífico. Sobre este punto, intervenimos en nuestra condición de representantes de un país en desarrollo, perteneciente a una región distinta a la asiática, porque hemos sido siempre atraídos favorablemente por el interés que esa región ha concedido a la seguridad alimentaria, a la luz de acciones regionales y subregionales.

Sin duda, el caso de la CEAM sobre las 50 mil toneladas de arroz fue uno de los primeros pasos positivos. En este sentido, queríamos entonces relacionar un poco todo lo que se hace en Asia, y que repetimos tiene nuestro aprecio positivo, con lo que estamos empezando a hacer en América Latina. La FAO está asistiendo al Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, al SELA, en estas actividades subregionales y regionales de seguridad alimentaria. Hemos leído el documento 28, que contiene los objetivos de la Comisión que se propone para Asia y el Pacífico. Están después del párrafo 7 y están también en la parte dispositiva de la Resolución. Pensamos que la Secretaría puede encontrar en esos objetivos, elementos útiles que estimulen la colaboración de la FAO con el SELA.

En el documento de información 8, que contiene un resumen de las principales recomendaciones de las últimas Conferencias Regionales, se encuentra la referencia a la propuesta que hizo en la última Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Managua, el Ministro de Agricultura de Nicaragua, y que recibió apoyo en términos generales; una propuesta dirigida a la Constitución de un Consejo de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional. Pensamos, repetimos, que los elementos que han expuesto los colegas asiáticos para fundamentar su solicitud, pueden ser útiles para intensificar la cooperación de la FAO con el Comité de Acción del SELA.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation welcomes all measures to improve food security, in particular those taken by developing countries. We are convinced that these efforts must be made at all levels, that is at the national, regional and global level. In this respect we also welcome better coordination and speeding-up of regional and sub-regional efforts to improve food security.

Nevertheless, my Government has certain doubts as to whether for this purpose it is really necessary to create regional commissions on food security, or whether the existing FAO and United Nations institutions will be sufficient. Irrespective of the considerations concerning the need for and usefulness of a regional commission on food security, there is the delicate question of costs which stems from the establishment of such a body, an issue to which also the delegate of France referred. We would welcome in this context the suggested abolition of the Regional Commission for Farm Management with a view to partly financing expenses for the proposed new commissions; but after hearing differing views on that issue, my delegation would support the suggestion - if it could be acceptable in particular to the Asian Member States of the Council - that the issue be referred, as proposed by Pakistan, to the FAO Regional Conference and that a thorough review be made about the whole picture of committees and commissions dealing with agriculture and agriculture-related problems such as food security.

CHAIRMAN: I might add before you speak if you are speaking on Item 19.4, we have not come to it. I hope you will restrict your comments because somehow some delegates have taken Item 19.3 and 19.4 together but we are now considering only 19.3.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Let me just say that the United States has been privileged to participate in the Regional Conferences on Asia and the Pacific and quite traditionally we have followed the lead of our colleagues from the region in the past on most of the matters coming before the regional conferences so I might say that we took their lead also on the Commission which is under 19.4, but I will not discuss that at the moment. As it pertains, however, to the observations that have been made both in terms of the abolition of one commission and the reconsideration of another commission, I am disposed again to agree with a colleague of ours from Pakistan that it would perhaps be appropriate for the regional conference again to review the several commissions which are existent there, those that are effective, those that are useful at this juncture and those which may not be so and they then refer to this Council with their recommendations at an appropriate time.

I am mindful of the views expressed by Mr. West, not so much of linking a new one with an old one or an old with a new one, but the general concern of the Council at large that the renewal of allocation resources available to the FAO for all regions and for all purposes within the jurisdiction and concerns of this Organization. In that sense there is a linkage shall we say of different proposals for different commissions and their related activities and so let me simply urge that we would certainly support the views expressed by our colleague from Pakistan as a general referral and then come back to the Council as they wish to make their recommendations for this Council's action.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): I wish to give my support to what the delegates of Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and others have stated in the object of abolishing the Farm Management Commission.

I wish now to elaborate on the role of farm management in rural development and the need to support it in all ways possible. We regret that the meetings of this Commission used not to take place regularly. However, as the delegate of Pakistan says there seems to be need to look at the whole question of commissions in that region. If this is the feeling of our colleagues from the region we support the suggestion that the region discussed this matter before it is brought to the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I take it from so far in the interventions, and in particular the comments of all Asian members, where there has been unanimity in their views, we conclude on this item as follows; first, agree that the change in the title on the Commission of Agricultural Statistics, that is to Asia and the Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, everyone here is agreed we make this change. Number two, with reference to the proposal for abolition, of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Council should defer its decision until the Regional Conference which will now be held, I presume, in the middle of 1984 until the Regional Conference has gone into this question as well as the entire question of the Commissions of that region in an integrated way. We seek the view of the Regional Conference in 1984 on the totality of all the commissions and an integrated recommendation, which commission should be retained, which commissions should be abolished and so on and I think that is the more rational way of doing it and I feel that if the Council has no objection, we accept this recommendation.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: One comment, in considering this suggestion I hope the delegate of Pakistan will now take a reverse position and agree with that review which he has proposed and which has found acceptance is not prejudicial to the next item.

CHAIRMAN: No, I think it is not necessary to intervene because I have not taken up the next item, I do not want now the discussion. 19.3 is under question and I have summarised the consensus.

W.A.F. GRABISCH(Germany, Federal Republic of): I agree. But as the two issues during the discussions were linked together I took the liberty to take them together and actually I felt that by your summing up the other point also was covered. We feel that this is some sort of package and that also this issue is of great importance and I had to say that we had certain doubts as to whether it was really necessary to establish such a new commission or whether the existing institutions would not already serve.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, but at the moment we are only considering the question of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East. We may take a similar view on the next item but I am not going to pre-judge what is going to happen, but at the moment the Asian delegates strongly feel, and I think this has been supported by other members, including the United States, that the decision be deferred on this item until the Regional Conference has considered this matter. The specific issue, as well as the overall issue of the number of commissions in that region, that they would like and so on, these are all the present limited issues which are under discussion.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France) : Je sais bien que nous discutons le 19.3 mais lors de la présentation par M. West, il y a eu le 19.3 et le 19.4 ensemble et c'est pour cela que je suis intervenu compte tenu de ce lien qui apparaissait à la lecture des documents, (je dis bien "à la lecture des documents") et je me souviens aussi, ayant participé à la Conférence de Jakarta., qu'il est exact, comme nos collègues ayant eux aussi participé à cette conférence l'ont dit, qu'on n'a pas abordé la question de la suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie. Ceci n'a pas été abordé du tout. En revanche, comment faire pour ne pas interférer sur le point 19.4 compte tenu de ce qui a été dit à Jakarta à ce moment-là. Le Secrétariat que nous questionnions sur le coût de la commission nouvellement créée, nous répondait : il n'y aura pas de problèmes. D'une part, nous avons la possibilité d'utiliser des crédits pour financer prochainement une réunion et secondo, a-t-il dit, pour le fonctionnement de la commission nous pourrions faire des économies sur d'autres points. Je suppose donc que cette réponse qui nous a été faite - vous la trouverez dans le rapport du comité technique de la Conférence régionale - laissait supposer que dans les économies on pensait peut-être à cette suppression. Si cette suppression n'intervient pas, l'économie ne se réalise pas et c'est cela qui m'amène à être obligé de dire ceci, il y a tout de même un lien qui se crée indirectement.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not going to anticipate the next item. I just want to answer the point about financing in relation to the hypothetical savings on the Farm Management Commission. It was hoped that by abolishing the Farm Management Commission we would be able to contribute something towards the cost of the new commission. If it is not to be abolished and we do not have any savings we will have to sacrifice some other lower priorities.

19.4 Establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific

19.4 Création d'une Commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire pour l'Asie et le Pacifique

19.4 Establecimiento de una Comisión Regional de Seguridad Alimentaria para Asia y el Pacífico

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): As the Council will be aware the recent Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Jakarta invited the Director-General "to take the necessary steps to study a Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific within the existing legal and administrative framework of the Organization". The Director-General's proposals on this subject are contained in document CL 82/28 which is now before the members for consideration.

This Council will recall that the Conference Resolution 3/79 on the Plan of Action on World Food Security recommended that the governments in the regions vulnerable to food shortages should examine ways of strengthening their collective self-reliance. The Asian and Pacific area is, of course,

one of the regions most vulnerable to food insecurity. It is a very heavily populated region, food consumption levels are low and it is subjected to great overwhelming uncertainty. Progress in food production has been made in recent years, partly due to good weather conditions, but also reflecting the intensive efforts made by governments and farmers to improve yields and increase output. Some countries are even approaching self-sufficiency. However, the region as a whole remains a major net importing area of cereals and also remains highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. The refugee problem has also created an additional food security hazard.

The Regional Conference discussed both these problems at both its 15th and 16th Sessions. It recognized that although cooperative ventures were taking place between some regional countries on an ad hoc basis, there was a lack of specialized forum at regional level to coordinate and promote such initiatives. It was also pointed out that opportunities existed for pooling the experiences of some countries in the region in pioneering sub-regional arrangements for food security, for example within the ASEAN framework, as well as the technical know-how and resources of developing countries in the region who are already actively contributing in this field. All this could be better drawn through the interchange of experiences in a regional forum. It was felt that a regional FAO commission could provide a vehicle for transmitting the special problems and requirements of the region to a global level for follow-up, perhaps through the Committee on Food Security. Conversely the existing programme at a global level needs to be applied more systematically at the regional level.

Finally, it could provide a focal point for considering the proposals of other regional bodies. In this connection it should be noted that ESCAP's Executive Secretary has recently stated that the proposal is a significant and constructive step. ESCAP has indicated that its own food supply study would form an input into the work of the proposed commission when established.

The Director-General, therefore, has proposed in the document before you that this new regional commission should be established by the Council under the authority invested in it by Article VI-1 of the Constitution. The costs should be met through the adjustment of the sources and the redeployment of the existing staff of the regional office from which the Secretariat would be designated. If the Council agrees to establish the new Food Security Commission it is intended to call its first session in the middle of 1983, I should add that the Programme Committee has been consulted on this matter and it generally supported the creation of such a regional Food Security Commission in Asia and the Pacific Region. The Programme Committee supported proposed deployment of resources from lower to higher priority activities.

Following the established practice, therefore, a draft resolution containing the statutes of the proposed commission and included in the Annex 2 of the document is before the Council for its consideration.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The regional conference has unanimously endorsed the establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

The members of the region I believe are the best judges of their own needs. As explained earlier by the members of the Secretariat the establishment of this Commission is not necessarily connected with the abolition of the other commission which has been discussed previously. The Philippines delegation therefore wholeheartedly supports the establishment of this Commission in accordance with the Resolution indicated in document CL 82/2, page 4, Resolution 82/1, and hopes that the other Members of the Council will support this endorsement.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): After the very excellent and articulate introduction by Professor Nurul Islam there is very little for me to say, but the fact that Professor Islam in his introduction has very ably brought out and highlighted all the issues and problems which require the setting up of this Regional Commission on Food Security. It is indeed true that the Asian Region is a region with multitudes of people who are still vulnerable to food shortages and malnourishment. It is also true that there are a number of countries in the region who have been making efforts in the agricultural development and have achieved some progress, but it is still true that there are a number of countries in the region where millions of people are still dependent on the vagaries of the weather. One bad harvest, one bad flood, one bad drought would render their vulnerability very open. It is therefore true that the region does need such a Commission, and since the Regional Commission in Jakarta has fully recommended this and it has been endorsed by the Programme Committee we appeal to the members of the Council that this Commission should be established.

N. KISHORE (India): The Prime Minister of India in her McDougall Memorial Lecture at the last Conference gave the message of achieving self reliance through collective and collaborative action. The aims and objectives of the proposed Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific are in consonance with the message of our Prime Minister and its terms of reference are laudable and unexceptionable.

My delegation has supported the proposal to establish a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific at the Regional Conference held in Indonesia this year. At this Conference my delegation also fully supported the establishment of the Commission with the terms of reference contained in the proposed resolution in Annex 2 of document CL 82/28.

My delegation is optimistic that the Commission will be able to establish stable and vital food security in the region.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): First I would like to thank Dr Nurul Islam for his excellent introduction. Last week the Council discussed in depth the report of the Committee on World Food Security which is closely linked with the item under discussion now. From the deliberations last week we may infer that international society in the developing countries still has to work hard to improve food security at global, regional and country level. Much has been said about action that must be taken in the field directed towards increasing food production, building food stocks, and the right distribution, so as to reach the needy people.

It is not my intention to deal extensively with the consideration which has been made. It is for the countries of the region to decide on the desirability for the abolition of commissions, since the relevant information is adequately presented in the document, particularly in the preamble to Resolution 82/1 on the establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific, as contained in Annex 1. This being the case, my delegation would like to limit itself to emphasize on the significance of food security in the region, which is the home of hundreds of millions of people, representing a very substantial part of the population of the world.

Food security would help to create stability in the region. It would also pave the way for further economic development and a spirit of mutual hope, especially in the days of food scarcities and emergencies.

We now have a draft resolution of the Council on the establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific and my delegation hopes that the Council can approve the establishment of this Commission.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Ma delegation a été parmi celles qui ont approuvé à Jakarta la résolution prise par la conférence régionale en vue de demander la création de cette commission sur la sécurité alimentaire pour l'Asie du Sud-Est.

Nous ne revenons pas sur cet accord mais je suis obligé de reprendre la question que j'avais posée tout à l'heure indirectement sur le 19.3. Etant donné que certaines économies ont disparu comment va-t-on les compenser et comment va-t-on financer correctement cette nouvelle commission, compte tenu de ce qui nous avait été déclaré à Jakarta? Il y a une partie de la réponse dans le paragraphe 12 du document CL 82/28 où l'on parle de 150 000 dollars qui seront certainement pris sur le budget normal de l'Organisation. Pour le reste, on dit au paragraphe 13 que "les autres coûts de la réunion seront financés en partie par les ressources économisées grâce à l'abolition..." et en partie "grâce à un ajustement des ressources (principalement dans le domaine général de la sécurité alimentaire)". J'aimerais bien avoir une précision sur ces économies.

W.A. COCHRANE (New Zealand): New Zealand has a very strong interest in all effective measures aimed at enhancing food security in the Asian and Pacific Region. Our interest is naturally also very much focussed on our close neighbours, the Pacific Island States. While the people of the South-West Pacific have relatively high nutritional levels per capita, there are serious problems with respect to ensuring adequate food supplies for the future. All these countries are large net importers of food. For most there are few possibilities available for substantially increasing exports to pay for rising food imports, while the scope for replacing imports with domestic food production is limited by many other factors and a lack of arable land. There are other difficulties too.

It is not entirely clear from the documentation what precise activities in food security might be undertaken to meet the specific needs of the South Pacific countries. But should it be agreed to establish the proposed regional commission we would expect that these needs would not be overlooked.

Turning to the proposal before us, we would note the recommendatory function of the proposed commission and the need to ensure that any new regional institution should of course be closely coordinated with the efforts of other existing international and regional organizations engaged in food problems. The purpose should of course be to minimize duplication of effort to the greatest possible extent. We welcome a specific reference to this matter in the draft council resolution.

The FAO Regional Conference in June recommended that the commission be established within FAO's existing legal and administrative framework.

As regards funding, our understanding has been that all the required finances would be found from existing resources under the Regular Budget and from savings.

The Deputy Director-General's concluding remarks under the preceding item have addressed the question of savings. But we take it that our basic understanding remains correct and we are accordingly happy to support the proposal.

A. NAGA (Japan): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for having well prepared document CL 82/28. As you know, many developing countries in Asia and the Pacific Region are rapidly increasing cereal demand because of population increase and income growth. On the other hand, their cereal production growth rate barely keeps equal to or is marginally ahead of population. The infrastructure for production and for food losses also calls for food security. In these circumstances Japan recognizes the necessity for strengthening food security in the region and supported the resolution for the establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security at the last regional conference for Asia and the Pacific. At the same time my delegation requested the Commission to seek thorough cooperation with ESCAP and other relevant organizations to avoid duplication of efforts. In this sense my delegation appreciates the recent meeting between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of ESCAP. My delegation supports the draft council resolution on the establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

Before I conclude I would like to make a brief comment on the Programme linkage between two issues under item 19. Although I would like to support the proposal by the Secretariat on the abolition of the Regional Commission for Farm Management for Asia and the Far East, at the same time I think that there is no linkage between the two issues,

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I compliment Professor Islam for giving us an excellent introduction with a comprehensive brief on the current status of the proposed Regional Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned we have already signified our endorsement to the setting up of such a Commission through the deliberations in the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held last June in Jakarta, when the issue was debated and deliberated at some length. That Conference adopted the resolution in question unanimously. We were a willing partner in the adoption of that resolution and it fully reflected our concern for having such a commission based on our appreciation of facts. We are accordingly in full support of the proposed resolution.

We are delighted to see from paragraph 10 of document CL 82/28 that ESCAP as the regional body has also fully endorsed and welcomed the recommendation of the regional conference as a significant and constructive step, pledging its support for the work of the proposed commission. In this connexion we also appreciate the recent meeting of understanding between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. My delegation congratulates ESCAP for their cooperation and assurance of help.

We would like to suggest that the establishment of such a commission or the evolution of some such concrete arrangement to strengthen the food security of the region is long overdue. Through our discussions on the state of food and agriculture we have had occasion to say that increase of agricultural production, important as it is as a national objective to be self-reliant and to attain food security at the national level, is by itself not enough to ensure food security globally. Today production is at a reasonably satisfactory level. Nations are striving to achieve even higher rates of growth. The world as a whole is not short of food now, and considered as a whole production might remain ahead of the requirement to feed all the people. Nevertheless that by itself is not going to ensure food for all. As we have heard Professor Islam say in his introductory remarks, the Asian and Pacific Region as a whole remains a food deficit area. To ensure food security in the true sense of the term action is needed at global, regional and national levels. At the global and national levels things have got off to a fairly good start, but at the regional level so far initiative has comparatively been the weakest and hence the urgent need for reinforced measures to augment and strengthen food security and related measures at the regional level.

It is now our firm view that creation of a specialized regional forum as the proposed Commission would immensely help harness technical information, exchange of experience, promotion of regional food security efforts and encourage coordinated action and implementation of global security in the light of regional needs. At the sub-regional level in this Region, there is an excellent example of cooperation among the Asean countries, and the concept can be expanded to cover the region. We therefore wholeheartedly support the adoption of the Council Resolution for the establishment of the Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific, including the adoption of the Draft Statutes-proposed in Annex 2 of document CL 82/28, and congratulate the Director-General of FAO for the very expeditious step he has taken in honouring the wishes of the Member Countries of the Asian and Pacific Regions, as expressed through Resolution No. 82/1 adopted in the last Regional Conference.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I welcome the opportunity to address item 19.4 at this time. As our delegations have said on other occasions, the United States takes very seriously efforts by countries to improve their individual and collective food security. We have long encouraged other countries to maintain food reserve systems with stocks of basic grains. Hence, our delegation at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific earlier this year concurred in the Resolution which calls for the establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for the area.

I should remind the Council, however, that the U.S. delegation then and now does have some concern about budgetary impact, if any, of the Commission and its operations. We are, however, pleased at the kinds of reassurances we have had from the Secretariat, from the Director-General himself at the Regional Conferences and this late afternoon from his Deputy as to the importance of seeking to offset new programmes of higher priority with the lessening of resources or the abolition of programmes of lower authority. It is our understanding, then, on this matter, as expressed by the Secretariat, and in part embodied in the documents we are looking at at this time, that costs for establishing and operating the Commission during the current biennium will be met within existing budget levels and with personnel at the Regional Office or currently working on related FAO activities in Rome or in the field, and if the Commission is involved in special field activities that these costs would be borne by voluntary contributions.

As we agree upon the establishment of another FAO body, our delegation would welcome more information on how the Commission and its work would be related to other FAO activities and bodies. For example, how will the Commission relate in its work with FAO's Food Security Assistance Scheme, which is now a well-established and functioning body of this Organization? Also, will FAO's Committee on Food Security receive reports on the Commission, and will the Committee on Food Security, which is a committee of this body, have any oversight over the new Commission and its work? Or would this Council, acting on behalf of the Organization as a whole, provide any oversight or any guidance for the Commission as it goes about its activities?

As I say, we support the Resolution involved for the creation of the Food Security Commission for Asia and Pacific, but we do have these questions which we would appreciate comment on by the Secretariat.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación quiere expresamente apoyar la creación de la Comisión Regional para la Seguridad Alimentaria para Asia y el Pacífico, de acuerdo con los términos en que fue aprobado por la Conferencia de Yakarta. Nuestro único interés es apoyar una medida que puede ayudar a esta región a enfrentar los graves problemas alimentarios.

RADIN SOENARNO (Malaysia): It seems the paper CL 82/28 is very clear and pinpointed further by the excellent introduction of Professor Islam. I have no further remarks to add except to say that in view of the importance of food security issues in the Region and the practical role that the proposed Commission will play in enhancing the efforts for improving the food security situation in Asia and the Pacific, my delegation fully supports the proposal for the setting up of the Commission and requests the Director-General of FAO to implement it as soon as possible. We are looking forward to playing our role in the Commission.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): We have been listening with much interest to a number of delegates applaud the establishment of a Regional Commission for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific. Canada is a country of the Pacific rim and therefore is deeply interested in the future of that Region. My delegation applauds the objective of food security for Asia and the Pacific but would have hoped that it could have been obtained without creating yet another body. In this context I would echo the concerns raised by the Federal Republic of Germany.

We understand that some research on the question has been carried out in the region, mainly by ESCAP, and that such research is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 1983. Under the circumstances,

it would in our view have been preferable to wait until governments in the Region had had the opportunity to study the results of that research before deciding whether a specialized commission was really required. However, if in the wisdom of this Council and certainly as we have heard from the Members of the Region, such a Commission is established, we would like to echo the concerns and the wishes of some of our other colleagues who have mentioned the question of financing and would also like to join with them in applauding the Secretariat in their assurances that the establishment of such a Commission would not entail any new expenditure of resources but rather a redeployment.

Finally, I would like to join with New Zealand in requesting that assurances from or an enjoinder to the Secretariat be made that mention of the need for cooperation among existing bodies in the Region on the question of food security appear in the minutes.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In order to be brief, I will refrain from restating what I have already said under 19.3 of our agenda on the issue before us.

Now, having listened to the clarification given by the Deputy Director-General saying that some other lower priorities would have to be sacrificed, we assume that the funding for the supposed Commission would be done by redeployment of resources out of the share normally allocated to the Region concerned from the regular budget.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I simply wanted to say that my delegation is in favour of the establishment of a Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific because I think there is an ever-increasing need for the setting up of such a Commission. It would make it possible to define basic policies as well as determine measures necessary for the implementation of food security strategies for the countries in the Region. I think this Commission could also be an example for other regions to follow.

S.Z. KHAN (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific): I am indeed grateful for having this opportunity to speak. Since ESCAP was mentioned we should make a statement to this august body. In the mid-1970's, the Asia-Pacific region contained 69 percent of the world's malnourished population, and by 1980 their number had increased beyond the 300 million mark. In spite of good production gains in the recent past, per capita food consumption in many low-income food-deficit countries of the Region has not substantially improved compared to the situation of the late 1960's.

At the same time, under the dynamic leadership and guidance of the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, FAO initiatives generated a world-wide consciousness regarding food security. A number of significant plans and programmes were launched to strengthen world food security.

The food scenario of the current decade is different from what it was earlier. The use of the abundant North American stocks and food aid has declined. The conscious thrust towards national self-sufficiency has led to residual imports. Three categories — traditional, occasional and high-quality rice-exporting countries — have emerged in Asia. Some low-income food deficit countries have narrowed the food gap by imported wheat in spite of marked preference for rice.

A few countries have graduated to middle-income status and thus face fewer problems in obtaining needed food imports. The changing food scenario seems to offer better prospects for reducing food insecurities through collective action. There is an increasing realization in the region of the possibility of collective action for reducing the vulnerability of low-income, food deficit countries to large scale harvest failures; achieving more orderly food import and export arrangements; and, increasing the flow of investment in order to spur domestic food and agricultural production. The first such successful collective action, as the Council is well aware, is the ASEAN Food Security Reserve.

At the regional level, the concern of the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with persistent food problems was expressed at the 37th Session of the Commission in 1981, when it directed the Secretariat to prepare a special study on food supply in the Asia-Pacific Region. Early this year the 38th Session of the Commission discussed food supply as the theme topic. Subsequently, pursuant to a Commission Resolution, feasibility studies are being done by the Secretariat keeping in view FAO's global plan of action and other programmes of relevant international agencies.

The 16th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, as the Council is well aware, held in Jakarta in June of this year devoted special attention to the food security issues of the region. The positive outcome of the regional conference was the call for the establishment of a specialised forum to deal with the food security problem on a comprehensive and sustained basis. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria, welcomed this development at the ECOSOC session in July this

year as a "significant and constructive step". He further stated that ESCAP's food supply study would serve as an input to the work of the proposed Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

Working in close harmony with other United Nations bodies and specialised agencies has been the cornerstone of ESCAP's policy. In pursuance of this policy the Executive Secretary of ESCAP recently met and held discussions with the Director-General of FAO in Rome, and it was agreed that the existing close collaboration between FAO and ESCAP will be further enhanced through strengthening the joint review process and frequent mutual consultations. The Executive Secretary reiterated ESCAP's intention to complement, in any way deemed suitable and appropriate, the FAO's efforts in respect of the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate for ESCAP, for this very useful statement.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like to answer a few questions which were raised in the course of the debate. First, the question of financing. As it has been stated earlier, and also in the document, I can repeat that the question of financing of the Commission was discussed at length at the Regional Conference. It was explained that the cost would be met by the adjustment of resources and redeployment of the existing staff, and the savings which might have been obtained from the abolition of any other Commission would now be obtained from savings from other items of expenditure with lower priority, as the Deputy Director-General explained a while ago.

A question was asked about the South Pacific countries - how would this Commission deal with their problems? As you can see from the resolution itself, Mr. Chairman, this Commission is open to all Member Nations in Asia and the Pacific in territories in the Asian and Pacific Region, and it is expected that the Commission would consider the regional and sub-regional food security problem, including various sub-regional groups. It is open to the Member Nations of the Organization coming from any particular sub-region to bring their problem to the attention of the regional commission and have it as an item for discussion or examination.

A question had been asked about the relationship of the proposed Commission with the FAO Council and the Committee on Food Security. I draw attention to paragraph 4 of the Resolution itself. It says: "The Director-General shall bring to the attention of the Conference through the Council any recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications or which affect the Programme or finances of the Organization." As far as the Committee on Food Security is concerned, it goes on to say: "The Director-General shall also bring the recommendations of the Commission to the attention of the Committee on World Food Security."

Naturally it will be a two-way flow. The Director-General would also keep the new Commission informed about the recommendations of the Commission on Food Security which are relevant for the region.

Questions were also asked about the relationship with the Commission of other programmes of FAO dealing with food security. I again draw the attention of the members to the Resolution, Section 2, terms of reference (d). It says that the Commission should "make a continuing assessment of the food security assistance requirements of developing countries in the Region" and "recommend ways of mobilizing the necessary resources within the framework of the FAO special action programmes, including the Food Security Assistance Scheme and the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, as well as through other relevant multilateral and bilateral programmes".

On the question of cooperation with other bodies, I again refer to the Resolution itself, Section 7, paragraph (b). It says: "The Commission shall seek the full cooperation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other international organizations concerned including UNCTAD, WFC, WFP, IBRD, IFAD, ADB and APFC with a view to ensuring their active participation in the work of the Commission, and thereby harmonising activities carried out by various agencies in the Region, and avoiding duplication of efforts."

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Professor Islam. I think it is clear there has been overwhelming support to the idea of looking at problems in a more desegregated way, and that this initiative will form a useful step in terms of discussing global food security problems in a much more meaningful manner.

I think obviously national food security is the first block, then regional consideration, and finally, global consideration, which is a more logical way of doing things in such a complex and unequal world that we live in.

I am glad Professor Islam drew attention to the fact that although global reserves may be satisfactory, in this region we are considering where there are 300 million people who are malnourished; and anyone who lives in that region or goes to rural areas will know too well the state of undernutrition, calory depletion, and malnutrition of various kinds.

I would like to suggest to Professor Islam a small addition to the Resolution under Item 4, Reporting. I would suggest: "The Director-General shall also bring the recommendations of the Commission to the attention of the Committee on World Food Security and the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific." I think it is implied, but it is important that under Reporting it is the Regional Conference which should consider more the conclusions on the state of the Commission than a general conference, because after all that is a diverse view. So I would like that to be properly incorporated, giving importance to this.

Shall we then, in view of the clarifications of Professor Islam, launch this new Commission? It is a particularly important initiative. And should we say that the funds should be found in the way that has been described by the realignment of priorities and voluntary contributions and so on?

We approve this resolution, and approve the creation of this Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific. I want to thank Professor Islam and all the contributors.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décide

Asi se acuerda

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 82/PV/16

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

16ª SESION PLENARIA

(2 December 1982)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16 sesión plenaria a las 09.40horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
- 19. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (continued)
- 19. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment: (suite)
- 19. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (continuación)
- 19.5 Changes in Representation of Member Countries on the Programme and/or Finance Committee
- 19.5 Modification de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et/ou Comité financier
- 19.5 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en el Comité del Programa y/o en el de

Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce point de l'ordre du jour ne concerne pas en réalité un changement dans la représentation des pays membres au Comité du programme. C'était en effet un remplacement temporaire, ce que ne nous avait pas été précisé à l'époque. Au demeurant, c'est par une communication verbale que le Directeur général a été informé, le 14 mai 1982, du fait que M. Fernando Petrella, Ministre plénipotentiaire et représentant permanent de l'Argentine auprès de la FAO, serait désigné pour remplacer Don Carlos Oscar Keller Sarmiento comme représentant de son gouvernement au Comité du programme. C'est ainsi qu'il a siégé à ce comité lors de sa 42ème session au mois de mai dernier. Ce remplacement temporaire a pris fin lors de la 43ème session du Comité du programme en septembre dernier, M. Sarmiento ayant tout simplement repris sa place au Comité. Ce point de l'ordre du jour ne nécessite donc aucune action de la part du Conseil.

CHAIRMAN: We note the information that has been provided and move on to Item 19.6.

- 19.6 Change of Name of the Region "Latin America" to "Latin America and the Caribbean"
- 19.6 Changement du nom de la Région "Amérique latine" qui deviendrait "Amérique latine et Caraïbes"
- 19.6 Cambio del nombre de la Región de "América Latina" en "America Latina y el Caribe"

A.L. MOLLE (Adjoint au Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Au cours de la 10ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Amérique latine qui s'est tenue récemment à Managua, un certain nombre de délégations ont proposé de changer le nom de la région afin de refléter les modifications intervenues au cours du temps dans la composition de la région, par suite de l'adjonction à la liste des membres de la FAO d'un certain nombre de nouveaux pays. La Conférence régionale a fait sienne cette proposition.

Le Conseil a devant lui le document CL 82/22, qui décrit l'état de la situation à cet égard et propose l'adoption d'un nouveau titre pour la région, changeant celui d'"Amérique latine" en "Amérique latine et Caraïbes". Ce document est soumis au Conseil pour examen et éventuellement approbation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que nuestra última Conferencia Regional ha hecho una recomendación que es acertada, que es justa y que es coherente.

El Gobierno de Colombia piensa que esta recomendación se basa no sólo en el aumento de miembros de países del Caribe, como lo dijo el funcionario de la Secretaría que presento el tema, sino esencialmente en la integración constante, creciente y afortunada de los países del Caribe a la vida económica, social política y humana del contexto de la región de América Latina y del Caribe.

El gobierno de Colombia ha intensificado sus relaciones en todos los ordenes con los países del Caribe porque los considera estados miembros progresistas que están haciendo grandes esfuerzos particularmente en la agricultura a través de un trabajo abnegado y consagrado de sus nobles poblaciones. Por lo tanto, la delegación de Colombia apoya con entusiasmo y con toda decisión la recomendación de nuestra Conferencia Regional en el sentido de que en adelante esa Conferencia y también nuestra Oficina con sede en Santiago se llamen de "América Latina y el Caribe".

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): The Barbados delegation wishes to support document CL 82/22 setting out the recommendations coming from the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference in Latin America recently held in Nicaragua. The region for some time now has been using the name "Latin America and the Caribbean" in an informal way and this paper now seeks to have this name formalized in the future records of FAO. This is not an unusual exercise. Paragraph 3 of the document draws attention to precedents for changes in the name of the Organization. Everyone is aware that the region as a whole has undergone much growth and change in the composition of its Member states. At the inception of FAO in 1945 there were 19 countries in the Latin American region. Between 1951 and 1981 another 10 countries have joined and participate in the activities of the Group as a whole. The Council has recently agreed to the membership of two additional Caribbean states. We therefore have for all practical purposes 12 new states in the Caribbean as members of the Latin American and Caribbean group.

The change of name would truly reflect the actual composition of the totality of Member states. I believe that the area identified and intimately known as the Caribbean throughout the world has been playing its part and, as the Barbados Minister of Agriculture said in Managua, sometimes out of proportion to its size in global development in general and in Latin American and Caribbean affairs in particular.

I do not think I should say anything further on this item, except that the change of name will not lead Member States or FAO into additional expenditure. Also the change of name should not be seen as simply stylistic and of little importance. Further the change of name does not introduce any concept of geographical disunity of the area, but on the contrary it would formally provide an accurate description of all countries now cooperating in the work of the region as a whole.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): The United States wishes to join the previous speakers in concurring in the proposed change of name for this important region. When the suggestion was first made during the Regional Conference in Managua the United States joined representatives from other countries there in embracing the idea. The Caribbean is an area in which the United States has embarked on a major new effort of assistance and trade measures to enhance development. President Reagan personally announced the new initiative in a special meeting of the OAS early this year. Our close geographic proximity, a similar language, and ties furthered by the movement of peoples as well as goods have long meant that the Caribbean had a special place in the interests, and indeed the affections, for many of our people in the United States. For all these reasons the United States welcomes this new recognition for the peoples and nations of the area.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación quiere reafirmar su apoyo a esta resolución de denominación de "America Latina y el Caribe" tal como fue acordado en la Conferencia Regional de Managua.

Nuestra delegación considera que esto refuerza nuestra unidad regional, independientemente de pequeñas variaciones lingüísticas; nos une la historia colonialista, la lucha por la independencia y la lucha por el desarrollo, por lo cual el Caribe es parte muy importante de América Latina.

Miss V.E. BETTON (Observer for Jamaica): The Observer delegation of Jamaica wishes to associate itself with other speakers who have spoken in support of this proposal before the Council to change the name of the FAO region "Latin America" to "Latin America and the Caribbean" and that the Regional Conference be called "Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean" as contained in document CL 82/22 and endorsed by the regional meeting held in Managua recently.

My delegation, like the delegation of Barbados, also sees this proposal as merely formalizing the name "Latin America and the Caribbean Region" which has been used informally for a long time. It does not imply any inconsistency with the unity and cooperation which has existed within the region of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

As stated by the delegation of Barbados, along with the 19 Latin American countries participating in this region over the past few years, there are now 10 Caribbean countries in this region, with the possibility of two more countries participating in the near future. The name "Latin America and the Caribbean" is therefore a reality which should be formally reflected in the record. It will be recalled that there have been precedents within FAO where the Council has found it necessary to change the name of other regions. Indeed the document under reference shows in paragraph 3 an example of such a change. It is in this spirit that my delegation fully supports this proposal for adoption by the Council.

