

council

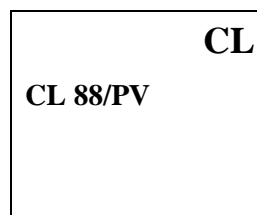
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Eighty-eighth Session
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Quatre-vingt-huitième session
PLÉNIÈRE

88° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

Rome, 4-7 November 1985

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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(4 November 1985)

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council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 88/PV/1

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA
(4 November 1985)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 30 hours,
M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30, sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10. 30 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: May I call the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council to order. Mr Director-General, distinguished members of the Council, distinguished observers, officers of FAO and ladies and gentlemen, may I extend to you all a very cordial welcome to this short session of the Council before the Conference.

Our session is short and our agenda is long, and I hope with the cooperation of everyone here we will be able to get through our work by Thursday.

I am very happy that all members of the Council are here, and in particular I feel privileged that we have the Honourable Minister of Afghanistan, Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal. I want to extend a particular welcome to Minister Lakanwal of Afghanistan. We are also very privileged this morning to have in our midst amongst the observers His Excellency Jean-Baptiste Yonke, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Cameroon. I want to extend a very warm welcome on behalf of the Council to Minister Yonke. We feel honoured that you are able to be present with us.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

Our first item on the agenda is the adoption of the Agenda and Timetable, documents CL 88/1 and CL 88/INF/1. These are the two concerned papers and I wish to know whether Provisional Annotated Agenda and the Provisional Timetable are acceptable, but before I seek your concurrence or comments I must say that as regards the Timetable I should draw your attention to the typographical error in the Spanish version. The error is only in the Spanish version. It is in CL 88/INF/1. The typographical error relates to document reference for item 5. This appears as C 85/44 but should read C 85/24. Instead of 44 it should be 24.

The Provisional Timetable has been prepared by the Secretariat in their usual highly methodical way and you will observe that if we adhere strictly to the Timetable we will be completing our agenda by the close of business on Wednesday, 6 November. If we complete all of our discussion on 6 November we will then have Thursday, 7 November, to adopt our Report.

I will now seek your concurrence or comments to the Timetable as relates to the Provisional Agenda. Are there any comments or shall we adopt them? I see no comments so I take it that we adopt the Agenda and the Timetable. Thank you very much. The Secretary General has an announcement to make before we proceed with the next item on the Agenda.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Dans l'après-midi du jeudi 7 novembre, le calendrier provisoire indique simplement: "Adoption du rapport"; mais il y aura en outre une petite cérémonie traditionnelle, à savoir l'inauguration du portrait du Président indépendant sortant; elle aura lieu au cours de la séance de jeudi après-midi.

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

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia, Sr. Presidente, tiene el honor y el placer de proponer a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Sr. A. Bukhari, Embajador de Arabia Saudita, para una de las Vicepresidencias. El colega Bukhari, bien conocido por todos nosotros, es un excelente representante de su país que demostró inteligencia, capacidad, experiencia y conocimiento, generalmente reconocidos por todos, por lo cual consideramos que su elección sería muy acertada.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban)(langue originale arabe): Je vous remercie. La délégation du Liban a le plaisir d'appuyer la proposition faite par M. Bula Hoyos, à savoir l'élection de M. Bukhari à une des vice-présidences. Nous connaissons sa capacité et son dévouement et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons l'honneur d'appuyer sa candidature à ce poste de vice-président.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela, Sr. Presidente, tiene el honor de compartir la proposición hecha por el Embajador de Colombia y, por tanto, apoyamos la candidatura del Embajador Bukhari, a quien conocemos y apreciamos por su capacidad y dedicación al trabajo.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Bukhari has been proposed and seconded. I take it that it is the unanimous desire of Council to request him to serve as a Vice-Chairman.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): En primer lugar deseo expresar, Sr. Presidente, que estamos muy contentos de ver a usted presidiendo de nuevo los trabajos de nuestro Consejo.

La delegación de México se honra en poner a la consideración del Consejo la candidatura del distinguido Embajador Senghor, del Senegal, para ocupar una de las vicepresidencias. Es de todos conocido la larga trayectoria profesional y la experiencia del Embajador Senghor. Por tanto me permito poner su candidatura a consideración.

Jacques POSIER (France): La délégation française est heureuse et honorée d'appuyer la candidature de son excellence M. Senghor, Ambassadeur du Sénégal. Nous connaissons tous M. Senghor. Nous connaissons ses qualités, sa compétence, son expérience, et nous savons qu'il fera un excellent vice-président du Conseil. La France appuie donc chaleureusement la proposition faite par le représentant du Mexique. Elle appuie la candidature de M. Senghor.

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): The Indian delegation would like to support the candidature of Mr Senghor of Senegal to one of the posts of Vice-Chairmen of this session of the Council. Mr Senghor, with his experience, is known for his sobriety, maturity and capability and we are sure he will be an eminent assistant to you, Mr Chairman, as a Vice-Chairman of the Council. We heartily support his candidature.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Senghor of Senegal has been proposed and seconded. May I take it that it is the unanimous wish of the Council to elect him as a Vice-Chairman?

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): C'est pour nous un plaisir que de proposer à l'une des vice-présidences M. Redl, représentant de l'Autriche. M. Redl est connu de nous tous. Il possède une vaste expérience sur les différents sujets retenus pour cette session et il représente assez régulièrement son pays, ici à Rome, au sein de cette enceinte. C'est pourquoi nous sommes certains qu'il vous sera d'un concours précieux et nous espérons que cette candidature retiendra l'attention de tout le monde.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): It gives me great pleasure to support the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of the Congo to have Mr Redl of Austria nominated a Vice-Chairman. We have had the pleasure of working with Mr Redl in many FAO fora. We are confident he will be able to support you, Mr Chairman, in bringing this Council meeting to a successful conclusion.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos en primer lugar saludar a usted, Sr. Presidente, por verle de nuevo presidiendo nuestras labores.

Deseamos unirnos a la proposición del distinguido representante del Congo, apoyada por Dinamarca, para designar la vicepresidencia al Sr. Redl de Austria, ya que consideramos que es una de las personas capacitadas y que podrá ayudar a usted, Sr. Presidente, en sus tareas.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Redl of Austria has been duly proposed and seconded. May I take it that it is the unanimous wish of the Council to elect him as Vice-Chairman? Thank you.

We are fortunate at this session to have three very distinguished persons as our Vice-Chairmen, Mr Bukhari of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Senghor of Senegal and Mr Redl of Austria. On behalf of everybody here I congratulate them, and I am looking forward to working with them in this short session.

I am informed that discussions are still in progress with regard to the composition of the Drafting Committee and the election of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. If Council agrees, we will defer that item for the time being and take it up as soon as the discussions are completed.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

4. Report of the Fifty-fifth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome, 21-25 October 1985)

4. Rapport de la cinquante-cinquième session du Comité des produits (Rome, 21-25 octobre 1985)

4. Informe del 55° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (Roma, 21-25 de octubre de 1985)

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Committee on Commodity Problems): I have the honour to present to members of this Council the report of the Fifty-fifth Session of the Committee on commodity Problems held from 21 to 25 October this year. The meeting was attended by 74 representatives of governments and the representative of the Holy See. Representatives of eight international organizations also participated as observers.

The Committee reviewed the main issues in the world commodity situation and outlook. This can be seen in paragraphs 7 to 18 of the report. The Committee noted that although the merchandize trade surplus of all the developing countries had increased in 1984, it had barely reached half the level

of 1979 to 1981. Furthermore, the Committee deeply regretted that export prices of many agricultural commodities had declined again since mid-1984. The Committee expressed deep disappointment that the commodity trade situation currently and for the short-term future appeared generally unfavourable. In general, the export earnings in current US\$ terms appeared likely to decline significantly in 1985 and early 1986 with adverse consequences for both the developed and developing exporting countries.

With regard to the medium-term prospects the Committee noted that the FAO Secretariat projections for 1990 with only a few exceptions among commodities, to a considerable slowdown of growth of global demand compared with the 1970s and accordingly, opportunities for export growth would be more constrained. In the light of the generally unfavourable commodity situation and outlook, the Committee discussed desirable remedial measures.

The Committee agreed that effort should be made by the international community to persuade countries to halt and eliminate export subsidies and other similar practices, as well as protectionist measures which curbed access to international markets. Following the request of the Council at its Eighty-fourth Session in November 1983, the Committee on Commodity Problems at this Session considered the interrelationship between trade and food security. It recognized that efforts by governments to improve national food security were increasingly dependent on the international trade environment and financial system. It noted that over the past decade, increased risks and new uncertainties had been introduced in the global trading environment and international financial system which reduced the attractiveness of the trade option for improving food security especially for the low-income food-deficit countries. The Committee recognized that the increased reliance on trade for strengthening food security depended heavily on an improvement in the national economic trading environment, and stressed the need for improved functioning of the international monetary system to facilitate trade growth.