CHAIRMAN: We adopt the proposal and invite the FAO Conference to endorse the change, namely the title will become "Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean"

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Asi se acuerda.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Any Other Business Appointment of a Member Governments' Representative to the Staff Pension Committee
21. Questions diverses Nomination d'un représentant des gouvernements membres au Comité des pensions du personnel
21. Otros asuntos Nombramiento de un Representante de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

P.J. SKOUFIS (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Document CL 82/24, Appointment of Member Governments¹ Representative to the Staff Pension Committee, covers the item before you at the present time. However, I would like to add that the UN pension system is administered on a tripartite basis by the United Nations Pension Board and at the local level, that is, here in FAO, by an organization's Pension Committee. These Pension Committees exist among all of the UN organizations. One-third of the membership of the FAO Pension Committee is elected by popular vote of the participants, one-third of the Committee is appointed by the Director-General and one-third is appointed by the Conference. Each of these three sectors has three members and three alternates. The 21 members that comprise the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board are drawn from the membership of the local Committees, and FAO has two seats on the Joint Staff Pension Board.

Because of the heavy commitments of our Conference delegates to attend other meetings of FAO, it is vital to have a full complement of Conference Members on the Staff Pension Committee, and it is necessary for all sectors to be present to institute a quorum.

Shri Ramadhar of India, appointed by the Conference for the term 1 January 1982 to 31 December 1983, has now departed from Rome on reassignment. Therefore, a successor is needed to serve for Shri Ramadhar's unexpired term that is to 31 December 1983.

In 1955, the Eighth Session of the Conference delegated to the Council authority to appoint replacements to the Conference-appointed Members, and the Council is called upon today to fill this vacancy on an interim basis.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany): My delegation takes great pleasure in proposing that the distinguished delegate of Denmark, J. Glistrup, Permanent Representative of his country to FAO, should be appointed as a Member Governments' Representative to the Staff Pension Committee. Mr. Glistrup is very well known to Council and Conference delegations as well as to the Secretariat's staff.

He has a broad experience in international cooperation and a profound knowledge of the organization. We feel that he could contribute in a constructive way to the work of the Staff Pension Committee as successor of Mr. Ramadhar.

M. TKRULJA (Yugoslavia): First of all, we simply could not miss this opportunity to place on record our gratitude to Mr. Ramadhar, former Permanent Representative of India to FAO, for his very active service in the Committee.

We want to second wholeheartedly the proposed replacement of Mr. Ramadhar, and we are positive that Mr. Glistrup, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the FAO, would be an excellent choice and would certainly match the very high record of Mr. Ramadhar in the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for seconding the nomination.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): We too would like to second the nomination of the distinguished representative from Denmark for this important additional role within the relationships with FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Any other member wishing to take the floor? Otherwise, I take it that we unanimously elect Mr. Glistrup, Permanent Representative of Denmark, to the vacancy caused by the relocation of Mr. Ramadhar until the end of December 1983, the unexpired portion of Mr. Ramadhar's term. We record our appreciation of the very valuable services rendered by Mr. Ramadhar and we shall look forward to Mr. Glistrup on the Committee, because as I said on another occasion, we want to salute those who are willing to serve on such Committees because they give their time for an important cause, and we are very grateful, we welcome Mr. Glistrup.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)

17. Revised Calendar of 1982-83 Sessions of the Council and of Those Bodies which Report to the Council

17. Calendrier révisé des sessions 1982-83 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport

17. Calendario revisado para 1982-83 de los períodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

VI OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

20. Date and Place of the Eighty-third Session of the Council

20. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-troisième session du Conseil

20. Fecha y lugar del 83o período de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: On trouvera à la page 2 du document CL 82/21 le calendrier révisé des principales réunions pour l'exercice 1982-83. Les réunions qui ont déjà eu lieu en 1982 y figurent aussi afin de donner un tableau plus complet des deux années. Je citerai les principaux changements concernant 1983. Tout d'abord, la Conférence mondiale de la FAO pour l'aménagement et le développement des pêches qui était initialement prévue lors de votre précédente réunion pour 1983 a été renvoyée à 1984. Le changement a permis au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aile alimentaire et du Programme alimentaire mondial d'anticiper de trois jours ses travaux et les nouvelles dates proposées sont du 16 au 27 mai 1983. D'autre part le Comité des pêches sera maintenant renvoyé au 23 octobre et les dates qui sont proposées sont du 10 au 19 octobre 1983. Voilà le calendrier révisé et soumis à votre approbation.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Si j'interviens c'est pour parler de la période du mois de juin, Cela concerne particulièrement la session du Conseil. J'ai noté que cette session est prévue du 20 juin au 1er juillet et je m'interroge quant à savoir si cette date sera adéquate étant donné qu'il y a la 6ème session de la conférence de la CNUCED, qui va se tenir à Belgrade, si mes souvenirs sont bons, pendant tout le mois de juin pratiquement. Elle doit commencer avant le 3 ou le 4 juin et continuer jusqu'à la fin du mois. Or je pense que nombre de délégués ici présents sont également concernés par les travaux de la CNUCED, tout particulièrement en ce qui concerne les produits de base. Par ailleurs, il faut aussi noter qu'en juillet (mais je n'ai plus la date exacte) nous avons la réunion du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Je me demande si le Secrétariat, avant que nous ne fixions la date définitive du Conseil et le dernier point de l'ordre du jour, ne pourrait pas revoir le calendrier, en fonction d'abord de la réunion de la CNUCED qui est très importante et éventuellement du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

A. F. BOTHNER (Norway) : I would also like briefly to comment on this item, more precisely on one particular aspect of it. It appears from the document, as was just pointed out by France, that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place from June 20 to July 1. I also draw your attention to the fact that the Ninth Session of the World Food Council will be convened at UN Headquarters in New York from 27 to 30 June 1983. Thus, there is a direct collision between the time for the two meetings of these two most important bodies, and this will create great difficulties for Governments, inasmuch as naturally the same officials are in charge of representation in the two Councils. For instance, myself, I am the Rapporteur of the World Food Council and naturally should be there. I had also planned to take part in the next FAO Council meeting, but generally speaking, this collision of the two meetings is rather unfortunate and it should be avoided, and hopefully it is still possible to make the necessary arrangements.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): Like my French and Norwegian colleagues who have just spoken, I view the situation to which they have referred with regard to the June meetings with some dismay. I noted some time ago that the proposed date for the Eighty-third Council clashed with the dates set for the Ninth Meeting of WFC in New York at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General, and I raised this matter with the appropriate division of FAO and suggested further consideration might be given.

On a purely practical point which has been referred to already by my Norwegian colleague, many Permanent Representatives in Rome are responsible for their Government's relations with all the Rome-based institutions of the UN, and their presence at FAO Council meetings, particularly when the Programme of Work and Budget is to be discussed at the June Session, is seen by most Members as essential.

Equally, many Ministers expect their Permanent Representatives to be available as advisors at the ministerial sessions of the World Food Council, and indeed, observer nations like my own on the Council, frequently ask their Permanent Secretaries to represent them. As an example, at the last Eighth Session of the WFC in Acapulco, nearly 40 Permanent Representatives from Rome were present.

For this reason, I would like to support my Norwegian colleague and my French colleague in asking whether further consideration could be given to this very unfortunate clash of dates in June.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wish to recall paragraph 1.6 of the report of the 43rd Session of the Programme Committee where it states: "The Committee discussed the need to reorganize the calendar of sessions, including the Regional Conference, in a more convenient way. The calendar should enable Government Representatives and Secretariat Members to attend the Sessions whenever required to do so. This would inter alia imply coordination of meetings of different agencies in Rome".

Here I feel that the Programme Committee was also somewhat uneasy about the possibility of clashes, and I would like to support what speakers before me have voiced on this issue.

Perhaps it might be useful that we are thinking that a change or a shift to be made. We enquired in New York at UN Headquarters whether another date could be found for the World Food Council Session, but we were told that there was no room for a shift. Therefore my delegation would like to ask the Secretariat to do its best in order to advance the 83rd FAO Council session for the reasons already given so clearly by the speakers before me.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Esencialmente coincidimos con las intervenciones anteriores, sobre todo la novena reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación fijada en Nueva York del 27 al 30 de junio, nos crea problemas. Es indudable, como lo dijo el colega del Reino Unido, que la reunión próxima del Consejo es importante, sobre todo por el estudio del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, hecho que está relacionado directamente con las reuniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en la primavera, porque como todos sabemos, en esa reunión de primavera del año entrante que aquí aparece en este documento, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas estudian el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

La solución que podríamos tratar de encontrar, con todo respeto por la Secretaría -ellos conocen muy bien su trabajo- sería o adelantar el Consejo de la FAO para las dos primeras semanas de junio, caso en el cual, las reuniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas que están fijadas del 25 de abril al 6 de mayo deberían también posiblemente adelantarse de una o dos semanas, a fin de que los Informes de esos dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo fueren recibidos por los Gobiernos con cierta anticipación a la reunión del Consejo en junio.

Se nos ha dicho ya que no hay ninguna posibilidad de cambiar la fecha del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. En caso de que esta alternativa que hemos ofrecido antes, no fuere viable, entonces tendríamos que trabajar las dos primeras semanas de junio en el Consejo de la FAO, no obstante el calor fortísimo que hará aquí para esa ocasión. Pero creemos que hay que tener en cuenta las fechas de reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en relación con el Consejo, sobre todo a la luz del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Après tout ce qui vient d'être dit par ceux qui m'ont précédé, je pense que je n'ai plus grand chose à ajouter si ce n'est qu'à appuyer les propos tenus par ceux-ci. En effet, pour notre délégation, la représentation permanente auprès de la FAO qui se trouve à Rome a pour mission également de suivre tout ce qui se passe au niveau des institutions qui ont pour siège Rome. C'est pour cela que nous pensons être à New York du 27 au 30 juin et, compte tenu de l'importance de la 83ème session du Conseil, nous désirons également y participer. C'est pour ces raisons que j'appuie les propositions faites pour décaler, soit avancer les dates du Conseil, soit les reporter. Nous sommes prêts à accepter toutes les propositions que nous ferait le Secrétariat à cet égard.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Basically we support the request or the suggestion by the delegates who have taken the floor this morning. We also find it would be very, very inconvenient if the two very important sessions were to clash, and logistically it would not be possible for member countries, particularly mine, to attend sessions - one in New York and one in Rome. I was looking at the membership of the World Food Council and the FAO Council: out of 49 and 36 memberships, 21 countries are members of both. So for these countries it would be very, very difficult to attend all those sessions.

I have instructions from my country to ensure that these sessions do not clash, and I believe under the basic rules the Council is competent to make adjustments in these dates.

CHAIRMAN: This is true as far as the adjustment is concerned, otherwise the item would not be for discussion at all.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines) : I would support the previous speakers in that we should find all ways and means to avoid the clash between these important meetings. My delegation attaches great importance to both meetings, and it would be a great difficulty for us if this was to happen.

I have another general comment to make on the way the meetings are arranged here. As the Director-General pointed out yesterday, the technical committees do provide an input to the work of the Programme of Work and Budget, therefore these technical committees should meet, in theory, before the last Council session which takes the decisions on the final form of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Nevertheless, if you look at the calendar of sessions you see that two very important technical committees like the CCP and COFI hold their meetings almost just before the Conference. The CCP is a very important technical committee, because all the commodity meetings - the grains, the rice, the hard fibres, the bananas, and all the commodity meetings - report to the CCP, but nevertheless, the CCP is not able to give an input to the previous Council because of this point.

I believe probably at this stage it is not possible any more to effect this change, but I think this should be taken into account at future meetings, because then the work of two years is not taken adequately into account in the work of programming, since the CCP meets only every two years and all the commodity meetings there are reported to this Committee.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I would just like to add our concern along the lines that have already been expressed by colleagues concerning the conflict of several meetings with our own FAO Council meeting scheduled for the latter part of June, as it is now. Not only does it affect the permanent representatives in Rome but it also affects the work of some of us who are more or less permanent in our capitals and concerned similarly in assisting with the preparations for the various meetings of the several organizations headquartered here in Rome, and hence we too would appreciate it if it were possible to alter the dates of the very important coming FAO Council meeting, either along the lines suggested by my good friend from Colombia or any other time the Council can agree upon.

CHAIRMAN: In view of the unanimous request of delegates, because the next Council session is exceedingly important as we are going to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget - and the other day the delegate of Brazil particularly drew attention to the importance of Council giving as much concentrated attention as possible to the Programme of Work and Budget - there are two alternatives.

Mr. West has suggested postponing to the end of June, which would be too late from the point of view of preparation for the Conference. The other suggestion is to start on the 14th and complete by the 24th or so; on the 27th the World Food Council is meeting. I have only heard one delegate, the delegate of France, include the whole of June for UNCTAD meetings. The others did not mention it. Obviously some adjustments will have to be made, and if delegates would agree to the dates of June 13th, Monday, until the 24th, Friday, those who are going from Rome to New York could leave over the weekend. Would this be satisfactory?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Le ruego me excuse porque, primero que todo, estoy en favor de su propuesta, pero segundo, me sigue quedando la inquietud de las reuniones del Comité de Programa y de Finanzas. Solo quiero dejarlo como inquietud a la Secretaría. El señor West conoce muy bien esta situación. No sé si en caso de adelantar la reunión del Consejo, convendría también adelantar las reuniones del Comité de Programa y de Finanzas. Esas reuniones están fijadas ahora desde el 25 de abril hasta el 6 de mayo, por lo que convendría adelantarlas por lo menos una semana, para que esos informes, que son muy importantes, lleguen oportunamente a los gobiernos antes de la reunión del Consejo.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The delegate of Colombia is quite right. The problem about the earlier date in June is that there will be very little time for the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Programme of Work and Budget to be finalized and distributed to member governments and to members of the committees so that they would have adequate time to study the summary Programme of Work and Budget.

On the other hand, it is not really feasible to put the Programme and Finance Committees back to an earlier date, as the Programme of Work and Budget has to be prepared after this Council, and has to be circulated in advance of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Furthermore, to put it back would make the Programme and Finance Committees conflict with the Committee on Food Security. This is why when we proposed this timetable at the Council after the Conference, it was adopted, because it was seen that otherwise there would not be sufficient time. Unfortunately, the World Food Council, which is supposed, *inter alia*, to be a coordinating body, did not consult us at all before deciding their dates. Our dates were already decided by you at the Council after the Conference. -It is not a question of setting a date which conflicts with the World Food Council, but *vice versa*, so perhaps when permanent representatives go to the World Food Council they could make their dates coordinate with us when setting their dates.

However, I think July is out of the question because then we would run into trouble in advance in preparing for the Conference the Programme of Work and Budget and other matters which are dealt with by the Council. It would also, as one delegate said, be unbearably hot during that period, which is why the Council has traditionally avoided July.

I do not think we can take any note either of UNCTAD. I do not think many delegates here are involved with that. If we take note of everybody in which people might be interested, we should have nothing left for ourselves, so I think the only solution is to go for an earlier date in June knowing there will be complaints that people have not had the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees very long in their hands before having to consider them.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Encontramos aceptable, Sr. Presidente, la declaración del Sr. West, sólo queríamos rogar a la Secretaría que como lo hace siempre intensifique sus esfuerzos a fin de distribuir lo más oportunamente posible los informes de esos importantes Comités.

A. RODRIGUEZ PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je m'associe à ce qu'a dit M. West. Si nous essayons de coordonner toutes les réunions des Nations Unies, ce sera difficile. Il est préférable de coordonner au niveau de la FAO et du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui se trouvent à Rome.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have now decided that the next meeting of the Council will take place in Rome from June 13 to 24, and we will record also in our proceedings that we regret that the World Food Council did not take note of our dates - since after all our schedule is decided much in advance, at Conference time - but whatever it is, it is adopted now, and we have come to an agreement.

I agree with the other points which have been made, like the meetings of the CCP and COFI and so on, but obviously now it is too difficult, in fact impossible, to re-arrange everything. We note the comments made by Members today and we can use them in subsequent arrangements of this meeting. The delegate of Colombia emphasized the need for the proceedings of the Programme and Finance Committees to be finalized as quickly as possible. We hope that with the help of the Chairmen sitting here, we will be able to do it.

So, with this particular change, shall we adopt the Schedule of Meetings?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

6. Revision and Up-dating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)

6. Révision et mise à jour des lignes d'orientation et objectifs de l'Ajustement agricole international (suite)

6. Revisión y actualización de las orientaciones y los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Members may recall that after detailed discussion on this topic last week we set up a contact group to go into this question and report to us. The members of the Contact Group established by the Council are Cameroon, Colombia, France with assistance from the EEC, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, United States of America and Yugoslavia. However, you may recall that the United States Delegate said that it was not possible for him to serve as a member of the Contact Group so we accepted his request to be left out. Therefore, the United States did not participate, but France was assisted by the following representatives: the European Economic Commission, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

I now give the floor to Professor Nurul Islam to explain the work of the Contact Group, how many times they met and who participated, and also to explain the document which is before us.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have the pleasure to present to the Council the report of the Contact Group which the Council - as you have just stated, Mr. Chairman - set up under agenda item 6, Revision and Updating of Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment. At this stage, I would like to remind the Council about a corrigendum which has been distributed this morning relating to Guideline 10. There was some mistake which has now been corrected and a corrigendum was issued this morning; this mistake related to the fifth sentence of the Guidelines, which has now been corrected. In addition, I would like to point out there are two mistakes in the French text of Guideline 11: three words were omitted in the French translation in the seventh line from the end, and one word was also omitted when reference was made to 300,000 tons of dairy products. These corrections will be made in the French translation by the Secretariat.

Now, coming back to the document, the terms of reference of the Contact Group were to review the draft revised Guidelines as set out in document CL 82/29. These, as you know, were the product of the Government Consultation held last year, but they still contain a number of square brackets or formulations on which full consensus was not reached. The Contact Group therefore concentrated on trying to resolve the differences which were contained in the square brackets; in other words, formulations on which consensus could not be reached earlier. They did not touch or discuss those Guidelines or those parts of the other Guidelines on which consensus was reached last year at the Government Consultation, except in one or two places; and I shall explain which are those cases.

In Guideline 10, they discussed one element which had to be brought up to date and this related to the decision of the International Monetary Fund. In the original formulation, at the time of the Government Consultation, it was stated that the International Monetary Fund "should consider" etc. By now, of course, the International Monetary Fund has already decided, so that the formulation had to be brought up to date. It was a factual updating.

The second element which the Contact Group discussed in the light of the new developments related to the International Emergency Food Reserve, on which I shall say a few words later.

The Group met five times and went over each of the Guidelines, the alternative formulations in each of the Guidelines, wherever they existed, very carefully, trying to resolve the differences. It was not an easy assignment. There were some twenty-five square brackets in the draft Guideline; while some of these reflected only minor differences of views, others referred to key components. Indeed in one case, Guideline 12, the draft was in the form of two separate formulations of the whole Guideline, not just one or two of its components.

A spirit of cooperation and readiness to compromise did, however, prevail throughout the meetings of the Contact Group. It was only because of this constructive attitude that the Group was able to complete its work within the limited time available. I am very happy to report to you that the final draft as decided by the Contact Groups did reach a consensus on a whole set of revised Guidelines, with one square bracket only, and this is Guideline 10. This does not reflect a divergence of views. This square bracket has been inserted only because the Contact Group thinks that the FAO Conference will need to reconsider the existing text, so as to take into account possible developments relating to the Guidelines in question between now and its next Session.

This particular comment relates to Guideline 10 on the question of the International Emergency Food Reserve. There is only one square bracket, and it reads as follows: Early consideration should be given for the proposals for strengthening the Reserve. On that part there was no disagreement, or even On the latter part there was no disagreement, but a comment was made - in square brackets: "Including the possibility of making a legally binding convention with provision for increasing the size of the Reserve so as to meet future emergency needs." - and the footnote says: "This part of the Guideline will need to be reconsidered by the FAO Conference in the light of the review of the performance of the Reserve at future sessions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes."

This was in view of the fact that this is already under consideration of the CFA, so it does not reflect any difference of view, but a reference to the need for reconsidering it. In addition, the Contact Group made an explanatory comment or statement on Guideline 7, which the Contact Group wanted to be recorded in the Report of the Council. This was not, again, a difference of view, nor a reservation, nor a suggestion for a change in Guideline 7. It is just to remind the Conference next year, when it takes up the adoption of the Guidelines in 1983, to see what changes have taken place in the meanwhile. The comment made by the Contact Group is as follows: that the Guidelines should be referred - this is number seven - to the FAO Conference, taking into consideration results which might be achieved with regard to trade in specialized fora of the United Nations system, including GATT and the UNCTAD.

Therefore, with these remarks on behalf of the Contact Group, I present its Report for your decision as to the next step.

CtíAIRMAN: I would like to record our sincere appreciation to the members of the Contact Group - they have met five times and worked hard - and to Professor Nurul Islam.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Participamos, Sr. Presidente, en el Grupo de Contacto, por eso deseamos reiterar aquí en el Consejo nuestro reconocimiento a la valiosa labor cumplida por el Profesor Islam a quien, afortunadamente elegimos Presidente en nuestro Grupo de Contacto. Sin duda las capacidades, los conocimientos y los dominios del tema del Profesor Islam, fueron factores decisivos para el buen éxito de nuestro trabajo e igualmente su asistente el Sr. O'Hagan fue siempre eficaz en los contactos que tuvimos durante nuestros trabajos.

Creo, Sr. Presidente, como lo ha dicho el Profesor Islam que realizamos un buen trabajo que no fue fácil; hicimos concesiones de ambas partes aunque solo aparece ahora un corchete en la Orientación 10. En nuestros trabajos participaron los representantes de la Comunidad Económica Europea, creo que en un número superior al que dio el Profesor Islam, me parecía que había otras nacionalidades pero, de todas maneras fueron constructivos y como dije antes de parte y parte hubo cesiones que nos permitieron lograr un acuerdo.

La delegación de Colombia desea también hacer aquí, como ya tuvo ocasión de cumplirlo en el Grupo de Contacto, un reconocimiento público. La delegación de China, nuestros distinguidos amigos y vecinos de la izquierda; los colegas chinos hicieron una contribución que fue generalmente apreciada por el Grupo de Contacto, nos enviaron por escrito algunas de las opiniones de esa delegación china sobre ciertas orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional, en la medida de lo posible, y también dentro de la limitación del tiempo a que estuvimos sometidos porque como lo dijo el Profesor Islam nos reunimos cinco veces aprovechando cada intermedio del Consejo que fuera propicio, pero aun así tratamos de tener en cuenta los puntos que planteaba la delegación de China porque casi todos nosotros o la totalidad del Grupo, diría yo, lo consideró importante y significativo y así aparece reflejado en algunas de las enmiendas que introdujimos a revisión y actualización de los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional.

La delegación de Colombia lamenta muy de veras la ausencia de los representantes de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica ya que nos hubiera gustado alternar con los representantes de ese gran país en un ejercicio que estaba dirigido a revisar y a actualizar unos objetivos que habían sido ya adoptados en el 75, que son líneas de orientación que no tienen carácter jurídico vinculante, que no tienen alcance coercitivo y que son una especie de código moral para aplicar por parte de aquellos países que pueden contribuir a salvaguardar la posición de los países en desarrollo en todo este contexto preocupante de la situación alimentaria mundial. Sin embargo respetamos muchísimo la posición de nuestros colegas de los Estados Unidos y si nos referimos a ello es por la importancia que cualquier decisión política de ese país tiene en estos asuntos; pero respetamos, repetimos, la decisión adoptada por ellos, con la esperanza de que ahora nos concedan un poquito de crédito y de buena voluntad a lo que tratamos de hacer y que al recibir este documento LIM/4 lo transmitan, sin duda como lo harán, a las autoridades de ese importante país, con la esperanza de que más adelante los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, país al cual el Gobierno de Colombia reitera su respecto, pueda asociarse con nosotros en la Conferencia de 1983 para adoptar esas Orientaciones ya revisadas y actualizadas.

Vamos a concluir con una solicitud al Consejo, solicitud que está dirigida a apoyar la iniciativa que se tomó oportunamente al constituir este Grupo de Contacto, es decir, evitar que en una Plenaria del Consejo se realicen debates sobre estas cuestiones que, sin duda, será difícil acordar entre 49 miembros.

El objetivo del Grupo de Contacto fue justamente ese: estudiar estas cuestiones allá, en un ambiente más reducido y más propicio para el acuerdo. Con base en eso quisiéramos pedir a usted, señor Presidente, y por su conducto a los miembros del Consejo que ojalá en la medida de lo posible, se abstengan ahora de entrar a comentar a fondo este documento y que, aceptando todo el esfuerzo que hicimos, el Consejo se limite a transmitir a la Conferencia este texto que le hemos presentado en el LIM/4.

El Profesor Islam hizo referencia a la Orientación 7 y entiendo que se refiere a un texto que nos fue distribuido esta mañana. Queremos que quede bien claro, como lo propuse en el Grupo de Contacto, que esta frase no se incluirá dentro del texto mismo de la Orientación, sino que aparecerá en el Informe dentro de cuya parte aparecerá esta Orientación para la consideración de la Conferencia. Si esto es así daremos traslado a nuestro colega y amigo Namanga, el hábil y competente Presidente del Comité de Redacción, para que nos presente este asunto de esa manera y nos evite dificultades cuando estudiemos el Informe sobre este punto.

KONG CANDONG (China) (Original language Chinese): At the outset we would like to express our thanks to Ambassador Bula Hoyos for the support he expressed for our proposals. At the same time we would like to express our appreciation for the work done by the Contact Group.

The Chinese delegation would like to support the idea put forward by Professor Islam just now to submit the draft guidelines to the next session of the FAO Conference as a basis for further consideration. However, we think that the draft still leaves something to be desired, that is its ultimate goal is not clearly stated. As you may recall, we put forward our suggestion in writing to the Contact Group that the end of guideline 1, the phrase "with a view to promoting the establishment of a new international economic order" be inserted. By reiterating our position here we by no means intend to reopen the debate on this issue but wish that with this revision the document will appear more complete.

We consider that this is a question of great importance because first the establishment of a new international economic order is unmistakably spelt out in the declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in 1974 which has been generally accepted by the international community. Secondly, the establishment of a new international economic order is the inevitable trend of the development of the current international situation and the international economic development in recent years has proved that this establishment should no longer remain a slogan but has become a matter of urgency and therefore should be translated into action. Thirdly, as the current session of the United Nations General Assembly is discussing the question of starting global negotiations aimed at setting up a new international economic order we ought to seize this opportunity and incorporate the problem of food and agriculture in the agenda for global negotiations. Consequently we suggest that the full text of guideline 1 in the draft and our proposed amendment be included in brackets for consideration by all Member Nations of this Organization during the next Session of the FAO Conference. We hope that in the light of their deliberations a final version will be worked out.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): We would like to place on record our support for the substance of the statement of the Chinese delegation concerning the new international economic order.

Our understanding is that those guidelines basically stem from internationally agreed documents, among which international development strategy represents the most comprehensive set of targets and measures, all of them aimed at substantial change or improvement in international economic relations and particularly in the position of developing countries in these relations.

Practically international development strategy leads to the establishment of a new international economic order. In drafting in the Contact Group we felt that there was no need to keep agreed targets or basic documents unless they have operational value, unless they are applicable in the section of food agriculture national and international policy immediately or directly.

Mention was given in the statement of the Chinese delegation to the global negotiations. I, of course, agree very much with their position concerning global negotiations but I would like to add our full support and agreement with the statement of the Pakistan delegation during our discussion on the state of food and agriculture when the Pakistan delegate emphasized, first of all, the need for global negotiations to be started as soon as possible but also warned that there are so many agreed targets and measures which are needed to be undertaken before global negotiations start and which can be included in the process of implementation of international development strategies after global negotiations.

One thing more, the proposal for the new square brackets, it seemed to me more appropriate to place the Chinese statement in the report to the Conference so the Conference may discuss it equally with other positions expressed at this Council and in other fora.

M.. KRIESBERG (United States of America) : Our delegation appreciates the efforts of the Contact Group. We do take seriously these efforts and indeed, the kind of moral guidelines intended but as we had indicated earlier on our instructions give us really no option in terms of our participation and we are glad therefore that the Chairman duly noted that we did not participate in the Contact Group. There are references in the text indicating reservations that the United States had. It should be said that they were reservations which came out of the previous text, although they are probably relevant to the current text.

Our delegation will, of course, take this new document back with us for United States agencies concerned to give it the attention that it merits. But I should add, perhaps on a personal note, that as a delegate who helped in drafting the 1975 guidelines for international Agricultural Adjustment," I am not saying anything about the receptivity we will find for new guidelines.

Our delegation would prefer for this Contact Group text to be forwarded to perhaps the next meeting of the CCP rather than go directly to the Conference because the Conference, of course, is a large and somewhat amorphous body ill-suited for consideration of the kind of text that we are talking about here.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France) : Tout à l'heure notre collègue et ami M. Bula Hoyos, à la fin de son intervention, a fait une suggestion que nous estimons très judicieuse et c'est la suivante : "que nous n'entamions pas la discussion de ces lignes ici, au Conseil, mais que nous les transmettions purement et simplement à la Conférence". Nous avons pris cette position car nous avons pensé qu'après les difficultés, l'équilibre en quelque sorte instable entre les positions des uns et des autres, il fallait éviter de rouvrir le débat. Je ne puis que vous suggérer une chose : c'est vraiment de transmettre très rapidement ce document. Je voudrais simplement indiquer à la délégation chinoise, comme l'a fait notre collègue M. Bula Hoyos, que nous avons examiné leur document, leur proposition, mais nous n'avons pas voulu, en particulier pour la ligne No. 1 où elle souhaitait qu'il soit fait référence au Nouvel ordre économique international, entrer dans une discussion politique sur ce point. Nous avons considéré en effet que les lignes d'orientations et les objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international couvraient un point très particulier, très limité quand même, dans le domaine de ce que peut être un Nouvel ordre économique international. Nous avons pensé que cette question du Nouvel ordre économique international comporte beaucoup d'éléments et que le tout est transmis et discuté aux Nations Unies. Si par la suite les négociations Nord-Sud viennent à s'ouvrir, il est bien évident que cet ensemble, qui sera pris dans les différents domaines, constituera un Nouvel ordre économique. Pour le moment il est difficile de dire que ce que nous ferons au titre de la ligne No. 1 pourrait conduire ce point à lui tout seul au Nouvel ordre économique et c'est pour cela, essentiellement, que nous ne l'avons pas repris dans le texte. Evidemment, M. le délégué de la Chine a fait un exposé et je pense qu'il est normal que dans le rapport qui sera fait il faille noter sa proposition et qu'elle soit reprise mais qu'il ne faut pas l'ajouter au texte lui-même que nous avons sous les yeux.

G. KELLY SALINAS (México): Mi delegación quisiera primero de todo felicitar al Grupo de Contacto y al señor Islam por haber preparado este documento que hemos estudiado con cuidado y con el cual nos solidarizamos.

La delegación de México no pretende iniciar una polémica; apoyamos la propuesta del distinguido Embajador Bula Hoyos, de Colombia, en el sentido de que este documento pase como está a consideración de la Conferencia. Sin embargo, queremos dejar registrado aquí que nos solidarizamos plenamente con la sustancia de la propuesta del distinguido representante de China. Creemos que para evitar, efectivamente, una polémica en el seno de este foro sería conveniente que tal propuesta fuese registrada, como ya ha sido también propuesto por el delegado de Yugoslavia y el de Francia, que sea registrada en el Informe del Consejo para en todo caso retomarla en la próxima Conferencia.

II. CARANDANG (Philippines): My delegation would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of Colombia that this report of the Contact Group be transmitted to the Conference for its consideration. We realize that the result of the work of the Contact Group is a delicate balance, a result of give and take. Not everyone has been fully satisfied with the text, but in the spirit of compromise this is the best that could have been achieved. For example, we support the amendment of the delegate

of China and we would have liked to see it in the text but it was not possible to do so, given the present circumstances. We therefore would appreciate that such a comment be included in the transmittal of this report of the Contact Group to the Conference and should be given due consideration and importance when taken up at the Conference.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): First we wish to convey our appreciation to all the Members of the Contact Group and to Professor Nurul Islam for all the hard work that they put in to come up with a commendable and acceptable text.

We have only one or two points to suggest. First, we support the proposal that this text should now be transmitted to the Conference. In this context I would like to draw the attention of my colleague from the United States of America to the fact that it would be futile to send it to the CCP again. First, the Council is the bigger body and CCP is a technical body which would be concerned with only one, or at the most two, guidelines instead of the 12. If you do that you will have to send it to all the technical committees of FAO. So I think it is logical that the guidelines should be transmitted to the Conference.

As a sideline, the delegate of the United States of America suggested that the comments on the previous text of the United States delegation may still be relevant, but I would draw his attention to the comment at the bottom of Guideline 8, which says that the United States has a reservation on this guideline, noting that the new Administration had not yet formulated its commodity policy. I do not know whether it is still relevant because the Administration is now an old administration.

We support wholeheartedly the proposal of the delegate of China. We feel that the amendment suggested by the Chinese delegation, if it were incorporated at the end of Guideline 1, which was suggested, would bring into balance Guideline 1 and give it a proper focus and substance. If it were added at the end of the last sentence it would be bringing the whole thing into a proper perspective. As the delegate of France said, in all the United Nations fora this is the desire of most of the international community, that we should be promoting a new International Economic Order. So it would be absolutely relevant to include that in our first guideline. We also feel this is more important and relevant because in the first few days when we were discussing the state of food and agriculture we discovered that, despite a much better harvest, there were lots of hungry people. More than one delegate said that what is needed is to have a look at the Economic Order of the world so that the hungry can be fed.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Ma délégation voudrait apporter son appui et ses félicitations au Groupe de contact pour l'excellent travail qu'il a effectué en nous présentant un texte acceptable et, à cet égard, nous voudrions appuyer la proposition faite par l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos en ce qui concerne l'adoption de ce texte et son acheminement à la Conférence. Je dois dire que je partage entièrement l'analyse que vient de faire le représentant du Pakistan pour que ces lignes d'orientation n'aillent plus au niveau du Comité du Programme étant donné que celui-ci est un organe inférieur au Conseil. Après leur adoption ici, ces lignes d'orientation doivent aller au niveau de la Conférence.

Concernant l'amendement proposé par la Chine, nous devons dire que, de l'avis de ma délégation, c'est un amendement opportun parce qu'il ne fait que préciser l'objectif fixé par les lignes d'orientation. Nous pensons en effet que le travail que nous faisons au niveau de notre Organisation est une contribution à l'instauration du Nouvel ordre économique international et que, par conséquent, la proposition faite par le délégué de la Chine serait bienvenue dans la ligne d'orientation No. 1; mais, compte tenu des difficultés rencontrées au niveau du Groupe de contact et pour faciliter l'adoption de ce texte, nous sommes d'avis que la proposition de la Chine devra être incluse dans le rapport pour que la Conférence puisse l'examiner en temps opportun.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos también unirnos a la felicitación que se ha hecho en Sala al Grupo de Contacto. Creemos que ha realizado un trabajo con bastante cuidado y tacto en un tema tan difícil, y seriamente nos ha evitado una discusión estéril a este nivel, por lo menos en cuanto a real fuerza de ejecución después de discutir.

Nosotros consideramos optimistemente que en la Conferencia puede haber más condiciones para que este tema, después del tratamiento a la luz de las negociaciones globales con Naciones Unidas, pueda tener más factibilidad. Nuestro optimismo es producto del interés en que realmente lleguemos a algo concreto. Esto nos hizo también esperar que la reunión del GATT en Ginebra, pasada, nos deparara algo moderadamente real. Sin embargo, todos sabemos que no fue así. No hubo acuerdo real, por lo menos para nosotros los subdesarrollados.

Estamos totalmente de acuerdo con el Embajador Bula Hoyos de que se remita a la Conferencia, con las observaciones y enmiendas que se han hecho en Sala, y específicamente lo planteado por Pakistán. Repetimos, seguimos optimistas en el establecimiento de un Nuevo Orden Económico, y seguiremos esperando. Creemos que ya falta menos.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): First I would like to join the previous speakers to thank the members of the Contact Group and Professor Islam for their excellent work.