The Committee considered that food aid, although not a long-term solution to food security, had an important role to play as a source of food supplies, particularly for countries with low growth in domestic food production and low GDP growth rates and limited opportunities for export markets.

It stressed that the impact of such aid in strengthening food security would be more permanent if used for development purposes. It also underlined the need for encouraging triangular transactions and urged that such transactions be supported by practical measures at the international level, including financial help and improved exchange of information.

While recognizing that the potential benefits of relying on trade to achieve food security objectives, the Committee noted with concern the potentially harmful effects of the dependence on imported food supplies, whether purchased commercially or obtained as food aid. In this connection it stressed the important role that traditional food crops played in the food security of many developing countries and underlined the need to safeguard against possible risks and distortions that might be caused by imported foods and production processes. The Committee has requested that the topic of international trade and food security be followed up in future sessions and a number of suggestions have been made for future work in this area in paragraph 28 of the Report.

In line with its standing mandate to review follow-up action to Conference Resolution 2/79, the Committee undertook its third regular review of developments in protectionism affecting trade prospects of agricultural commodities. There was a very wide-ranging discussion on this item which is reflected in paragraphs 37 to 50 of the report. The Committee agreed that protectionism, including the use of export subsidies and other similar practices in agricultural trade, had remained persistently widespread and strong. It expressed the need to consider the negative effects of inward-looking agricultural policies on other countries.

The Committee also heard with interest a statement by the representative of GATT concerning the work of the Committee on Trade in Agriculture. The CCP appreciated the efforts of this GATT Committee and expressed its hope that the Committee on Trade in Agriculture would conclude its work programme with definite and widely accepted recommendations which would clear the way for successful negotiations on agricultural trade. The Committee also stressed the urgency of completing the 1982 GATT programme of work adopted at ministerial level, thus fulfilling all the

commitments therein, before entering into a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. The Committee also thought that during the next round of negotiations in GATT the effective participation of developing countries should be ensured.

The Committee, with the exception of one delegation, made a number of recommendations, as shown in paragraphs 49 and 50. These concern the barriers to agricultural trade as well as the use of export subsidies and other similar practices.

The Committee agreed that FAO's analytical and information activities on commodity trade issues under the aegis of the CCP and its Intergovernmental Groups were central to its mandate and that such activities were useful in understanding the issues involved and in the process of trade liberalization. In this connection the Committee requested the Secretariat to include in its next review of developments in protectionism, and follow-up to Resolution 2/79, an assessment of the effects of protectionist policies applied to commodities which are essential to the economies of low-cost producing and exporting countries and to countries producing and using substitutes.

The CCP also reviewed the 1984-85 activities of its subsidiary bodies, that is the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups and the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal. This review is contained in sections V and VI of the Report.

The Committee's review of the international action on agricultural commodities since its Fifty-Fourth session is in paragraphs 80 to 89 of the report and its comments on the FAO commodities programme for 1986/87 are reflected in paragraphs 90 to 96 of the report. The Committee, *inter alia*, stressed that the network of FAO Intergovernmental Groups provided a valuable mechanism where producing and consuming countries could consult together. It stressed the need to promote agricultural trade among developing countries and supported the provisions in the programme to this effect. The Committee also placed high priority on FAO's global commodity intelligence activities together with the associated analytical work.

To conclude, I hope that the Council will endorse the report of the Fifty-fifth session of the Committee and provide guidance on the future work of the Committee.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): Thank you Mr Chairman. May I say to begin with what a pleasure it is to see you in the seat here again. I thought I was going to be the only person to speak on this item, so I leapt in rather quickly.

I do not want to say much because we considered this report only a matter of a week or so ago. However, it is a report which I think is of considerable importance.

We in Australia consider that the work of this Committee addressed some of what we see as the most crucial issues facing the world on food and agriculture today. In fact in his opening address the Director-General himself drew attention to these problems in his opening statement, and I would recommend that statement to all who have not had the opportunity of reading it. It is an addendum to the report.

There are two elements we would like to stress. One is the contribution that low-cost efficient producers such as Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and others can make to contributing to international or world food security.

Perhaps the second is the way in which agricultural surpluses generated by subsidies to agriculture in relatively higher-cost producing countries can undermine world food security, and thirdly the emphasis that all countries should give to basing their food security development, if you like, in developing their own self-reliance by doing the things that they do best, hence ensuring that resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Finally, I would like to draw particular attention to the calls that were made during the meeting in relation to the future work programme of the Secretariat to concentrate on those tasks which we

see relevant to the current situation which address the problems we feel are paramount at the present time, and I think this relates to all the committees of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We know the various intergovernmental groups and their relevance, which of course varies with the interest from country to country but that they can address these problems of trade in a very meaningful way if they focus their activities on issues that are of crucial importance at the time, and we feel that the work done of servicing those committees by the Commodities Division is one of the most relevant parts of the activities of organization.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): On this agenda item, the report of the Fifty-fifth session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Danish delegation has the following view. But before stating that, I expect that a particular EEC view will be mentioned by some other delegation. It took the Committee at times long and difficult debate to adopt this report. But thanks to the patience and flexibility of the Chairman of the Committee it was possible to conclude the debate on this report which is now submitted to the Council for decision.

The Danish delegation is satisfied with a number of amendments made to the report and has pleasure in recommending that the Council adopts the report of the Fifty-fifth session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I wish to make one comment, one of form rather than of substance, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community. We of course wish to be as constructive as possible at this stage in our proceedings, and therefore I have no intention of reopening the long debate that took place a week or so ago in this Committee. But we do wish to record our view that the formulation which has been used in paragraph 57 of the Committee's report, namely that the Committee "... with the exception of the EEC member countries, reiterated its dismay" etc, is not acceptable as a precedent for future occasions where a major group of member countries, not necessarily only the European Community but any major group countries, does not support a conclusion reached by the majority. In such circumstances we do not accept that that conclusion can or should be attributed to the Committee in question.

As I have said, I intervened at this point without any wish to reopen the debate; I do not think this is the time and place. My purpose is simply to inform this Council that these are the views of the Member States of the European Community which will be pursued further in appropriate fora.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia agradece a nuestro colega y amigo Musharraf, de Pakistán, su presentación de este tema y la manera como presidió el Comité.

Estamos igualmente de acuerdo con nuestro colega Gregory, de Australia, sobre la declaración del Director General que aparece como Anexo a este documento, declaración que fue valiosa y de gran contenido y que forma excepcional registró la presencia del Director General, circunstancia ésta y otras que llevaron al colega de Nueva Zelandia en ese Comité a decir que esa reunión del CPPB era una ocasión histórica, y en verdad creemos que por primera vez hubo general consenso entre las delegaciones para adoptar posiciones firmes y muy constructivas.

Limitaremos nuestra declaración a algunos párrafos cuyos contenidos creemos que podrían reflejarse en el Informe. El párrafo 16 que hace referencia a que deben evitarse, a que se detengan y eliminen las subvenciones a las exportaciones y otras prácticas análogas, las medidas proteccionistas; y en ese párrafo se consideran igualmente los efectos perjudiciales que todo ello tiene para los principales países exportadores, en particular para los países en desarrollo.

A la mitad del párrafo 17 aparece la declaración de algunas delegaciones en relación con la actitud del más grande importador de café, café, repetimos. Quisiéramos que el Consejo recogiera ese llamado de las delegaciones que se ocuparon del café y que haga una solicitud al más grande importador para que rectifique esa actitud frente a la Organización Internacional del Café y siga cooperando con nosotros ya que el café es un renglón de exportación muy importante para muchos países en desarrollo.

Apoyamos los párrafos 49 y 50, párrafos que fueron adoptados en general por los miembros del Comité, y en los cuales hay importantes referencias a la liberalización del comercio agrícola que debe recibir atención prioritaria en las próximas negociaciones comerciales del GATT, y también a la necesidad de que se mejore el acceso a los mercados para las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

En el párrafo 50 también se contienen elementos muy importantes que ojalá puedan ser transcritos en nuestro Informe. En el párrafo 61 está la referencia al Grupo Intergubernamental sobre el Banano. Lamentamos que de nuevo el más grande importador sea otra vez el mismo país que ha bloqueado esas actividades, y apoyamos la recomendación de que el Grupo de Trabajo pueda reunirse, en la fecha más conveniente, en 1986, siempre con la esperanza de que ese grande y amigo país importador pueda cambiar de actitud, y ayudarnos a avanzar hacia la obtención de un acuerdo internacional sobre el banano.

En el párrafo 83, creemos que hay elementos que deben ser incluidos en el Informe. Deseamos que después de la experiencia lánguida de la Rueda de Tokio, que ahora esta nueva Rueda del 86 no se limite, para citar solamente el caso más reciente, a que algunos grupos de países desarrollados hablen de espaguetis, limones y nueces, repetimos espaguetis, limones y nueces que es lo que ha estado de moda el fin de semana, sino que en realidad se tengan prioritariamente en cuenta los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

En el párrafo 85, se hace un llamado unánime por parte del Comité en relación con el FIDA. Este es un llamado inocente, seguramente un llamado de ultratumba porque el FIDA muere lentamente en el EUR, muy lejos de nosotros; pero en fin cumplamos con reiterar ese llamado.

En el párrafo 87, creo que el Consejo debe señalar un hecho grave como es el que después de seis años de esperanzas en torno a la rectificación del Fondo Común, ahora un importante país, siempre los Estados Unidos, ha dicho que no va a ratificar ese Fondo. Esto, naturalmente, termina, aniquila, elimina toda esperanza que habíamos acariciado durante seis años. En el párrafo 87 consta la declaración del Representante de ese país en la cual dice que es firme en esa decisión. Sin embargo, podíamos hacer un nuevo intento y pedir a ese país que rectifique esa decisión.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, queremos apoyar la importante tarea que viene cumpliendo la Dirección de Productos Básicos y Comercio, bajo la competente dirección del Sr. Dutia.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Deseamos expresar, en primer lugar, agradecimiento al Presidente del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos por su excelente labor y el magnífico resumen que ha hecho de nuestros trabajos y del Informe que se presenta a este Consejo.

La Delegación de México aprueba el Informe del 55° Período de Sesiones de dicho Comité, y al hacerlo deseamos subrayar, como lo ha hecho el distinguido delegado de Colombia, los diversos párrafos que son de nuestro interés y los cuales no voy a repetir. Pero sobre ello, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación hace la siguiente declaración. La crisis económica mundial por la que atraviesan tantos países en desarrollo como desarrollados, se ha caracterizado por presiones proteccionistas en aumento, tensiones y conflictos en el campo de las relaciones comerciales internacionales cada vez más deterioradas. La crisis del sistema comercial internacional amenaza no sólo con agravar la situación de la economía sino también con obstaculizar su recuperación. Aún más, el crecimiento negativo tan sólo lento, y creciente desempleo, además de afectar al nivel del comercio se ha traducido en un descenso de las exportaciones mundiales que ha dado lugar a la proliferación de barreras comerciales y técnicas que dificultan el comercio.

Ante esta situación, señor Presidente, el comercio de los productos básicos en la esfera mundial y sus perspectivas a corto plazo, se presentan desfavorables a un gran número de países en desarrollo, originado principalmente en la baja creciente en los precios de exportación, reflejo a su vez de la abundante oferta de la mayor parte de los productos básicos, y materias primas agrícolas y las fuertes presiones que el servicio de la deuda exterior representa para dichos países.

La falta de una política racional del comercio resulta cada vez más urgente ante los actuales excesos de oferta vinculada a la falta de un crecimiento adecuado a la demanda.

A pesar de que América Latina en conjunto ha aumentado su producto de exportación agrícola, sus ingresos de divisas por ese concepto se han visto afectados debido sobre todo a la inestabilidad del mercado internacional. En los últimos diez años, el precio de los productos básicos ha tenido tasas decrecientes. Esta situación se ve agravada por el elevado proteccionismo de los mercados del mundo desarrollado ya que impide la participación de los productos latinoamericanos, y por supuesto de otras regiones. En los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea y en Estados Unidos se han adoptado políticas de subsidio interno a sus productos, lo cual mantiene elevada su producción de alimentos. Esta política ha generado distorsiones en el orden internacional al anular las ventajas comparativas de los productos del mundo en desarrollo y al propiciar la baja de los precios internacionales. Se considera que esas políticas son perjudiciales para todos los países productores en general, y especialmente para aquellos que no disponen de las medidas económicas para enfrentar esta competencia. Otro efecto provocado por esa situación es el de la transformación de las estructuras de producción agrícola tradicional, cuestión que no se ve adecuadamente reflejada en nuestro Informe. Los países en desarrollo o en aras de un mayor ingreso por concepto de exportación, han impulsado una agricultura comercial que en la mayoría de los casos deteriora su producción agrícola y aumenta el déficit alimentario. En algunos países de África y de América Latina, por ejemplo, se puede advertir esta problemática.

Ante esta situación, señor Presidente, este Consejo debería impulsar las medidas propuestas por los países en desarrollo en la UNCTAD, en el Fondo Monetario Internacional, tendentes a disminuir los efectos negativos de las fluctuaciones de los precios de los productos básicos en general y de los cereales en particular. Me refiero en forma específica a los cereales secundarios.

La delegación mexicana exhorta pues a todos los países a que participen activamente en la aplicación de los objetivos señalados en las resoluciones 93. 4, 107. 4, 5 y 156 de la UNCTAD tendentes al establecimiento de convenios internacionales con cláusulas económicas que regulen el mercado internacional de los productos básicos. Asimismo, destacamos la importancia de poner en marcha lo más pronto posible el convenio constitutivo del Fondo Común como un medio eficaz para alcanzar la estabilización de los precios de los productos básicos, y la inclusión de medidas económicas. En ese sentido, exhortamos al país que fundamentalmente se ha resistido a apoyar este Fondo a que rectifique su actitud como lo mencionaba el delegado de Colombia. Señalamos que ante la impostergable necesidad de atender los problemas de desarrollo interno y fortalecer la capacidad de los países en desarrollo para hacer frente a sus compromisos externos, resulta indispensable orientar las estrategias hacia el crecimiento económico. El crecimiento debe ser ahora premisa fundamental en la superación de los problemas por los que atraviesan los países en desarrollo. En este contexto, resulta vital que se respeten las normas del comercio internacional y se fortalezcan los términos del intercambio de países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, deseamos aprobar como lo han hecho otras delegaciones, el conjunto de estudios que se han pedido a la Secretaría; entre otros, deseo destacar lo relativo a cómo afecta el proteccionismo al comercio y la producción de productos básicos, por tanto a la seguridad alimentaria, y también el estudio relativo a las corporaciones transnacionales ligadas a productos básicos que afectan, o por lo menos intervienen en los procesos de seguridad alimentaria. En ese sentido, la Secretaría nos ha subrayado que el próximo año podría estar listo tal estudio, y reiteramos nuestro interés en que se presente a la brevedad.

K. N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): At the outset we would like to place on record the valuable services rendered by the Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems. The delegate from Pakistan had done excellent work and we would like to congratulate him for the excellent report which he has produced.

Coming to the report, we would like to note that the world trade in merchandise increased over 9 percent whereas the agricultural commodities was only of the order of 2. 9 percent. In the seventies the increase was of the order of 4. 1 percent. This is a trend which does not promise anything substantial for the future. We would like this trend to be reversed and remedial action should be taken to check this trend.

With regard to commodity prices, we find that these are declining. Terms of trade are against developing countries. This is largely because there has been a wide fluctuation in demand and supply. An attempt should be made to stabilize world trade and also to ensure that the developing countries get reasonable prices for the primary commodities they are exporting.

In the seventies the slogan was "export or perish; now the slogan has become "export and perish". We would like that this trend should be arrested and the developing countries should be paid reasonable prices for the commodities they are exporting.

With regard to food security we would like that the trade option which has limited scope should be considered in the proper perspective. Because of fluctuations in demand and supply it would be advisable for the developing countries to depend on self reliance. So the attempt should be to increase the food production in the developing countries so that they can have a reasonable food security system.

I would like to refer to the tendency towards protectionism. As the Director-General rightly pointed out in his remarks to the Committee it appears that the world is on the brink of a trade war. The trade barriers are going up and it appears that protectionism is gaining ground. It is necessary that GATT negotiations are taken up with speed and that we arrive at a reasonable settlement.

With regard to the commodities, we note that the promises made by the developed countries have not been fulfilled and it is necessary that these promises are fulfilled before the negotiations proceed further.

We are of the view that services should not be included in the GATT Committee on Agriculture. It should continue its negotiations and we hope that the Committee would arrive at solutions which are acceptable to all concerned.

With regard to commodities, we are actively concerned with the present jute prices. Because of abundant production, jute prices have crashed and farmers in India are being put to serious difficulty. There is distress as well all over the States of West Bengal and Bihar, and we are making efforts towards stabilizing prices. The Jute Cooperation of India is taking up price support operations. However, we find it is not adequate and the jute farmers are being put to serious financial loss as well as difficulties. We note that attempts are being made to stabilize international market prices. We would also strongly urge that competition between jute and synthetic fibres should be eliminated. I understand that FAO is taking up a study of the subject: we look forward to the report, and we are anxious that a reasonable solution should be found to this problem.

We are also concerned about present prices with regard to tea. We note with regret that international negotiation on a tea agreement has failed. This has put tea producers in a quandary, and we hope that some solution will be found so that the tea producers will not be put to serious hardship. I would like to report that a group of tea producers have already formed themselves into an association to prevent the export of low quality tea entering the market. We hope that the quality control measures taken by us will ensure the exportation of tea meeting requisite specifications and standards and that it may be possible for us to get reasonable prices for our tea exports.

With regard to the Common Fund, we note with regret that this has not come into existence. We are told that the reason for this is that the largest contributor has not agreed to contribute. We hope that some solution will be found to this problem and that the Common Fund will be set up at the earliest possible moment.