Secondly, my delegation too is not happy with some Guidelines, but we can go along with the other distinguished delegates in adopting the Guidelines proposed by the Contact Group and submit them to the next Conference. This is because we realise the spirit of compromise is very important in so large an organization as FAO.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Certainly I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating those who participated in the Contact Group. However, without prejudice to the content of the document, we would very much like to know the status that such a document will have and how it will be transmitted forward. We wonder, somewhat like the United States, whether transmitting the document directly to the Conference will have the desired effect. We for our part, not having had the opportunity to transmit the documents to our authorities and therefore get their views and provide an opportunity for them to comment, wonder whether transmitting it directly to Conference is not going to be counterproductive. The Conference being such a large body, it is very difficult for it to negotiate this kind of document. Would it not be useful to send the document forward to the next Council for some opportunity for discussion at that point and then on to Conference?

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The Egyptian delegation would firstly like to express its thanks to Dr. Islam and to the members of the Contact Group for the great efforts they have made in the preparation of this new text of the Guidelines and to thank them for their excellent work. We would support the proposal made by the Ambassador of Colombia, as well as those of our other colleagues who have taken the floor earlier in their suggestion that the Council approve this report and transmit it directly to the General Conference.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): First of all, my delegation would like to thank the Contact Group and Dr. Islam for the excellent work done and the hard work they put into completing a very difficult task in a very short time. It proves that no problem is insoluble if it is dealt with in a spirit of compromise and accommodation.

My delegation shares the views of my distinguished colleagues that it would be more appropriate to present this document to the next Session of the Conference, because that Conference is a higher body than this body and it will not be appropriate to go to the CCP because it is a lower body.

My delegation also shares the view of China that one clause should be introduced giving importance to the document.

N. KISHORE (India): My delegation fully supports the Draft Guidelines suggested by the Contact Group after reaching a consensus. When the FAO had put this item on the agenda of this Council, there was clear intention that the Guidelines as endorsed by this Council would be submitted to the FAO Conference for consideration and approval.

Also, while sending the Guidelines to the Contact Group, there was clear understanding that after elimination of the square brackets by the Contact Group the Draft Guidelines would be transmitted to the Conference; As the CCP is the technical subsidiary body of the Council and is lower than the Council, it would not be appropriate to send the Guidelines back to the CCP for consideration.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation would like to express appreciation to Dr. Islam and the Contact Group for its excellent work done. As stated by the Philippines, the work is very difficult and nobody is fully satisfied with the result. The Indonesian delegation associates itself with the view that the Draft Guidelines be submitted directly to the Conference as it is. Any comments or the insertion of new elements can be covered in the transmittal letter.

Sra. Dna. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): Mi delegación quisiera felicitar también al Doctor Islam y al Grupo de Contacto por los esfuerzos positivos que hicieron al lograr presentarnos este Informe conciliador. Apoyamos a la delegación de Colombia en el sentido de que no se reabra el debate y que el contenido de este código de conducta, como bien lo expresara el Embajador de Colombia, se envíe directamente a la 22 Conferencia de la FAO, que es el órgano supremo de esta Organización.

En cuanto a la propuesta de la delegación de China, consideramos que la misma debe recogerse en el Informe de este Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other delegates that wish to speak? If not, let me try to summarize what I consider to be the broad consensus which has emerged from about 18 interventions by the delegations.

Number one is the Chinese suggestion regarding the introduction of a statement that the whole objective of this exercise is to promote the establishment of a New International Economic Order. I think the general feeling is that the Contact Group has considered the suggestion and has developed a consensus document, so at this stage we should not do anything with the document itself, but in the note which is submitted to the Conference, the point made by China, the US and so on, that a preambular statement could be introduced along with this, is a good one, as you know from our previous document, CL 82/29, which describes the previous history of this whole exercise starting with the Intergovernmental Consultation from 2 to 6 March 1981, where some of the reservations which are included here under the title "comment" came from the original document. Since then there has been this continuous exercise. In 1979, the Conference asked us to report back, so I would suggest that we introduce in the forwarding document to the Conference a summary of some of the points made, particularly the Chinese suggestion, which I find has been widely supported by other delegations.

The second point is whether it should go to CCP or to the Conference, and I think a majority of Members have expressed the view it should now go to the Conference, because the Conference asked us to go into this in 1979, and the 1983 Conference will be four years away from 1979. Therefore, I suggest that we transmit this document as it is with all the comments, with a preambular statement, to the next Conference for its adoption. I am sure when it is submitted to the Conference - there is still a year from now for the Governments to consider this document - if still there is no unanimity, whoever is the Chairman of the Commission concerned will develop a methodology during the Conference, again maybe a contact Group or a sub-Group to iron out some differences. I do not think we should postpone this matter further, so I recommend for your consideration two steps: we include the Chinese suggestion in forwarding the statement to the Conference so that the delegates will have this particular proposal before them, and the other points made by both Professor Islam and the United States we will include in forwarding the Secretariat notes. But we submit it as it is; as the Contact Group has produced the document, we submit it to the Conference for its adoption.

Will this be acceptable to you? Well, then, I thank you very much, it is very nice of you. We want once again to place ourselves on record in a tribute to the Members of the Contact Group and to Professor Islam, who has been working very hard all through not only during this meeting, but from March 1981 he has been here and he and his colleagues have worked very hard on this problem. We want to thank the Director-General and his very able staff for the work they have done.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 82/PV/17

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(2 December 1982)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième seance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 10, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17 sesión plenaria a las 15.10 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Farewell Tribute to Mr. J. F. Yriart and Mr. P.J. Skoufis
Adieux à Monsieur J. F. Yriart et à Monsieur P. J. Skoufis
Despedida al Sr. J. F. Yriart y al Sr. P. J. Skoufis

CHAIRMAN : Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As I mentioned at the concluding part of our meeting this morning, the first part of this afternoon's session will take some time to express our gratitude to two of the outstanding officers of FAO. One has just retired, and the other is to retire shortly, or before our next Council: Mr. Yriart and Mr. Skoufis.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : M. le Président, avec votre permission je voudrais, devant le Conseil, rendre hommage, au moment de leur départ de la FAO, à deux de mes proches collaborateurs, parmi les plus distingués et les plus dévoués, h. Juan Felipe Yriart et M. Peter Skoufis sont bien connus de tous les membres du Conseil. Je n'ai pas besoin de les présenter. Je voudrais toutefois rappeler devant cette assemblée les services éminents rendus par ces grands serviteurs de la FAO au cours de leur carrière.

M. Yriart a été associé à la FAO depuis sa fondation en tant que signataire de l'Acte de constitution de la FAO au nom de son gouvernement. Lorsqu'il a été nommé Représentant régional pour l'Amérique latine, M. Yriart a apporté avec lui la plus riche expérience d'un diplomate chevronné une connaissance intime de cette région et de multiples contacts avec les gouvernements. Cette expérience et son savoir-faire, sa courtoisie et son éloquence l'ont conduit à assumer la responsabilité d'un des plus importants départements de la FAO, le Département du Développement. M. Yriart a été ensuite mon assistant spécial pour des missions très délicates au plus haut niveau politique. Et dernièrement, à un moment où le Programme alimentaire mondial se trouvait sans Directeur exécutif, ni Directeur exécutif adjoint, c'est encore aux qualités et à la longue expérience de M. Yriart que j'ai fait appel durant cette période difficile.

Dans chacune de ses missions, M. Yriart a montré son inlassable attachement aux buts et aux idéaux de notre Organisation, et en même temps un rare sens des relations humaines.

M. Skoufis, quoiqu'ayant passé un temps relativement court avec la FAO, a pu quand même se faire apprécier de tous par son sérieux, son dévouement et sa très longue expérience d'administrateur. Il a conduit avec rigueur et efficacité le Département des finances et de l'administration de la FAO, à un moment où j'ai dû introduire une série de mesures visant à une meilleure gestion et à une économie des ressources. M. Skoufis a joué aussi un rôle important dans nos rapports administratifs avec d'autres organisations des Nations Unies, et dans des négociations difficiles sur le plan financier et dans les rapports avec le personnel de la FAO.

M. le Président, au nom du Secrétariat et en mon nom personnel, j'ai voulu apporter le témoignage de la reconnaissance de l'Organisation à M. Yriart et à M. Skoufis pour leurs éminents services et leur souhaiter, ainsi qu'à leurs familles, bonheur, bonne santé et prospérité.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General. Before I add my own words, would any delegation like to take the floor?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vacilamos un poco en intervenir porque habíamos imaginado que los Voceros regionales, pudieran hacer uso de la palabra ya que estoy seguro muchos miembros del Consejo querrán hablar en estos momentos; sin embargo, vamos a hacerlo a nombre de la delegación de Colombia y trataremos de interpretar el sentimiento de los colegas de nuestra región.

Para mí personalmente el Sr. Yriart representó siempre uno de los amigos y colaboradores que más eficientemente sirvió a la Organización y en particular a nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe. Como lo dijo el Dr. Saouma la vinculación del Dr. Yriart a la FAO data de mucho tiempo atrás; pero yo tuve ocasión de empezarle a conocer y a tratar en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO en Jamaica en 1968, Conferencia en la cual por primera vez el Dr. Yriart asumió el cargo de Subdirector General representante de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe. Recuerdo que en esa ocasión el Dr. Yriart hizo una manifestación que cumplió a cabalidad posteriormente. Él dijo que asumía el cargo no sólo de representante del Director General en la Región, sino a la vez de representante de la Región ante el Director General. Efectivamente él cumplió ese propósito con mucha lealtad, con mucha consagración y con mucha inteligencia. Posteriormente el Dr. Yriart fue llamado a dirigir el Departamento de Desarrollo y aquí continuó esa labor eficiente y admirable que siempre hemos apoyado los representantes de Colombia. Sus gestiones posteriores son bien conocidas de todos. Él se retira ahora acompañado, estoy seguro, por la satisfacción del deber cumplido. Todos los vamos a echar mucho de menos.

Mi vinculación al Dr. Skoufis es más reciente, pero igualmente le tenemos en el mejor concepto como amigo, como caballero y como funcionario atento y eficaz, sencillo y cordial. Le toco, como dijo el Director General, atender uno de los aspectos más serios y responsables de la marcha de la Organización como es la administración y las finanzas, pero él supo estar a la altura de sus responsabilidades .

Por estas consideraciones, Sr. Presidente y distinguidos Miembros del Consejo, permitan que la delegación de Colombia apoye las palabras del Director General agradeciendo a los Sres. Yriart y Skoufi sus servicios a la Organización y deseándoles lo mejor en el futuro en sus actividades y en su vida particular.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): Our distinguished Director-General and Ambassador Bula Hoyos have spoken much more eloquently than I possibly could with respect to the great affection and admiration we all have and share for these two distinguished gentlemen who are now going on to further their careers in other areas.

I knew Ambassador Yriart by reputation long before I had the great pleasure of meeting him and I must say, when I came here and had the great pleasure of meeting him personally, I found him to be always unfailingly kind and helpful, and to embody the best traditions of humanitarianism and concern for mankind, that one would expect in an Organization such as FAO. I have deeply appreciated the help that he has given myself and my delegation and I am very proud of the ties that he has to my country through his lovely wife and through his children, and through his former activities in the United States as his country's ambassador to my country.

I first got to know Mr. Skoufis when he was our Minister for Administrative Affairs in London, where he won a great reputation as one of the foremost officers in our administration for handling administrative matters. It takes a man of outstanding ability to keep an organization like our Embassy in London together. Since coming here, he too has been enormously helpful and has shown himself to be in every way a dedicated international public servant whose work will, I think, be appreciated long after he has left.

I would like to join with others in paying tribute to these two eminent international civil servants and to join with others in wishing them health and Godspeed and success and happiness, not only to them but to their wives and families, in their future lives.

Mrs. G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italy): As representative of the host country of FAO where they have spent such a long time and where we hope they will often return, we wish to place on record our deepest and most sincere appreciation for the services of Mr. Yriart and Mr. Skoufis, who have always demonstrated that they have served FAO with the best dedication possible.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais, au nom du groupe africain et en mon nom personnel, nous associer aux hommages mérités qui viennent d'être rendus aux deux hauts fonctionnaires de la FAO qui vont bientôt quitter l'Organisation.

Le groupe africain, qui apprécie hautement les éminents services qu'ils ont apportés à l'Organisation, voudrait leur témoigner par ma voix tout le bien qu'il pense d'eux. Ils ont été dans notre Organisation des fonctionnaires modèles et des serviteurs infatigables. Leur dévouement pour servir l'Organisation leur a valu l'estime et la confiance de tous et plus particulièrement du groupe africain.

Nos deux personnalités - je veux parler de M. Yriart et de M. Skoufis - s'en vont, j'en suis sûr, avec le sentiment du devoir accompli. C'est pourquoi nous accueillons ces deux départs comme une grande perte pour l'Organisation, mais il ne nous reste plus en ce moment qu'à leur souhaiter nos meilleurs vœux.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation at this moment has mixed feelings: on the one hand we regret that the two outstanding officers, Dr. Yriart and Dr. Skoufis, will no longer make themselves available to the work of the Organization, because of their retirement. On the other hand, my delegation very happily wishes to echo the warm words of thanks expressed to them by the Director-General and by the delegates of Colombia, the United States of America, the Congo and Italy. We too wish to thank them very very much for the close and fruitful cooperation we enjoyed, in particular knowing that they always had their door open for everybody. We wish them all the best for the future.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): My delegation is extremely happy to share the sentiments expressed by the Director-General of FAO and several other delegations about Mr. Yriart and Mr. Skoufis on the occasion of their retirement from the services of FAO. From what we have learned about their efficiency, courtesy, eloquence and experience, and if, as we know, FAO is really the men who work for it, there can be no shade of doubt that these gentlemen can feel proud of having to their credit the most distinguished and devoted service. I am sure they can look back and feel satisfied at having contributed their part in mankind's struggle to alleviate hunger and poverty. Nothing is so satisfying as the satisfaction one derives from a job well done; and so nothing I can possibly say can give them as much satisfaction as they must be deriving from a long period of devoted and selfless service with this Organization.

All the same, we feel privileged to have this opportunity of paying our tribute for their eminent services and we wish to place on record our most sincere appreciation for their services. At the same time, we wish them well, and also the members of their families: long life and happiness in the future and success in whatever they wish to undertake in retirement.

G.J. BOXALL (New-Zealand): We would like to take this opportunity also to associate ourselves with the comments made by the Director-General and other speakers before us. There is little that we can add except to say that we shall miss the professionalism and personal charm of both men. We wish them and their families well in the future.

Señora Doña M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): Mi delegación desea unirse al homenaje que este Consejo rinde a dos valiosos hombres que han dedicado parte de sus vidas al servicio de esta Organización, y como consecuencia al servicio de los Estados Miembros de la FAO. Hoy, que vemos que se alejan físicamente, estoy segura que lo hacen con la alegría de saber que han cumplido con su misión y que han contribuido a engrandecer la Organización, a hacerla más eficiente y cada vez más necesaria a los países en desarrollo. Por este motivo, señor Presidente, deseo dejar constancia de que mi delegación se une a este merecido homenaje que le hace el Consejo al Señor Yriart y al señor Skoufis, deseándoles todo lo mejor en compañía de sus familias.

I.P. ALVARENGA (Observador por El Salvador): En mi calidad de Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano deseaba intervenir para unirnos al homenaje ciertamente merecido que se está brindando a dos personalidades cuyos méritos son abundantemente conocidos.

Los que hemos mantenido una relación con la FAO sabemos desde luego el papel importantísimo que ésta desarrolla y sabemos cuan difícil es su administración interna, cuanto es de complicado y complejo el problema de personal y sabemos también con cuanta capacidad el señor Skoufis ha sabido enfrentar las tareas de tanta complejidad y tanta delicadeza que hemos mencionado.

Las tareas que el señor Yriart ha desarrollado han sido varias e igualmente importantes y complejas. La Organización, por consiguiente, pierde dos personalidades de un grandísimo valor. Para nosotros los latinoamericanos por supuesto, la partida del doctor Yriart tiene un particular significado; aparte de sus méritos como profesional, como funcionario, lo hemos conocido como un amigo, como una persona a la cual hemos buscado siempre que hemos necesitado un consejo, una ayuda de cualquier tipo y hemos apreciado aún más sus cualidades humanas. De modo, pues, que estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de nuestro Grupo cuando les doy a ambos funcionarios nuestra despedida deseándoles, al igual que los que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, el mejor de los futuros para ellos y para sus familias.

CHAIRMAN: I should now like on behalf of the entire Council, as well as on my own behalf, to associate myself fully with what has been said so far. It is obvious that both have rendered outstanding services to FAO and I am particularly happy that, starting from the Director-General and ending with the last speaker, El Salvador, the human qualities -apart from their professional capabilities- have been stressed. My impression of both of them is that they both have some similarity: both Dr. Yriart and Dr. Skoufis, whenever I met them, the impression is they are always smiling.

In this context I must tell you that a great politician-saint of India who only died about fifteen days ago, Vinobha Bhave, and who was always considered to be the moral successor to Mahatma Gandhi, used to say that a happy, successful and wealthy man or woman would observe the following in their habits. I am going to say what he said in terms of proportion of what you do in a day: eat once, drink twice -no alcoholic drinks but "acqua minerale", ie water - work thrice, and laugh four times. If this proportion is maintained, then you are efficient, you are happy both at home and in an office, and I think this is the secret of these two people: they laughed four times in relation to, probably, what they eat and drink and so on.

So, may I say how very privileged we feel to have known both of you. We thank you for your service to FAO and I know that a Council like this cannot function but for the dedicated support, late hours, hard work, of the staff, so we are very grateful. We would like to wish you and your families great happiness and success and good health in the next phase of your careers. I request all Members to join me in showing appreciation by applause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J. YRIART (Programa Mundial de Alimentos): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señores miembros del Consejo: Como pueden imaginarse es con profunda emoción que he venido hoy a despedirme del Consejo; solo puedo responder a vuestras palabras de despedida con el más profundo y más sincero agradecimiento.

Mi vida ha transcurrido enteramente en el campo internacional sirviendo primero a mi país y después a la FAO. Tengo la gran esperanza de que mi labor en la Organización haya sido útil a todos los gobiernos miembros.

Desde mis primeros contactos con la FAO, al principio como miembro de la Comisión Interina, presidida por el gran estadista que fue Mike Pierson, después como delegado de la Conferencia y Consejo, como Presidente del Comité de Productos Básicos y como delegado de la Conferencia Regional para la América Latina siempre pensé que la eficacia de nuestra Organización se basa en la íntima relación, diría la interdependencia entre los órganos rectores y la Secretaría liderada por el Director General.

Cuando después de una ausencia de varios años tuve la honra de ser invitado a pertenecer a la Secretaría ese pensamiento se volvió en certeza; en mi vinculación con la FAO tuve la extraordinaria buena fortuna de gozar de la amistad y de trabajar cerca de André Meyer, de Lord Bruce, del Doctor Sen, del doctor Boerma y en los últimos años del señor Saouma.

El pasado de la FAO y su afianzamiento como la Organización en el mundo de la agricultura se debe a ellos y a muchos otros que como ellos la condujeron, ya sea de vuestro lado o de este lado de la mesa.

Es imprescindible para el progreso del mundo que en el futuro la FAO tenga cada vez más una acción más significativa en la Comunidad Internacional. Usted, señor Presidente, vosotros señores miembros del Consejo, usted señor Director General son garantía de que así será.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, quiero decir cuánto he gozado en los últimos años de la oportunidad de colaborar con el Consejo. Quiero agradecer la benevolencia y cortesía que el Consejo siempre me dispensó y culmina hoy con el honor que me concede despidiéndome. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

P.J. SKOUFIS (Assistant Director-General", Administration and Finance Department): I am most grateful to you and to the Director-General for your kind and generous words and to the members of the Council for their very moving comments. They will be something that I can take into my future in the days ahead and I welcome particularly the remarks of our friend from Italy, the representative from Italy, because I intend to spend some more time in her country and I am looking forward to that pleasure very, very much. It was particularly gratifying for me to observe that our departure constituted a consensus and a unanimity among the members of this Council.

CHAIRMAN: We thank both of them. Of course, throughout this Council meeting there has always been unanimity on every issue!

We shall now proceed with the consideration and the adoption of the report and I am requesting my colleague Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Ivankovich de Arosemena, to take the chair for this session.

Before I relinquish the chair I would be remiss in my duty if I did not thank all Council members for their consideration and cooperation. I think we can say in the last twelve days together we have accomplished, it may not be very much, it depends on what you consider, but I think substantial issues have been discussed with great depth and I am most grateful to the Council members, the observers and non-governmental organizations and other UN organizations and so on, for the great consideration they have shown me and I am grateful to the three vice-chairmen, Mr. Hassan Ahmad who took the chair for the very important session of WCARRD, and the other one, Signora Ivankovich de Arosemena, and Dr. Grabisch, who will be chairing the adoption of the report today and tomorrow.

I should also like to thank the Director-General particularly, for whatever may be variety is the spice of life, people think differently, but whatever may be our feelings I think there is unanimity in one thing; we have a Director-General who is totally dedicated to the effectiveness of the Organization and the cause of the eradication of hunger and it is because of his leadership the entire staff and the Council has enjoyed tremendous support and I want to thank you for sparing so much of your time to be with us. I also want to thank Mr. West and all the ADGs and particularly Mr. Sylla and Mr. de Caprona who silently sit at my side, while we are speaking they are going on working, preparing the material and so on. But tomorrow my colleague, Dr. Grabisch, will give the proper thanks to everyone at the appropriate time, which is the concluding one.

I must say a few words about two groups of people for whom I have the greatest admiration and almost envy. One is the group who while we are sitting here are all again doing this wonderful job while we are talking, and that is the verbatim writers and the other group is the interpreters, because I think they break the language barrier. One never feels that language is a barrier to what you are saying thanks to the interpreters. Everyone here, whether they are ushers, whether they are messengers, everyone, we are grateful to them. I thought before I left it was my duty to thank everyone who has made this Council meeting so very productive and so very enjoyable.

Finally, there are those many permanent representatives, of course, who will be meeting here, but the others who will depart from this beautiful city of Rome and naturally will be meeting probably only in the New Year, and I would like to take this occasion to wish everyone a very happy year, to those of you who commemorate Christmas, a very happy Christmas. This is the season of goodwill and peace all over the world because Christmas, whatever one's religion, is somehow associated with peace and goodwill. We hope 1983 will be a good year for every Council member from their own personal overall point of view, for our Organization, for the respective countries and, above all, the cause for which this Organization exists, the fight against hunger.

Ms. M. Ivankovich de Arosemena, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair
Madame M. Ivankovich de Arosemena, Vice-Présidente du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Sra. Dra. M. Ivankovich de Arosemena, Vicepresidente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT - PART I
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE I
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

EL PRESIDENTE: Muy buenas tardes, señores delegados. Ahora vamos a continuar nosotros con nuestro programa para el día de hoy. Se va a discutir el Proyecto de Informe que es sumamente importante y que todos nosotros sabemos que es la esencia de los trabajos que hemos desarrollado durante estas dos semanas de deliberaciones. Antes de comenzar a discutir el Proyecto de Informe voy a dar la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que lo presente, pero creo que, como se ha hecho en ocasiones anteriores, el Informe será discutido tema por tema. Pero se ofrecerá especial atención a aquellos párrafos que ofrezcan dificultades y que requieran la atención del Consejo. Ahora voy a dar la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que nos presente el Informe.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee under the instructions that you gave us was to present a report and our duty was not to open debates on the items which were already discussed. Our mandate was to reflect as fairly as humanly possible the various aspects of the debate as it took place without necessarily giving you any other verbal report. So the report which is placed before you is a fair reflection of the flavour of the debate as it took place. Whenever there was one delegation or two or several who insisted on having their views reflected as they gave it, the Drafting Committee, as had been the tradition, accepted the positions of one or two or several delegations to reflect it according to their wish but the report before you did not result in too much haggling in the Drafting Committee because everybody was very cooperative and we have all put in our best effort to reflect the debate as it took place. No report is perfect so there will be some mistakes, grammar, typographical and in some cases we may not properly reflect the views of some delegates and so there may be from time to time corrections. So the report is in your hands and I will be able to answer questions as they arise from the floor but wherever there are minor corrections I will just correct them as they arise.

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraph 6 approved

Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

Paragraphs 7 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 9 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 10 to 27

PARAGRAPHERS 10 à 27

PARRAFOS 10 a 27

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): With respect to paragraph 14, line 6, where the statement says 'fully multilateral' I wonder whether we could eliminate the word 'fully', as it seems redundant. We do not quite understand what 'fully multilateral' means in this context.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman Drafting Committee): This word was not discussed at all in the Drafting Committee, It looked acceptable to the Drafting Committee, But it does not seem in my view to change it. The Drafting Committee considered and accepted 'fully'.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We feel that this word does reflect the debate which was conducted, because there is consistent concern with the fact that IEFER is not fully multilateral and so many of the inputs into it are tied down to bilateral aid. So when we were asking for a fully multilateral IEFER that is really what we were asking for, so I think this word should be retained,

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): If that is what it means, I think there are some Members in the Council that did not fully support that point of view. Perhaps 'fully multilateral' could be dropped for words such as 'some Members broadly supported' rather than using 'the Council', implying unanimity.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I do not want to labour the point, but if you look at the beginning of the sentence, the Council is urging the donors to make it fully multilateral. So it is not a question of all the Members of the Council having agreed. It is the Council urging the donors to make it fully multilateral. It is a request. So it should make no difference,

C.R, BENJAMIN (United States of America): I would concur with the Canadian position. It seems to me that if everyone of the Council does not concur it should not say 'the Council fully', it should be 'some Members' or 'most Members' or something of that sort. It is true that the Drafting Committee went along with it, but I think the point is very validly taken.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente la interpretación que de esta frase ha dado nuestro colega y amigo de Pakistán. Sin embargo, dentro del amplio espíritu de cooperación en que ha transcurrido esta sesión del Consejo, y para evitar que nuestro informe se debilite con las expresiones "algunos Miembros" o "varios Miembros", acaso podríamos pedirle a los colegas de Canadá y Estados Unidos que acepten que la última frase del párrafo 14 empiece por las palabras "Se instó a los donantes ..." . Esta es una expresión neutra que además estaría de acuerdo con el contexto de la redacción del párrafo 14 que empieza diciendo "El otro elemento poco satisfactorio...". Es decir, el Consejo mismo no está involucrado totalmente en este párrafo 14. Espero que esta expresión satisfaga a Canadá y Estados Unidos y nos permita adoptar esta solución.

EL PRESIDENTE: Queremos preguntarle al delegado de Canadá y de los Estados Unidos si pueden aceptar la proposición del delegado de Colombia. Si es así, entonces damos por aprobado el párrafo 14.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vamos a referirnos al párrafo 17. Recordarán que los Miembros del Consejo insistieron mucho sobre la preocupación que causa la excesiva concentración de las reservas en unos pocos países productores y exportadores. Esto no se refleja adecuadamente en esta parte del Informe, ni tampoco en el REP/2, cuando se hace referencia al Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Por ello, en la mitad del párrafo 17, después de la cuarta frase que termina "fuerte presión al descenso de los precios", mitad del párrafo 17, cuarta frase, propone nuestra delegación que se agregue lo siguiente, otra frase: "La excesiva concentración de esas reservas afecta la seguridad alimentaria mundial". Otra frase y el párrafo seguirá tal como está.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta del delegado de Colombia, que sería añadir otra frase más, después de la frase en la mitad del párrafo 17, que dice: "Esto estaba planteando problemas de almacenamiento a los países desarrollados y ejercía una fuerte presión al descenso de los precios"; y después de "precios", añadiríamos "la excesiva concentración de esas reservas afecta la seguridad alimentaria mundial".

¿Está de acuerdo el Consejo en que podamos añadir esta frase y aprobemos el párrafo 17?

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I was merely going to say that the two sentences: "This was creating problems for developed countries, storage facilities and exerting a strong downward pressure on prices. Cereal prices had reached such low levels that production cutbacks could ensue and thereby threaten future supplies".

These two are linked. If the proposed sentence has to come, it would possibly come after this sentence - 'threatened future supplies' followed by this new sentence: "The excessive concentration of such stocks affects world food security." That would possibly make better sense.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, yo creo que la observación de Bangladesh - es pertinente y mejora la intención de nuestra propuesta.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): When amendments have been proposed we are having some difficulties in the English channel and I get the impression that the speed is such that the interpreter cannot possibly accompany. Therefore may I propose, with your permission, that when amendments are being proposed this should be done more slowly.

EL PRESIDENTE: Usted quiere que le repitamos la enmienda que acaba de hacer o en el futuro.

Entonces, creo que hemos llegado a la conclusión de que debe añadirse la frase que propuso el delegado de Colombia después de "precios", va a ser añadida al final del párrafo. ¿Está de acuerdo el Consejo?

Aprobamos este párrafo 17 y habíamos dicho que hasta el párrafo 18.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento, señora Presidente, creo que la propuesta de Bangladesh era agregar la frase que había propuesto la delegación de Colombia después de la frase que termina por "la disponibilidad de suministros en el futuro". Allí se agregaría esa frase y el párrafo seguiría tal como está. Creo que esto es adecuado y no ofrece dificultad.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como no, señor delegado. Y la frase será añadida donde usted lo acaba de mencionar. Tenía razón.

Entonces hasta el párrafo 18 está aprobado.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Si j'interviens sur le par. 18, j'avoue que je m'interroge sur ce que veut dire la fin de la phrase. Il n'y avait pas encore d'accord international sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Veut-on dire par là qu'il n'y a pas eu encore d'accord sous forme d'un document, d'un texte ou bien veut-on dire qu'il n'y a pas entre les représentants ici présents, un consensus international sur la conception de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale? J'aimerais bien que l'on m'explique ce que cela veut dire parce que, tel que c'est rédigé, c'est très ambigu.

À.G.NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As I see from the notes of the Drafting Committee Session, I see that this sentence did not cause us any problems in the Drafting Committee. In my understanding, and I think the understanding of the Committee, it means that there has not been any overall arrangements for World Food Security. It has a lot of implications. It means that there have not been any agreements, any trade agreements. In my conception, it is not very ambiguous except that France can tell us a slight modification or in what context he feels his delegation does not completely understand it, because France was also a member of the Drafting Committee.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En esta ocasión mi delegación comparte la inquietud de Francia. Creemos que sería más exacto decir de la siguiente manera: el Consejo puso de relieve, que, pese al aumento de las existencias de cereales y al establecimiento de un servicio alimentario del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI), no se habían logrado aún mejoras en la seguridad alimentaria mundial. No se habían logrado aún mejoras en la seguridad alimentaria.

La última frase sería consecuencia de esta propuesta que hacemos.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): After the intervention of Colombia, I have very little else to say, because I also am in agreement with France, that the way the sentence is formulated, it does not really convey what we want to say.

Perhaps it would be better if the last part of the sentence as suggested by Colombia would go something like this - that there was no progress in the establishment of a viable global Food Security System.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Perhaps we could put it in a more positive way, because if we were to say that there was no progress achieved, this would not be in line with paragraph 2 of Rep.2. There the Council agreed that some strengthening has been taking place.

I would like rather to propose putting it in a positive way, and if you would allow me, I would put it this way: that there was still the need for further coordinated action to improve World Food Security, and this would also fit in then with the next sentence.

I will repeat it: "that there was still the need for further coordinated action to improve World Food Security" and actually that is what we are aiming at.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I would like humbly to say that as far as my delegation is concerned, we do not have much difficulty in appreciating the meaning of this word "agreement". When we talk of an agreement, Madame Chairman, you will notice that in the second sentence, there is this mention of the International Wheat Agreement. When we talk of an agreement, I think it is in specific terms. We are talking of some understanding which has been formalized, and I think what is meant to be said here is that in spite of the very many steps that might have been taken in the matter of securing food for all, yet there is no international agreement, a formal understanding as to how steps should be taken, steps should be coordinated, what will be the responsibility of the various parties involved. This is what I think has been sought to be said, and it has been only expressed like that here, so I do not see any difficulty in retaining the language as it is. It is a general statement.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): M. le Président, je ne veux surtout pas que nous rouvrions ici les discussions sur les conceptions des uns et des autres, mais il est certain que la phrase, telle que je peux la lire en français: "il n'y avait pas encore d'accord international sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale" est ambiguë, et, au stade où nous sommes, les uns et les autres, j'irais jusqu'à dire que l'on n'a jamais envisagé de faire un accord international (agreement) spécifique sur la sécurité alimentaire. Ce dont on a toujours parlé, c'est d'accords internationaux sur les céréales destinés en partie à assurer la sécurité alimentaire. Mais il n'a jamais été question - je le dis nettement et fermement - d'un projet d'accord international sur la sécurité alimentaire.

En revanche, il y a une chose certaine, c'est qu'il y a eu des efforts fragmentaires et que différents éléments existent pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire: le plan d'action en cinq points, un mémorandum fait dans le cadre de la FAO, le résultat de la consultation ad hoc pour les pénuries alimentaires. Tout ceci constitue; des éléments en vue d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Il y a aussi la Réserve alimentaire d'urgence. Mais c'est insuffisant. Ce qu'il faut dire, si l'on souligne le côté positif, comme le disait mon ami Gfabisch, c'est qu'il y a lieu de coordonner davantage les actions visant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Ou pour les pessimistes comme M. Bula Hoyos, il faudrait dire que l'on n'a pas encore obtenu une amélioration suffisante de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

G, BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo, que el colega de Francia ha mejorado la propuesta nuestra con el término "suficiente". Si él, el colega de la República Federal de Alemania y los demás miembros lo aceptan, no habría ningún problema: Diría: No se ha logrado ninguna mejora suficiente en la seguridad alimentaria.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si esta propuesta es aceptable podemos adoptar esta frase,

T. AHMAD (Pakistán): We can concur with that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podríamos ver si el Consejo está de acuerdo con que se diga que no se ha logrado ninguna mejora suficiente en la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Si el Consejo puede aceptar la propuesta, quedaría como se acaba de indicar hace unos instantes.

Con esto queda aprobado el párrafo 18.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Me excuso por intervenir tantas veces. Yo tengo plena confianza en lo que dijo el competente y hábil Presidente del Comité de Redacción sobre estas pequeñas deficiencias.

Al final del párrafo 19 se dice en español: "Cada varios años". En el texto inglés se dice: *every few years*'. En español no está expresado convenientemente si durante algunos años. No refleja exactamente lo que se quiere decir en esta expresión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo considero que en español esto que se dice al final del párrafo 19: "Cada varios años" podríamos decir: "Durante varios años o durante algunos años".

Si no hay ningún otro comentario quedan aprobados los párrafos 19, 20, 21 y 22,

Pasamos a los párrafos 23, 24 y 25, ya que el párrafo 24 es bastante largo.

Antes de conceder la palabra vamos a escuchar a la Secretaría que nos la solicita para una corrección.

Miss. K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Drafting Committee): It is a correction which affects only the French version. It is an error of translation. At the end of paragraph 24 in the last line the ^{word} originalité should be substituted by the word particularisme.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acabamos de escuchar a la Secretaría y parece que es algo que solamente afecta al texto francés.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quiero referirme al párrafo 24. En la primera frase de este párrafo creemos nosotros que debe reflejarse la expresión muy clara que se manifestó aquí en el Consejo sobre el proteccionismo y otros factores que deterioran la situación del comercio agrícola, tal como se dice aquí al principio del párrafo 24 en la primera frase. Por eso proponemos que al final de la primera frase del párrafo 24 que dice: "Especialmente para los países en desarrollo", se ponga una coma y siga lo siguiente: "debido, particularmente, al creciente proteccionismo y a los subsidios a las exportaciones, especialmente para países en desarrollo".

Repito, "debido particularmente al creciente proteccionismo y a los subsidios a las exportaciones".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France) i Je crois que l'on risque d'ouvrir un long débat. Je constate que dans le texte du paragraphe 24, dans la cinquième phrase, on parle déjà de "la tendance au renforcement du protectionnisme" qui a été jugé "particulièrement inquiétant". Cela semble d'ailleurs, dans le contexte du paragraphe lui-même, un reflet de l'opinion du Conseil.