We fully support the Commodities Programme. We wish this Programme to continue, and we express full support of the aims of the Programme.

José Manuel WATSON (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá participó en el último período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (CPPB), que finalizó hace nueve días. Igualmente participó en el Comité de Redacción de ese período de sesiones. Realmente creemos que el desenvolvimiento de las sesiones de ese último período de sesiones del CPPB fue realmente positivo excepto en la situación que se planteó durante la última Sesión Plenaria, al momento de la adopción del Informe final. Y esta situación que consideramos negativa, fue realmente planteada por una sola delegación, existiendo entre todas las otras delegaciones presentes amplio consenso en cuanto al contenido del Informe. La delegación de Panamá aprueba el contenido de ese Informe del 55° Período de Sesiones del CPPB. Y lo aprueba por las siguientes razones.

Primero, por las consideraciones formuladas en la Parte II, III y IV, en las cuales se establece una interna relación entre la actual situación de las deudas externas de nuestros países con el proteccionismo en general y el comercio agrícola en particular. Se señala que debido a esa situación, los problemas de los países en vías de desarrollo se han agravado por el fuerte endeudamiento externo, los altos tipos de interés, la inestabilidad monetaria y la escasez de créditos, unido todo esto a los descensos reales de los precios de exportación de los productos básicos que comprometen gravemente la atención al servicio de la deuda.

Así, el contenido del Informe confirma que la deuda de los países en desarrollo sigue aumentando y los servicios a la misma, representan al final del 85, alrededor del 23 por ciento de sus ingresos de exportaciones y en el caso de América Latina y el Caribe un promedio aproximadamente del 47 por ciento. Destacándose igualmente, y en esto insistió e insiste esta delegación, por dramáticas situaciones propias que se habían producido por primera vez en 1984 en una transferencia neta de recursos de los países en desarrollo hacia el exterior, especialmente hacia los países desarrollados.

Igualmente destaca esta parte del documento la situación que existe entre los precios en dólares de alimentos, como cereales y la carne, los cuales han seguido bajando en los mercados internacionales, así como el patético caso del azúcar morena o no refinada, cuyos precios en el denominado mercado libre ha descendido a los más bajos del presente siglo.

Esto y otras situaciones hizo que el CPPB expresara en su último Informe su desaliento por la situación actual del mercado de productos básicos y las perspectivas a corto plazo, ya que la misma se viene a considerar desfavorable.

Por otra parte, nuestro apoyo al Informe se basa en los señalamientos oportunos y convenientes que se hace no sólo sobre el examen de las actividades de los grupos intergubernamentales, sino sobre las perspectivas futuras que los mismos deben de tener, las cuales se basan tanto en los propios mandatos de estos grupos intergubernamentales, como en la función prevista por el CPPB que, conforme el Artículo 24 del Reglamento General de esta Organización, y en su párrafo sexto, se establece que este Comité debe mantener el examen de los problemas de carácter internacional que afecten a la producción, el comercio, la distribución y consumo de los productos básicos, así como las cuestiones económicas relativas con estos problemas.

Apoyamos lo expresado por Australia, Colombia y México.

Por estas razones, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Panamá expresa su apoyo al Informe del 55° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos de la FAO.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban voudrait saisir cette occasion pour remercier M. Musharraf, Président du Comité des produits, pour la présentation du rapport de la cinquante-cinquième session du Comité des produits, tenue à Rome du 21 au 25 octobre 1985. Je voudrais également le remercier pour avoir réussi à présenter un rapport aussi clair: Nous sommes d'accord avec le contenu de ce rapport et notamment avec les paragraphes 49 et 50 relatifs à la libéralisation du commerce en matière agricole et de la liberté d'accès des produits agricoles des pays en développement vers les pays développés. Nous sommes également d'accord sur l'exhortation faite dans ce rapport aux pays développés en vue de limiter, et si possible d'éliminer toutes les barrières commerciales face aux exportations des pays en développement pour les aider à augmenter leur production et à réaliser leur autosuffisance alimentaire. Ma délégation est également d'accord sur la proposition qui a été faite par les délégués de Panama, de la Colombie, du Mexique et de l'Australie à ce sujet.

Jacobo C. CLAVE (Philippines): Mr Chairman, welcome to the meeting. Mr Chairman, the Director-General, my distinguished colleagues: today, instead of congratulating the officers of the Council in accordance with practice, permit me to congratulate all of us, for the patience and diligence which we have demonstrated, not only today, but also in the past.

The Philippines was a member of the drafting group which produced this report. It is, therefore, my duty to endorse the report. I endorse it, with the observation that the report is the best that the group could produce under the existing political environment that we find ourselves in.

I had hoped that the report would truly reflect the concern and sentiment of the Committee. I had wished that the remarks of the Director-General would be quoted in the report. I find the speech of the Director-General compelling, particularly paragraph 4, thereof where he underscored the crisis that was developing on agricultural commodities as the reason for his appearance before the Committee, and paragraph 14 where he said that conditions in the commodity trade business have not improved.

I suggest, if it is still possible, that this Council do something about the matter, perhaps mention in a nutshell in the Council's own Report the concern of the Director-General, maybe in the preamble to the first part of the Report, -and I am turning to page 1, paragraph 3.

My delegation would be pleased if this could be done. It feels that the remarks of the Director-General should not be consigned to the Appendix of the Report. That paragraphs 4 and 14 of the Director-General's remarks be quoted in the report or a paraphrase for the benefit of the Conference is the desire of my delegation.

I have said that I am endorsing the Report as a member of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

I was prompted to take the floor, Sr, to bring up an experience of my delegation in the Committee.

What disturbs me is the fact that, if my fellow delegates will go over the Report, they will find phrases such as "the Committee agreed", "some delegates made the following observations", "many delegates made the following observations". And I wish to refer particularly to paragraph 49 on page 11 of the Report. It says "A large majority of delegates... ". There was a protracted debate in the Committee on what this term means.

My own view is-where a large majority of the members of an FAO body-this Council or any other superior or subsidiary body-have expressed their opinion in favour of a measure or proposal, then there is a majority opinion and should be respected as such. I am aware that this Organization has adopted consensus-albeit informally-as a mode of decision-making. My country welcomes the development. But my delegation believes that consensus should be defined and that its uses, as against the majority-vote-rule provided in the Constitution and the Rules, be delimited.

My country is disturbed by the fact that consensus as now practised has created a situation where the opinion of a large majority or a majority is not taken into consideration as the expression of a Committee's sentiments, and the failure to reach a consensus becomes a negative vote that prevails over the majority view. I am afraid that if this continues or if this is allowed to continue, we have the veto power in the making. I sense the encroachment of a veto power in the councils of the Organization.

I am alarmed by this. I believe that, although we have adopted consensus as a decision-making method, we are not ready to disregard the majority-vote-rule. Under our Constitution and the Rules, voting is formally recognized as the mode of decision-making. Nothing is mentioned in these documents about consensus.

Yes, it is for this very important reason, that I have taken the floor: to raise the problem arising from the use of consensus. I wish to invite my fellow delegates and this Council to ponder the danger of the vote of one party depriving the vote of many the weight of a majority view.

I am also proposing that after the debates on important issues before the Council, and other subsidiary organs of the Organization, a summary of conclusions expressing the sense of the Council be made. This summary would be useful in guiding the drafting committees.

I wish to repeat that I took the floor to raise the alarm concerning the coming in of the veto power into the processes in our Organization through consensus.

Consensus has proved useful. I hope it does not, however, grow into a power to overrun a majority view.

Henry Arfang SENGHOR (Sénégal): Je voudrais vous remercier d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole et je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour vous dire la joie que j'éprouve à vous retrouver ici à la FAO présidant cette quatre-vingt huitième session de notre Conseil avec la souplesse et la rigueur que tous les membres du Comité des produits vous reconnaissent.

Je tiens à remercier l'Ambassadeur du Mexique ainsi que le délégué de la France et le délégué de l'Inde et tous les membres du Conseil pour la confiance qu'il m'ont témoignée en m'élisant à l'un des postes de vice-présidents:

Je ressens ce choix comme un honneur particulier fait à mon pays. J'essaierai dans la mesure de mes possibilités d'apporter une contribution positive au cours des travaux de ce Conseil.

S'agissant du document CL 88|6 que nous examinons, "Rapport de la cinquante-cinquième session des produits", je remercie son Président M. Musharraf d'avoir pu présenter un rapport clair et de qualité; Au nom de ma délégation je demande l'adoption de ce rapport qui constitue un compromis dynamique réalisé par un comité de rédaction compétent et je tiens à louer les qualités de ce travail qui a été effectué par les membres du Comité et par son Président.

Je tiens également à souligner l'intérêt particulier que nous accordons à la libération des charges par une suppression progressive du protectionnisme tel qu'il est noté dans le paragraphe 16 du rapport. Je voudrais également, au nom de mon pays, rejoindre les autres délégations qui m'ont précédé et dire notre inquiétude devant la croissance de cette dette et des services de cette dette dont il est fait mention dans le paragraphe 16; je voudrais lancer un appel pour que les apports traditionnels de stabilisation tels que le sucre, le café et le thé, ainsi que les nouveaux accords en cours de négociation soient appuyés par tous les pays développés. Je tiens à insister pour que ces opérations triangulaires soient multipliées pour permettre aux pays à déficit alimentaire d'avoir facilement accès aux produits nécessaires et à ceux excédentaires d'avoir également des débouchés pour leurs produits grâce à de plus grandes facilités accordées aux pays en voie de développement. Je voudrais conclure en demandant qu'on puisse aider le FIDA qui est moribond et que nous pouvons contribuer à remettre sur les rails et dire également l'espoir que nous fondons pour que le fonds commun puisse être de nouveau reconstitué.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos primeramente felicitar al Sr. Musharraf, Presidente del Comité de Productos Básicos, felicitarlo doblemente por la presentación de este informe muy objetivo, muy claro, muy preciso y por su paciencia en la discusión. Creo que fue un Presidente muy paciente y logró el objetivo de que la discusión fuese buena. Yo no considero que la discusión fuera mala;

discrepo de los que creen que discutir es malo, yo creo que discutir en una forma correcta, respetando criterios y expresando con claridad lo que cada uno piensa es parte de la función fundamental de estos Organismos; en ningún momento podemos sentirnos mal cuando discutimos.

Creo que fue un Comité muy discutido y creo que todos debemos saber porqué fue muy discutido, sencillamente porque se estaba hablando de situaciones gravísimas por las que está atravesando la humanidad; luego, entonces, si no discutimos nosotros somos cómplices o, impávidamente, vamos a ver cómo aparecen los obstáculos y no tratamos de buscar solución. Creo que el Comité fue un gran Comité porque la discusión fue buena. ¿Que hubo discrepancias?, es normal que haya discrepancias en el seno de un Comité donde la situación de la distribución no es totalmente pareja. No tengo ningún tipo de preocupación porque haya sido la discusión en esta forma.

Creo que ese informe debe ser aprobado en todas sus partes como ha sido presentado, como ha sido propuesto por Colombia, México, Panamá, Australia e inclusive la distinguida representación de Senegal; en estos momentos hay una exposición muy interesante y nosotros creemos que a pesar de los párrafos que han propuesto las delegaciones que nos ha precedido en el uso de la palabra, a nosotros nos interesa que aparezca con bastante relevo la situación del párrafo 13, la última parte que fue citada por Panamá, porque consideramos que es el núcleo fundamental de la situación grave que atraviesan los productos básicos agrícolas; o sea, hablando de nuestro foro, de nuestra situación agrícola alimentaria, son los problemas económicos, su agravamiento en la medida que el endeudamiento externo no se ha resuelto, altos tipos de interés, la inestabilidad monetaria, la escasez de crédito junto con el descenso de los precios que imposibilita exportar nuestros productos básicos, que, como dice el párrafo 13, comprometen seriamente la capacidad para atender el servicio de la deuda y si no pagamos esto ¿cuándo pagamos el capital?, ¿hasta dónde va esto? Es una discusión larga en la que no queremos caer, pero sí queremos señalar que en este Comité muchos delegados expresaron que esta situación es, a nuestro juicio, el centro de todos estos problemas.

Conjuntamente, Señor Presidente, nos parece que es necesario que se reafirme aquí, además de la discusión sobre algunos principios, que se destacó también la necesidad de la discusión de convenios, de llegar al final de los convenios de productos básicos vigentes que contienen disposiciones relativas a la estabilización de los precios y es necesario reafirmarnos: queremos también ratificar el párrafo 88 especialmente en lo que se lamenta de que no se llegue a consenso respecto a la reanudación de negociaciones relativas a convenios internacionales tan importantes como el del trigo, café y azúcar, que está atravesando uno de los momentos más difíciles de la historia en cuanto a precios.

Para terminar, queremos expresar que sí, que creemos que debemos preocuparnos; seríamos insensibles si no nos preocupáramos, por la acentuada y alarmante situación de los productos agrícolas, los precios de nuestros productos agrícolas; en este marco creemos que todo esto, los precios agrícolas en el mundo comercial es el eslabón más débil de la cadena económica, y la incidencia de los bajos precios agrícolas afecta fundamentalmente a uno de los problemas fundamentales de esta Organización, que es la seguridad alimentaria. No puede haber agricultura con la situación agrícola que estamos atravesando y no hay situación buena agrícola mientras la situación económica siga tan tensa.

Nosotros creemos que el Director General en su párrafo 4 hizo una exposición muy importante de que la situación hoy es inquietante por sus dimensiones; dimensiones que nosotros creemos sinceramente no tienen solución solicitando un párrafo u otro, flexibilizando un párrafo o no, creo que ese no es el juego parlamentario que debemos hacer aquí, tratar de flexibilizar un párrafo o de endurecer un párrafo, ese no es el juego; el juego sería entrar en una discusión profunda que nos permita llegar a algo firme. En ese sentido oímos hablar de guerra comercial, oímos hablar de proteccionismo in crescendo; nosotros, modestamente, decimos que son hijos legítimos del orden económico injusto que existe, que no garantiza, y las Naciones Unidas tienen establecidos los mecanismos para avanzar en la estructuración de un nuevo orden económico que consideramos que será, en definitiva, el que resuelva de una sola vez estos problemas que no tienen solución con más o menos párrafos.

Ratificamos nuestra aprobación total a este informe; creemos que es un gran informe de una gran discusión.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): In his Statement the Director-General very accurately painted the scenario that obtains in terms of crisis in international trade. He also underscored how controversial and how difficult the problem is due to divergent interests, but the Bangladesh delegation is very happy that this very difficult subject has been steered very skilfully by the Chairman of the session, Mr Javed Musharraf. It is my great pleasure to congratulate him for this excellent performance.

A number of distinguished delegates have addressed the issues contained in this report. The delegation of Bangladesh also participated in the fifty-fifth session of the CCP and therefore, it gives me the opportunity of being very brief. There are so many different dimensions of the links between international trade and food security, but I shall touch upon only two.

The effect of price on the food demand is essentially a function of the incomes of farmers in the developing countries from cash crops which are traded domestically and internationally. A little over 20 years ago, my own country was able to pay for its imports and debt servicing entirely from the export of jute. Today it does not pay even for 30 percent of its import bills and debt servicing. Several other agricultural commodities have been mentioned in paragraph 10.

My second point is that developing country exporters of agricultural products seem to be at the mercy of the whims of dominant nations. Fluctuations drive the poor farmers to the point of despair in their decisions on resource allocation. Jute prices were good last year, but have crashed this year. The distinguished delegate from India touched upon this. The Government of Bangladesh is taking all possible measures to protect the jute farmers, but the protection that a government can provide as an interim or emergency measure is very limited in scope and opportunity. The point is that commodities like jute, tea, coffee, cocoa, bananas, etc., which are produced and traded by a large number of developing countries, must have stable international markets. I think the time indeed has come for all the nations to realize that a consistent, and rational international trade serves the enlightened self interest of all countries.

The Common Fund still remains in a pre-natal stage, although the time is up. It should be brought into operation. We strongly urge those countries who have not already joined, to join and support it in every possible way, because this is going to strengthen, or it may even realize, the wish of so many countries to pursue a policy of enlightened self-interest which essentially is the collective interest of all nations.

The Committee on Commodity Problems and its Inter-Governmental Groups have served a very useful function. At this juncture, the crisis in international trade compounded by protectionism is deepening. I think that the Committee and its Inter-Governmental Groups should be strengthened to increase their analytical power, in order to supply all nations with analyses and information, both of which are in dire need. The proposed study should be carried out. The study should take into account the various delicate linkages between trade, food production, food security, income, poverty alleviation, nutritional aspects, and so on.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): First of all, I would like to express our thanks to the Chairman on Commodity Problems for the way in which he guided the work of the Committee. As a member of that Committee, the Brazilian Delegation would like to confirm its full support for the report. I will briefly refer to that part of the report which deals with the present and future world commodity situation.

The Committee clearly recognized the unsatisfactory situation of commodity trade in 1984 and especially in 1985, characterized by the decline in export prices of many agricultural commodities, and limited access to the markets of the industrialized countries. We fully endorse the view confirmed by the Committee that the key to the improvement in the agricultural trading system is trade liberalization through the progressive elimination of export subsidies and other similar practices, as well as protectionist measures which curb the access of developing countries to

international markets. The creation of favourable trading conditions is the only way to improve the economic situation of developing countries in their exports of commodities, to enable them to increase their foreign exchange earnings and to permit many of them to try to service their external debt.