Notre délégation, comme d'autres délégations, ne s'est pas opposée à la phrase telle qu'elle est actuellement. Mais j'avoue que nous sommes dans une situation différente, et nous aurions beaucoup de peine à accepter qu'à la première phrase on vienne dire que "la dégradation des échanges de produits agricoles et spécialement ceux des pays en développement repose tout particulièrement sur le protectionnisme accru et les subventions à l'exportation", en tout cas que l'on mette ceci comme étant l'expression unanime du Conseil.

Ce serait d'autant plus difficile pour ma délégation, et également pour d'autres, que vous n'ignorez pas les uns et les autres les discussions très vives qui ont eu lieu il y a quelques jours à Genève. Je crois que si on veut vraiment éviter toute difficulté, il faut laisser le texte tel qu'il est.

EL PRESIDENTES Yo no sé si para todos los Miembros del Consejo está claro donde vamos a añadir la propuesta que nos hace el delegado de Colombia. Podríamos para beneficio de todos repetir lentamente lo que se va a añadir en la segunda línea del texto español del párrafo 24.

Donde dice "especialmente para los países en desarrollo", se pone una coma y se añade: "debido particularmente al creciente proteccionismo y los subsidios a las exportaciones".

Sobre este particular algún delegado desea intervenir?

R.C. BENJAMIN (United States of America): The thoughts that I was going to express have already been said by the French delegate. I would concur in what he says. I think we ought to leave it as it is. We discussed this paragraph quite a bit in the Drafting Committee, and thought this fully reflected the concerns that were expressed in the debate.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): La delegación argentina entiende que la propuesta hecha por la delegación de Colombia no solamente refleja una gran realidad sino que además refleja lo dicho acá por la gran mayoría de los delegados.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): I understood very well, I thought, the amendments proposed by the Colombian delegation, and I fully support these together with the statement made by the Argentinian delegation.

It is true that protectionism was mentioned, but in fact there are other measures as well as protectionism which were mentioned, but export subsidies were not mentioned in this paragraph. As far as I remember, many delegates referred to it.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I do not, quite honestly, see the need for this proposed amendment, because I see that later down the paragraph there is something, "the tools to organize protectionism" which I think covers the point made by Colombia. I am afraid I do see some problems in saying "The Council noted with grave concern". If we are to incorporate the Colombian delegation's suggestion I think some change in the initial wording is required.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): At this rate we will risk opening a debate on this subject, which I think we have already exhausted. The ideas were clearly expressed during the debate - the idea of protectionism and the idea of export subsidies - so I think we should try to find some opportunity to put this into the paragraph.

The one on protectionism appears to satisfy everybody, so if we could find some words saying "the majority of the Council" or "the majority of members felt that export subsidies were also causing grave problems in the agricultural trade of developing countries" probably that might satisfy the Council.

If you wish, and that is acceptable, I can probably write a few words in that direction.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vemos que muchos delegados están solicitando el uso de la palabra; entonces vamos a darle la palabra, después de haber oído al Presidente del Comité de Redacción que nos propone que se podría llegar a otra redacción, al delegado de Colombia, al de Pakistán y al de Argentina, en este orden.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que las últimas intervenciones del colega del Reino Unido y de nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción han aclarado la situación.

El texto podría ser como sigue: "El Consejo observó con grave preocupación el deterioro de la situación del comercio agrícola, especialmente para los países en desarrollo, que, según muchas delegaciones, se debía particularmente al creciente proteccionismo y a los subsidios a las exportaciones". Así quedaría la opinión del Consejo en relación con el deterioro de la situación del comercio y solamente la observación de muchas delegaciones sobre la parte que es controvertida.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Antes de dar nuevamente la palabra no sé si todo el Consejo pudo captar la propuesta que hizo el Embajador Bula Hoyos para ver si es aceptable para todos seguir adelante con el informe, y en este sentido, pues, si lo tienen a bien pudiera repetir la propuesta.

Entonces, después de la coma vendría "según muchas delegaciones se debía particularmente al creciente proteccionismo y a los subsidios a las exportaciones".

Esto es, si tomé bien la propuesta del Delegado de Colombia. Si todo el Consejo puede aceptar esta propuesta donde se toman en cuenta las dos partes; pero vemos que no es así.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I must congratulate the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who in this intervention actually clarified the issue and the reason why we are debating this particular paragraph.

Since this is the report of the discussion which transpired during the Council, it has to reflect what actually took place. It is indeed a fact that many, many delegates expressed concern about the export subsidies, so therefore it is very important it should be reflected in the debate.

I feel the suggestion now presented by the Colombian delegation should meet everybody's concern, but effectively many delegations did talk about protectionism and export subsidies. I think it is an excellent formulation and we should adopt it.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Era para hacer una propuesta alternativa a la que hiciera Colombia que quizá pudiera satisfacer a los delegados que se oponen a situar al proteccionismo en la primera frase del párrafo 24 y, a su vez, creo que también satisfaría al delegado de Yugoslavia que planteaba la necesidad de citar los subsidios a las exportaciones en el contexto que se dio.

En conclusión, la propuesta es en el párrafo 24 línea 11, a continuación de "en perjuicio de las importaciones agrícolas". Si usted me permite, señor Presidente, leería a velocidad de dictado, agregar una coma y decir "por conducto de un sistema de barreras comerciales y subsidios a las exportaciones que impidan a su vez la plena utilización de la capacidad de producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo". Con ello terminaría la frase y sería una frase alternativa a la que se ha propuesto para el primer renglón del párrafo 24.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just want to say I support the amendment suggested by the Colombian delegation, and I think it should be acceptable to everybody. I do not see anybody objecting to it.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I was also going to say the same thing. Having heard the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and the Colombian proposal amended subsequently, I think we agree with the amendment as suggested. That should meet the case from everyone's point of view.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je commence à être perdu. Mais en tout cas, ce dont je suis certain c'est que si nous continuons de ce pas, nous sommes partis pour la séance de nuit et on n'adoptera pas le rapport en temps utile. J'ai l'expérience de ce genre de discussions sur les mêmes sujets et elles ont duré très longtemps.

Ce que je peux répéter c'est que actuellement il y a une chose certaine, le Conseil a noté avec une vive inquiétude la dégradation des échanges de produits agricoles et particulièrement de ceux des pays en développement. Là, il y a unanimité des intervenants. Donc, ce point doit rester en l'état car c'est une certitude reconnue. Certains ont fait ensuite l'appréciation sur la cause de cette dégradation des échanges de produits agricoles et particulièrement dans les pays en développement.. Pour eux cette dégradation provient, entre autres, du protectionisme et des subventions à l'exportation. Si cette idée doit être reprise comme étant l'expression d'un certain nombre de délégués, nous sommes d'accord; cela fait une phrase distincte et je la verrais assez bien à l'intérieur de la première phrase, comme M. Bula Hoyos le désirait, après une virgule, après "pays en développement". Cette notion est avancée par certains délégués. C'est évidemment une conception mais habituellement il y a une chose qui est reconnue unanimement : c'est une phrase. Lorsqu'il y a une note ou une appréciation seulement d'une partie de ladite phrase, cela devient une seconde phrase. Pour que les choses soient bien claires, après la première phrase si l'on veut écrire "cette dégradation est d'après certains délégués, plusieurs délégués ou de nombreux délégués... est particulièrement due au protectionnisme croissant et aux subventions à l'exportation", nous sommes d'accord. Si au contraire on veut, par exemple, utiliser une formule telle que celle dont avait donné lecture le délégué de l'Argentine précédemment, nous nous lançons dans une discussion invraisemblable, et je crois qu'il vaut mieux l'éviter.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a dar la palabra al delegado de Colombia para ver si sin considerar la propuesta de Argentina que, Según he entendido es una propuesta alternativa podemos llegar a inferir esta frase que propuso el delegado de Colombia. Vamos a ver si tratamos de ponernos de acuerdo con él.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): una vez más estoy totalmente de acuerdo con Francia, totalmente de acuerdo con Francia. Terminaría la frase del párrafo 24 en "países en desarrollo", y se pondría un punto. Luego se diría otra frase que diga así: "según muchas delegaciones ese deterioro se debía particularmente al creciente proteccionismo y a los subsidios a las exportaciones".

Si esto es aceptable quisiera cordialmente pedirle al colega de Argentina, a quien agradezco su propuesta, que retirara su frase para adoptar ésta, porque sobre, el párrafo 24 tengo otras observaciones menores que hacer,

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias embajador Bula Hoyos. Vamos a darle la palabra al delegado de Argentina para ver si podemos retirar su solicitud.

R.C. SERSALE DE CERISANO (Argentina): Si, con mucho gusto la retiro; creo que la frase que nos ha dictado el embajador Bula Hoyos satisface nuestras aspiraciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si es así creo que el delegado de Francia está de acuerdo con las últimas sugerencias del Embajador Bula Hoyos y podemos seguir adelante.

Entonces vamos a dar la palabra al señor Bula Hoyos que me dijo que tiene algunas otras cosas, otros comentarios para el párrafo 24,

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Se trata de la mitad del párrafo 24; hay una frase que dice "Se criticó el empleo de los alimentos como arma política en el comercio". Creo que esta palabra, seguramente el Presidente del Comité de Redacción lo confirmará, se incluyó aquí porque este párrafo 24 hace referencia al comercio, pero en realidad las delegaciones que nos referimos al uso de los alimentos como arma política lo hicimos en un contexto más amplio; de manera que proponemos simplemente que se supriman las palabras "en el comercio" y se diga: "Se criticó el empleo de los alimentos como arma política". Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have no particular problem with that. I only wish to observe that my notes show that the words 'in trade' were there. A few of the delegations which have made this statement here were also present in the Drafting Committee and did not have any objection to it at that time. Most of the meetings I attended found that the use of food as a political weapon is always criticized, but I do not have any quarrel with the elimination of the words 'in trade'.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si las demás delegaciones que han solicitado el uso de la palabra, Pakistan, Angola y Bangladesh no se van a referir a la eliminación de las palabras "en el comercio" podemos considerar si el Consejo está de acuerdo en la eliminación de estas palabras y después daremos el uso de la palabra a los otros delegados. Aligóla tiene la palabra.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I am not coming in with big scissors, I merely wish to propose a minor amendment which concerns the part about the early 1970s. I am referring to the same paragraph, of course: paragraph 24. There is the sentence which reads: "The widespread recession was seen as an underlying factor for reduced incomes and demands for agricultural exports."

I postulate that before we had widespread recession, reduced incomes and demands for agricultural exports were already with us. Accordingly, I suggest the following minor amendment: "The widespread recession was seen as" - and here comes the amendment - "as one of the factors for reduced income and demands for agricultural exports."

EL PRESIDENTE: Me acaban de informar la Secretaría que se trata probablemente de un problema en el texto inglés pero no en los textos español ni francés. Si es así entonces eso se podría corregir para que esté de igual manera en todos los textos. ¿En esto estamos de acuerdo?. Ahora tiene la palabra Pakistán.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): My concern is with the last sentence of paragraph 24 - that is, if we have resolved everything else. This sentence seems to be somewhat vague and ambiguous, with due respect to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I would suggest that either the sentence has to be elaborated, but better still, the sentence can be completely deleted. That is the last sentence of paragraph 24.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que usted se está refiriendo a la frase que en español dice "además otros Miembros señalaron el hecho de que la agricultura era de naturaleza diferente de los demás sectores de la economía".

S.HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): The first time I asked for the floor was to express my agreement with the delegation of Colombia, before the deletion of the words 'in trade'. I am not quite sure that we agreed on that but I wish to say that these words may not seem very necessary.

As regards the suggestion of Angola, I would like to submit respectfully that the widespread recession was seen as one of the factors for reduced Incomes and demands for agricultural exports. This would particularly have the same meaning as the present draft, that "the widespread recession was seen as an underlying factor." It does not say it was the only one, it means there must be many others; but it is up to the Council to decide on that.

About the suggestion from Pakistan, I would also tend to feel with regard to this sentence that it is well-known that agriculture is different in nature from other sectors of the economy, and this sentence may also seem redundant.

A. G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As I have said, the Drafting Committee only tried to reflect the spirit of the debate as it took place, and whenever there is a group of countries who strongly feel their point of view should be reflected, the Drafting Committee tries to reflect that point of view. When the Drafting Committee met and discussed this, we had some difficulty in agreeing on this paragraph and the only way we could agree on it was to have this additional sentence put in at the end. So perhaps, just to help us, if this particular sentence does not remove anything from the report, we can go along. But of course, the report is in the hands of the Council,

P.ELMANOWSKY (France): Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire sans doute que nous tenons, en ce qui concerne la France et les Etats Membres de la Communauté, à conserver cette phrase. Elle a été en effet prononcée par notre porte-parole et reflète notre position. Donc, il est tout à fait normal que nous fassions valoir qu'il y a un particularisme de l'agriculture. Maintenant, si le

représentant du Pakistan souhaite que nous lui expliquions ce qu'est le particularisme de l'agriculture, nous sommes disposés à le faire. Nous l'avons fait, je crois, pendant quelques années au cours des négociations Kennedy, au cours du Tokyo Round; nous l'avons fait à la CNUCED et nous en sommes à la sixième CNUCED. Je regrette que certain porte-parole de la Commission ne soit pas là car il vous ferait un exposé de plusieurs heures d'affilée sur le sujet. Mais moi-même je le connais assez et, si vous le voulez, on peut faire entamer les débats mais alors faites annuler vos billets d'avion les uns et les autres.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan) : I am most grateful to my colleague from France for giving me the lessons on how the agricultural sector is different from the other sectors of the economy. I would love to take those lessons, particularly if he invites me to Paris. The point that we were raising here, as the delegate of Bangladesh pointed out, is that everyone knows the agricultural sector is different from other sectors of the economy, that is why we are saying that the sentence formulated from the end of the paragraph is redundant. France knows it, Pakistan knows it, Bangladesh knows it. It does not really add anything to the meaning of the paragraph at all because if we read the sentence just before that it does not even get connected with it.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My understanding is that it is the general truth and if there are so many general truths in this world, and if you want to put them in this report, it would be larger than a single page every time.

R.T. MOCHEBELELE (Lesotho): As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said, you will find in this report a number of cases whereby we have included some general statements which are facts simply because we felt, some members felt this ought to come up and I think it would be up to the Council to say whether this should be left out but we felt this did not shed any meaning on the paragraph, except maybe spend a little more time than we would otherwise have done, but we are open.

C. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia comparte plenamente lo que ha dicho nuestro colega de Pakistán. Sin embargo, si los colegas de la Comunidad Económica Europea insisten en que quede esta frase, pues demosles gusto para que el señor Elmanowsky pueda regresar mañana a París.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Pour moi il n'y a pas d'impasse, cette phrase représente le point de vue de plusieurs délégations, lesquelles ont le droit de voir refléter leur position. Maintenant, les autres délégations disent: mais nous savons bien qu'il y a un particularisme de l'agriculture, pourquoi le dire? En effet, il y a certainement quelque chose qui manque là. Evidemment, cela paraît une vérité première mais alors - et cela c'est notre faute - on aurait dû compléter la phrase et tout le monde alors aurait compris. Je crois qu'il aurait fallu dire: "Par ailleurs d'autres délégations ont fait valoir le particularisme de l'agriculture par rapport aux autres secteurs de l'économie", et on aurait dû mettre "et, de ce fait, le secteur agricole ne doit pas suivre la règle commune dans les négociations commerciales multilatérales".

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I only seek clarification. I do not know whether my little suggestion has been accepted after the intervention of the delegate from Bangladesh. However, since I have the floor I will avail myself of the opportunity to say that the delegate of Pakistan has made a very pertinent and timely observation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hace poco, el colega Elmanowsky se quejaba, tal vez en forma un poco indirecta, de la activa participación de nuestra delegación, con la diferencia de que Francia fue miembro del Comité de Redacción y Colombia no. Ahora creemos que en realidad él no ha sido serio cuando ha leído toda esa frase. Suponemos que fue un exceso de entusiasmo y de esos conocimientos tan intensos y profundos que él posee. De manera que queríamos pedirle a usted y a los miembros del Consejo, que olviden la propuesta del colega de Francia y que se adopte solamente tal como está, como dice "Además otros miembros...." la frase final del párrafo 24.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces vamos a tratar de que el Consejo acepte, tal como está, la última frase del párrafo 24. Queda aceptada esta última frase del párrafo 24.

Ahora vamos a tratar de recapitular las otras dos cosas. De una parte estaba, a la mitad del párrafo, la eliminación de las tres palabras "en el comercio". Entendemos que el Consejo acepta la eliminación de esto, y por lo que dijo el delegado de Angola tenemos entendido que se trataba de un error en el idioma francés y que va a ser puesto de igual manera en los tres idiomas.

De esta manera, creo que hemos adoptado el párrafo 24.

A. G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is a literal correction to bring it in line with the statement of the delegate of Denmark who said, paragraph 26, the sentence in the middle reads "The disease was controlled and finally eradicated and should read "The disease was controlled and eradicated".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Estamos de acuerdo en eliminar "finalmente", y poner sólo "controlada y erradicada". Entonces hemos dado por aprobado el REP/1.

Paragraphs 10 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie I, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así emmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 15

PARRAFOS 1 a 15

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Una modificación que espero no ofrezca dificultades. Al final del párrafo 4 se dice, en la última frase del párrafo 4, en la penúltima línea se dice: "y consideró que la FAO debía desempeñar su función en la coordinación ...". Yo creo que sería más adecuado decir que "la FAO debía continuar su función", porque todos hemos reconocido el papel que la FAO viene cumpliendo en este campo. Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban de oír la propuesta del delegado de Colombia. Esperamos que no ofrezca ninguna dificultad decir, en la penúltima línea del párrafo 4, "y consideró que la FAO debía continuar su

función en la coordinación de los esfuerzos ". Si está de acuerdo el Consejo, entonces podemos

dar por aprobados los cuatro primeros párrafos de la página 1,

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 8, queremos proponer una modificación que corresponde al texto inglés, porque en español se presenta mal. Lo hacemos ahora porque puede ser una cuestión de fondo que luego, al señalarla, la Secretaría nos pueda objetar ese procedimiento, pero es simple y lo mejora. El párrafo 8, después de "la estabilidad del mercado", dice, "hacía falta prestar mayor apoyo a los esfuerzos nacionales". La traducción correcta del inglés y la adecuada para el español sería "debería prestarse mayor apoyo a los esfuerzos nacionales".

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban de escuchar lo que nos propone el delegado de Colombia. En el texto español se cambiarían las palabras "hacía falta" por "debería prestar mayor apoyo". Si no hay ninguna objeción, entonces podemos dar por aprobados estos párrafos. Quedan aprobados. Hemos aprobado hasta el párrafo 8.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Sur le paragraphe 7 le Cap-Vert aimerait proposer un changement. En ce qui concerne la décision du Gouvernement italien sur le financement des projets de développement rural qui fixe l'augmentation de la production alimentaire dans les pays membres du CILSS. Il ne s'agit pas seulement du Sahel mais de huit pays et nous souhaitons que l'on mette le CILSS au lieu du Sahel.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo entendido que estamos en el párrafo 7, ¿verdad?. Sí.

Bueno, hemos tomado en consideración su observación. Si no hay ninguna objeción, entonces quiere decir que hemos aprobado hasta el párrafo 8.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to suggest a little amendment at the end of paragraph 12. In the line before the last, you see: "concluded that efforts should be made". I would propose taking out the comma and also the word "starting" and then it should read: "concluded that efforts should be made from modest beginnings". Then it continues with the following words: "starting from national reserves to sub-regional reserve schemes and to linkages sub-regional and regional food security schemes"

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo no he podido tomar nota de toda su enmienda, pero como yo la tengo, quizá yo podría leerla al Consejo.

Se trata del párrafo 12. En la penúltima línea, en el texto en español donde se dice: "era preciso hacer esfuerzos, partiendo de bases modestas" después de "modestas", se añadiría lo siguiente: "comenzando de reservas nacionales hacia esquemas de recursos regionales. Entre esquemas de seguridad alimentaria regionales y subregionales.

Creo que era esto lo que usted había dicho.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): It was almost correct, but translating back from Spanish to English you lost a word. So it would read finally: "efforts should be made from modest beginnings starting from national reserves to sub-regional reserve schemes and to linkages between sub-regional and regional food security reserve schemes". I think in this way the sentence looks a little clearer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado nota y queremos saber si esto es aceptable para el Consejo o si alguien quiere referirse a esta enmienda del párrafo 12.

Si no hay ningún comentario quedarla aprobada.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh):. The amendment proposed is not very clear to me because I see two 'froms' - 'concluded that efforts should be made, from modest beginnings starting from national reserves to sub-national reserves and to linkages between sub-regional and regional food security schemes'. The linkages are slightly difficult for me to understand. Efforts should be made to do what? There is something missing here. Efforts should be made to build reserves, or what? While deleting 'to link up' I think we lose the verb. I suppose the words 'link up' have to come somewhere. Perhaps the delegate of the Philippines could kindly clarify.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to thank the delegate of Bangladesh for pointing this out. I think he is perfectly right. At the back of our mind we are always thinking about building up regional food security reserves, because that is what the paragraph is all about. So I would like to include the following words: 'concluded that efforts to build up regional food reserves should be made from modest beginnings'. Then if the sentence is too complicated you could put a period. It could start from 'National reserves to regional food reserves to linkages between sub-regional and regional food security reserve schemes'.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Let me see if I can read out the last sentence incorporating these ideas: 'Reference was made to the Experts' Meeting on Food Security Reserve Schemes of the Group of 77, which, inter alia, concluded that efforts should be made from modest beginnings starting with the institution of national reserve schemes to sub-regional schemes and to linkages between sub-regional and regional food security reserve schemes'. I think we have too many 'schemes'. But in any case I think the idea is to start with the building of stocks at national level which will then have some linkages to the sub-regional level and then finally at the regional level. Some delegates may wish to polish up the English.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): This Sentence refers to "the Experts' Meeting on Food Security Reserve Schemes of the Group of 77 which, inter alia, concluded..." It was supposed to be a record of what was concluded by the Group of 77 and there is not much scope to re-draft. I do not know exactly what the Experts' Meeting on Food Security Reserve Schemes of the Group of 77 had concluded. That has to be put here.

As far as the amendment in drafting suggested, I think if there was some way of changing it, it may be better if we drafted it like this: 'efforts should be made, from modest beginnings, starting with building up of national and sub-regional reserves to linkages between sub-regional and regional food security schemes . '

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: What I think the confusion is about is the omission of the verb. All the amendments talk about linkages, whereas the original clearly says 'to link up sub-regional and regional food security schemes'. The whole construction needs to be re-written, and I suggest you leave it to the Secretariat to come back later so that there is a verb which says starting with something to link up with something else.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que podríamos dejar a la Secretaría este trabajo. Mientras tanto vamos a pasar al próximo párrafo, para ver si encontramos una redacción adecuada, y así podemos seguir adelante. El párrafo 12, por tanto, queda para considerarlo más tarde.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 30

PARAGRAPHES 16 à 30

PARRAFOS 16 a 30

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): On a point of information, in this section of the report I see, at least in the English text, a lot of underlined words, but in REP/1 we had no underlined words. Is it normal procedure, or has this section a special meaning or does it carry a special message?

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In this case it is mostly underlining decisions and recommendations which are supposed to reflect the views of the Council. I would like to make a ruling that the typewriters at FAO should be made not to be capable of underlining, because perhaps we could draw the wrong conclusions. But this is just underlining decisions. If you find it inconvenient I think we could programme the typewriters in some way.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There is no special significance, but in Council and Conference reports words like 'recommend-' and 'agreed' are always underlined. The fact that you do not find so many in the first part is because you did not agree on very much on the first part.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún comentario podemos dar por aprobados estos cuatro párrafos. 16. 17, 18 y 19.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): The first sentence of paragraph 25, I was not quite clear of the meaning of the last phrase "and it was not merely a question of qualifying industries in terms of size", and wonder whether it was related to the first part in a different way. If so, I suggest that we put a phrase in after "relevance" in the second line to read "relevance of the scale and type of industrial development to the local situation". I do not know if I have understood the phrase correctly.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): From my notes here, I see we had some difficulties. It originally read "economy and society" and was not merely a question "large" versus "small", so after a lot of discussion we said probably the concept there should not be size which should be the determining factor, so that is how we arrive at this language that we have here. I hope that helps.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for this explanation. I think in that case the revised phrase I suggested for line 2 does in fact meet the requirements of the Committee; delete the last phrase "and was not" to the end of the sentence and insert after "relevance" the words "relevance of the scale and type of industrial development to the local situation".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, pero tengo que confesar que yo todavía a través de la interpretación no he podido situarme en la frase que usted está diciendo, porque no se entiende cuál es la frase así que haga el favor de repetirla.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): It is the first sentence of paragraph 25, and I suggest that the last phrase from "and was not" to the end of that sentence be deleted and a new phrase inserted after "relevance" in the second line of paragraph 25, "relevance of the scale and type of industrial development to the local situation".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If I may make a suggestion, I would suggest that the sentence still retain some element of the second part because to do what the United Kingdom says would undoubtedly be logically correct and be sparing in words but would rather miss the point of the contrast, so I suggest to him the following: "The Council welcomed the definition of a concept of appropriate forest industry which did not rely merely on size but which recognized the relevance of the scale and type" etc., etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el Consejo está de acuerdo esto también podríamos darlo por aprobado.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 29 es "el Consejo propuso otros posibles temas que México podría considerar". Aquí en inglés la traducción está equivocada y habría que aclarar esto; en francés está bien; habrá que decir: "el Consejo propuso otros posibles temas que podría considerar el Noveno Congreso Mundial Forestal que va a celebrarse en México".

EL PRESIDENTE: Nos informa la Secretaría que el texto en francés está correcto; entonces podríamos proceder a poner los textos de la misma forma y si con esto están de acuerdo todos podríamos dar por aprobados estos últimos tres párrafos del REP/2.

Paragraphs 16 to 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 a 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie II, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE III
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 11
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 11
PARRAFOS 1 a 11

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vamos a proponer una adición en la última frase del actual párrafo 6.

Hacemos notar a nuestros colegas del Consejo que este párrafo como se expresa al principio se refiere a algunos delegados de la región de América Latina y el Caribe y la última frase diría tal como sigue, la voy a leer lentamente, en reemplazo de la actual; diría: "Algunos miembros se lamentaron de la escasa representación de esa región en el personal del PMA e instaron a que se nombraran más funcionarios de la América Latina y el Caribe".

Esta frase tal como la proponemos recogería los dos puntos fundamentales que plantearon esas delegaciones y espero que no ofrezca dificultades a los miembros del Consejo.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan) : I have no point about paragraph 6; I have to go back to paragraph 5. If Colombia's amendment has been agreed to by the Council, then I can go back to paragraph 5.

With your permission, I basically felt a little uncomfortable with the formulation of the language in this paragraph. It is rather unusual, because the rest of the time we are saying 'Council, Council, Council' and here we have started off by saying 'An overwhelming number of Council members participated in the debate' which would be preferable in other places, so we think that during the debate all the Council overwhelmingly approved and admired the work WFP had done so it is unnecessary to quantify like this. We would suggest that the first sentence read: 'The Council expressed unanimous and total support for WFP, its goals and achievements', and the second sentence on the same line instead of saying 'General support was expressed', which again sort of qualifies it, instead of being the support of the Council, we would suggest the deletion of the first five words and start the sentence with : 'The priorities of the Programme particularly in respect of concentration of its resources in low-income food-deficit countries, and for projects aimed at agricultural and rural development was also supported'.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh) : I was just going to say I am in complete agreement with Pakistan, and I think the phrasing that he has suggested describes the position more adequately than has been possible in the draft that is before us.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el Consejo puede aceptar las enmiendas que ha propuesto el delegado de Pakistán podríamos dar por aprobado el párrafo quinto y referirnos al párrafo sexto con las enmiendas que propuso el embajador Bula Hoyos.

El párrafo quinto queda aprobado.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señora Presidente, puedo asegurarle que creo que ésta es mi última intervención y está dirigida a mejorar el texto. Ambos puntos que voy a tratar sobre el párrafo siete tienen relación con la Comunidad Económica Europea, pero me he permitido no obstante la diversidad de nuestros idiomas consultar al observador de la CEE a quien logré explicar el alcance de esta propuesta con el fin de que no ofrezca dificultades, por lo menos así espero.

La primera de las enmiendas del párrafo siete obedece a que he consultado los textos inglés y francés y la redacción de la segunda frase del párrafo siete que empieza por "observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea" está muy mal redactada en castellano, difiere fundamentalmente del contenido en inglés y francés; pero aparte de esa cuestión de redacción, la delegación de Colombia también desearía que se aclarara en esta propuesta que vamos a hacer que de las 73 000 toneladas que ofrece la CEE, 20 000 van a ser canalizadas a través del PMA, y decimos esto porque esta sección de nuestro informe se refiere al Programa Mundial de Alimentos y podríamos dar la impresión equivocada de que todas las 73 000 toneladas van a ser canalizadas a través del PMA.

Voy a leer lentamente la propuesta, que sería muy fácil porque los textos en inglés y francés están correctos, con la novedad que hago referencia a las 20 000 toneladas que el observador de la CEE me ha confirmado. La segunda frase del párrafo siete diría en español: "El observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea comunico al Consejo que la CEE había decidido contribuir con una cantidad adicional de 73 000 toneladas para 1982 en concepto de ayuda alimentaria, con lo que el total prometido para ese año aumentaría a un millón de toneladas". Hasta aquí no hay problema con los textos inglés y francés, espero que me lo confirme la Secretaría y los intérpretes, y ahí se pondrá un punto que no aparece en español y seguiría: "Parte de esa contribución adicional se suministraría por canales multilaterales, de las cuales 20 000 a través del PMA".

Para los colegas de habla inglesa y francesa el único sentido es esta última parte "de las cuales 20 000 a través del PMA".

Tengo otra observación pero prefiero terminar esta primero.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a comenzar a considerar esta primera parte de su propuesta. Creo que todos los delegados han podido tomarla.

Usted nos dice que la primera parte de la propuesta se refiere a la versión en español y que es la segunda parte de su propuesta la que cambia, donde dice que parte de esa contribución se suministraría por canales multilaterales, de las cuales 20 000 toneladas a través del PMA.

P. ÉÍMAÍÍOWSKY (France): Il y a deux remarques. Dans le texte français je n'ai pas de problème en ce qui concerne la première phrase. Regardant le texte anglais je constate qu'il manque un mot par rapport au texte français (dans le texte espagnol aussi, me dit-on). Dans le texte français on parle de 73 000 tonnes supplémentaires de céréales. Dans les textes anglais et espagnol je crois qu'on ne parle que de 73 000 tonnes supplémentaires sans dire de quoi il s'agit. Il faut donc compléter le texte anglais et le texte espagnol. Le second amendement concerne la seconde phrase et il est proposé par M. Bula Hoyos. Il s'agit de 20 000 tonnes acheminées par l'intermédiaire du PAM. Je crois que cet ajout est exact. Je demanderai à notre collègue de la Commission des communautés européennes qui a fait la communication de nous le confirmer.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): Dans ma déclaration je n'avais pas précisé que 20 000 tonnes passaient à travers le PAM. J'avais simplement précisé qu'une partie passerait par la voie des mécanismes multilatéraux mais M. l'Ambassadeur de Colombie a été bien informé car il a, dans sa déclaration, précisé que 20 000 tonnes seraient acheminées à travers le PAM. Cette information est donc exacte et je crois que l'amendement proposé va tout à fait bien.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Ya hemos tenido la aclaración por parte del representante de la Comunidad. Tenemos otros oradores aquí en la lista, ¿El Presidente del Comité de Redacción quiere decirnos algo? No. Entonces, si no es así, el representante de Pakistán y los Estados Unidos de América tienen la palabra.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I am not on this point, but simply on a question of the formulation of the last sentence. If this has been dealt with, then I can suggest a slight amendment in the last sentence of paragraph 7. Madam Chairman, if you recall, it is true that many members expressed the desirability of increased cash contributions; there was nothing expressed against it, but the way the sentence is formulated it implies that only some members did that.

So I would suggest that the sentence be reformulated, and the sentence should start from "the desirability of increased cash contributions..." etc., and should end with "... was expressed". Instead of qualifying it by "some members", it should be a general sentence. I do not think there was any difficulty in this suggestion made by members of the Council.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): My point was that if we put in "of cereals" after the 73 000 tons, does that make the increase of the total pledge for the year to one million tons - does that make it all cereals or does it not? I am just raising a point of fact.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que la observación planteada por el Colega de los Estados Unidos es muy pertinente. Si usted me lo permite, tal vez conviene que oigamos primero al observador de la CEE y luego tengo otras intervenciones sobre este mismo párrafo 7.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor delegado de Colombia. Perdóneme, pero a pesar de que hablamos la misma lengua, no pude oír lo que dijo.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Había dicho que la observación del colega de los Estados Unidos nos parece muy pertinente y a fin de dejar solucionada esta primera parte de mi propuesta, convendría oír primero al observador de la CEE y luego pasaremos a los otros puntos relacionados con el párrafo 7.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): Dans ma déclaration je disais que le Conseil des communautés européennes venait de se décider d'allouer un complément de 73 000 tonnes de céréales au titre de l'aide alimentaire ce qui portera sa contribution annuelle à un million de tonnes de céréales au lieu de 927 000 tonnes pour les années précédentes. Pour répondre aux observations des délégations des USA et de la Colombie, ces 73 000 tonnes supplémentaires donnent maintenant un chiffre total de un million de tonnes de céréales.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I would like to raise another point in paragraph 7. In the last sentence it reads "Some members expressed the desirability of increased cash contributions, keeping in mind the Programme's general regulation that cash and services components..." etc.

A point of clarification - I do not believe there is such a general regulation. I think the Programme has expressed an interest or a desire in saying cash contributions approximate to one-third to cover the inland transportation, etc., but I do not think there is any hint in the Programme that contributions should be two-thirds in species and one-third in cash.

Perhaps we could change that general regulation to read "keeping in mind the Programme's interests" or "keeping in mind the Programme's desire to have cash and service components", etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: Todos los delegados se han referido a la última frase del párrafo 7, si no me equivoco. Entonces, yo creo que ya la primera parte o la primera modificación al mismo párrafo ha quedado aprobada. Y podemos ver esta otra parte del párrafo para después aprobar todo el párrafo. Vamos a dar la palabra a la Secretaría para que nos explique algo.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Selon le représentant du PAM présent, il semble que cette règle générale soit officielle. On recherche actuellement les textes pour donner l'information au délégué du Panama, mais il semble que ce soit une règle générale officiellement établie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto era con referencia a lo que había dicho el delegado de Canadá. Entonces, ahora vamos, yo creo, que a ver de darle la palabra al delegado de Colombia que nos la pidió para después seguir con esta última frase del párrafo.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo deseaba primero apoyar lo que dijo nuestro colega y amigo del Pakistán sobre el encabezamiento de la última frase del párrafo 7. Luego me ofreció mucha atención y respeto la observación planteada por Canadá. Yo había pensado en una fórmula alternativa, pero si los representantes del PMA confirman la información de nuestro Secretario de que en realidad existe una Norma Oficial General, entonces podíamos dejarlo así. Esperemos la respuesta del representante del PMA, y cuando usted pueda me dará la palabra para hacer la última propuesta - lo prometo - sobre el párrafo 7.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor delegado, por su Comentario. Entonces ahora yo creo que lo que tendríamos que ver, en realidad, es la enmienda que propuso el delegado de Pakistán. Si no hay ninguna objeción sobre ello, yo creo que podríamos seguir adelante con la otra enmienda que tiene el embajador Bula Hoyos, siempre sobre el mismo párrafo siete.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estoy un poco animado por las buenas relaciones que existen ahora entre la Comunidad y Colombia. Espero que esta propuesta que voy a hacer ahora, no afecte esa buena relación porque solo trato de hacer justicia a países también que como Estados Unidos, Canadá, Francia y Noruega en nombre de los países nórdicos, anunciaron contribuciones adicionales al PMA.

Y muestra delegación fue una de las que dijo que había que agradecer el gesto de esos países. Entonces se trataría simplemente de una conjugación, en las frases que aparecen a mitad del párrafo siete y que comienzan por las palabras "El Consejo expresó su reconocimiento por el anuncio de la CEE..."

Voy a explicar primero por qué hago esta propuesta, y luego se dice que "agradecemos a la CEE, y que así igualmente agradecemos otras promesas hechas durante la Conferencia y después de ella".

Y más tarde se habla de los países que hicieron ofertas adicionales. Creo que podríamos juntar todo eso para que se de un agradecimiento general y justificado. Propongo la siguiente redacción: "El Consejo expresó su reconocimiento por el anuncio de la CEE así como por otras promesas hechas durante la Conferencia de Promesas, y después de ella". Hasta ahí todo está igual. Ahora viene nuestra modificación. Seguiría "entre éstas las de Estados Unidos, Canadá, Francia, Noruega, en nombre de los países nórdicos y Australia, cuyos representantes informaron al Consejo sobre el aumento de los niveles de sus contribuciones ..." la única diferencia que habría aquí es que hemos dejado por fuera el término "observador" para Australia, pero en realidad, si Australia es observadora en el Consejo, en cuanto a contribuciones al PMA es un Estado Miembro como cualquier otro.

De manera que creemos que de esta forma se hace justicia a los otros países y se presenta mejor el agradecimiento colectivo que queremos expresar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que todo el Consejo ha podido tomar nota de la proposición del delegado de Colombia, y si no hay ninguna objeción sobre esto, yo creo que después de la confirmación que según tengo entendido nos va a dar la Secretaría, podemos dar por aprobado el párrafo séptimo y seguir adelante.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Just briefly in order to help the Council, I was looking at document CL 82/15 which does refer to this. On page 6 it says: "All donors are therefore urged to ensure that, as envisaged in the Programme's General Regulations" - it specifically says so, the words 'General Regulations' in paragraph seven will have to be retained because it is in the document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esta aclaración, creo que podemos aprobar el párrafo 7.

S. AHMED (World Food Programme): In the general regulations 3.(a)(1) we have it very clearly and distinctly noted. "They" - meaning the contributions - "may be pledged by countries in the form of appropriate commodities, acceptable services including transport and other services and cash, aiming at cash and services components amounting in the aggregate to at least one-third of the total contribution. Contributions may also be accepted" and that says something different altogether, but this is with regard to the one-third provision.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): With due deference also to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I have a slight modification to suggest in the first sentence of paragraph 8. The way it reads now, the sentence seems to imply that the Council commended the performance of IEFR only in 1981, which I do not think is really true. So the sentence might be modified as follows:

"The Council highly commended the performance of the IEFR and expressed the hope that the 1981 level of contributions should be maintained."

Because it was commending the IEFR on the 1981 level, and if that is agreeable, I would also suggest that in the second sentence, instead of saying "concern that its resources", it should be "that IEFR resources in 1982" etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado nota ¿Quiere decir algo más? Puede hablar.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): If that is acceptable, then I wish to go briefly to paragraph 9. In the beginning there is a sentence that says: "Wide support was expressed" etc, I am a little uncomfortable with this because I do not think any Member has anything to say against triangular transactions. I would therefore suggest that the first two sentences be amalgamated together and formulated as follows: "Expressing support for triangular transactions the Council encouraged the Programme" etc. What I am suggesting is the combination of the first and second sentence, and it should now start by saying: "Expressing support for triangular transactions, the Council encouraged the Programme to repeat" etc.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): También respecto al párrafo 9. La propuesta de Pakistán nos parece correcta, y continuando lo que sería ahora en la segunda frase, la propuesta concreta es reemplazar la frase que en texto en español dice "muchos miembros elogiaron también el que hubieran aumentado", todo eso poner en cambio "se elogio el aumento de las compras en países en desarrollo". Por lo menos en la lengua española simplifica mucho más el texto y nos ubica además en el consenso que se dio de este elogio.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I hope I may be permitted to make a comment on paragraph 7 at this stage, since I was not able to attract the Chairman's attention earlier. The problem I have with paragraph 7 is merely a matter of degree, perhaps. But as the Resolution was read out, it was not that cash and services should be; it was that they should aim at, which is something different. It is a matter of degree. It would therefore seem to me that we ought to be precise on that and say: "Keeping in mind the Programme's general regulations that cash and services component should aim at, in the aggregate" etc.

On paragraph 9 the proposed amendment combining the first and second lines, my recollection is that we discussed this to some degree in the Drafting Committee and discarded that idea. We discussed it very extensively as to triangular transactions and I would therefore prefer the present language as it now stands before the amendment. I would suggest also that if we are going to get done with this material, we should leave matters of mere drafting to what was the Drafting Committee, and concentrate only on matters of some real substance, if possible.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): On paragraph 9, as for the statement made by the delegate of the United States, certainly there was considerable discussion on this first sentence, but the discussion was as to whether there was unanimous support or general support or wide support, and we settled on wide support because some Members felt it was not unanimous support but that there was wide support. I therefore think it is expressing support for triangular transactions; the language is 'encouraged' which means we are covering those Members also who did not give their wide support or general support. The United States delegate has clearly pointed out that it was discussed in the Drafting Committee and some members expressed that some delegations were not fully in support of the triangular transactions. I would therefore accept that this poses a lot of difficulty. I do not know whether the United States strongly objects to joining these two sentences, but unless there is a lot of opposition from him, we could do it; otherwise we maintain it, because there was a lot of work on this in the Drafting Committee.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Purely on a question of procedural issues, if I understand correctly, we are sitting here as the Council to adopt the Report of the Drafting Committee. The Committee drafted a Report which we greatly appreciate. They did a lot of work but I think the procedure is not simply to sit here and adopt it, to take it as it is, but to add formulation and re-formulation of some sentences, or to strike as may be the case; it is a concern of substance and not only of language, and that is why we are suggesting these changes. We think that every Member of the Council has a right to do so because the Report is to be adopted by the Council and by consensus. That is why we are suggesting these amendments.

Now, going back to paragraph 9, what I said earlier - and I repeat it - is that when this was being discussed in the Council, and the report of the debate transpired in the Council, as far as I recollect - and I stand to be corrected - there were members who supported triangular transactions but there was no member who questioned the facility or efficacy of these triangular transactions. Therefore I am of the opinion that to say 'widespread' is unnecessarily qualifying that support. That is the general practice of the Council debate, that if a certain idea is supported and is not opposed, it is considered that it is the Council's decision or opinion.

That is why we were suggesting that when expressing support for triangular transactions we go on like that, it is a general statement; and we think that to us from the developing countries it is a very, very important matter. We want these triangular transactions to be encouraged; we want the WFP to do it, and that is why we want to express it in this way.

Going back to paragraph 7, the delegate of the United States wanted to be more specific. I only suggest for his consideration that the sentence should start with the word 'desirability'; it is not a categorical imperative, it is only a desirability, only an appeal, not a categorical imperative. Therefore, we need not include the aim of the General Regulations language. It is not that it should be done; it is the desirability.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais intervenir sur un problème de procédure. A mon avis, le rapport que nous examinons doit refléter les discussions qui ont eu lieu pendant les débats, et à ma connaissance, s'agissant du problème des opérations triangulaires, nous sommes intervenus nombreux pour appuyer ces opérations, et aucune délégation parmi nous ne s'est opposée ni même a émis une réeerve. Nous ne voyons donc pas pourquoi la réserve existerait dans le texte que nous avons à approuver.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea apoyar la cuestión de principio que fue planteada por nuestro colega de Pakistán. Creemos que en su propuesta se refleja mejor la situación. También creemos que nuestro colega del Congo tiene plena razón en cuanto ha dicho.

Aprovecho la ocasión de que estoy en el uso de la palabra para apoyar la propuesta de Argentina ya que hace más sencillo, más breve y concreto el texto.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom); I am just trying to find words which satisfy both our colleagues from the United States and from Pakistan. I wonder if we might have something like "general support was expressed for triangular transactions and the Council encouraged" one sentence instead of two, and "general", instead of "wide".

M. ZJALld (Yugoslavia): My problem is most probably with my English. I am not quite sure how a body can encourage something it does not support. "The Council encouraged the Programme" but, according to some speakers, did not support triangular transactions.

A. RODRIGUES PERES (Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert voudrait appuyer la position défendue par l'ambassadeur du Congo. Nous pensons que les opérations triangulaires sont une bonne chose et nous ne voyons donc pas d'inconvénient à laisser la phrase telle qu'elle est.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): The substance of what I wanted to say has already been said by the delegate of the Congo, basically that the Draft Report should reflect what has been said here in the Council and I remember that I was one of the speakers on the question of triangular transactions and I spoke at the end of many, many speakers. Therefore there was quite an overwhelming support. I do not wish to engage in a semantic discussion with the delegate of the United Kingdom because I would be the loser; however, I wonder whether he would accept instead in his proposal, the word "general" to be replaced by "overwhelming support".

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have listened with a lot of interest. I did not participate in that part of the debate but I listened to the discussion and as has been clearly stated, many delegations pointed out the goodness of triangular transactions, supported them, and as far as I know no delegation said that it opposed triangular transactions. But maybe they are expressing it; they did not say so in order to help the smooth running of the procedures. We are trying to record what took place in the discussion but also at the same time we are trying to find accommodation of all views so that we can adopt the Report. So if we can find a formula which will do so, it is fine. That means if we say "wide support" it means probably less than unanimous; but when you say the Council, the Council can be by just one vote more than the majority, which means one member more than the majority, which means there are some criticisms. The second part of the sentence is not reduced in any way by using any word to qualify, it could be to support. But in the final analysis the Council decided. I think when it comes to matters of interpretation I would say that the effective part of the sentence is "the Council encouraged the Programme" and that is the clear will of the Council. So whatever word we use, as long as it will satisfy all members of the Council, my personal view would be to support Pakistan. In many discussions, we have all been members in many committees, that is a general point of view. But given the consideration of now in the Council, and we have the measured, opinions of the Council now, at this moment, maybe

overwhelmingly suggested by Angola, or the vast majority, overwhelming, a very large support - I think even the United Kingdom delegation might use a more suitable word. I think "overwhelming" would solve the problem.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I hate to open my mouth again; it seems I cause more trouble than I do benefit. I was not trying to be unhelpful or to make any opposition statements. I do not think we spoke to the issue. I was merely trying to reflect what I thought our Drafting Committee had worked on already.

I think the United States could accept the Pakistan proposal as far as that goes. I see no real reason why we cannot.

Going back to paragraph 7, the point that I was making was not the point which I think the delegate from Pakistan thought it was; the desirability of increased cash contributions is not the point. The point we are keeping in mind, the Programme's general regulations that cash and services components should amount in the aggregate to at least one-third of the total, that is all one piece. It is not what the recommendations are. So I think I was right in suggesting that small thing.

I will accept the Pakistan combination of the two sentences in paragraph 9. I really was not trying to open the discussion.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I did not ask for the floor. That was before the kind delegate from the United States of America agreed to my proposal. Now I can only take the floor to thank him.

However, going back to paragraph 7 and the last sentence, I have got the point that the delegate is making. I was only trying to reassure him that even the consideration of words in the second part of the sentence does not make the sentence a categorical imperative because the sentence starts with the word "desirability" so we should have no problems there.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo me voy a dirigir al Presidente el Comité de Redacción para que me diga cómo va a quedar la última frase del párrafo séptimo. Y vamos a ver si podemos aprobar el párrafo 9 de acuerdo con las enmiendas que hizo Pakistán y la enmienda que hizo Argentina.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As I understood it, it is a matter of general regulations. If we are going to be in safe waters I think we should put regulations as it reads. We have already sent the Secretariat to check on one figure but this question of the general regulations, if they confirm that this is the general regulation, I think we should use the wording of the general regulation.

EL PRESIDENTE: El delegado de Estados Unidos está satisfecho con esta respuesta para la parte del párrafo 7?

Damos por cerrada la discusión del párrafo 7 y no vamos a regresar más a él.

Queremos preguntar si es posible para todos aceptar la enmienda que hizo el delegado del Pakistán sobre el párrafo 9, y añadir además la enmienda del delegado de Argentina, que en la tercera línea dice: Se elogió el aumento de las compras en países en desarrollo.

Si todos estamos en capacidad de aceptar, damos por aprobado el párrafo 9.

Paragraphs 1 to 11, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 and 14 approved

Les paragraphes 13 et 14, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 y 14 son aprobados

Paragraph 15 approved
Le paragraphe 15 est approuvé
El párrafo 15 es aprobado

Paragraph 16 approved
Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé
El párrafo 16 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 17
PARAGRAPHE 17
PARRAFO 17

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I should like to propose a little amendment to the last sentence of paragraph 17. I think here we should distinguish between a lead agency in a special field like rural development or nutrition and the leading position which our Organization has internationally achieved in another area. That is why I would like to propose: 'The Council agreed that FAO should maintain and further improve its good position in the field of internal evaluation within the UN System'. I hope this will cause no difficulty.

EL PRESIDENTE: Todos han escuchado y tomado nota de la proposición del delegado de la República Federal de Alemania.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I would just like to intervene to add our support to the suggestion of the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Le texte français convient parfaitement à ma délégation. Je ne vois pas d'inconvénient à ce que la phrase reste telle qu'elle est: "Le Conseil est convenu que la FAO doit rester à l'avant-garde...".

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I concur in the amendment as it was presented. I think it improves the sentence, or if people want to maintain the word 'lead' we could say 'and further improve its good lead' instead of 'position' if you wish. I think either one would be entirely satisfactory.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Parece, Sra. Presidenta, que esta enmienda no nos ofrece problemas, pero carecemos del texto en español exacto y no podríamos aprobarlo sin saber exactamente qué es lo que se propone.

N.C. DE CAPRONA (Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): The amendment would read as follows - the last sentence of paragraph 17: 'The Council agreed that FAO should maintain and further improve its good position in the field of evaluation in the UN System, and use its resources ...' staying the way it is to the end of the sentence.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je dois dire que j'étais partisan de laisser le texte tel qu'il est car à mon avis c'est un texte qui me donne entière satisfaction, mais compte tenu de l'intervention du délégué des Etats-Unis, je pense, effectivement, que l'on peut adopter cet amendement: "maintenir et améliorer son rôle d'avant-garde". Je souhaite que le mot "avant-garde" soit maintenu.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I just wanted to say that I see no objection to the amendment. In fact on looking up this sentence again I see it is more in line with the second part of the sentence. To be quite frank, if we are to be cost effective, we cannot necessarily go further than what foolish things some other organizations might want to do. If I have not made myself clear, I should like to say that if the Council wants us to apply cost effectiveness we cannot maintain our lead at the cost of millions of dollars. So I think maintaining the lead is a concept which should come out. We should maintain and improve our position subject to cost effectiveness.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias doctor West. Después de que hemos oído lo que nos acaba de decir el doctor West, si es posible aceptar los párrafos entonces nos daría la palabra a los oradores que me la han pedido.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I am not quite sure what the final text will be. I was quite happy with the text which had been read out by the Secretariat, which was just missing one word, namely internal evaluation. It seems to me that the proposal did not cause any difficulties to the Secretariat or to anybody else. So I hope it could be accepted, but I may be wrong.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I agree with the amendment suggested by the delegate of Germany, but I would be happier with the formulation of the United States of America, which is that it further improves its lead position, instead of good position. That came out in the report, that FAO had a lead position as compared with other UN agencies in internal evaluation.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Conseil est convenu que la FAO doit maintenir et améliorer son rôle d'avant-garde des institutions de la famille des Nations Unies dans le domaine de l'évaluation et utiliser ses ressources pour l'évaluation de façon sélective et judicieuse, afin de maintenir un bon rapport coût-efficacité.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias; si todos estamos de acuerdo como quedaría el párrafo 17, si no hay objeción entonces podíamos dar por aprobado el párrafo 17 y seguir adelante.

Paragraph 17, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 17, ainsi amendé est approuvé
El párrafo 17, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 18 and 19 approved
Les paragraphes 18 et 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 18 y 19 son aprobados

Paragraph 20 approved
Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé
El párrafo 20 es aprobado

Paragraphs 21 and 22 approved
Les paragraphes 21 et 22 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 21 y 22 son aprobados

Paragraph 23 approved
Le paragraphe 23 est approuvé
El párrafo 23 es aprobado

Paragraph 24 approved
Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé
El párrafo 24 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie III, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours
La séance est levée à 18 h. 30
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 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 82/PV/18

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

**EIGHTEENTH PLENARY
MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA
(3 December 1982)**

The Eighteenth Plenary meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
W.A.F. Grabisch, Vice-chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième seance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45, sous la
présidence de M.A.F. Grabisch, Vicé-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de W.A.F. Grabisch, Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: May I welcome the delegates to the 18th session of the 82nd Council Session. Let us continue adopting our report. I suggest to you that we first take up parts IV, V and VI which are already out and that we adjourn then for a short break in order to give delegates an opportunity to read VII, VIII and IX before we consider them. Thank you for your consent.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT- PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vamos a referirnos al párrafo 1. En el párrafo 1 se hace referencia a las negociaciones globales. Espero que lo que voy a proponer no ofrezca dificultades, pues supongo que todo el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en expresar por lo menos la esperanza de que se iniciaran esas negociaciones globales, y esto no aparece en el párrafo 1.

Entonces, al final del párrafo 1, después de donde dice "diálogo provechoso entre el Norte y el Sur" se pondría coma, y se agregaría la siguiente frase: "..., a fin de contribuir a la iniciación de esas negociaciones globales". O sea, que todo diría "facilitara el establecimiento de un diálogo provechoso entre el Norte y el Sur, a fin de contribuir a la iniciación de esas negociaciones globales".

CHAIRMAN: I do not think this proposal should cause great problems. I wonder whether all of you have got the text. If that is the case, then I think we can accept paragraph 1.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el párrafo 2, siempre en relación con las negociaciones globales, a la mitad del párrafo, en la segunda frase se dice: "Se expresó la opinión de que, aunque las negociaciones globales se detuviesen,". Nosotros pensamos que esas negociaciones globales no se pueden detener porque no han empezado. Yo propongo: aunque las negociaciones globales no se iniciasen.

CHAIRMAN: Would there be any objections to this amendment? I cannot actually see any myself. I think the proposal would improve the text.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 3 deseamos proponer una pequeña enmienda que está dirigida solamente a reforzar el texto. En la frase final del párrafo 3 se empieza con las palabras: "El Consejo", y eso está bien, pero más adelante se dice: "y algunos miembros estimaron que el Director General"; creo que esto quedaría mejor: "y estimó que el Director General". O sea, suprimir las dos palabras "algunos Miembros" y decir: y estimó que el Director General debería tener la flexibilidad y la libertad.

Creo que esto hace más fuerte el texto y creo también que nadie se opone a ello.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am not objecting to the amendment but I just want to point out that this section of the report was discussed to some extent, and we agreed for the text to "members", not "some". We went over it for quite some time, and we felt that in the spirit of harmony we should include "members".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Entiendo muy bien la explicación de nuestro hábil y competente Presidente del Comité de Redacción pero, repito, la intención de nuestra propuesta es reforzar el texto. Si los Miembros del Consejo están de acuerdo, y si resulta aceptable, opino que esto mejoraría el texto; pero si no, no insistiré.

CHAIRMAN: I put the question to the Council as to what preference you would give. I see here a slight difference between the English and the other texts.

There seems to be no objection so let us adopt the proposal made by Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Una pequeña adición en el párrafo 5. Aquí se trata de la acción que viene tomando el Director General en favor de algunas medidas que están dirigidas a favorecer ciertas situaciones justificadas en los países en desarrollo. Creo que ya esto en otra ocasión lo hemos aprobado y que se trata no solamente de decir que el Director General está procediendo bien en ese sentido, sino apoyarle para que continúe por este buen camino.

Proponemos que al final del párrafo 5, donde dice: "que había tomado a ese respecto", se coloque una coma y se agregue la siguiente frase: solicitándole que intensificara su acción a este respecto.

O sea, quedaría así: felicitó al Director General por las medidas que había tomado a ese respecto, solicitándole que intensificara su acción a este respecto. Me parece que hay dos "a este respecto", así que se podría cambiar y decir: se intensificara su acción en este campo.

Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultad, pero si no están de acuerdo tampoco voy a insistir.

CHAIRMAN: Now, you heard the proposal made by Colombia. Could it cause any problems? I wonder whether perhaps instead of "requesting" we should rather say "encouraging the Director-General" because, after all, you yourself, Colombia, said how much the Director-General has been doing in this field, so perhaps "encouraging", if this would also meet with your approval.

No further comment? Adopted.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El Sr. West, quien está a su derecha Sr. Presidente, sabe que yo le aprecio personalmente y por eso me opongo a que se adopte el párrafo 9 tal como está, ya que en español se degrada al Sr. West. Se dice "Subdirector General"; en inglés esto está bien pues se dice Deputy Director-General; pero subdirectores generales hay varios en la Organización y Director General Adjunto es uno solo.

Si intervengo en este punto no es por robar a la Secretaría algunos minutos, sino porque este párrafo nos hace recordar a algunos compañeros además del Sr. West, con quienes compartimos las sesiones del Consejo y de otros organismos en el pasado, como el Sr. Phillips, de los Estados Unidos, el Sr. Shefrin, del Canadá y el Sr. Moskovits, de Malta, quienes decían que a través de estos Informes se escribe la historia de la FAO, y es la verdad, porque mañana algunos de nosotros nos vamos del Consejo y vienen otros Miembros. Hoy sabemos que el Sr. West es Director General Adjunto, pero mañana otros podrían desconocerlo. Por estas razones es mejor poner en este párrafo: el Consejo observó con satisfacción que el Sr. E. West, Director General Adjunto de la FAO, y continuar la frase como sigue.

CHAIRMAN: I think there would not be any objection as far as the Members of the Council are concerned. I think I should turn to Mr. West. No?

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 17 to 33, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 33, son aprobados

Paragraphs 34 to 36, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 34 à 36, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 34 a 36, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 4ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE V

INFORME PROVISIONAL - PARTE V

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 10

PARAGRAPHERS 7 à 10

PARRAFOS 7 a 10

E. SCHROEDER: (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation has some difficulties with paragraph 9. We feel this paragraph does not exactly reflect the course of the debate. As you may recall, my delegation has spoken in favour of retaining Appendix C of the current Programme of Work and Budget document, because it does give an overall view of posts and gradings.

While welcoming the new aggregate figures on posts, we hold the view that such an overall view is necessary. In this context, I should like to recall also that the Chairman of the Finance Committee in his answer to the statements of delegations said he had nothing against retaining these tables. The Secretariat also has not spoken against it. Therefore, I should like to propose to insert at the end of the first phrase the following words: after the words "discussion time" "...It decided nevertheless to retain Appendix C."

CHAIRMAN: I hope all delegates have heard the proposal made, namely to insert after the third sentence the sentence which would read: "It decided, nevertheless, to retain the tables in Appendix C". That is the proposal which is put before you.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Where do you say this goes, Mr. Chairman? Would you read it again?

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed it should come after the first sentence in paragraph 9, and that it should read: "It decided, nevertheless, that the tables contained in the current Programme of Work and Budget in Appendix C should be retained".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Secretariat did not speak on that item, simply because the majority were supporting the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees which agreed with the deletion of these tables. There were four pages of extremely small type giving details of posts which nobody has ever discussed. That is why the Programme and Finance Committees decided that they could be dispensed with. Because people were supporting this, the Secretariat said nothing at the timeo

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Deputy Director-General for the clarification. The Council members are still free to give their views as to whether they consider such an overview on the number and gradings of posts should be inserted or not on these four pages in the Programme of Work and Budget.

I am in full agreement with Mr. West that the tables are horrible to read, because they have such small numbers that it is rather difficult to do it.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I do appreciate the proposal of the German delegation, but that was not really what transpired during the debate. I agree with Mr. West that by and large the Council approved the suggestion of the Programme and Finance Committees as contained in document CL 82/11, and there is no mention of retaining these tables.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tengo la fortuna de que mi colega de Pakistán siempre anticipa lo que yo quiero decir. Creo que la interpretación que ha dado el señor West es correcta, pero, al igual que el colega de Pakistán, no tenemos objeción en que se mantenga ese apéndice C. Creemos que se trata del apéndice donde aparecen los cargos, los grados. A lo sumo, para estimular a los delegados podríamos pedir a la Secretaría que aumentara el tamaño de los números y de las letras.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): It seems to me that the issue did come up, supportive of the tables. Was it not the German delegation which made some mention of this in the discussion from the floor? I do not know that anybody opposed it. We certainly supported it, although we did not say so. I do not think there was any opposition, so in my view at least I have no problem in retaining that particular table.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I recall the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany made this proposal, and the Council supported it without explicitly doing so.

I actually saw no objection here against the proposal for the insertion just made by the Federal Republic of Germany, and the additional request of Colombia to make the figures a bit bigger, but this would be difficult because some more pages would be needed and the document would become bigger.

May I have your reactions? Would you agree with the Federal Republic of Germany, Colombia and the United States of America? Actually there were no speakers against.

I thank Pakistan also for having said they could accept it.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I do not want to belabour the point, but I did not agree with the German delegation. I said during the debate by and large all members of the Council supported the proposal contained in document CL 82/11 which had come between the Programme and Finance Committees, and in accepting the proposal I did not ask for the retention of those tables, but the United States delegate said that the German delegation specifically made a proposal. I do not recollect that, but I do recollect during the Council debate that members of the Council agreed with the proposals of the Programme and Finance Committees as contained in this document, but that does not say the retention of these tables.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quiero insistir en que la interpretación que ofrece el colega de Pakistán es correcta, pero no creo que hay dificultades ni problemas y dentro del espíritu de conciliación en que estamos trabajando podemos decidir que se mantenga este apéndice C que puede ser útil para algunas delegaciones.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): If my memory serves me correctly I believe the Chairman of the Finance Committee, in summing up and in response to the intervention of the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany, did indicate he saw no difficulty in retaining the tables.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other speakers on this subject? If there are none, could I assume the Council would accept that the proposal made by the Federal Republic of Germany is carried?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR- GENERAL: We will, of course, respect your decision, Mr. Chairman. I just want to point out two things. One is to confirm what you said. If you were to make the figures larger, they would become six pages and not four. Secondly, I hope it will be recognized and accepted that the figures in Appendix C in these four pages will not be the same, and cannot be compared with the new table for overall staffing because they are compiled on a different basis.

Provided you are prepared for all the confusion that will arise, there is no difficulty.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Deputy Director-General for his clarification but I also recall - and we have this in the valuable report of the Finance Committee - that we are still looking forward to having a fully reliable computerised system on the personnel situation of the Organization. And I feel once this is in operation and gives the figures desired by Member nations and figures which can also be very useful for the work of the Secretariat, then of course perhaps the issue would be reconsidered. If there are no further comments, then paragraph 9 is adopted, with this little amendment.

Paragraphs 7 to 10, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 7 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 7 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 18 approved
Les paragraphes 11 à 18 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 11 a 18 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 5, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 5ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VI
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 35
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 35
PARRAFOS 1 a 35

CHAIRMAN: Is there any comment on the first item - Review of Programmes, paragraphs 1 - 9? If delegates agree we adopt these paragraphs.

The next item is: World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, paragraphs 10 - 14.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos referirnos al párrafo 12. La última frase del párrafo 12 dice: "Muchos miembros expresaron el deseo de que la CEE pudiera participar plenamente en la Conferencia".

La delegación de Colombia se opone a esta frase y propone la siguiente: "El Consejo expresó el deseo de que la CEE pudiera participar plenamente en la Conferencia".

Decimos esto, primero porque corresponde a nuestra intención, aunque a veces fastidiemos algún colega, reforzar el texto del Informe; y segundo, porque ningún miembro del Consejo se ha opuesto a que la CEE participe en esa Conferencia. Estamos convencidos que se trata de una organización o de un grupo de países respetables que tiene mucha importancia y cuya participación en esa Conferencia puede ser de interés para los países. Es mucho mejor decir "El Consejo" y no "Muchos miembros".

M. ZJALFI (Yugoslavia): I agree with this proposal but I have difficulty with the second part. What is meant by 'participate fully'? We have no rules of procedure, we have no terms of reference of this conference. In the first sentence we say that the conference itself should be open to all states members of FAO or of the United Nations. The second one speaks about full participation. Is the EEC going to participate on an equal footing like any sovereign state?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Podría compartir la preocupación de Yugoslavia; tal vez podríamos decir "pudiera participar adecuadamente en la Conferencia", "adecuadamente en la Conferencia".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Si cette phrase a été introduite c'est parce que, d'une part, elle reconnaissait ce que nous avions dit et, d'autre part, que nous avions été appuyés par, je crois, l'ensemble de la Conférence, comme l'a suggéré M. Bula Hoyos. On s'interroge maintenant sur la deuxième partie de la phrase "participer pleinement à la Conférence" et M. le délégué de la Yougoslavie a demandé si la Communauté serait traitée absolument comme un Etat Membre: je peux répondre tout de suite "Non". Par exemple, il n'est pas question que la Communauté ait le droit de vote. Les votes sont assurés par des Etats et non par des Organisations. Donc, s'il y a à voter sur tel ou tel point, ce sont les Etats Membres de la CEE qui voteront. Mais quand nous avons dit "participer pleinement" ou, comme l'a dit également notre collègue M. Bula Hoyos "d'une manière adéquate", c'est simplement que nous souhaitons qu'au cours des débats, lorsqu'une question sera traitée et qu'elle concernera véritablement la politique commune des pêches de la Communauté, le représentant de la Communauté, que ce soit d'ailleurs le président en exercice du Conseil des ministres de la Communauté, ou que ce soit le représentant de la Commission de la Communauté économique européenne, puisse intervenir directement dans le débat au même titre que les Etats Membres pour éviter que si un point nécessite des interventions rapides, il ne parle qu'après tout le monde, en observateur. Voilà ce que nous entendions par "participer pleinement à la Conférence". Mais si on veut mettre "de manière adéquate" cela reprend exactement la même idée.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have no objection about 'adequately' or anything like that, but I think in order to meet the point made by Yugoslavia, which is a valid one, and to avoid any misunderstanding, we should say "participate adequately in the discussions of the Conference". This will avoid the impression that we are suggesting that they should vote.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No tenemos ninguna objeción a lo que se ha discutido en cuanto a la participación de la Comunidad ni a las palabras "adecuadamente" o "plenamente", lo que me parece que la proposición del estimado Gonzalo de quitar "Muchos" y poner "El Consejo" está bien, pero entonces no debe ser "El Consejo expreso el deseo", sino "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo".

Parece que eso expresa mas realmento la situación. "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo que la Comunidad pudiera participar plena, o adecuadamente", como sea.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I think we all will gain if the EEC participates. However, my understanding is that the Representative of the EEC will participate as an observer. Am I correct?

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je pense que le représentant de la Communauté, c'est-à-dire de la Commission siégera au banc des observateurs mais que dans les débats pour des questions concernant la politique commune des pêches de la Communauté il pourra intervenir dans le débat en même temps que les Etats Membres, de manière à ce que si une question exige des positions rapides il ne parle pas après tout le monde. Voilà comment nous concevons la chose.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que debemos ser conscientes que estamos en el Consejo y no todavía en los preparativos del Reglamento y del funcionamiento de esa Conferencia; por eso propusimos el término "adecuadamente" porque es un término amplio que da muchas posibilidades, que puede ir concretamente más adelante. No creo que esto resta dificultades. Si usted, señor Presidente, me lo permite, voy a leer la frase tal como quedaría con todas las enmiendas que creo son aceptables para todos los miembros, y pasaríamos al párrafo siguiente. Diría así: "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que la CEE pudiera participar adecuadamente en los debates de la Conferencia".

Adoptemos el párrafo así y sigamos con el otro, señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of the delegate of Colombia and we had previously listened to other clarifications given. Prior to that I saw Yugoslavia nodding, so may I assume that this satisfies members of the Council? I see no objection. Thank you. Then paragraph 12 with these amendments is adopted.

We now pass on to the next item: Use of Consultants, paragraphs 15 and 16.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have a brief suggestion on paragraph 15. The first sentence of the paragraph says that "the Council fully endorsed the views of the Programme and Finance Committee" so I do not think it is necessary to say in the second sentence, that it "shared' the concern" etc. I would therefore suggest that the second sentence should read as follows: "The Council expressed concern at the concentration of recruitment" instead of saying that it "shared": "The Council expressed concern" etc.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of Pakistan on paragraph 15. Does anyone wish to give his view on this proposal? I see none, then I think we can consider it meets the wish of the Council members. Paragraph 15 is adopted with the amendment made by Pakistan.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia); Una pequeña enmienda que esperamos no ofrezca dificultad. Si mis recuerdos son adecuados, creo que en varias ocasiones ya los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y el Consejo también, se han manifestado en favor del concepto de discriminación positiva a que se refiere el párrafo 16. Entonces, en la primera frase del párrafo 16, en vez de decir "el Consejo apoyo en particular", podríamos decir "el Consejo reiteró su apoyo"; "reiteró su apoyo" porque esto ya lo habíamos hecho en el pasado. Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal made by Colombia would strengthen the text. I wonder whether everybody would go along with the proposal. I see no objections so with this amendment "The Council reiterates its support of the concept of positive discrimination." Paragraph 16 is adopted.

Any comment on Actuarial Review of Separation Payments Scheme, paragraphs 17-19? If there is none we consider these paragraphs as adopted. We now have to consider the item: Personnel Matters, paragraphs 20-31. Any remarks? Paragraphs 20-31 are adopted. The last item is on Import Licences for Equipment for Official Use, paragraphs 32-35.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): Concerning paragraph 34 I propose an addition to the first line that reads as follows: "The delegate of the Host Government stressed the fact that delays had sometimes occurred in cases of sizeable requests submitted by the Organization under a general labelling whereas the customs authorities requested a detailed breakdown of the same period" and then it goes on "He also informed the Council of further steps taken recently" etc., etc.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the proposal of the delegate of Italy? Everybody agrees? Then we adopt this amendment of paragraph 34.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No me voy a referir a lo propuesto por la delegación de Italia. Quería antes de pasar al otro documento, hacer una confesión. Nosotros participamos en el Comité de Redacción; sin embargo, tenemos que confesar que a veces los arboles no nos dejan ver el bosque. Y mirando el conjunto de este documento REP/6 me ha sorprendido la cantidad de veces que hemos puesto, o que lo pusimos en el Comité de Redacción, indudablemente "tomar nota". Tomar nota..., el Consejo examina, refrenda, conviene, aprueba, pero cuando toma nota me preocupa, porque queda un poco vago el futuro. Toma nota, ¿para que?; ¿para qué toma nota? ¿Para informarse simplemente, toma nota para accionar, en qué forma? Nos parece que queda un poco el futuro de forma vaga, y son doce veces en este documento sólo las que aparecen. Confieso mi parte de culpa, pues participé en el Comité de Redacción y no lo noté, pero me parece que podría buscarse alguna fórmula. Hay algunos apartados de éstos que son realmente para información y se toma nota para conocer simplemente. Pero me parece que quedan un poco vagas algunas cuestiones solamente tomando nota el Consejo.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I must apologize, I must have left the room. Have we already gone through item 15 of this REP/6 ?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): May I ask your permission? I have some remarks on that item. If the Council is kind enough to allow me to make some remarks on that item I would appreciate it very much.

CHAIRMAN: Well, Council Members, you heard the wish expressed by Brazil who was not present when we adopted REP/6. I see no objection if comments are to be made. Please go ahead.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): Paragraph 6, page 3, my delegation suggests instead of "A few members appreciated the intent" we should change it to "Many members appreciated the intent". May I go on with all the amendments I have?

CHAIRMAN: Please excuse me, delegate of Brazil. I thought that you wanted to make some remarks on these paragraphs. I did not realize that you wanted to make amendments now on the paragraphs which we have already adopted so this is a different issue now. I think we would first have to know what the Council Members say. I have sympathy with what you have expressed already and perhaps there might be some other very useful amendments to the paragraphs but I wonder how we can arrange now for inserting them after we have already adopted the report. That I think I have to leave to the Council Members.