My delegation wishes to express its concern with the fact that multilateral cooperation has made little progress, if any, with regard to international actions that can improve agricultural trade. This is an increasingly important question. The 1982 GATT Programme of Work has not been completed. negotiations on international commodity agreements are facing serious problems, and the coming into force of the Common Fund is threatened by lack of political will on the part of the major developed countries. We associate ourselves with the views expressed previously by the representatives of many countries who have spoken earlier-with Austria, Senegal and Panama, for instance; with the Representative of Colombia on coffee; with the Representative of Mexico on commodity agreements; with the Representative of India on the important fact that the next round of trade negotiations in GATT be concerned exclusively with trade matters and not with servicing.

Finally, as this matter has been so ably referred to by the Representative of the Philippines, and others, I would just like to put on record that our view is that the expression of the Committee is an acceptable way of expressing the view of a large majority, or even of just a legal majority. We also agree with the views of the Representative of the Philippines that if consensus is a very desirable way of coming to a decision, on the other hand it is also desirable that we may have the chance when the occasion arises to express the view of a large majority as the view of the Committee, or as the view of some other body of opinion.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, allow me to say how pleased we are to see you once again chairing our deliberations. We also wish to thank Mr Musharraf for his excellent presentation of the report bearing on the fifty-fifth session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

It is, indeed, disconcerting to observe the continuing declining trend in world trade in agricultural commodities. The terms of trade generally militate against the efforts of the developing countries to improve their worsening situation. Against the backdrop of the worst recession to have occurred in fifty years, the economic conditions of developing countries have deteriorated. High interest rates, intractable debt burdens and reduced export earnings have adversely affected their ability to improve their overall economic conditions and to raise their level of nutrition and food security. The sharp decline in export prices of most agricultural products impedes all the initiatives of the developing countries to raise food and agricultural production. There is a crying need to arrest this trend and to introduce some order and stability in the international commodity market.

The other matter of great concern to all of us present here is the rising trend of protectionism. This was graphically depicted by the Director-General in his celebrated statement on the occasion of the fifty-fifth session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and his message that declining prices of agricultural commodities and mounting protectionism had brought the world to the brink of a trade war will reverberate around the world. This situation is no doubt critical, and we are grateful to this Committee which has underlined the dangers of the rising tide of protectionism of agricultural commodities and agricultural products.

Of serious concern to my country is the low price of raw cotton, and also the restraints on imports of textiles and clothing from developing countries. We also welcome the deliberations of the Committee on the broad issue of linkages between food security and international trade. We take note of the demands for liberalization of trade, including trade in agricultural commodities and agricultural products. We hope that the negotiations in the GATT Committee on Trade and Agriculture will find a satisfactory solution to this most urgent problem, of great concern to most of the developing countries. My delegation wholeheartedly endorses the conclusions and recommendations and future commodity programme contained in this report.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Quiero expresarle primeramente la satisfacción que nos produce verle de nuevo presidiendo nuestras reuniones. Quiero apoyar el Informe y felicitar al Presidente del Comité por su bien hacer y su paciencia, y además por la exposición resumida que ha hecho en el día de hoy, del 55° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Es evidente que el Informe es inquietante; no es ni puede ser optimista. El GATT y el FIDA con aludidos en el Informe como organismos que deben ser potenciados. La deuda externa, el proteccionismo, la caída de precios, la falta de acuerdo en algunos productos básicos exigen un esfuerzo y una voluntad de entendimiento que todos deseamos que cada vez se desarrolle más por todos los países.

Quiero hacer una pequeña referencia a la intervención de un delegado sobre su apreciación del consenso. Es cierto que no estoy de acuerdo con su concepto sobre este término, pero esto no tiene demasiada importancia. Lo que nos preocupa es que la posición de cada uno, y en definitiva de las minorías, sea respetada y se permita que sea expuesta verbalmente o por escrito siempre que esa minoría lo considere necesario. En resumen, señor Presidente, apoyamos y deseamos vivamente que este Informe merezca la aprobación de este Consejo.

R. Mohammad BAHRAM (Afghanistan): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan highly appreciates the work done by the Committee on Commodity Problems. We support the recommendations delivered by this Committee. We strongly share the views expressed by the delegate of Cuba, particularly regarding the International Economic Order. We believe that through this new Economic Order the problems mentioned in this report will be solved effectively and social economic justice will be restored in the developing countries and the food insecurity problem will finally be resolved. Many resolutions have been made in this regard, but now is the time that practical action should be taken. Finally, the delegation of Afghanistan supports all the recommendations in this regard but particularly asks for the new Economic Order.

Jacques POSIER (France): Je voudrais simplement dire quelques mots sur les conditions dans lesquelles le rapport qui nous est soumis a été discuté à la fin de la dernière session du Comité du Programme. Dans les dernières heures de ces discussions, le décompte des délégués présents a été fait et il a été constaté que le quorum n'était pas atteint. Je ne fais pas cette remarque dans un esprit négatif, dans un esprit de contestation, je la fais simplement parce que jusqu'à présent ce fait n'a pas été mentionné et parce que je pense qu'il était nécessaire qu'il le fût. Sur ce point, c'est tout ce que j'avais à dire et je pense que je devais le dire.

D'autre part, je voudrais reprendre certains propos, certaines thèses qui viennent d'être exposées concernant certaines notions du consensus. Je ne vais pas développer ce thème parce que je pense que ce n'est pas le moment, mais la délégation française se réserve de le faire dans d'autres circonstances. Je veux néanmoins dès à présent dire que nous avons une conception complètement différente de celle qui a été exposée en ce qui concerne le consensus. Je veux dire que la délégation française considère qu'une minorité a toujours le droit, je dirais même le devoir, de s'exprimer et qu'il doit être tenu compte de l'expression des minorités dans les rapports.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to thank the Committee and its Chairman for the work they have done. On the other hand, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that my delegation received document CL 88/6 only today. That is why we could not yet examine the document to the necessary extent.

Despite that I would like to underline our reservation, in particular concerning Part IV, precisely (paragraphs 37 to 50), as we are informed by the footnote with regard to paragraph 50 on page 11, no consensus was found on both paragraphs 49 and 50. In our view, Part IV, (paragraphs 37 to 50), should give a more balanced view on the problem of agricultural protectionism as it was underlined by the observer of the EEC in the Committee. We find that in paragraph 30 on page 7.

My country pursues a very liberal trade policy. During the last five years our imports from developing countries increased by about one third. Our foreign trade balance traditionally shows a large deficit in favour of the developing countries.

In this plenary meeting I would like, with your permission, to cite a very interesting aspect which was raised by Pakistan in the discussion of the First Committee of the General Assembly on the procedure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which was adopted for our decision-making, and I cite: "Consensus is based on the idea of reconciliation of opposing views with the objective of producing an outcome that has the general support of all". I think we should keep that in mind.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): Mr Chairman, I should like to join those earlier delegates who have welcomed you back to the Council.

I would also like to underline strongly the observations made by a number of earlier delegations about the patient and extremely capable way in which Mr Musharraf guided the deliberations of the Committee on Commodity Problems. He had a most difficult job on his hands and I think he conducted himself with great honour, and I might say not always with the support that most of us from the floor should have given him at various times.

When the discussions began on 21 October in the CCP it was our impression and to our disappointment that there seemed to be some lethargy in the Committee and some lack of positive feelings as to its worth, but I was soon disabused of this feeling of lethargy as the days moved on, and indeed I think we moved on to have a most vigorous, useful and spirited discussion over the three or four days. I certainly support the comments made by Cuba that the discussion was held in excellent spirit, was useful and frank and while there were divergencies of views these were expressed most articulately and in good spirit.

As speakers have indicated, the focus during the week fell very heavily on the issue of protectionism. It did not seem to matter whether we were discussing item II, the world commodity situation, item III, which covered trade and world food security or trade in dairy products, whether we were discussing the intergovernmental groups themselves and the different commodities, whether we were talking about item VII, developments in GATT, or indeed whether we were focussing on item IV, which dealt specifically with protectionism, on all those items delegates expressed their concerns and views about the role of domestic policies in the agriculture and by extension the export subsidies, the levels of protectionism which impacted on trade.

We were one of those countries who joined in this expression of concern and as a country that is very heavily dependent in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector we can vouchsafe that we have first-hand experience of the impact of protectionism on export subsidies and on misguided domestic policies of other countries which seriously harm our interests. We can only appreciate that those same impacts are felt even more severely by those developing countries which depend so heavily on primary exports for their livelihood.

In the Committee we expressed the view that all countries have domestic policies which could be characterised as distorting trade and agriculture and agricultural products. It is of course a longstanding and somewhat futile argument to indicate who is the greatest sinner in this respect and who the least. But we underlined the importance we felt of looking at such policies from the point of view of their impact on the international trading environment.

There are through political necessity domestic policies which some countries manage internally, manage them to such an extent that they do not externalize their problems on the global markets and thus beggar their neighbours and create havoc for those who depend so heavily on those markets for their export earnings. In this respect, we underlined in one or two cases where the Secretariat might pursue the avenue of dealing in trade impact of these policies as opposed to the policies themselves.