B.N, SEQUEIRA (Angola): I think that there is a precedent. Yesterday when we had already adopted paragraph 17 a delegate asked to go back to that paragraph so to the best of my knowledge it would appear that that sets a precedence and therefore we could allow the Brazilian delegate to go ahead with his proposal.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que con buena voluntad y con espíritu de cooperación y de entendimiento, podemos oír al colega de Brasil.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Though in content I may differ with the delegate from Brazil I do wish to recognize his right and we think we should give him the courtesy of making his amendments and listen to what he is going to say.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Council Members and please go ahead delegate of Brazil on REP/6.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I thank Council Members for their kindness. I propose to read all the amendments I have to this paragraph 15 so instead of "A few members", "Many members". This is the factual situation, I have the PV in front of me and I understood very accurately the delegation that made the intervention on that topic. On paragraph 7, the third line, "The majority of members concluded that the present procedures" so on and so forth should also be changed to "Many members concluded" as a matter of fact. This is the factual situation. It was not the majority that concluded, there were many members who spoke on it. The following sentence of the same paragraph 7, it starts with the expression "They recognized that while the Programme Committee" so on and so forth, this was a point I think raised by my colleague from Pakistan, that neither the Council nor the Programme Committee has any authority to suggest the reallocation of resources. In fact that question was not raised in my intervention and I do not recall any other members proposing that we should reduce the approved Budget. So I think this sentence is either useless or it should be qualified. Instead of saying "They recognized that while the Programme Committee" and so on, I suggest we should say "A few members recalled that the Programme Committee" so there is no question about that, so we are introducing a non-existent element in our debate. That is for page 3. If you would allow me, we will go on to page 4. Shall I proceed or wait for reaction?

CHAIRMAN: Does the delegate of Pakistan wish to speak on a point of order or does he want to give his views?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): It is not really a point of order; it is more a point of procedure. It would be more convenient if we could go step by step instead of taking all of it together, because we may forget what has been said. So I suggest that we go paragraph by paragraph on the amendments suggested by Brazil.

CHAIRMAN: There are two possibilities. The first is to see the whole package; it might be a big one or a small one. I understand there are a few more amendments, but not many. I would first ask the Council if it agrees to the amendments to paragraph 6 to change 'a few members' to 'many members'.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): That is the difficulty. We do not agree with this amendment of paragraph 6 as suggested by Brazil. We feel that when you say 'many' you are at least going above the level of half the members of the Council. 'Many' is much more than 'few'. If you change this from 'few' you have to go upwards. We would agree to 'some members' instead of 'few'. That should satisfy Brazil, because it was some members. But we have objections to 'many' because it was not many members.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): We thought the word 'many' was quite appropriate because in the next paragraph Brazil suggested the same change to indicate that it was less than the majority. So his understanding and my understanding of the word 'many' is that it is less than a majority. I think the word is quite appropriate in both cases.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I take the floor to give some clarification of what went on in the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee considered this paragraph and perhaps it is more a problem of drafting. It has been divided into several paragraphs reflecting views which could be tied down to some specific view. The first one is paragraph 5, which gives one point of view. Then there is paragraph 6, which gives another point of view. Then paragraph 7 is supposed to reflect the views of the majority of the Council. So if we have to maintain the three paragraphs, paragraph 6 is correctly written and probably reflects the reality, but it could probably be changed to 'some members'. If you add paragraphs 5 and 6 together you may say 'many members'. But as it has been divided in the report, perhaps a drafting fault, if you add paragraphs 5 and 6 together 'many' could work, but I think as it is 'some members' would probably be satisfactory.

CHAIRMAN: Now we have two proposals. One is to change into 'many members', as proposed by Brazil and supported by the United States of America. Others, particularly Pakistan, thought that 'some members' would read better. Do others want to speak on that issue?

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): Since Pakistan was so kind as to allow me to come back to this item I have no difficulty in accepting his change - instead of 'many' the word 'some'. But on paragraph 7 it is factually incorrect to say that the majority of members concluded. So in this case we should say 'many', because there are exactly 11 and in the Council 36 people spoke on this point. So it is not a majority. It should be 'many members' in paragraph 7. It is a question of fact.

CHAIRMAN: May I take it that paragraph 6 is fine with everybody to change 'a few members' into 'some members'? I see no objection. Paragraph 6 is adopted. We now come to paragraph 7.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): It would seem, in the same way that that previous paragraph was changed from 'many' to 'some', that for this also - since 11 members was the total of those that concluded - as the paragraph reads, it would be more appropriate to say 'some members concluded', as it was not really 'many'.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): My concern is not with counting how many delegates spoke, but with the consequence of such a statement. If many members or some members of the Council concluded that the present procedure gave full and ample opportunity, and so on, my understanding is that the majority is for the change in the Rules of Procedure. The only next step would be initiative to change the Constitution of the Organization's General Rules of Procedure. I invite you to make a roll call on this issue.

CHAIRMAN: I hope the Council does not need to go as far as that.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There is no need to make a roll call, I hope. I am sorry to disagree with the United States of America, but the Secretary kept a careful record of the views expressed, and 16, which was a majority of those who spoke, supported this point.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'appuie entièrement ce que vient de dire le Directeur général adjoint parce que c'est dans ce sens que je voudrais m'exprimer. Je pense qu'au sein de ce Conseil, il n'est pas possible de tenir compte de ceux qui ne s'expriment pas sur une question. Je crois que l'on doit pouvoir tenir compte de ceux qui s'expriment et faire la différence entre ceux qui sont pour et ceux qui sont contre, sur une question donnée. A mon avis, tels que nous nous sommes exprimés sur cette question, les termes qui sont utilisés dans le document nous donnent entièrement satisfaction. C'est pour cela que j'appuie le texte, que nous avons déjà adopté d'ailleurs.

CHAIRMAN: It might be convenient, before I give the floor to the next speaker, to get a clarification from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Perhaps my explanation was not complete. If you look at this paragraph you will see that it was divided. Paragraph 5 reflects one set of views. Paragraph 6 reflects another set of views. Paragraph 7 reflects what the Drafting Committee felt was the majority view of the Council. Paragraph 8 reflects what was given as information from the Secretariat, and paragraph 9 reflects the conclusion which we felt was reached by the Council. If you look at it carefully, you will see that there has been some attempt to balance the discussions as they took place. There were a lot of speeches on this subject and there is some difficulty for some of you perhaps to find in these paragraphs where you belong. But it was an attempt of the Drafting Committee to balance all the views that were expressed. So paragraphs 5 to 8 reflect the various positions and paragraph 9 is our understanding of the decision of the Council, except of course that Council Members changed the decision.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): After the explanations of the Deputy Director-General and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee I have very little more to say, except that I would, with due deference, say to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that it does not balance. The one view has two paragraphs and the majority view has only one paragraph. Paragraph 6 is one view and paragraph 7 the other and that is a majority view. So we strongly want to retain paragraph 7 as it now stands, purely on a question of quantification. If you want a count it is the majority, and again because of the content of the paragraph it was a majority view. Unless, as Yugoslavia suggested, if you consider this to be a minority view, then you cannot reach the conclusion that you have reached. So we strongly suggest that this paragraph be retained in the text as it is.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros creemos que en la redacción se trato de expresar el sentido de la discusión y el resultado de la misma. Se hizo, a nuestro juicio, en términos bastante objetivos y con bastante tacto para evitar que trascendieran otras cuestiones. Pensamos que si empezamos a jugar con cifras no puede ser saludable para nuestro trabajo.

Primeramente consideramos que en el párrafo 7, cuando se habla de "mayoría" se refiere a la mayoría que se expreso o que concluyó con los procedimientos y prácticas del Comité del Programa que ofrecían plena y amplia oportunidad con respecto a una minoría. El número puede buscarse.

Podríamos modificar esto. Yo pondría analizar, ya que creo que esa fue la discusión. Nos parece que el precedente que tenemos también es peligroso; es un precedente que tenemos que cuidar si vamos a discutir el número o vamos a discutir el consenso y la situación que nos lleve a ponernos realmente de acuerdo en una situación.

CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, Cuba, that quite often it is a question whether the glass is half empty or half full.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just wanted to know what would be the difference if you had the "majority" there or "many". Now I am saying this because the suggestions in paragraph 5, which is the view of "many" or "some", merited some study in a constructive spirit.

If we say "majority", does it mean that now the decision is that this thing is all right, you do not need to study it any more, it needs no more improvement because it is already perfect? If you say "many", well, it leaves a little door open that probably next year we might study it again because you know the views in 5 and 6 do not propose any concrete change, they are just saying it merits that we should study this matter and probably we could approach it in a more constructive spirit in the future.

I want some clarification on this before I give my own extreme opinion regarding this matter. I hope I am clear.

CHAIRMAN: As it looks to me, it is also a question of some members of the Council wondering whether at this stage it was possible or appropriate for the Programme and Finance Committees to give some more advice for the shaping of the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget. As I recall it, we heard the clarifications given on that procedure for the benefit of all Council Members by

the Director-General, and we also heard that the purpose of the Programme Committee in this particular case is to review certain sectors of the current Programme of Work and Budget, the results of which are in the report of the Programme Committee. It will be taken into consideration quite surely once the Programme Committee itself and Council members consider the proposals of the Director-General for the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget.

However, with regard to the clarification of the Philippines, perhaps I could ask the Deputy Director-General to throw some further light on the issue.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not want to reopen the debate, but I think it is important to recall what the debate was about. The debate was about the report of the Programme and Finance Committees concerning the Session in the non-Conference year when it reviewed certain programmes - not all programmes but certain programmes - and it was clear from what was said that to some extent the same question had come up during the Session of the Programme Committee when the Chairman and the majority of the Programme Committee considered that their function was to review those programmes on the correct instruction of the Basic Texts, which referred to reviewing the current activities of the Organization and its long-term objectives, and specifies that the Programme of Work and Budget will only be considered, that is, the question of allocations will only be considered when the draft summary Programme of Work and Budget is presented.

Brazil was suggesting, I understand, that instead of this procedure, the Programme and Finance Committees should in fact review the whole Programme of Work and Budget and suggest changes in the allocations to all chapters and all programmes according to its wishes, and on this I have not had a chance to study the verbatim, but it is very clear from the quick review I made just now that most of his speech - I hope I am not misrepresenting him - was about the importance of correcting distortions in allocations, revising mistakes which might have been made when previous decisions were taken and so forth.

What is less clear to me from a quick review is whether he really meant that it should be done immediately by the Programme Committee in a legal way, so to speak, to revise allocations, or whether he was talking about an input to the next Programme of Work and Budget, but that is not the essential point. The essential point is whether at this Session, contrary to the Basic Texts, the Programme and Finance Committees should conduct a review of the Programme of Work and Budget as approved one year before at the Conference or less than one year before, with a view to proposing changes in the allocations whenever they might be effected. That is why the Director-General reacted so strongly and pointed out that this was not the function of the Programme Committee during those Sessions. It is the function of the Programme Committee when considering the summary Programme of Work and Budget but not when it is reviewing some of the programmes conducted in part over a four-year cycle, so that is the issue. It is not an issue of whether or not the Council should have an input to priorities.

As I pointed out in my own statement, the Council has been doing that throughout this Session. It is only in issue whether it should do it in that particular way on that particular occasion.

CHAIRMAN: I have already three speakers more on my list. I do very much hope that we can come to a conclusion on this issue rather soon and not hold up the further proceedings.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Yo pienso que el asunto no es de analizar separadamente, ya que los puntos 5, 6, 7, 8 y 9 son un todo concatenado, se parte de una premisa para llegar a una conclusión, puesto que si comenzamos a ver, desde el punto 5 se está hablando, primero de que algunos Miembros estimaron pertinentes determinadas actitudes, luego hablan de que una mayoría está de acuerdo en que no se cambien los procedimientos; después está el punto octavo en el que se dice que "El Consejo tomó nota de las prioridades y estrategias", y el punto noveno dice que: "El Consejo concluyó que los procedimientos y prácticas actuales no requerían modificación alguna"; es decir que allí no hay ni some, few many, ni algunas, ni mayorías, sino que simplemente es el Consejo quien concluye. Yo sí creo que en ese caso debería estar mucho más preciso, porque cuando el punto sexto habla de que estima que esta sugerencia debe de estudiarse con espíritu constructivo, luego el punto 9 no está virtualmente descartando de manera absoluta este tipo de sugerencia. De modo que ésta es la idea que se ha tenido, según lo que acaba de decir el Sr. West, porque incluso tengo la impresión de que él no ha captado bien lo que propuso el delegado del Brasil, ya que según acaba de decir el Dr. West, el delegado de Brasil había propuesto que el Consejo podía introducir modificaciones y hacer reafirmaciones, cuando lo que propuso el Brasil, y que lo apoyé yo, era que el Consejo trate de modo preferente, puesto que la intención es que el Consejo antes de que se reúna la Conferencia le dé preferencia siguiendo el procedimiento que está contemplando en las reglas que rigen a la Organización; pero que le den preferencia a los temas relacionados con los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Yo pienso que esto sí debería ser precisado adecuadamente, porque como digo es un todo concatenado; es una premisa para llegar a una conclusión que desbarata incluso algunas de esas consideraciones previas.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just wanted to know whether my understanding of Mr. West's explanation is correct, because I also understood the proposal in a different manner; I thought that it was not for any moment considered that the Council should change any allocations or appropriations of the Programme of Work and Budget that has already been approved by the Conference. I think it was forward looking. I think it is rather important that it was for the ensuing biennium, as indicated in the third line of paragraph 5.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I was trying to make it clear and I will try to make it even clearer now. Leaving aside the question of whether it was intended to change or suggest changes in the allocations, and it was certainly a suggestion that allocations should be changed, the essential point is that what was proposed was that the procedure of the Programme Committee and of the Council when dealing with these reviews should be changed, and instead of considering the current activities and the long-term objectives, the Programme Committee and the Council should consider allocations, whether to be changed immediately or in the future, and the point is that the Basic Texts, including the prerogatives given to the Director-General, make it absolutely clear that is not the function of the Programme Committee at this particular stage in its proceedings when dealing with this particular item. It is the function only to review, not to conduct a Programme and Budget review including a discussion of allocations. Otherwise, we will be having a continuous discussion changing the views expressed at the Conference. The Conference decided the allocations in November 1981, the Programme Committee met in the Spring of 1982, so it is suggested that already the Programme Committee should say the Conference was wrong and either now or next time it should be different.

This is the only issue, whether it is correct under the Basic Texts that the functions of the Programme Committee and Council at this particular stage in the Programme Committee's cycle should be changed, and the Basic Texts make it clear that they should not, and it is clearly understood by the majority of the Council that they should not. Otherwise we would have an enormous exercise on our hands that involves changing the Basic Texts, and that was clearly not considered appropriate by the majority of Members.

CHAIRMAN: Allow me just to make one personal remark. My feeling is that the input of the Programme Committee to the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget is when it starts at its Spring Session reviewing the proposals made by the Director-General who has a mandate to make the proposal for the forthcoming budget in the Basic Texts, and it is then when the Programme Committee checks it against its own understanding of priorities of the Organization, taking into account also, of course, the results of Regional Conferences and the different Committees of the Council and so on and seeing whether they are in accordance with their views and with the proposal put forward by the Director-General .

The Programme Committee then gives its view in its report to the Council. The summary Programme of Work and Budget is being discussed for the first time at the June Session. This is the proceeding so far, and here I must say, if I recall our debate correctly, there were no objections to such a procedure - or, in other words, there were no proposals to change the rules of the procedures as they are.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I really did not think or intend that we should go back to the debate again, but in fact the understanding by the delegate of Ecuador and the Philippines is correct. I do not understand why the Secretariat keeps insisting on a proposal which I never made. I never said that the Council should meet to revise the allocation of resources, in fact that was a train of thought started by the delegate of Pakistan, who in his intervention mentioned or suggested that this possibility was contemplated in my proposal. In fact, it has nothing to do with my proposal. There is a sort of a straw enemy being built up to be easier to destroy.

This was not contained in my proposal, which was a very clear and simple one. I only mentioned that out of 19 working meetings in this Council, we just had one afternoon meeting to review and discuss the topics, in essence, of the things that matter in this Organization. I was simply proposing that this debate should be enlarged. This is a non-Conference Session. Supposedly we should have more time to discuss the business of the Organization. The Council should take more of its time to discuss the reviews, the proposals, and suggestions related to the Programme.

However, the previous delegations are wrong, I insist on not reopening the debate again. In fact, I had four points to propose as regards amendments, but as now you have given me the chance, Mr. Chairman, I will propose only two of them. If you allow me, I would go back to my original proposal: in paragraph 6, instead of "many" I said "some". In paragraph 7 there was not "a majority of members" suggesting the business procedures. May be they think so, but during the debate they did not say so. 38 people spoke, of which 36 are Members of the Council and two are Observers. Only 18 of those spoke about the Brazilian proposal - 11 against and 7 in favour, so it is not possible to say "a majority" in any circumstances. It is a question of fact, we can say "many Members concluded..." in paragraph 7, and so on, but a majority is not a factual thing that happened.

In the following sentence which starts with the expression "they recognized..." this, that and so on and so forth, I suggested "a few Members recalled..." because while they recognized that the Programme Committee had a function to review the current activities of the Organization, neither it nor the Council had authority to question or suggest the re-allocation of resources, as approved by the Conference.

There is a suggestion that someone was proposing to cancel that. That is not the case. I do not recall anyone proposing a revision of the allocation should be made during this Council or the next.

So if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, I will repeat the third sentence of paragraph 7 which should read, in the understanding of my delegation, "A few Members recalled" instead of "recognized" - this is point 3 of my suggestion.

Finally, the last point which already some delegates have touched upon and on which I did not have the chance to speak. I would simply suggest the suppression of paragraph 9, which is completely false from the point of view of facts. It does not correspond to anything that happened in the Council, so I suggest the suppression of this paragraph.

Those are the few points of my proposal, and I would appreciate hearing any comments on that, although my delegation is ready to go back to the debate if you so desire.

CHAIRMAN: I now recall our Independent Chairman saying in his summing up: that the initiative put forward by Brazil was welcome; there was nothing against that initiative. He also said he hoped this initiative would contribute to the fact that at the June session of the Council, namely when the Council considers the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium, enough time would be allocated for having discussions. On this there is complete agreement in the Council, and I am quite sure the Independent Chairman himself in discussing and shaping the Agenda and

Timetable for the forthcoming Council session will take due account of that.

With regard to the proposals put before us, I had thought that on paragraph 6 we had already agreed that the change of "a few" to "some" was debated and accepted by all the delegates.

Now on paragraph 7, if there are further speakers, could I just make a proposal for myself and then we can see whether we can overcome our situation here, as I would say in the case of a majority accepting the proposal made by Brazil in the second sentence that "many of the Members concluded..." and then in the next sentence starting "It was also recalled", so that is not connected directly with a majority or a minority or a few or several, or whatever words we put forward here in giving qualifications. This is how I feel we can perhaps overcome paragraph 7.

I do not like to touch right now on the suggestions made for paragraph 9, although I see the connexion, and I am grateful to the delegate of Ecuador.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I just wanted briefly to say that I think the statement by the delegate of Brazil was a concise and accurate analysis of the situation, and that the changes that he made in their entirety would accurately reflect that situation.

However, in the spirit of wanting to see the outcome resolved I would certainly agree to the changes you suggested, Mr. Chairman, for an alternative wording which would be a way around it.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Let me start by saying I entirely agree with what you said regarding the conclusions of the Chairman, because I think that was all the intent of the Brazilian intervention, and also the support we have given to the Brazilian delegate. If it intended something else, then we did not support him in that sense.

I think we should really give more time to studying the programmes of the FAO, and they should be given more time, and this thing needs more study. We are not put in strait-jackets by rules and regulations.

As indicated in the item, there should be a separate agenda item on the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees and not only in those items which show it is of enough importance. I agree entirely with your suggestion, and I do not think we need any change in the Regulations for implementing that.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): As the delegate of Brazil has very kindly suggested, we do not want to reopen the debate. What we do want to do is to reflect what transpired during the debate, and adopt that in the report. I think paragraph 7 does reflect the debate as it transpired. "The majority of Members concluded that the present procedures and practices of the Programme Committee..." etc. It is the sentence saying the present procedures are adequate. If you recollect, Mr. Chairman, I read from the Basic Texts during the debate from Rule XXVI, and if you desire, it was Rule XXVI-7 and I enumerated under that rule the Programme Committee is required to do two things. One, it is to review the programme, and that was under paragraph 7 (a)(i), the Current Activities of the Organization, and under paragraph 7 (a)(ii) there is more elaborate work the Programme Committee is supposed to do while looking at the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and as you yourself pointed out, under that it was supposed to look at the content and balance of the programme, having regard to the extension which was proposed, and that "existing activities be extended, reduced, or discontinued, etc." It goes on like that.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I quote from page 5 of CL 82/PV/13. It says: "There was even a lively discussion in the Committee even though it was decided that the report would make no mention of such discussions, though discussions were centred on the question of allocation of resources to the different programmes, even though there was no question, of course, of revising the budget. A number of delegations, including my own, expressed concern at the unsatisfactory level of resources allocated to some technical and economic programmes, like natural resources, crops, livestock and others. When compared to certain other programmes which do not contribute directly to increases in agricultural production..." etc. etc. This is the verbatim report of the delegate of Brazil's intervention on the subject. He is talking about re-allocations when reviewing the programme. That is why we are saying the Programme Committee and the Council have to look into the contents of this programme while looking at the Programme of Work and Budget, not reviewing the cycles going backwards. That is why we are saying paragraph 7 reflects the whole content of the debate, because I answered, and the majority of the members answered on that question, in the way that is contained in paragraph 7, so we strongly feel that paragraph 7 should be retained as it is.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce ne sont pas des clarifications, M. le Président. Je ne veux intervenir dans ce débat ni dans le fond ni dans la forme; je désire simplement attirer votre attention sur quelques précédents, et le précédent fort justement rappelé par le délégué de l'Angola pour appuyer la proposition du Brésil est un fait. Mais, vous vous souviendrez qu'il y a trois ou quatre ans, il y a eu un ou deux cas similaires où le Conseil a autorisé les délégués intéressés à faire leur déclaration sur les points déjà adoptés, déclarations qui ont alors été consignées dans le rapport. Je crains que si des précédents de ce genre se renouvelaient, alors que dans les textes de base il est clairement indiqué que lorsqu'une proposition est adoptée ou rejetée on ne peut l'examiner à nouveau au cours de la même session, je repète, on ne peut la discuter ou la réexaminer au cours de la même session, à moins que le Conseil ne le décide.... c'est ce que vous venez de faire, je crains simplement que des dérogations de ce genre si elle se repètent ne finissent par constituer une sorte de jurisprudence qui pourrait compliquer les travaux du Conseil dans certaines circonstances. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai pensé, le précédent d'hier ayant été rappelé, que je me devais de vous rappeler aussi un autre précédent auquel vous pourriez réfléchir pour vous aider à trouver la solution au problème en discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Well, you have heard the Secretary-General. I do hope that we can overcome this little problem.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): I would just reiterate what I remarked before. There was not at any time any majority of members concluding that the present procedures and practices of the Programme Committee and of the Council gave full and ample opportunity to review the current and future programmes of activities. Factually, the majority did not pronounce itself to that effect. It may be that in fact everybody feels that way, but factually only 18 members of the Council dealt with that question, and of those 18, only 11 spoke to that effect. So in no way can we speak of a majority.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the delegate of the Philippines I wish to put on record that it is the custom to assume that those who do not take the floor on an issue are in agreement with what is being proposed or is in the document. It is therefore rather difficult to make a counting.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): With regard to procedure, I think the procedure we are following now is within the terms of reference of the Basic Texts because you asked whether the Council would allow the reopening of this, and the question was, I think, decided in favour of that. I believe it is really a dangerous procedure but it is not for the Council to decide on a case to case basis.

With regard to this paragraph 7, instead of saying - if you cannot accept it - "many" or "a majority", could we not say "a great number"? In that case it is neither many nor a majority, but it is something greater than many. Probably that would meet the concern on both sides because, as you said, those who did not speak are supposed to be in favour of something, but is it in favour of the proposal of Brazil? In fact, that was the proposal and then if you say they have been silent, then we should assume they are in favour of the proposal of Brazil.

CHAIRMAN: Now you have heard another proposal and let me now give you my own view as to how we could overcome the situation and see whether it is acceptable. On paragraph 7 we could, to my mind, accept the proposal which has just been made: "a great number of members concluded" etc. And then start the next sentence with "It was also recalled" etc. I hope you see my point: "It was also recalled" instead of "They recognized". Then, on paragraph 9, because we have already heard what was the idea on paragraph 9, I wonder whether we would enter into a new difficult situation; perhaps members of the Council could agree on something to this effect: "The Council accordingly felt that adequate" or "sufficient time should be allocated at its forthcoming Session for considering the future Programme of Work and Budget". I think this could be accepted by the majority of members and that it would, in particular, be in line with the summing up of our Independent Chairman, who regrets very much not to be present today, as he told you yesterday.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): Could you kindly repeat your proposal for the second sentence, Mr Chairman?

CHAIRMAN: Instead of saying "they recognized" just to say "it was also recalled". The second sentence would start: "A great number of members" and then the next sentence would start: "It was also recalled" and then on the paragraph 9 we could say: "The Council accordingly felt that sufficient time should be allocated for considering the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget at its next Session" instead of the text as it now stands.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I did not have anything to say on the substance of your proposed amendment, Mr Chairman. This was merely on the formulation of "a great number" of people. I thought "a good many members" might sound better.

M. ZJALIĆ (Yugoslavia): First, I insist on the majority of members, for a very simple reason: if every and each delegation takes the floor on every and each paragraph of submitted documents, there would not be sufficient time for us to complete our sessions. Our understanding, my own understanding and, I hope, that of the Council was that if we have a document submitted by a subsidiary body - the Committee on Fisheries or CCP or the Programme Committee - then we discuss this document. We make our comments, we approve it, reject it or amend it. No amendments were adopted. Changes were proposed and those changes have been reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6. So the majority of members concluded in adopting the report of the Programme Committee, that there is no need for a change in the procedure and practices, for the time being at least.

I must emphasize there is always room for improvement, and improvements should be considered; but a formal proposal was not adopted to change procedures and practices. This is my first point.

As for "it was also recalled" it is probably factual. As for paragraph 9, for the same reasons I used in commenting on your proposal, Mr Chairman, or your suggestion, for the second sentence in paragraph 7, we will never have sufficient time to discuss the details of the Programme of Work and Budget if we adopt the practice you suggested in the interpretation of majority, minority supported or adopted; and I am for the sentence as it stands in the draft.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): To begin with, on the proposal of Bangladesh who says "a good many": if it was "many good members" I would accept that! But as the delegate pointed out, it was the majority and it was factually the majority and even the delegate of Brazil is counting. He said out of 18 who spoke on the subject, 11 supported it. So if you are quantifying from that angle, then out of 18 you have 11 and also the fact that if you were to take a consensus even now the majority of the members are of the opinion that the procedures and practices being followed are adequate. But this sentence only says that the majority concluded that the present procedures are adequate, so I think we should retain the word "majority" here. As for the second sentence where you suggest "It was recalled" I would be happier with the formulation as it stands, but with a spirit of compromise and a great amount of respect for the delegate of Brazil and for you Mr Chairman, we can go along with "recalled".

Coming now to paragraph 9, this has to be retained as it is. I do not see any reason for making any alterations there. In so far as you were referring to the summing up of our Independent Chairman, while summing-up he did say, yes, that during the Spring Session of the Council we would have adequate time to look at the next summary Programme of Work and Budget, but it does not mean that the Council requested there should be some procedural change in the next Council meeting. It was only to recall there would be time and it does not necessarily change the content of paragraph 9. We therefore suggest it should be retained as it is.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je constate que nous perdons beaucoup de temps et je dois avouer que c'est parfois un problème de fond mais c'est aussi parfois uniquement un problème de forme.

Pour le paragraphe 6 je pense que nous sommes tous d'accord avec ce que vous avez proposé. Quant au problème de la majorité, comme l'a rappelé le représentant du Pakistan, le représentant du Brésil nous a fait le décompte des voix et sur 18 délégués qui ont parlé sur la question, ils ont été en défaveur de la proposition du Brésil. 11 voix sur 18 c'est bien la majorité, mais puisqu'il faut en terminer, moi je proposerais qu'on mette plutôt "la plupart de ceux qui se sont exprimés sur la question...". De cette manière je crois que l'on résume bien ce qui a été dit et cela peut recueillir, je le pense, l'adhésion de notre collègue du Brésil...

Quant à l'autre phrase, "on a également rappelé...", je pense que c'est acceptable mais, concernant le paragraphe 9, si nous le prenions tel que vous l'avez proposé, cela sous-entendrait que nous étions d'accord avec la proposition du Brésil. Or, ce n'est pas le cas et je crois qu'on ne peut pas l'accepter telle quelle.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): J'ai l'impression qu'on tourne en rond et si nous continuons on ne finira pas aujourd'hui. Je pense qu'il faut trancher cette discussion une fois pour toutes. Je voulais simplement dire qu'après avoir entendu le délégué de la Yougoslavie et l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya, ma délégation appuie l'intervention de ces deux délégués.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba) : Nosotros después de seguir oyendo la discusión que la consideramos realmente negativa para el futuro de la Organización porque creemos que cambiar la filosofía de las organizaciones internacionales, de buscar sus consensos dentro de los acercamientos naturales, y trasladarnos al parlamentarismo cuantitativo del voto es peligroso, repito eso. Por lo tanto nosotros, después de oír unos cuantos, que podrán considerarse mayoría si se cuentan y si no habría que votar, nosotros estamos por mantener los textos como se presentaron por la Secretaría.

CHAIRMAN: It was presented to us by the Drafting Committee.

A.F. BOTHNER (Norway): First, with regard to paragraph 7, the second sentence, I feel it should contain some language to the effect that those that spoke, either the majority or whatever is decided, but all those that spoke. Secondly, I would like to support your own proposal as to paragraph 9, which as you said reflects the independent Chairman's summary.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just wanted to make a little clarification of that. The Brazilian proposal did not involve any procedural change at all, the only procedural change which it proposed was already adopted by the Council, that of listing the Programme Committee as a separate item. The Programme Committee and Finance Committee reports as a separate item and that it should be given a greater attention. There is no question of any procedural text or basic text or rules changed and

therefore I do not see the point of any great fuss being created about this. My only fear in making so categorical a question is that it closes any room for suggestion or improvement in the future if you say it gives "full", well then it gives full opportunity, that means it is perfect, it cannot be perfected any more, it cannot be improved. Now I do not know whether this is the intent of the Council and I do not know whether those who spoke or those who did not speak intended this. I think we need a little flexibility here. We are not asking for any change by what is being asked, just a little emphasis on a certain point which I think concerns the very heart of the Governing Council's meetings and I therefore appeal that the proposal you made be accepted by the Council.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the Council can understand now why the Drafting Committee had also some difficulty in this section! It appears that the Council itself, even after having reviewed it for so many days, has not arrived at any really clear ideas but maybe as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I listened a little bit more carefully and sitting nearest to my colleague from Brazil I think I listened to a great extent to the presentation he made. Just to say, on the basis of the Drafting Committee, I believe there was a proposal from the Brazilian Delegation for a change in procedure because it was that it should be discussed in the Council Session of the non-conference year. In my mind, and I think in the minds of the members of the Drafting Committee there was a change of procedure proposed. At least I hope that one can be clear. At least that is the basis on which we drafted paragraph 9, that there was this proposal in the non-conference years the Council Session should devote a lot of time to discussing the Programme of Work and Budget, the Review. That is I think my understanding and the understanding of the members of the Drafting Committee.

In any case, as a help, if I can give you a few words for paragraph 9 I could suggest "Council accordingly concluded that the present procedures and practices were adequate and did not need to be changed at this time". Maybe that leaves the door open for future discussion. If we keep on going like this I think we might be here until Sunday but if we said they were adequate and they did not need to be changed at this time it leaves the door open for any other future discussions.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je ne suis pas intervenu jusqu'ici car j'avais beaucoup d'hésitations. Mais tout à l'heure, M. le représentant du Congo a fait une suggestion qui me démangeait le bout de la langue depuis quelque temps.

Pour moi, la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 7, pour rendre exactement la vérité des débats, doit se lire: "La majorité des intervenants" - je dis bien "intervenants"; qu'on ne croit surtout pas que je veuille aussi faire intervenir ce qu'on appelle la majorité silencieuse - "ont estimé ..."

A partir de là, la quatrième phrase qui commence: "Ils ont reconnu ..." devrait être modifiée comme suit: "on a également reconnu" ou "on a également rappelé" parce que ceci recouvre non seulement ce qui a été dit dans la phrase précédente: "les intervenants", mais c'est également ce que reconnaissent certains délégués qui avaient fait des propositions.

Personne, à ma connaissance, dans le débat, n'a envisagé de remettre en cause l'affectation des ressources telle qu'approuvée par la Conférence.

Vous avez donc dans la deuxième phrase: "la majorité des intervenants ont estimé" ou "ont convenu..."; troisième phrase: "on a également reconnu" ou "on a également rappelé".

On arrive ensuite au paragraphe 9. Au par. 9, on a trois versions: le texte actuel, le texte que le Président nous a suggéré, et enfin le texte que le président du comité de rédaction vient de nous suggérer, qui consiste à dire: "... il n'y a lieu d'apporter aucune modification aux procédures et pratiques actuelles à ce stade, et un nouvel examen pourra être entrepris ultérieurement".

Ce qui me paraît essentiel pour le paragraphe 9 - et là je me fonde sur la pratique généralement suivie dans des débats de ce genre -, c'est que le président indépendant du Conseil, après chaque point de l'ordre du jour, fait généralement un résumé des débats et des conclusions auxquelles'il parvient. Très généralement aussi, si cette conclusion du Président n'a pas été contredite, elle est souvent reprise - je ne dis pas toujours, mais souvent - comme étant en fait l'expression des vues du Conseil, puisque son Président a reflété ce qui lui a semblé être la position du Conseil.

Je n'ai pas sous les yeux le résumé du Président à la fin du débat en question, mais le Secrétariat l'a très certainement et pourrait nous le dire. Nous pourrions donc nous y référer.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Regarding paragraph 7, my delegation fully agrees with the proposal made by the delegate from the Congo because it is the facts.

CHAIRMAN: I wonder if it would help our proceedings if we could get a clarification from the Deputy Director-General with regard to the summing-up of the Independent Chairman.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We were, in effect invited to recall what the Chairman of the Council said and I have it in front of me. He referred, first of all, to what the Director-General had said, explaining the process and of the very large number of inputs and he spoke of programme formulation and he said he spoke not just as Independent Chairman of the Council but also as a former Chairman of Commission II and also as one who attended the meetings of the Programme Committee. Then he said what I think is important, that arises from what Brazil has said, is a reminder to the Members of the Council that next year when the document comes from the Director-General's office to us, to the Programme and Finance Committees, at the general meeting of the Council we should take adequate trouble to study it, etc., etc. I agree with the Director-General and then at the end of his statement he said "It is my firm conviction that the Director-General after all enjoys our confidence. He and his officers should have full freedom because I think we should resist the temptation of causing paralysis by analysis because I have seen it happen frequently. You can analyze a programme so much that it can paralyze an organization. I think that is not what we want. We want a dynamic and active organization and it is here that we are helping". Then he appreciates that the comments that had been offered which show the concern that "The Council should put its adequate input into a careful consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget and the occasion for this will come next year at the June meeting. Meanwhile I think we should wish the Director-General and his staff all the best to implement the one which was approved at the last Conference so that they will be able to give an excellent implementation report next time." That was the conclusion of his remarks so it is quite clear that he was saying this is not the case when you discuss the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget or the priorities or the allocations. You discuss them next time. In other words, no change in procedure.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Intervengo a fin de intentar lograr un acuerdo porque creemos compartir la preocupación de algunos Miembros del Consejo en el sentido de que se nos está acabando la posibilidad de concluir nuestros trabajos al final de esta mañana. For ello la delegación de Colombia desea hacer una propuesta concreta en el sentido de suspender la discusión de este asunto, que entren en contacto algunos Miembros del Consejo, tal vez Brasil y Pakistán, con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y con el Sr. West y que más tarde nos presenten una solución satisfactoria. Esta es una propuesta que yo someto a la consideración del Consejo porque sé que algunos colegas que no viven en Roma tienen su pasaje preparado para partir.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, you have heard the proposal put forward by Colombia. Do you accept the proposal? Or should we have another try before we decide? I ask Colombia if he would agree that we make one further attempt to find a conclusion on the paragraph before us.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have great respect for the delegate of Colombia and I would have agreed with the suggestion, but I feel that we really do not have very many problems. The Deputy Director-General and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee have explained. What we are doing here is adopting a report of what actually transpired during the debate, so it should not be very difficult to come to an understanding on what happened during the debate. We do not seek to reopen the debate, but just to reflect what happened during the debate.