We also pointed to the view that trade liberalization is a positive development, one that should be viewed by all countries with equal interest, and we could not help but feel that at some times during the debate there seemed to be differentiation between those countries who it was felt could afford trade liberalization and those who could not. While we sympathize in the short term, the greater interest in the developing world, the greater need of the developing world for market access, certainly in the longer term there must be an equal commitment to freer trade and trade liberalizing actions in the agricultural commodities sphere. We do not wish to engage in a discussion of protests at this time except to say that we share the concerns as to the processes of decision making insofar as it involves consensus and would surely like to participate in whatever forum is gathered to discuss this particular issue.

Finally, we support this report. We do not agree with everything that is in it and that is only logical. We support it and think it is a good one. We would only wish, perhaps, to refer to paragraph 84 which mentions the crisis in multilateralism and we at times share the view that there are crises in multilateralism but we do not feel that it is because of the negative attitudes of groups of countries and would question the use of the suggestion that certain developed countries are negative to multilateral cooperation, and hope it is not a perception that when countries disagree on particular issues those in the minority are deemed to be negative. There are obviously many ways to pursue different thrusts and indicated actions to address perceived problems and where there is disagreement it is not to say those, as some people are negative while others are positive.

Sra Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Comenzaremos por expresar nuestra identificación con aquellos que han manifestado su complacencia por tenerle a usted de nuevo presidiendo este Consejo, la y por la elección que se ha hecho de sus vicepresidentes. Vamos a expresar asimismo nuestro apoyo a los estudios y a la Secretaría que para este Comité de Productos Básicos ha revelado un vez más dedicación y eficacia en sus trabajos, y que por eso podemos estar al día.

En cuanto a la situación que a productos básicos se refiere, debemos expresar nuestra coincidencia por la preocupación expresada por nuestro Director General por su intervención ante ese Comité y por su justificado temor ante una guerra comercial en perspectiva, determinada precisamente por esta situación vinculada a la inseguridad de los mercados mundiales de los productos básicos.

El Comité de Productos Básicos, en el desarrollo de sus discusiones, puso muy en claro cuán grave es la situación de los países productores de productos básicos. Creo que nunca como ahora nosotros hemos podido tener una visión casi patética de cuál va a ser la situación de unos países que se afanan por producir una serie de productos que luego no encuentran cómo poder colocar en los mercados internacionales, siendo que ésa es la única manera para ellos de salir adelante, que es en realidad materia de la supervivencia para muchos de esos países.

Pensamos cuál puede ser la solución que esperan los productores de yute, por ejemplo, en la India y en los otros países frente al avance de la producción de sintéticos cuando ellos no van a encontrar manera de competir con esos productos.

Entonces, tenemos allí una lucha de la tecnología contra los países productores agrícolas. Y cuál va a ser entonces la solución: ¿cambiar rotundamente el producto que hasta ahora, por siglos ha sido su única manera de sobrevivir, o contar con la comprensión de los países industrializados como una manera más de colaborar para la supervivencia de aquellos países?

Ante la situación de hambre que confrontan los países africanos, todo el mundo ha volcado su interés y su mirada hacia esos países y han tratado de colaborar para solventar el problema de su hambre. ¿No será también una manera para los productores de esos productos básicos de no demandarles productos a quienes tienen la mano tendida porque no pueden llegar al siguiente día sin un alimento, pero sí entender que habría que llegar a la liberación de los precios, a la apertura de sus mercados para poder compensar el trabajo de quienes dedican, año tras año todas sus energías y su posibilidad de trabajo, a la producción de productos como el banano, el té, el yute y otras fibras y que no encuentran la posibilidad de colocarlos en el mercado?

Creo que habría que llegar a la situación de que es sólo una toma de conciencia de los países consumidores la que podría llegar a esta manera de entender el problema y no esperar a que llegue el momento del hambre para enviar los alimentos, sino plantearnos el problema antes y no alzar barreras contra estos productos. Porque los países consumidores dicen que no les pertenecen las responsabilidades de esta situación, pero es así como la ven los países productores, ¿de qué otra manera podrían ver los productores de yute o banana la situación del proteccionismo agrícola? Situación que existe, que es una realidad, o la situación de las barreras que se ponen a los productos porque, a decir de los entendidos, en estos países consumidores no tienen la calidad suficiente para ser consumidos. Por eso yo creo que en realidad esto es una guerra no declarada, es una guerra, como se dice en los medios de la publicidad, una guerra subliminal como las pruebas que se han dado por allí pero que la sienten los países y que sólo en foros como éste podríamos llegar a dilucidar el problema para buscar una solución en relación con lo que el delegado de Pakistán ha anunciado, y así lo sentimos todos, es cierto que nosotros no podemos tener ninguna otra esperanza que la esperanza en un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, pero ¿quién va a imponer ese nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en el consenso de las naciones?. Creo que corresponde a los pequeños países, a los países en vías de desarrollo, tomar conciencia de cuáles serían los medios para poder establecer no una imposición de ese nuevo Orden Económico, sino una comprensión de sus necesidades y poder establecer los medios, los instrumentos por los cuales y en medio de la relación multilateral podamos llegar a él. No se trata de una guerra de vencedores y vencidos, se trata de una discusión profunda sobre cuáles serían las metas y cuáles serían los medios para llegar a ello.

Los altos tipos de interés, la inestabilidad monetaria, el servicio de la deuda, que hoy se presenta como un gigante a vencer o a conquistar por los países productores, precisamente sobre productos básicos, sobre esos productos vitales deberemos discutir en este foro y no pensar que solamente el consenso es lo más importante. Se ha dicho aquí que el consenso es equivalente a la conciliación, pero ¿puede establecerse una conciliación entre un hambriento y un poderoso que tiene los alimentos y se los niega? ¿Cómo podríamos lograrlo? Esa es la situación actual planteada en nuestros países productores de productos básicos, que no tienen acceso a los mercados internacionales y que no tienen una manera de abrir esos mercados como no fuera estableciendo una interrelación de estos países para tomar medidas definitivas.

Yo pienso que vamos de década en década sucumbiendo a las ilusiones. En la década de los 70 el señuelo de los países productores fue la exportación. Todos esos países cayeron en la ilusión de que si ellos producían para exportar, ellos iban a resolver el problema. Pusieron todos sus afanes en ese proceso de producir para exportar y ya alguien dijo por allí que ahora era producir para morir. En aquel momento se creyó que la exportación era la solución a la supervivencia de esos países. Ahora tenemos otro señuelo, otra ilusión: el fondo común. ¿Será verdad que el fondo común va a resolver los problemas? ¿Quiénes son los que van a cooperar en ese fondo común, quién va a poder dar los medios para que el fondo común funcione? Cuando digo esto tengo muy presente en la mente la situación del FIDA. Nosotros tenemos actualmente un fondo común que está sufriendo precisamente por la falta de cooperación de los países que podrían resolver los problemas; entonces no es cuestión de venir a estos foros, poner toda nuestra mejor voluntad, nuestra sinceridad y nuestro deseo de cooperar en esta obra de acción multilateral. No basta con que aprobemos aquí este Informe, excelente Informe producto del trabajo de muchos días de un Comité de Redacción que lo hizo lo mejor posible; pero si en la conciencia de los dirigentes de esos países que pueden, que tienen el poder económico en sus manos, no se procede a llegar a un acuerdo para lograr un entendimiento, este Informe y todos los informes que nosotros aprobamos, serían letra muerta, como lo han sido los derechos humanos de las Naciones Unidas y como lo han sido otros muchos acuerdos.

Perdonen ustedes mi pesimismo, pero en realidad hemos pasado muchos años entendiendo problemas de esta naturaleza para llegar a la conclusión de que todo era letra muerta. Estoy de acuerdo en que aprobemos el Informe en su totalidad, pero creo que nuestra acción no debe quedarse en eso. La acción debe ir más allá, debe ir a que los países en vías de desarrollo traten de ponerse de acuerdo entre sí para buscar la manera de que seamos nosotros mismos los que contribuyamos a resolver nuestros problemas y no sigamos esperando a que llegue el vecino a que nos ayude a resolver esas cuestiones. Que nosotros podamos de alguna manera poner nuestra inteligencia, nuestra voluntad, ya que no podemos poner nuestro dinero, para encontrar una fórmula para que podamos resolver los problemas.

Excúseme, Sr. Presidente, la emoción que me embarga en estos momentos, pero conozco de cerca la tragedia que viven muchos de esos países productores de materia prima y sabemos que ellos solos no podrán salir adelante en la solución de sus problemas. Nosotros estamos aquí para ayudarlos y espero que podamos ayudarles con medidas prácticas, con medidas realmente concretas para lograr un futuro mejor para ellos y para todos.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voudrions vous dire combien nous nous réjouissons de vous voir à nouveau présider cette session du Conseil. Nous sommes certains que sous votre houlette les travaux de cette session connaîtront un succès.

Nous voudrions également exprimer notre reconnaissance au Président du Comité des produits qui, tout au long des travaux de la cinquante-cinquième session, a montré des qualités exceptionnelles, insoupçonnées jusque-là.