I will very briefly give you what I think is a constructive suggestion. There was a suggestion from Congo and France to say in the second sentence that it should be a majority of members who spoke. Unfortunately I do not agree with that because that would be unprecedented. We do not usually use that sort of language in any of the reports. Also if you do that in paragraph 7 you will have to change paragraphs 5 and 6 also, which is absolutely unprecedented. So I suggest that though it is a constructive proposal, it does not meet the needs of the Council. Therefore we should retain the second sentence as it is, because even now the people who have taken the floor, the majority have wanted it to be retained as it is. In the subsequent sentence we agree that when you said it was recalled we can agree on that, instead of saying that they recognized. In paragraph 9, with a little reluctance I go along with the formulation of the Drafting Committee to say that the Council accordingly concluded that the present procedures and practices were adequate and did not require any change. When you say that you leave the implication that perhaps subsequently you can come back to them. These, I think, are the true reflections of the debate as it transpired during the Council, and there should perhaps be no difficulty.

N. KISHORE (India): There were two views, for and against, on the question raised by Brazil. The majority of the speakers were against the Brazilian proposal, and as such it is a majority of the Council members who concluded that the present procedures and practices of the Programme Committee and of the Council gave full and ample opportunity at appropriate times for review of the current and future programmes and activities of the Organization. When there is a debate on the question, the majority of the speakers, whether they are against or in favour of the question, becomes the consensus of the forum. In this case the majority was against the Brazilian delegation, and as such the majority of the members of the Council concluded ...

M.H. PAIMAN (Afghanistan): I hear the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the delegate of Brazil say that as far as paragraph 7 is concerned, 11 spoke. So it means the majority, so there was no need to change. I think 'the majority' is all right here. And the second paragraph is 'recalled'. If we put that it will need some change later in the paragraph. The technical work has been done on this Committee and they know. Moreover, as we speak we do not know because we have not been in that Committee. It is a waste of time just to speak on the words. If anybody likes to bring a change completely or open the debate again, or if they do not, they should give this to the Secretariat and the Secretariat should approve it. But the Council must approve this. I agree with what the delegate of Cuba proposed.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): I have been trying to attract your attention ever since my friend from Pakistan spoke. I would like to get back to the intervention of Pakistan and to say that when I made my alternative formulation of a 'good many' that was in response to your 'great number', and I did say that I did not want to speak on the substantive side of the issue. However, this is a matter of faithfully recording what happened during the meeting itself, at which unfortunately I was not present. If we go by the ruling given by you, then one should conclude that with 11 speakers those who did not speak had signified their affirmation of the proposal. Naturally that has to be taken as the majority of the Council, and the majority means the Council. Therefore the sentence as it is, that they recognized that while the Programme Committee, and so on, I suppose can be retained like that, and so I agree with Pakistan.

As far as paragraph 9 is concerned, the clarification which has just been read out by the Deputy Director-General on the summing-up by the Independent Chairman of what was said in the meeting, should settle the question in favour of retaining the paragraph in the form in which it is now to be found in the draft.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je vous prie de m'excuser de reprendre la parole, mais j'ai l'impression que nous sommes dans une impasse. Il faut absolument que nous en sortions.

Comment la question se pose-t-elle? Si effectivement, comme il semble se dégager de nos débats, nous ne nous mettons pas d'accord sur toutes les propositions qui nous sont faites, avec la meilleure volonté possible, je pense qu'il conviendrait - c'est une proposition que je fais - de mettre aux voix le texte qu'il nous est proposé.

M.I. MAHDI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): I think I can say that I fully agree with the delegate of Pakistan, because during the Council's debate on this item there was in fact a majority which was against this proposal. My delegation, therefore, would like to keep the text of paragraph 7 as it stands. For paragraph 9 we should also like to keep the text as it was presented originally.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Al igual que el delegado de Bangladesh yo debo manifestar mi protesta porque he pedido la palabra hace mucho tiempo.

Considero que el meollo del asunto es el punto número nueve; el punto número nueve tal como está redactado no es el fiel reflejo de lo que se trató; es simplemente un aspecto de lo que realmente se trató, pero estimo también que si sustituimos este texto por el que usted propone estamos incurriendo en un error similar; es decir, aprobaríamos un texto que también es un aspecto parcial de lo que se trató.

Yo estimo que para que el punto número nueve, que es el resumen en definitiva de todo el problema, sea el fiel reflejo de lo tratado debe quedar de la siguiente manera; es decir, el texto tal como está, luego un punto y coma y se le añade lo que usted ha propuesto, porque realmente eso es lo que

ocurrió, es decir, que se consideró por parte del Consejo que no había que modificar los procedimientos y las prácticas actuales, pero el Consejo ha considerado y estimado oportuno e importante lo que usted señaló. Yo pienso que es realmente la solución más adecuada.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your constructive proposal.

S. BELLETE (Ethiopia): In paragraph 7 the second sentence, starting with "The majority of members", was suggested for a change on the grounds that some or few members expressed their views by taking the floor for or against. In this case at the time of the debate my delegation was among the other delegations who did not speak out one way or the other, basically to save the Council from the monotony of repeating the same things, and with the understanding and concurrence of the idea as expressed in paragraph 7 of this document. If the intention of the amendment, that is of the majority of those who spoke, is as the amendment is expressed here, I would anticipate difficulties, because then it would open the question of expressing the same sort of views in each and every paragraph and on each of the items that we have been discussing so far, and this would open up a dangerous procedure in my opinion, as was expressed by Pakistan. Thus my delegation would give its full support to paragraph 7 and to the full text as presented in the document.

T. SADAKA (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je m'étonne un peu de voir le délégué du Brésil arriver en retard, et retarder la discussion de cette partie du projet de rapport. Je me demande également quel est le but, l'objectif de la part du délégué du Brésil pour soulever cette question. Il y a là une perte de temps; ces discussions tournent en rond. De toute façon, j'accepte les quelques amendements apportés au par. 6, mais pour ce qui est du par. 7 et du par. 9 je pense que le texte actuel, tel qu'il est, reflète effectivement ce qui s'est passé lors des débats durant le Conseil. Je m'oppose donc à l'amendement de ces deux paragraphes 7 et 9, et je suis d'accord avec ce qu'ont dit les représentants du Pakistan et de l'Arabie Saoudite.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): We have two points. One of them seems to be easy, the other rather more difficult, but apparently the easiest one, which is paragraph 7, seems to be raising a number of questions which are very easy to check because they are factual questions. Anyone who takes the trouble of going to PV/13 and counting the interventions and checking what was said will see that 38 speakers made interventions on that matter. Only 18 of them - I am speaking only of the floor figures, Mr. Chairman - only eighteen of them spoke on the Brazilian proposal, and of course, 11 spoke against and 7 in favour, but I do not think that 18 makes a majority of the Council, so I think it is very easy to check this factually. The majority of Members could not possibly have concluded what has been written in paragraph 7, although on second thoughts on a later occasion, encouraged by a little message that went around the Council all the time, they might have changed their opinions, but this is not really what happened during the debate. During the debate, only 18 people spoke about the Brazilian proposition out of 38 floor speakers, so as a matter of fact, I do not see how we can say the majority of Members concluded this or that. The most we could say is that the majority of those who spoke or something of that sort. Even so it will not be right, because 38 people spoke, as I told you, and not the majority of them spoke on that subject, they spoke about financial contributions, about headquarters accommodations, about personnel matters, about fisheries, but not about the Brazilian proposal, so I think that this is a factual matter and should be settled factually. It was not the majority of the Council at that time.

Now if we reopen the debate now, maybe the majority will express itself in one way or the other, but during the debate this is not what happened. So I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to settle first this question of paragraph 7 before we go to paragraph 9, because I think that this is an easy question to solve, that one of paragraph 7.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We are now discussing Council procedures in which I consider I have had quite a lot of experience over the last 19 years. Over the last 19 years I have known occasions when only 3 members have spoken, two in favour, one against, and the decision recorded in the record has been "the Council decided", so if the whole Council can decide on the basis of 3 speeches, how can you not have a majority when there are 11 against 7.

Incidentally, my counting is 13 against 7 on the very strictest interpretation of the speeches made, so I am not entering into the substance on this. I think Members would welcome it if you would now rule Mr. Chairman, but I just want to make sure there is no misunderstanding about the procedures of the Council on future occasions.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Volvemos a insistir que además de las proposiciones que se hicieron el otro día sobre el tema, que creo que está bastante agotado en cuanto a lo que se pretende y a lo que se niega, eso creo que todos en la sala estamos unos con una opinión y otros con otra; ahora lo que está entrando en juego es la filosofía de los mecanismos de la Organización con respecto al consenso.

Nosotros si realmente, aunque no quisiéramos, hemos reabierto el debate otra vez, vamos a votar entonces. Eso es lo que proponemos.

CHAIRMAN: I do not take it at this juncture as a firm proposal. I still hope we can manage to clarify the issues without going to a vote.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Cela fait 23 minutes que l'ambassadeur Tchicaya, du Congo, propose de passer au vote. Passons au vote. On perd du temps.

CHAIRMAN: I still hope that we can find a solution without the need to go for a vote. You heard the clarifications given by the Deputy Director-General with regard to the procedures and understandings and practice of the Council, and although sometimes Member States may regret not having spoken on an issue they then of course have to accept it if the conclusion of the Council was "the Council decided" and so on, even if they have not spoken on an issue.

Recalling this, I think it would be only fair if we followed these procedures and did not try to change horses in mid-stream, and actually there seems to me to be no need for doing so at this juncture; that either we accept "a great number" or we still continue to have "the majority of the Council". Either one to my mind does not make that much difference, but English is not my mother tongue; others might have some other feelings about it, so "a great number" or "a majority" do not seem to me very different.

As to the second point, I think we had quite a broad acceptance of what I tried to propose and which was also supported by quite a few Members saying that in the third sentence "it was also recalled".

Now, of course if this were to be accepted, we would have to make two further changes in the paragraph, namely, "It was noted" and at the end "the Council expressed full satisfaction".

On paragraph 9, we have many Members who expressed their views and spoke in favour of retaining what the Drafting Committee proposed to us. The Chairman made a further little suggestion in saying "The Council accordingly concluded that the present procedures and practices were adequate and did not ask for a change," or "require any change". Then I think we could make a full stop. If you wish so, the other idea which the Independent Chairman summarized should also be recalled and we could link this to that sentence and say "and the Council felt that adequate time should be allocated for the consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium at its next Session."

Nobody spoke against this. Ecuador was very firm in proposing that we marry the two issues together and if there were no objections to adding this, I think then that this would reflect what did take place. This is what I should like to propose to you, and then I do very much hope that we can come in a spirit of conciliation and compromise to a solution of that problem. I feel that we have spent quite a lot of time on the issue before us, and actually we still have some other parts of the report for adoption before us. Could you agree on this as it now stands?

T.AHMAD (Pakistan): Just specially to elaborate what the Director-General said - if we are to start going into counting numbers now for this particular paragraph, then we have to go on counting numbers for all the paragraphs we are adopting in the report. There are 49 Members in the Council, but on no issue did 49 Members speak. On every issue it is a majority without counting the numbers, so I do not see any reason for going backwards and counting numbers for only this paragraph.

If your ruling, Mr. Chairman, is that the second sentence states that "the majority of Members •••" we are very happy, and we can go along with the comment.

Going to paragraph 9, as the Director-General read out and in the summing-up of the Chairman, this is available to us, but it does not in any way alter the paragraph. The summing-up of the Chairman only said that it is a reminder to the Members of the Council that next year the document will come to us at the June Council. We should take adequate trouble to study it. That was the summing-up of the Chairman, that the Members of the Council should spend adequate time in studying it. You are

giving the impression the Council does not have adequate time in its meetings, or the Council does not give adequate notice for the discussion of the subject. That was in the summing-up, that the Members should give adequate time. I think there is no need to change paragraph 9 at all, and it should be retained as it is.

We have to finish the discussion now, and as a matter of compromise I earlier agreed with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On the first point I have already spoken, and I do not see any point in changing "the majority of the Members". Quite frankly, I believe it is what was said, you were ruling "the majority of members".

On the last point, I certainly did not interpret the suggestion you made as being in any way a diminution of the paragraph 9 sentence. The second sentence means that because of the Council taking this view, when it gets to the Programme of Work and Budget it should give plenty of time for it, so maybe the words need to be precise. I do not regard it as a change in the first sentence, but a supplement of it, thoroughly in line with the meaning of the first sentence.

CHAIRMAN: This is exactly the meaning of what the delegate for Ecuador proposed, and it is a warning to the Secretariat that in shaping the timetable for the forthcoming session, enough time has to be allocated. It is not a criticism, it is just a wish that enough time should be given for consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Does the Council feel that this should be left out?

T.AHMAD (Pakistan): I just wanted you to kindly give us the exact text you propose in paragraph 9.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am suggesting the wording: "The Council considered that the timetable for the next Session should provide adequate time for discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget". It is the second sentence.

CHAIRMAN: I very much hope that this will be acceptable to the Council.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): Nothing new has been proposed in the text by the Deputy Director-General, because of course the June Session of the Council surely provides adequate time for discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This was not the centre of the discussion during this Session of the Council. The proposal was that the next Session of the Council should provide more time to discuss, to make general statements, to analyse, to make general statements on the Programme of Work and Budget, so the June Session of the Conference year was never in question. We always have adequate time to discuss the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, so there is nothing new in that proposition. That was not the subject of the discussion.

CHAIRMAN: I think we should not reopen the issue again, but Mr. West wants to give a further clarification on the issue, and then we must overcome this little problem.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The suggestion I just made was not to reopen the discussion, which I think has just been reopened. It was to provide a conclusion in accordance with the wishes of the delegates who heard the Chairman's summing-up and also the proposal of the delegate of Ecuador.

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, nous ne parvenons pas à sortir de cette difficulté. Je crois pour ma part que, pour ce qui concerne le paragraphe 7, nous sommes finalement parvenus à un accord puisque le mot "majorité" y figure. Par contre, pour le paragraphe 9 je crois

que les ajouts que nous sommes en train de faire ne font que compliquer les choses. A mon avis, je pense qu'il faudrait adopter le paragraphe 9 tel qu'il est libellé, à la rigueur on pourrait accepter ce qui a été proposé par le Comité de rédaction.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Una pregunta simple. ¿La proposición del señor West era sustituir con su proposición el párrafo 9? Nosotros, en este sentido apoyamos totalmente lo propuesto por la delegación del Congo.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Just one question. When you say "In the next Session it should provide adequate time," does that mean in the future sessions it will not provide adequate time for discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget? If that is the case, why not just say "in the future sessions"? Then it means you would provide adequate time for the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget. The question is this, does the Council provide adequate time to discuss it or not? If there is a feeling, then I think the Council should always have adequate time to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget. If you take away the words "next Session" and add "in future sessions adequate time should be provided" I think this is a more neutral statement and will take care of the ideas of everyone.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I suggested an amendment to a proposal made by you, Mr. Chairman, based on the proposal of Ecuador, and on the concluding remarks of the Chairman of Council. What has just been suggested is reopening the substance again. The Council is trying to find a conclusion to the debate, which does not reopen the substance. The amendment just suggested reopens the substance, and in that case I would like to withdraw my suggestion, if you are going to debate instead of ruling on it. It should not be made the victim of attempts to reopen the subject. It was meant as a general conclusion to the debate, based on the Chairman's summing-up and the proposal of Ecuador.

M.NAANANI (Maroc): Je crois que nous nous acheminons vers une réouverture du débat sur ce point 9. Il me semble que le paragraphe 9 tel qu'il est rédigé reflète bien les discussions qui ont eu lieu lors du débat sur ce point-là et c'est pourquoi ma délégation appuie la première proposition du Congo, c'est-à-dire maintenir le paragraphe dans sa rédaction actuelle.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I could never agree that paragraph 9 accurately reflects the way the entire Council felt, because certainly it does not reflect the way my delegation felt, and not the way a substantial number of Members felt. If I remember correctly the Chairman of our Drafting Committee at one point suggested "at this time", or words to that effect. As the paragraph stands now it implies we have arrived at the peak of perfection and nothing has ever to be changed to improve it.

With respect to my friends from the Secretariat, one almost gets the feeling they did not want the governing body to discuss the programmes of the Organization. I cannot possibly say that we want to object to the Council leaving itself the opportunity to examine at any session the Programme of Work and Budget.

What should be said here is that no one representing a sovereign government: could possibly object to that. I simply cannot understand it. Having said that, as far as my government is concerned we certainly feel this Council, representing the sovereign states which make up this Organization, should reserve its right to examine the programmes of this Organization, including the Programme of Work and Budget, and I cannot possibly understand why any Member State here can reject that idea.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Yo creo que estábamos a punto de terminar el asunto. Más, ahora ocurre que tal vez, por alguna forma que propuso el doctor West, realmente no hay acuerdo. Yo, cuando intervino, me refería a la fórmula que usted propuso, que no es exactamente la misma, creo. En todo caso, yo considero que lo medular es si el Consejo tiene o no el criterio de que vayan juntos estos dos pensamientos. Luego ya, sobre la redacción exacta, tal vez podríamos dar paso a lo que propuso el delegado de Colombia para darle una forma conveniente. Pero, definitivamente, ése es el punto; o queda tal como está, o se le agrega como se ha dicho, porque se considera fiel reflejo de lo que verdaderamente ocurrió en el Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: In replying to the United States of America, I must say that Council Members have of course at any time the possibility to give their views on the activities of the Organization: but sometimes of course they are structured in such a way that they do not always refer to the current programme. As the procedure now stands, at least as far as my reading of procedures and practices is concerned, so far the Council Members have a possibility of expressing their views on the Programme of Work and Budget. If in the context of the debate which reopened again there were some differing understandings or differing feelings, it was that some Members felt they could not have an input in or an impact on the current programme after it had been adopted by the Conference about a year ago. But they have the possibility to express their views on the issue once they start reviewing the current Programme of Work and Budget, and they have also the possibility to give their views once the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget is being discussed; first, on the basis of the summary of Programme of Work and Budget discussed by the Programme and Finance Committees, and then by the Council itself at the June Session, and it is there when the input has to be given. Now, it was correct that the Secretariat should be warned and the Council recalled that enough input and enough time should be allocated for such a discussion at the forthcoming Session, and it is always the June Session which deals with the summary Programme of Work and Budget. Then of course it was the intention here by the Independent Chairman, by myself and by Ecuador to recall just that enough time be allocated to that discussion.

Of course, as the delegate of Brazil is right, that the Council has had time in the past to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget, but on the other hand, we also recall that we had quite often agendas which had many, many items and it was rather difficult to get through it. And this was the intention, but now I think we should try to come to an end on that issue and actually I had no objections myself, but I would like ask the delegate of Ecuador in particular, if the second sentence proposed on 9, namely to express the wish that enough time be allocated to the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget at forthcoming Council Session, if this idea is given up, because after all what we have said here will be recorded and taken into consideration; and I am quite sure that the Secretariat will recall this in presenting the agenda for the forthcoming Session. So if the delegate of Ecuador could not insist on that - or another delegation - then we could give up this idea.

We think this paragraph 7 is already adopted and as for paragraph 9, my reading of what was proposed by the Chairman of the drafting group was that the Council accordingly concluded that the present procedures and practices were adequate and did not call for a change.

This is how I had taken this, "and that time was adequate", that it was adequate and did not call for a change at this time. I very much hope that this may be accepted by Council members because otherwise I think we will have to continue and have another debate on it.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): El que originó esto fue el delegado de Brasil, y hemos dedicado algún tiempo al asunto. Yo considero que esto no es perder el tiempo, pero si luego de estar hablando sobre el asunto, lo dejamos tal como está, ahí sí que realmente hemos perdido el tiempo. Entonces, yo estaba en desacuerdo con esa idea, pero sobre el punto numero 9, en verdad, hay un consenso. Por eso, yo propuse la última vez, que continuemos adelante con otros puntos, pero que se establezca que su redacción sea puesta a consideración al final de esta reunión, en base al criterio de que a lo que existe se le agregue esta idea de que el Consejo dedique en el futuro el tiempo suficiente para el estudio de estos asuntos. Nada más. Yo creo que lo fundamental es el criterio de si se queda como está o se agrega eso. Luego la redacción puede ser un asunto que se elabore en el transcurso de las próximas horas, para que al final, quede ya aprobado definitivamente.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): We have given considerable time to these two paragraphs and if we continue like this, I think most of us will have to miss our flights. We would have very much liked to retain paragraph 9 as it is, but in a spirit of accommodation I think it should be acceptable to all of us. My delegation signifies its complete support for the formulation that you have presented which was given by the Chairman of the drafting committee. I think it should be completely acceptable for the moment.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask Ecuador again: do you still feel that we should retain that, or could you also go along with what I expressed, namely that the warning to everybody is given that sufficient time should be dedicated to the discussion and consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget, and that we have full confidence in our Independent Chairman and to the Secretariat, they will allocate sufficient time for the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming Session. And of course, if the Programme of Work and Budget is being dealt with, also for the next sessions.

So my question to you is: do you insist? Or could you, in a spirit of conciliation, also accept that we leave out this idea and just take the one sentence, on the understanding that everybody is aware of what also is going to be expected?

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Aceptando el espíritu que usted invoca, Sr. Presidente, yo siempre lo he tenido, estoy de acuerdo; pero sí es preciso que esta advertencia o esta recomendación no se refiera exclusivamente al próximo período de sesiones, sino a los próximos períodos de sesiones. En todo caso lo importante es que lo que se ha debatido no quede en el aire, sino que en un futuro sea tenido en cuenta. Me parece bien.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Ecuador. I said when the Programme of Work and Budget is being discussed, at these sessions. With that, I do hope very much that we can come to an end with this paragraph. Would the formula I read out just now be acceptable to all of you? Philippines? Do you really insist? It is up to the Council. I had hoped very much that we had reached the point.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I will accept your ruling Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make one small remark, that in the summing up of the Chairman he commented and I read it ten times and I just wanted to know whether my reading was correct. It said, in the last sentence, that: "I appreciate the comments being offered, the comments which have been initiated by Brazil, which show a concern that the Council should put its adequate input into the careful examination of the Programme" -that is a general statement - "an occasion for this could come next June". That means that the conclusion was that there should be always an' adequate input and the June Session is just an occasion. He did not say there should be adequate input only in June.

Nevertheless, I will follow your ruling, Mr. Chairman. I accept the statement of the Chairman at the present stage that it does not require any change and then probably, at some future stage, the door is not closed; and I will accept your ruling.

CHAIRMAN: The paragraph is adopted.

Now I think we have overcome this little problem on paragraph 9.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): If the debate has been so long and we have come to such a late hour, it is certainly not my fault. I would like, however, to avail myself of the right - though perhaps this is a little sadistic at this time. - to go back to paragraph 33. I had the time during this long debate to read PV/13 and I see a discrepancy in figures between what was said here by Mr. Georgiadis and what is mentioned in paragraph 33. Mr. Georgiadis, on page 28 of PV/13, said in the third paragraph: "so far we paid customs duties and demurrage charges totalling \$39 000", whereas here it is said in paragraph 33 that: "the organization has incurred expenditure in excess of \$110 000". I would therefore like to know how these figures combined.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Georgiadis will give clarification on this point when we resume our meeting this afternoon.

Paragraphs 1-35 Not concluded

Les paragraphes 1-35 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1-35 quedan pendientes

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL
CL 82/PV/19

Eight-second Session

Quatre-vingt-deuxième session

82° período de sesiones

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

19ª SESION PLENARIA

(3 December 1982)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,
W.A.F. Grabisch, vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures sous la
présidence de W.A.F. Grabisch, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la presidencia
de W.A.F. Grabisch, Vicepresidente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI (continued)
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VI (suite)
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 35 (continued)
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 35 (suite)
PARRAFOS 1 a 35 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The one issue left from REP/6 was to get the information on paragraph 33 and if you agree I would call on Mr. Georgiadis to give the information which was asked for by the delegate of Italy.

A.Ç. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): The delegate of Italy has raised a valid point in connexion with the figures in that one part of the sum of \$100 000 was not actually mentioned. It is due to the purchase of photocopy paper in the local market in excess of the price of imported paper. I had mentioned that fact during the debate but I did not give the figure which is \$18 930. Therefore the total is \$115 930 and that explains why in the report we had inserted a sum of "in excess of \$110 000". However, it is also true that the \$58 000 mentioned in storage and customs due have not yet been paid. They are in respect of goods lying in customs for which the licence has not yet been granted. On the other hand they will have to be paid when the goods are cleared, they cannot be avoided. So I was wondering if to reflect the fact more precisely the Council would adopt the following wording which could read: "The Council was also informed that despite steps taken by the Director-General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there had been no change in this attitude of the customs authorities. As a result of which the Organization had so far incurred additional costs (in storage and other charges) in excess of \$110 000, of which \$57 000 had already been paid and a sum in excess of \$58 000 was due but not yet disbursed." The remaining sentence would remain unchanged, is this acceptable to the Delegate of Italy.

On the same subject, the next paragraph 34, the delegate of Italy had suggested an addition of a phrase in the morning which started reading "The delegate of the host government stressed the fact that delays had sometimes occurred" etc. I wonder if Italy would accept the deletion of the words "the fact" because during the debate the Secretariat had contested such fact, and examples were given. If this is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: I recognize the consent of the delegate of Italy.

Paragraphs 1 to 35, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 35, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 35, así enmendados, son aprobados
Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie VI, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VII
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16
PARAGRAPHES 1 a 16
PARRAFOS 1 a 16

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I would just like to know generally for the sake of my colleagues here in the room, that in fact if one were to redo or rewrite CL 82/LIM/1 the number of countries with outstanding contributions to FAO would have to be reduced by one, having announced the other day that an alternative use of the American assessment might be to distribute it directly to Member States in which case we could give as much as a million dollars to each country who is not a member of OECD but is a member of the Council, or \$400 000 to each non-OECD member who is not a member of the FAO. Not having had any takers we have made our final payment to FAO in the amount of \$847 589.69. We did that last night.

CHAIRMAN: Your information is well taken but as far as I can see it does not need any change in the report, but thank you very much for that information.

Paragraphs 1 to 16 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 17 to 23

PARAGRAPHES 17 à 23

PARRAFOS 17 a 23

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos referirnos al párrafo 18; más que todo sería una pregunta al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y también a nuestros colegas del Consejo. ¿Acaso no podríamos aceptar que el párrafo 18 terminara donde se dice "70 despachos en el octavo piso del edificio D", poner un punto y suprimir todo lo demás?, ya que dice que se decidió que se abandonara definitivamente, por que no sabemos que' puede pasar en el futuro efectivamente. Es decir, que el párrafo 18 termine donde dice "70 despachos en el octavo piso del edificio D" y punto.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais dire que j'appuie la proposition de la Colombie. Je ne vois pas pourquoi on a ajouté ce membre de phrase parce que, en fait, nous n'avons rien décidé à ce sujet.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal made by Colombia and supported by Congo. I hope that the Chairman of the Drafting Committee will concur with me that we should delete the rest of the sentence and stop the sentence with 'building D'. This would improve the text, it would leave the doors open, and it would also contribute to saving money because a little less paper will be used and less words spelled out here in the report. Paragraph 18, as amended, is adopted. We come to paragraphs 19 and 20.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I have a very minor addition to make to paragraph 20 - "The Council acknowledged ... and welcomed the announced increase in the voluntary contribution of the government by 50 percent, namely from 300 million lire to 450 million lire for 1982-or in 1982".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que la redente intervención del colega de Italia es exacta y justamente era lo que justificaba nuestra propuesta. Creo que se dijo en el debate y me parece que esto corresponde a los hechos, que los 300 millones de liras que originalmente ofreció el gobierno italiano y que ahora van a ser 450 millones fueron ofrecidos para compensar, para contribuir al pago de arriendos, al pago de arriendos en que

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal. Are there any objections to changing the order in this context, having first the President of the Council of Ministers and then the Minister of Foreign Affairs? I see no objection, so the proposal of Colombia is well taken. Paragraph 21 is adopted. We come now to paragraph 22.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Esta propuesta nuestra se refiere sólo al texto español, porque he chequeado el inglés, pero como tiene alguna significación, creo que bastaría haberla señalado a la Secretaría.. En el texto español, al final del párrafo 22, se dice "por un lado" primero, y luego "y el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros por otro". Creemos que esas dos expresiones deben suprimirse y decir simplemente, como se dice en inglés, "a través del Ministerio de Asuntos" Exteriores entre el Director General y el Grupo de Trabajo nombrado por la Conferencia y el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros". Suprimir las palabras "por un lado" y también "por el otro".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je comprends bien ce que veut dire M. Bula Hoyos, mais, ainsi corrigé, le texte français laisse supposer que le Groupe de travail a été créé par la Conférence et le Président du Conseil des ministres. C'est un peu curieux. Donc, je crois que ce sont les entrevues entre le Directeur général et le Groupe de travail créé par la Conférence et aussi le Président du Conseil des ministres, ou alors des entrevues du Directeur général et du Groupe de travail créé par la Conférence avec le Président du Conseil des ministres. A ce moment-là ce sera parfaitement clair.

CHAIRMAN: I think we can leave it to the Secretariat to bring the Spanish and French texts in line with the English version. Please go on with paragraph 23.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la mitad del párrafo 23, se dice que "se mantuviera como tema del Programa de los futuros períodos de sesiones del Consejo hasta que se dispusiera de los otros locales necesarios". "Se dispusiera ", esto da la impresión de que vamos a tratar este tema aquí en el

Consejo hasta cuando se ponga la última teja, hasta cuando se cierre la última puerta o las ventanas de los nuevos edificios. Creo que sería más acertado decir "hasta que se tuviera seguridad de una solución satisfactoria". Porque una vez tengamos la seguridad de una solución satisfactoria, aunque no veamos todavía el techo de los edificios, pues ya no vamos a seguir tratando este asunto.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think that Colombia is right: if a satisfactory solution is found to the problem it does not need to come to the Council any more.

CHAIRMAN: Would you agree on that?

Paragraphs 17 to 23, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 23, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 23, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VII, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie VII, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VII, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VIII

INFORME PROVISIONAL - PARTE VIII

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I just wanted to make a brief observation on REP/8 as such before we go into any items. The chronological order has unfortunately been mixed up in this report. You start with 19.2 and then go on to 19.4 and then you have 19.3. I do not know why. Unless there is some design in doing this it would seem to be much better to have 19.2, 19.3, 19.4.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce désordre apparent est dû au fait que les dernières phrases ont été pré- parées très rapidement et ce désordre peut aussi résulter du fait qu'il est plus facile de rédiger un petit projet se rapportant à une question telle que celle qui constitue les paragraphes 1 et 2 qu'une autre qui se rapporte à un sujet plus long. De toute façon ce n'est qu'une situation temporaire puisque,, quand on va remettre le rapport en état, l'ordre normal sera rétabli.

CHAIRMAN: Is Pakistan satisfied? I understand that once the final report is printed, then the order will be rearranged so as to look more logical.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraph 10, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 10, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 10, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 13

PARAGRAPHES 11 à 13

PARRAFOS 11 a 13

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): As I mentioned even yesterday, we have great deference for Mr. West's opinion, and he was the one who suggested to begin with the linking of the two issues, but it was finally decided that it was an independent matter altogether, so I do not see any reason for linking this again in paragraph 11. We could easily finish paragraph 11 by saying "The Council considered the abolition of the Regional Commission for Farm Management for the Far East". We do not have to say that it was considered independently. Of course, it was considered independently, but the moment you link here you give the implication that there is some linking between, and we decided that there was not, so my solution is that paragraph 11 should end at "Far East" and the rest of the portion may be deleted.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je pense au contraire qu'il vaut mieux le laisser parce que, indirectement, dans les documents de base que nous avons eus pour les discussions au Conseil, il y avait une certaine liaison et c'est ce qui a amené d'ailleurs les interventions interférant un peu de l'une à l'autre. Au contraire, il est bon de dire que le Conseil a considéré la suppression comme une question indépendante de la création puisque de manière un peu erronée les documents avaient établi sur certains points un lien entre la suppression et la création.

CHAIRMAN: I recall that France quoted from the particular document where a link had been made, but I also recognize, if I got it correctly, that you said as a question independent of the establishment of another Regional Commission. Am I correct? So then, according to what you suggested, the rest on food security for Asia and the Pacific would not have to be in.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): With due deference I do not want to belabour the point, but this is precisely what the members of the Council coming from the Asian Region pointed out, that it was unfair to link the two issues together and we were protesting the fact that they were linked together. We were suggesting that they should be dealt with independently of one another, that 19.3 was a separate item and 19.4 was a separate item. We thought it was prejudging the issue, both the issues, by linking them together. Abolition of a commission and establishment of a commission should be taken entirely on its merits, merits of whether you should need a new commission. If you do not need a new commission, do not establish it. If you do not need an established commission, abolish it. That is why we thought it was unfair to link the two things together. Therefore that is why we suggest, and it was after discussion, and the Secretariat pointed out - I remember Mr. West pointed out himself - that okay, they were independent issues of each other. That is why we suggested that we should take the first as independent of the second, and in paragraph 11 we should not have this reference to the establishment of the Food Security Commission which is being dealt with, if I may recall, in about 8, 10 paragraphs themselves, so why do we need that Commission in paragraph 11? We strongly suggest that it should end there and we should have only a reference to the abolition of the Far East Commission.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I hesitated to enter into this debate with my good friend Pakistan, but my recollection is that the papers presented to the Council would confirm what France has said, and I believe therefore that for those who may be reading this report in relation to the papers presented, it in fact is right what France said; to make it clear that notwithstanding that fact, the Council did decide that these were two independent questions.

I wonder whether Pakistan would consider that the second half of the sentence could be left if after the words "Asia and the Far East" something like the words "which it" are added, its being the Council, "considered to be a question independent of", etc. This would reflect then a view that the Council in effect expressed.

CHAIRMAN: Does this satisfy Pakistan?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): As a matter of fact, the combination of the French and the English formulations would be much better, and that would make me happier, and I hope that makes France and England equally happy. If we could have that plus the French suggestion that instead of referring to one particular Commission on Food Security you say "which it considered to be a question independent of the establishment of a new Commission".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): A la rigueur on peut accepter cette formule, mais elle pose une question de principe. On peut toujours supprimer une Commission sans que ce soit lié à la création d'une autre commission. Mais dans le cas présent, je dis que dans les documents de base que nous avons sous les yeux, on nous a dit qu'on allait supprimer la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie et en même temps que cela nous permettrait, par les économies ainsi réalisées, de financer la création de la Commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire. Alors, si on s'en tient au simple point de vue des faits de ce que nous avons eu comme indications, indications erronées, je le reconnais, mais indications tout de même, il est bon de dire que la suppression est indépendante de la création de la commission de la sécurité alimentaire. En tout cas je n'ai pas l'intention sur ce point de prolonger le débat pendant trois heures.

CHAIRMAN: Pakistan, you said you would not belabour the issue any further. Could you live with the last part on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific being left out, or do you have strong feelings about that?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I could also live with the formulation as it is, but I was only suggesting what I thought had actually occurred during the debate, and since my French and English colleagues are kind enough to have agreed to the modified formulation, I see no other problem, unless there is somebody else who feels strongly about it.

CHAIRMAN: I think then we will adopt that paragraph with the amendment put forward by the United Kingdom, and also agree to the compromise proposal "which it considered independently of the establishment of a new Regional Commission".

Paragraphs 11 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 and 15

PARAGRAPHES 14 et 15

PARRAFOS 14 y 15

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): A small amendment: I would suggest to insert in paragraph 15, first line, after Shri Ramadahr and between "service" to insert a word "distinguished" service.

CHAIRMAN: You have the proposal made by Yugoslavia recalling what was said yesterday, and I think nobody wants to speak against such a proposal being inserted.

Paragraphs 14 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 16 approved
Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé
El párrafo 16 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 17 to 21
PARAGRAPHERS 17 a 21
PARRAFOS 17 a 21

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): My delegation would like to see just one word changed and that is the word "adoption", which should be changed to "decision", so that the first sentence in paragraph 21 will read, "The Council decided that the Draft Guidelines should be submitted directly to the 22nd Session of the Conference for its consideration and decision". This in fact would conform to the format that was used in all of the documents that are presented to the Council where we have on the first page or second page a summary of those items in the document that are for our consideration and/or decision, but to use other words which seem to imply a prior decision by this body or which would tend to prejudge the decision of the Conference we do not think is proper and correct at this point because it does not reflect the discussion that took place here.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Participamos en el Grupo de contacto y tratamos estas cosas con mucho cuidado para evitar cualquier nuevo debate. Pensamos que el colega de los Estados Unidos ha explicado muy bien sus razones y tal vez con la palabra "aprobación", estamos diciendo que vamos a prejuzgar los resultados de la Conferencia. Creemos que "decision" es un término adecuado. Por tanto aprobamos la propuesta de Estados Unidos.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I am extremely sorry, I have no desire to entangle myself into any debate with the delegate from the United States of America or the delegate from Colombia, and I do not want to prolong the debate. The fact is the Guidelines were considered by the Contact Group of the Council, which is sending them back to the Council for adoption.

I would briefly draw your attention to paragraph 17 of this document. Here it says that in 1975 the Conference adopted the Guidelines, and the Conference requires the Guidelines to be revised so that they can be re-adopted. It has to be re-adopted by the Conference, so I feel the word "adopted" is necessary here.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je crois qu'il faudrait dire "décision", parce que nous ne pouvons pas savoir si la décision sera positive ou négative.

Pour répondre au délégué du Pakistan, et me basant sur le par. 17, je dirai que son interprétation est quelque peu tendancieuse. En effet, "la Conférence à sa 20ème sesión (celle de 1979) était convenue qu'il était nécessaire d'examiner et de réviser les lignes d'orientation relatives à l'ajustement agricole international compte tenu des faits nouveaux intervenus depuis leur adoption en 1975".

Il fallait donc examiner et naturellement réviser les lignes d'orientation.

Qui peut me dire que les lignes que nous avons ainsi préparées, ainsi révisées correspondent à ce que veut la Conférence? Personne ne peut à l'avance nous dire que nous avons bien fait notre travail..

Il faut donc que nous laissons à la Conférence le soin de prendre la décision, positive ou négative, et non pas que nous le lui recommandions en quelque sorte d'adopter notre travail, ce qui serait peut-être présomptueux de notre part.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Council seems to be running into the same difficulties the Drafting Committee had. There were those who wanted "consideration" and those who wanted "adoption", so we put both "consideration" and "adoption" because clearly, as it said, there were those who wanted "consideration" and those who wanted "adoption". Perhaps that could be considered, as the delegate of the United States of America said, but we had the words and we managed to put both in for consideration, and you may adapt or correct.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of France made a particularly valuable point. No one wishes to exclude that positive developments could take place between now and the Conference, and it is the Conference which is sovereign to do what it wishes to do with what is being presented to the Conference

by the Council. As we normally also see in the agendas for the Conference and Council, items are always presented for information and/or decision, so I think the meaning would be more or less the same because the Conference would adopt the proposal if it felt happy with it, and if not it would reconsider it.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I have no intention of trying to prolong the debate or lead us into the same sort of bog we were in this morning. I should like to support the delegates of France and the United States on this point.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On the question of procedure, it is true that items are placed before the Council for discussion or decision. It is also true that Council transmits resolutions or texts to the Conference for adoption. This does not mean the Conference has to adopt them. If they wish, they can say no, but they generally recommend resolutions for adoption. There are other resolutions for adoption, so I do not think the procedural point is the right one.

As for the word "adoption", the Chairman in his summing-up did use the word very emphatically.

S. HASAN AHMAD (Bangladesh): What I was going to say was almost in connection with the point Mr West has just stated. May I read this sentence: "Council decided the draft Guidelines should be submitted direct to the next session of the Conference for its discussion and adoption". If we replace "adoption" by "decision" it seems to me that the sentence remains somewhat incomplete, but the sense will not be incomplete because in that case the Council would be asked to decide the Guidelines as a matter of fact. After consideration it might be all right, and if the decision is given it has to be a decision by adoption.

What the Council does is adopt or not adopt a thing. I hope the intention of adoption would be more meaningful.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo comparto desde luego los deseos del colega de Pakistán y del colega de Bangladesh en el sentido de que la Conferencia apruebe estas orientaciones; sin embargo, creo que conviene hacer notar que el término "decisión" no excluye la aprobación; todo lo contrario, la Conferencia va a examinar las orientaciones y luego va a tomar una decisión y ojalá que sea la aprobación; pero creo que el término "decisión" es adecuado y corresponde a la situación.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I asked for the floor originally simply to support the delegate of France in what I thought was a very eloquent description of why the word "decision" would be retained. However, having heard the Deputy Director-General I wonder if, in fact, I am wrong in believing the word "adoption" would only be appropriate if the Council were rewriting its text for adoption. What the Council is doing in this case is simply saying the text should be submitted to the Conference.

As the delegates for the United States and France have said, and others, the word keeps the issue open. The Conference could decide, in the light of events over the last twelve months, and the matter could be taken back for further effort. Heaven help us if it did. I think the right word is really "decision".

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): As far as I remember, when Council adopts a text and submits it to the Conference, it is normally for adoption. We recommend to the Conference to adopt - to consider and adopt. Conference, of course, is an autonomous and independent body and can adopt or not adopt the submitted proposals, and my feeling is that the language used in the first sentence is appropriate as drafted.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I am now very reluctant to take the floor because we are talking of the English language, and as there is the United Kingdom and the United States talking, what can Pakistan say?

But as the Deputy Director-General has pointed out, if you really read the sentence it is "for consideration and adoption". The Conference will consider. Before the USA took the floor I was going to suggest the abolition of the words "for consideration" and the retention of "for adoption", but now the US has come up with the amendment and there is consideration of this, etc., we would be happy to leave the sentence as it is because there are two aspects to it.

First is the consideration. While considering the Conference can reject and send it back for decision, and then adopt it. If you want the word "decision" here, what will the Conference do with the Guidelines? If it approves the Guidelines, then it will adopt them. The decision part is included in the consideration part. So you have the two aspects included in the two words. The first will be "consideration" and the second will be "adoption", and I see no difficulty with that, and I suggest it should be left as it is.

CHAIRMAN: My personal feeling is that the Council can submit directly to the Conference only already cleared texts. In this case I think there is still one little space in it, one part in brackets, which might be considered before it is to be adopted. This is one of the main reasons why probably this item will first, before going to the Plenary of the Conference, have to go to Commission I, and there action will be taken.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): I am always grateful to my friend from Pakistan, who assures me in eloquent King's English that he does not really understand the language and then proceeds to cut me into smithereens or slash me to pieces.

I am also grateful to him for the wonderful compromise he thought up like King Solomon's compromise of cutting the baby in half. It does not matter if the child dies, but at least it is a compromise.

I was impressed by the delegate of Bangladesh who said it would leave the matter incomplete. He said "to adopt or not to adopt". In fact I thought Mr West came up with the best solution, and it would be eminently clear. He said "We send these things to the Conference for adoption or rejection," so why we do not reinstate the word and send it first for consideration or adoption or rejection, and that is completely fair and unbiased and reflects the debate that took place in this distinguished body among the unbiased friends I have here.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'étais effectivement tenté d'accepter le texte tel qu'il nous est présenté. Mais après les interventions d'un certain nombre de délégués, je pense également qu'il n'est pas possible, au niveau du Conseil, de présager de la position qu'aura la Conférence à l'égard de nos lignes d'orientation.

C'est pour cela que je pense que l'on pourrait plutôt retenir la formulation suivante: "pour examen et adoption éventuelle".

N. KISHORE (India): My delegation also feels that the adoption word should be there because this is preceded by the word consideration; because first, this Conference will consider. In ordinary parlance, in office parlance we say a draft is submitted for consideration and approval, so unless positive action by some authorities is taken into consideration and not negative, then we say: this draft is submitted for approval or rejection. Therefore let us take the positive type of action required by some higher authority. My delegation therefore feels this adoption word should be retained.

E. SCHROEDER (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to support the original amendment proposed by the delegate of the United States. I would like to draw attention of the Council to the fact that the Council did not deal with the substance of the revised guidelines. The Contact Group which succeeded in elaborating the new guidelines did bring it before the Council, but the Council itself did not deal with the substance. Therefore I think that it should not be sent to the Conference for adoption because for such a transmission it would be necessary for the Council itself to have adopted it here. But it has not dealt with the substance and therefore I think this is an argument for retaining or inserting the word decision.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'avais le privilège de faire partie du groupe de contact et un certain nombre de mes collègues ici présents se souviendront de ce que j'avais été amené à dire à la fin du groupe de contact, de la suggestion que nous avons faite à M. Islam quant à ce document

et à la suite de ce document. Pour autant que mes souvenirs soient bons, d'une part aucun de nos collègues au groupe de contact n'a contredit ce que j'ai été amené à exposer mais au contraire l'a approuvé et c'est la ligne que M. Nurul Islam lui-même a suivie lorsqu'il a présenté le document au Conseil. Il nous a dit et c'est ce que je lui avais indiqué, que le groupe de contact avait rempli son mandat vis-à-vis du Conseil et, c'est-à-dire sur le plan technique, faire disparaître les crochets des différentes lignes d'orientation pour lesquelles des crochets subsistaient, ou., dans un cas particulier, celui concernant le Fonds monétaire, de le mettre en harmonie avec les récentes décisions. Nous lui avons aussi recommandé qu'en présentant ce document au Conseil il indique qu'il lui paraissait opportun que ce document soit transmis purement et simplement à la Conférence, et il n'a pas dit, pour adoption, pour examen, etc. mais soit transmis purement et simplement à la Conférence en exécution du mandat que la Conférence avait donné au Conseil. Ce qui sous-entendait bien évidemment que cette transmission faite en vertu du mandat, la Conférence se saisisse de ce document et en fasse ce qu'elle juge bon. C'est-à-dire, elle l'adopte, elle le refuse. Donc si on veut refléter véritablement ce que nous avons fait au groupe de contactée que le président du groupe de contact a exposé au Conseil, c'est tout simplement "le Conseil décide que les projets de lignes d'orientation" et "devraient être soumis directement à la Conférence à sa vingt-deuxième session". Point final. C'est à ce moment là que la Conférence décide ce qu'elle fait.

R.A. SORENSON (United States of America): Really I appeal to my colleagues in the room to display a sense of fair play because logically, it makes no sense and certainly it would not be fair to those of us who feel that perhaps our governments still want to have the option of considering this question, to try and lock us into the appearance of having made a decision here. For example, if I were to be so absurd as to propose seriously to the Council that an alternative form of wording might be that we forward it to the Conference for its consideration and rejection, surely my colleagues from Pakistan and other countries would rise up in arms and say how outrageously unfair that we should so prejudge the outcome of the thing.

But surely they must see that to have a phraseology which says 'for consideration and adoption' is equally absurd and unfair. I would suggest that we are really going round and round on this because it is transparently an effort to lock some of us, our governments, into a decision. Though I hope they will adopt it, I simply cannot prejudge it and I think that we must really, out of a sense of fair play and balance, either say 'for its consideration', full stop; 'for its consideration and decision', full stop; 'for its consideration, adoption and/or rejection', full stop. Or something like that, that does not prejudge the outcome.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): The appeal of the delegate of the United States has gone straight to my heart, so may I, as a compromise, suggest another alternative which I hope would meet the requirements of the United States delegation. I must confess that the idea is borrowed from my neighbour, the delegate of Norway, that we say: "its consideration and possible adoption." So you have the word 'possible' adoption there, the positive thing that the other delegates are worried about; and it would meet our concern also.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, recordará usted que cuando el señor Islam presento el informe del Grupo de Contacto que él presidió yo fui el primero de los oradores que intervinieron en el debate; concluí mi intervención, aquí tengo el acta respectiva, con la siguiente solicitud: pedí textualmente que el Consejo se limite a transmitir a la Conferencia este texto que le hemos presentado en el LIM/4, eso dije yo y recordarán que durante el debate en varias ocasiones el Presidente Swaminathan tuvo la gentileza de repetir la propuesta de Colombia y de insistir ante el Consejo que estuviera de acuerdo. La forma amplia de aceptación que tuvo en el Consejo justifica plenamente la propuesta que hace Estados Unidos. Creo que en realidad no nos conviene ir a los extremos en defensa de ciertos principios que yo comparto también.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, we are all trying to make your task easier, but I fear we may be making it far too complicated with a large number of options. I had asked for the floor before the delegate of France spoke because in a sense I believe he is right, one could say that this is submitted directly 'to the Conference for consideration', full stop. However, I recognize that leaves open the very issue we are trying to debate which is a question of the use of one word or another, adoption or decision. If a word cannot be deleted without detracting from the sense, there is sometimes virtue in trying to use both of them, and although this is in fact another formulation which is probably along the lines of the delegate of Pakistan's last suggestion - and I hope it will not be thought facetious - one could say: "for adoption if it so decides," full stop.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for contributing so constructively to our work.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No sabemos qué se está discutiendo porque si hay una decisión del Consejo de someter esto a la Conferencia para su examen creemos que la Conferencia tiene que tomar una decisión. Yo estoy totalmente de acuerdo que si no quiere dejarse solamente la aprobación por temerse que este párrafo del Consejo le de una orden a la Conferencia, que tiene que aprobarlo, podíamos aceptar que se ponga "la aprobación o no por la Conferencia", porque creo que no debemos pretender que la Conferencia lo examine para tomar nota, sino para decidir.

CHAIRMAN: I have a personal feeling that perhaps the formula put forward by the United Kingdom could meet the concerns of all around, so I am just wondering, shall I read it to you? The United Kingdom proposed "for its consideration and adoption if it so decides." This is the proposal put forward by the United Kingdom and it seems to cover the points which have been made without pre-empting whatever decision is going to be taken, whatever possible amendments could be made, and so on.

J. THICAYA (Congo): En fait, c'était pour appuyer ce que vous venez de dire parce que la proposition du Royaume-Uni ne fait que rejoindre la proposition que j'avais faite moi-même en disant qu'il fallait examiner et adopter "éventuellement". Je pense que "s'il le juge nécessaire" ou "éventuellement" c'est la même chose. Donc je propose qu'on adopte ce libellé dans la mesure même où en vérifiant le procès-verbal j'ai noté que M. le Président lui-même a utilisé le mot "adoption", alors je crois que la proposition est bienvenue.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for giving your approval to a marriage of your own proposal with the one of the United Kingdom.

Paragraphs 17 to 21, as amended, approved
les paragraphes 17 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 17 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 24 approved
Les paragraphes 22 à 24 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 22 a 24 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 25
PARAGRAPH 25
PARRAFO 25

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Only a slight modification of language in the English text. In the third line it says "And lately Deputy Executive Director". I believe they want to say "Recently", "till recently Deputy Executive Director". In the last sentence "The Council wished them a very happy retirement" I would suggest amending that by saying "The Council wished them a very happy retired life".

CHAIRMAN: Both amendments seem to improve the text.

Paragraph 25, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 25, ainsi amendé est approuvé
El párrafo 25, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VIII, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la plènière, Partie VIII, ainsi amendé est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VIII, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IX
PROJET DE RAPPORT PARTIE IX
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARfITTX

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 18
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 18
PARRAFOS 1 a 18

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I really have quite large and substantial amendments to this item. However, taking into account that some of the delegates have already nicely planned their weekends and returns I think I should retrieve some of the proposal which I have in mind, for the time being at least. However, going to paragraph 2, I have just one minor change and that is on line 3, after the word "Italy", we have "However, on the suggestion" and my addition would be to write the word "written" before the word "suggestion".

CHAIRMAN: I think this is a factual statement which was expressed here so I think there will not be any objection. I see none. Paragraph 5 adopted. Paragraphs 6 to 11?

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I refer to paragraph 9, the second part "And that the parties had at that time clearly not envisaged that FAO's immunity" etc., etc. Certainly as far as Italy is concerned we cannot say now what was in our mind about this. It is not even in my instructions. If the memory of FAO is that good we have no objection or we have no need to make any but as far as Italy is concerned we certainly do not have such a good recollection, therefore we propose to delete this part and make a full stop after "concluded".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I understand that the issue as far as the host government is concerned, is obviously a sensitive question for the present Italian representatives but I would suggest that it should be retained in a different form because the Headquarters Agreement was, of course, concluded with the agreement of the Council and, I presume, the Conference and therefore it would be fair to say I think "and that the member governments at that time had clearly not envisaged" and this would not be too speculative since the Member Governments now do not consider it to be this way and they certainly did not at the time. That were substitute "the parties" in the third line with "the Member Governments".

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I would like to clarify for Mr West that this is not only my concern, this is an instruction from my Ministry that I have quoted and so therefore it is a position of the government or of the administration so this doubt should be cleared as far as Italy is concerned. Therefore this is why under the words "parties" or even "Member Governments" Italy would be included and this is not a point that I can accept, according to my instructions.

CHAIRMAN: One could say also "and that Member states" instead of saying "the Member state".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Well I think your suggestion would be valid. An alternative one which I was going to suggest, "the governing bodies" which does not necessarily include Italy but includes a majority.

CHAIRMAN: Now the proposal made by Mr West would be "and that the governing bodies at that time had clearly not envisaged". With the explanation and clarification given by Mt West I wonder if this would be acceptable to Italy.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I am very sorry to prolong this debate. We have already suffered enough. I hope we will get out of this entanglement very quickly. The wording disturbed me a little bit because how could the governing bodies clearly envisage what the Corte di Cassazione decided? There is a linkage here that seems to be a bit strange, so really I do not see how this wording, even if modified could stand,

CHAIRMAN: I was just wondering myself if we could make a full stop after "concluded" and start with a new sentence and reword that sentence.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): Yo pienso que luego de lo que se ha propuesto se debería tener un poco más de cuidado en la redacción del punto 7, el cual dice que el Consejo fue de la opinión que la cuestión del alcance de inmunidad etc., dependía principalmente de la interpretación del Artículo, si esto queda exactamente así. Se podría entender que el Consejo está aceptando que depende de la interpretación. Ahora ¿quién debe interpretar, el Consejo, el Parlamento italiano, la Corte di Cassazione, la Corte Internacional de La Haya?

Esto deja la puerta abierta, la palabra "interpretación" a un problema en el futuro. Yo pienso que, de acuerdo a lo que se trató aquí en el Consejo y que fue el espíritu y la idea prevaleciente, se debe decir que el Consejo fue de la opinión que la cuestión del alcance y la inmunidad dependía principalmente del texto del Artículo tal . '...', porque cuando un texto es claro no se puede interpretar, acudiendo a otras fuentes que no sean el mismo texto. Esa es mi sugerencia.

CHAIRMAN: Your suggestion would probably be an improvement of the text and if it would not pose any difficulty to member states I think we could then amend the text of paragraph 7, although we had already finished with paragraph 7 but we could improve it in that way as you suggested. I have • the feeling that this does not help up very much with paragraph 9.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): Could we have the rewording of Article VIII in English.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think in English it simply changes the word "interpretation" to "text" and so "turned principally on the text of Article VIII", which I think is quite correct.

On paragraph 9, if I may continue, we are anxious to avoid making things more difficult but I think this is an important point. We understand that the Italian government does not wish to be associated with this though and I accept that, so I think we could say "It was also felt that the governing bodies could not at that time have envisaged" which is as much a statement of fact as of speculation. It could not have envisaged what would happen. That is perfectly true. So a new sentence, "It was also felt that the Governing Body could not at that time have envisaged ..."

CHAIRMAN: And then continue to the end of the sentence. I would like to ask Italy if, put in such a more neutral manner, he can go along with this amendment.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): Yes, because I feel that otherwise we would be here until tomorrow. So I accept.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation. With the amendment read out, paragraph 9 is adopted.

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): The third line of paragraph 14 after 'of the Italian courts', I would like to add 'in the light of Article VIII, Section 17, of the Headquarters Agreement..

CHAIRMAN: I recall that you yourself referred to the same Article in your intervention.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I do not have that Article in my notes. I wonder if I could have it read, the one referring to the proposal advanced by Italy. However, you were too fast, Mr. Chairman, and I could not get you on paragraph 13.

CHAIRMAN: First, the text which is being referred to in paragraph 14, you can find in paragraph 7. Please go ahead on paragraph 13.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I thought it was not the same Section that was mentioned. Anyway, I attribute that to myself. On paragraph 13 we have after the words 'the Pretura Civile di Roma' words which read '(the claim for arrears)'. It is my proposal that instead of '(the claim for arrears)' we insert '(the claim for arrears of rent increased unilaterally and decided by the owners of Building F)'. I do not know whether the English is clear, but the idea is to have there that the increase of the rents was decided unilaterally by the owners of Building F, and that is a matter of fact, in the sense that it was clarified by the Director-General of FAO, and moreover the owners of Building F refused to comply with the terms of the contract which they had signed which specified that in the case of contention they should resort to arbitration.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I appreciate the point made and fully support the sense of it, but I think it is rather difficult to put it in the parentheses here. The origin of the claim is fully explained in the earlier part of the report, so I think it would be sufficient here and would get across the point made by the delegate if you said in the parentheses instead of what is there now "(the claim for retroactive increases made by INPDAI)". This does not bring in any judgement about their motives.

CHAIRMAN: I recognize the remarks of the delegate of Angola, but Italy ...

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): I simply wanted to tell you that I endorse the proposal made by Mr. West.

CHAIRMAN: With this amendment we adopt paragraph 13. Paragraphs 15 to 17?

S.S. BALANZINO (Italy): This is the last amendment I have to propose on the whole paper, to reassure you. It is on paragraph 17. After the first sentence, which ends "FAO's immunity", I would like to add another sentence which reads as follows: "He also mentioned the possibility of implementing Article XVII, Section 35, of the Headquarters Agreement, which provides for an arbitration clause". Then it continues: "The Council noted with satisfaction...." etc.

CHAIRMAN: I see no objection to the proposed text, with perhaps one little amendment, just to say "which provides for arbitration" and just leave out the clause. Could you agree on that? I recognize the consent of Italy. We have adopted paragraph 17. Now paragraphs 18 and 19, with the proposal of the text for a resolution. You will recall that a text has been drafted by our Independent Chairman and the text before you to my knowledge corresponds to the text proposed by the Independent Chairman with some little arrangements with regard to the paragraphs of the text.

Paragraphs 1 to 18, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 18, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés.

Los párrafos 1 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 19 including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 19, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 19 incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Since you have adopted this report and the resolution, I just wanted to thank the Council, and especially the delegate of the host country, who has shown a very constructive spirit, both in the debate and on this report.

Paragraphs 20 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 20 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 24 son aprobados

Paragraphs 25 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28 approved

Le paragraphe 28 est approuvé

El párrafo 28 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX, as amended, was ; adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie IX, ainsi amende, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IX, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Now I feel that this almost brings our Session to a close.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Director-General would like to have been with you today, but it has not been possible because he had to leave Rome on an urgent duty mission, so he asks me to say a few words on his behalf. He wanted me particularly to say that he was grateful to all of you for your support and encouragement and above all your advice during this Council Session. We at this Council Session have reported to you more or less on what we have been doing during the past year and on important developments which have occurred elsewhere, and we have received counsel and instructions from you on what we have done and what we should do in the future, which is the function of the Council. We are very grateful for this guidance, and we will follow it faithfully.

The new room, this room, has permitted more intimate and closer exchanges than was possible in the old room. We have been brought down in height to a more fitting level, and you have been put together in a more friendly manner, and this has facilitated your discussions. I was going to say earlier that there have been not only friendly but warm discussions. In fact, now I can say that they have even been hot discussions at some time, but they have always been friendly, and the Secretariat appreciates very much the way you have allowed us to participate. Our participation was perhaps most notable outside the room, in particular in the Contact Group on the Guidelines. This is an example of the role which the Secretariat can play in promoting understanding and consensus among delegations, and it is our hope that this method of working can be developed in future in relation to other important items. It certainly shows what can be done with good will on all sides. We hope that this good will and this spirit of consensus, this spirit of conciliation and consensus will extend to the important work which the Director-General will now be undertaking in the next few weeks in preparing his proposals for the next Programme of Work and Budget.

Before I finish, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a special word about the chairmanship of this Council. The independent chairman has left and I think we all expressed our thanks to him before he did so. The Vice-Chairmen have therefore in his absence played a vital role, not least yourself today with unfailing patience, with unfailing courtesy, with unfailing understanding for the views of all sides and with tolerance for myself as well.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for what you have done to bring this Council Session to a successful conclusion, and so, Mr. Chairman, I wish you and all the other delegates who came from abroad a safe return home, and I wish all of you on behalf of the Director-General and the staff a Happy New Year until we meet again.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Deputy Director-General, for your kind words.

I recognize El Salvador who wishes to speak on behalf of the Latin-American and Caribbean Group.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente, el grupo latinoamericano se encuentra particularmente satisfecho de la forma en que se ha desarrollado y ha concluido el presente Consejo.

Las discusiones fueron serias, oportunas y conscientes y si en algún momento adquirieron vivacidad, se mantuvieron dentro de la corrección, dentro del espíritu del mutuo respeto que debe prevalecer entre representantes de Estados y entre funcionarios de una Organización seria y digna de toda consideración como es la FAO.

Los países latinoamericanos, Sr. Presidente, somos amigos a toda prueba de esta Organización; creemos, eso sí, que la principal característica de la misma es la franqueza y que la franqueza algunas veces conlleva críticas; pero pensamos que es más amigo quien señala lo bueno y lo malo que quien se limita a elogiar o quien se limita a criticar. El Consejo ha visto al grupo latinoamericano compacto en la defensa de los principios fundamentales que rigen y los fines primordiales que persigue la Organización. Sirvan como ejemplo la defensa tajante de la cooperación multilateral del crecimiento y fortalecimiento razonables y realistas de la FAO; la defensa de la apoliticidad de la ayuda alimentaria y, en fin, el apoyo a los programas sustanciales de la Organización.

Este Consejo ha tenido ante sí cuestiones cruciales como las nuevas Orientaciones en materia de reajustes agrícolas internacionales y la defensa de la inmunidad. En ellos, y prácticamente en todos los puntos, ha habido acuerdo en lo sustancial. Las discrepancias no son sino evidencia de esa unidad de principios. Nuestro grupo se siente muy complacido de haber contribuido a los buenos resultados y promete firmemente mantener y aumentar su cooperación para que en el futuro tales resultados buenos se mantenga o se mejoren.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. delegado de El Salvador por su intervención y por su juicio acertado de nuestro trabajo.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal): Conformément aux dispositions réglementaires, je me trouve à la dernière session durant laquelle le Portugal participe aux activités du Conseil pour la période de sa désignation.

Je voudrais donc profiter de cette occasion pour dire tout ce que nous avons appris, pendant ces trois années, de votre compétence, de votre expérience, de votre sociabilité et de votre amitié.

En passant à la situation d'observateur, en attendant qu'un jour mon pays puisse occuper à nouveau le poste qu'il laisse maintenant, je peux vous assurer que le Portugal continuera à participer aux activités du Conseil avec le même intérêt et la même assiduité, parce que des contacts avec des délégués aussi capables lui seront sûrement fort utiles.

Je veux également adresser mes salutations de haute considération à M. le Directeur général et au Secrétariat, à M. Bukar Shaib, le Président du Conseil qui nous a orientés dans les années antérieures, et au Président actuel, M. Swaminathan; je saisis l'occasion pour rendre hommage à ses hautes qualités et à la manière parfaite et très sage dont il a conduit nos travaux qui en sont certainement devenus plus féconds.

En présentant mes salutations à toutes les délégations en général, je me permets d'en adresser une très particulière à celles qui représentent ici les pays d'expression portugaise et qui souhaitent sûrement pouvoir un jour s'exprimer dans ce forum dans leur langue officielle, ce qui certainement facilitera beaucoup leurs interventions. Et je désire adresser un mot de grande amitié à la délégation espagnole dont nous avons soutenu la candidature à ce Conseil et qui succédera à notre place, en harmonie avec la représentativité régionale conventionnée.

M. le Président, comme nous disons au Portugal: "Até à volta", ce qui signifie: "jusqu'à une prochaine session" quand nous sera confiée à nouveau la responsabilité de venir reprendre place dans ce prestigieux Conseil,

CHAIRMAN: If I may take up your last words, I do feel that there is no doubt that your country as well as other countries now outgoing from the Council will at a later stage again be a member of the Council and will most probably again have the opportunity to contribute to our proceedings as efficiently as they have done so far.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): On behalf of the Asian Region, I wish to convey our thanks to the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the rest of the Secretariat for their helpful inputs during our discussions at this Session, and we feel we have had a very fruitful and very useful Session. There have been exchanges at times, as Mr. West puts it, that were hot but that we thought were only warm and affectionate, but the result has been most constructive, and we are very glad for that.

We also wish to convey our appreciation to the Independent Chairman of the Council for his very able guidance and to all three of the Vice-Chairmen, particularly to you, Mr. Chairman, for handling the very difficult part of the Session in such an amicable and friendly and neutral manner.

We also wish to convey our appreciation to all Members of the Council who were so helpful and friendly on the questions of the Asian Region, particularly the establishment of the Food Security Commission and the abolition of the Farm Management. We really wish to convey our thanks for that.

Before I conclude, we also wish to convey our appreciation to the Italian delegation, the host government, who have shown such kindness and generosity as far as the Council and the Organization is concerned.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais, au nom du groupe africain, et en mon nom personnel, vous remercier pour ce que vous avez fait pour faire en sorte que les travaux de cette 82ème session du Conseil aboutissent à des résultats que nous estimons d'ores et déjà positifs. Nous les estimons positifs parce qu'au cours de cette session toutes les résolutions qui ont été adoptées pendant la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique à Alger ont été largement appuyées et s'inscrivent d'ores et déjà dans les perspectives du Programme et budget du biennium prochain.

Je dois donc, au nom du Groupe africain, vous remercier pour ce que vous avez fait pour faire aboutir toutes ces propositions. Nous voudrions également rendre hommage au Secrétariat pour le travail qu'il a fait afin de faciliter les débats au cours de cette session. Mes félicitations s'adressent essentiellement au Directeur général qui, comme à l'accoutumée, ne s'est pas départi de sa réputation, pour faire en sorte que tous les problèmes qui concernent les pays en développement soient abordés avec l'esprit que nous lui connaissons tous, c'est-à-dire un esprit de coopération. Nous estimons donc que les travaux de ce Conseil ont été bien menés par le Président indépendant et par vous-même qui avez eu la lourde tâche de faire adopter les rapports. Au cours de l'adoption de ces rapports, nous avons à un certain moment senti que cela était difficile et nous-mêmes, parfois, nous n'avons peut-être pas su vous faciliter la tâche, mais vous devez comprendre que nous avons défendu les points de vue de nos gouvernements et par conséquent tous les pays membres ici seront à notre égard assez indulgents.

Il ne nous reste plus pour notre part qu'à souhaiter bon retour à tous les délégués qui doivent rejoindre leur pays et, à ceux qui sont à Rome, nous espérons pouvoir les retrouver très bientôt.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer cette intervention sans remercier également les verbalistes ainsi que les secrétaires qui ont pu faciliter les contacts entre délégués dans cette salle. Encore une fois je vous remercie et je souhaite bon retour aux nombreux délégués ici présents.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Allow me to take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to associate my delegation with the feelings and sentiments expressed by other delegates who spoke before me at the conclusion of the 82nd Session of this Council.

Our deep appreciation goes to all delegates of this Session who deliberated and worked in a state of perfect understanding and cooperation. My delegation also wishes to express its deep sense of admiration to the Independent Chairmen and to you, Mr Chairman, Ms. Ivankovichi de Arosemena of Panama, for the able and excellent manner in which you have conducted the Session of this Council and brought it to a successful conclusion.

We would also like to commend the Secretariat for the high quality documents prepared by the members of the Secretariat which helped achieve the decisions of the Council.

We congratulate the Director-General for his able leadership and wise direction, which is very efficient and effective in the discharge of the very vital function in the field of food and agriculture.

Our thanks are also due to the Chairmen and members of the Drafting Committees and members of the Contact Group for successfully performing their most difficult tasks.

We would also like to thank the other staff members, including the interpreters whose very hard work helped to bring this Session of the Council to a successful conclusion.

Lastly, my delegation wishes you all a very happy New Year.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Au nom du groupe nord-américain, ma délégation souhaite remercier le Directeur général, le Directeur général adjoint et tous les autres membres du Secrétariat qui, par leur compétence, leur expérience et leurs efforts continus, ont grandement facilité la tâche du Conseil et assuré des débats fructueux tout au cours de ce Conseil. Je voudrais également féliciter et remercier tous ceux qui ont assuré la présidence au cours de cette séance. Nous savons tous qu'il s'agit là d'une tâche difficile qui requiert non seulement une excellente connaissance de la substance mais également un extraordinaire mélange de fermeté et de souplesse. Je pense que le Conseil a été très bien servi tout au cours de cette séance. Finalement un grand merci aux interprètes, à tout le personnel de rédaction, aux "messengers" et à tous ceux qui d'une manière ou d'une autre ont contribué à faciliter la communication entre nous et la préparation rapide et efficace du texte du rapport que nous venons d'approuver.

CHAIRMAN: This brings to an end the list of speakers. Throughout almost two weeks Council Members voiced their position on the many issues included in our agenda with a view to assisting the whole Organization in fulfilling its broad mandate. You did so in an open and frank dialogue amongst you yourselves as well as with the Secretariat, and in spite sometimes of differing opinions, something quite natural to me, the prevailing spirit of cooperation and conciliation finally led in almost every area to a consensus.

I personally feel, and hope you can agree with me, that we can say that we had a good Session, and that this was due to a large extent to the excellent manner in which our Independent Chairman, supported by the other co-Chairmen, chaired the meetings. In that manner the Council has in fairness if I may say so, accomplished its work. We could not have succeeded, or done so well and could not have had such a smooth-running Council if we had not enjoyed cooperation with, and the support of, the Secretariat.

On behalf of all of you, I would like to thank the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the Assistant Directors-General, and the other staff members who worked together with the Council.

I wish also to thank the Drafting Committee, the Committees of Finance and Programme and the many staff and Secretariat members who worked behind the scenes in support of our proceedings.

I wish, of course, also to include in our thanks the interpreters who so ably helped us to enter into fruitful dialogue. Also to the verbatim reporters and the messengers go our thanks.

The outgoing Members of the Council, the countries - Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Portugal, Syria, Yugoslavia and Zambia - to all those we thank very much for the efficient contributions to the work of the Council, and by that to the whole Organization. Probably all of you will once again be Members of the Council in the future.

As we are approaching Christmas and the end of the year, allow me to wish you all and your families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 1983, in particular with peace, health and joy. Let us hope that many of us can follow the advice we heard yesterday from that wise old Indian, and laugh four times a day in future.

Finally, I wish to all of you a safe journey home and a happy return when the time comes. Thank you.

With that I declare the 82nd Session of the Council closed.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a la 17.15 horas.