Je crois que tout le monde l'a reconnu et nous aussi nous voudrions souscrire aux éloges qui ont été prodigués à son endroit. La délégation congolaise a activement pris part aux travaux de la cinquante-cinquième session du Comité des produits. C'est pourquoi elle voudrait d'emblée dire qu'elle appuie fermement les conclusions auxquelles est parvenu le Comité des produits. Nous voudrions dire que nous avons ici des conclusions qui reflètent les débats qui ont eu lieu au cours de cette session et nous pensons nous aussi qu'il s'agit là de conclusions qui ne reflètent pas forcément les points de vue de la délégation congolaise en totalité mais nous estimons que dans un esprit de dialogue constructif, nous ne pouvons que les approuver. Nous tenons pour notre part à féliciter le Directeur général pour sa brillante intervention au seuil des travaux de ce Comité. Il a su, comme à l'accoutumée, mettre le doigt sur les problèmes fondamentaux qui préoccupent notamment les pays en développement. Nous pensons nous aussi que les points sur lesquels il a attiré l'attention du Comité sont des points extrêmement importants et auxquels, d'ailleurs, le Comité s'est efforcé d'apporter des solutions.

A cet égard, le quatrième paragraphe de cette allocution, comme l'ont déjà souligné un certain nombre de délégations, rencontre également notre appui total. C'est pourquoi toutes les mesures préconisées pour éviter cette guerre dont il est fait état ici nous semblent des mesures judicieuses dans la mesure où elles devraient contribuer à détendre l'atmosphère (car il s'agit d'une atmosphère lourde). Par exemple lorsque nous lisons au paragraphe 13 toutes les difficultés qu'affrontent les pays en développement pour faire face à leur service de la dette. Chacun sait que les exportations jouent un grand rôle dans les pays en développement et notamment les exportations des produits de base pour pouvoir, non seulement assurer le service de la dette, mais également investir pour accroître la production et par conséquent avoir des répercussions positives sur la sécurité alimentaire. Nous savons bien entendu que la baisse des prix des produits à l'exportation a sérieusement compromis l'aptitude de nos pays à assumer ce service de la dette. Je crois que les mesures préconisées ici sont de nature à pouvoir aller de l'avant. Malheureusement nous sommes obligés de constater que nous n'avons pas toujours la compréhension nécessaire, tout au moins de la part de certains pays développés qui ne nous aident pas suffisamment, et je crois que le fait que l'on ait dit "non" à la constitution du fonds commun nous semble à notre avis une situation préoccupante et qu'il convient, comme l'a fait le Comité, de lancer un appel en direction des pays développés qui s'opposent à ce fonds commun.

Nous profitons également de l'examen de ce point pour rappeler que les pays en développement, en raison justement de la baisse des exportations, éprouvent beaucoup de difficultés à faire en sorte que les petits paysans puissent pouvoir accroître leur revenu. Ces problèmes sont aggravés lorsque l'on sait que le FIDA, qui s'occupe justement des petits paysans, rencontre en ce moment des difficultés. Je crois qu'à cet égard le paragraphe pertinent du rapport du Comité devrait rencontrer ici l'appui de tout le Conseil.

Pour en venir au problème du consensus, nous aussi nous pensons qu'au sein d'un comité il est normal que des problèmes aussi cruciaux que ceux du commerce international des produits de base puissent pouvoir soulever des discussions après; mais je crois qu'il est normal que nous puissions exprimer dans notre rapport les points de vue de la minorité. Cela ne signifie en aucune façon que la majorité devrait désormais se ranger derrière la minorité. Je crois que le consensus signifie que la minorité devrait pouvoir faire en sorte qu'il puisse adopter en définitive l'attitude prise par la majorité, faute de quoi nous n'arriverons jamais à des conclusions. Je crois qu'à cet égard, si l'on applique les textes de base de notre organisation on ne devrait pas se poser ce genre de question. Le consensus, c'est bien cela: l'opinion de la minorité devrait être exprimée mais des conclusions devraient être tirées sur l'opinion de la majorité.

James E. ROSS (United States of America): The United States shares the concerns of other exporting countries regarding the need to push ahead with efforts to negotiate better trading rules, and the removal of access barriers and export subsidies is a key element for improving agricultural trade, development and food security. While the United States is sensitive to the problems of commodity exporting countries, it is sceptical of the benefits provided by price-affecting international commodity agreements. The United States believes that international trade will be most beneficial if it is conducted through free markets. We note that only four price-affecting commodity agreements have been negotiated and continue to operate. Only three of these provide for internationally controlled buffer stocks but all would require considerable administrative and financial modification to meet the requirements for association with the Common Fund, Under these circumstances, the United States does not believe that the Common Fund would be able to fulfill the role envisaged for it in international commodity trade and has decided not to undertake the processes associated with its ratification.

We must examine a very important question - what system has produced the wealth that enables people and nations to buy these products. No country or group of countries can impose an order on others. Countries must be willing to take steps to improve their own well-being and to work together to improve world food security.

The United States has been a major proponent of liberalized trade in agriculture. The facts support the United States' commitment to liberalized trade. Last year the United States had a deficit of \$13 billion in trade with developing countries. This trade was possible because of a legislation, such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the General System of Preferences, which includes 2 800 items and permits liberalized importation in the United States. We are committed to a meaningful progress on agriculture in the forthcoming round of the multilateral trade negotiations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the United States delegation supports the comments made by others that the views of minorities should be taken into account and reflected fully in all FAO reports.

It is important to draw a distinction between the report of the meeting and the committee's decision-making. While the subject of consensus is a complex one, about which there will continue to be disagreement, there should be no question about the right of any government to have its views, as expressed, recorded in the reports of FAO bodies.

CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the close of my list as far as Members of the Council are concerned. Is there any other Member of the Council who wishes a second opportunity to speak?

Jacobo C. CLAVE (Philippines): I briefly take the floor because of an apprehension that my reference to the decision-making process of this Council might perhaps not have been properly understood. When I raised this question of the problem of consensus it was never my intention to preclude the Voices, or the hearing of the voice, of the minority. In fact, I think that the minority in this-Council has been given every opportunity to ventilate its views.

The issue which I raised - and I did not provide a question, Mr. Chairman - is: should the voice of the minority become the voice of the committee or of the Council? Should the voice of the minority prevail over the voice of a great majority of the Members of the Council? - that is one question. We shall strive to arrive at decisions via consensus - but consensus in my view is not unanimity. However, if that is the view of my colleagues, then the question I raise is: what happens if we do not reach that unanimity? In the light of the existence of a large majority view, will not the large majority view prevail?

I have listened to my distinguished colleagues from Spain and Canada whose views I greatly respect; and the delegate of Canada in particular raised the question of discussing this in the proper forum. I have been wondering where the proper forum is - but my initial view is that this Council will be called upon after its deliberations to make decisions. I think it is appropriate - although this is only my view - that we should make the decision at some point during our deliberations as to whether or not consensus should be the only decision-making procedure for this Council, or whether, after attempts to arrive at a decision through consensus have failed, we should fall back upon the formally accepted decision-making procedure which is that of voting. If I were to make a proposal, I would propose this falling back, not because this is what is more pleasant to me, but because our Rules of Procedure have adopted precisely the voting system as the system of making decisions. I just express the alarm that consensus may become a procedure to override the views of the majority, and I must thank, in conclusion Mr Chairman, the views of my other colleagues who in one way or another have supported my concern for our decision-making procedures.

Gilles DESEQUELLES (CEE): En plus des remarques déjà formulées par les Etats membres de la Communauté, et sans réouvrir le débat, mais par souci de clarté, même si tout le monde se déclare pour une libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles, je voudrais rappeler que tous les pays protègent leur agriculture d'une manière ou d'une autre. Ne serait-ce qu'en raison de l'instabilité des marchés, des fluctuations des monnaies, ou des spéculations sur les matières premières, le secteur agricole doit relever de règles de commerce spécifiques qui font du reste partie intégrante du dispositif multilatéral du GATT depuis sa création, dix ans avant la constitution de la Communauté.

Les mécanismes que la Communauté met en oeuvre ont été jugés conformes aux règles du commerce international.

Nous souhaiterions une modification technique à la dernière phrase du paragraphe 57 lorsqu'on souligne: "Le Comité, à l'exception des pays membres de la CEE s'est également inquiété que la proposition avancée dans une récente communication... " le mot "proposition" nous gêne. En effet, en termes communautaires, proposition signifie que la Commission des Communautés européennes propose officiellement au Conseil des ministres de prendre une mesure spécifique. Dans le cas particulier, ce n'est qu'une réflexion et non pas une proposition. Il faudrait donc dire: "réflexion".

Des consultations sont en cours pour savoir quelle serait la meilleure solution pour réexaminer le secteur des matières grasses dans la Communauté. A cet égard, croyez bien que la situation des pays en développement sera prise en compte au moment d'une proposition officielle.

De plus, nous nous associons aux remarques du délégué du Canada en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 84.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Committee on Commodity Problems): Mr Chairman, first perhaps I should express my thanks for the complimentary remarks lavished on the Chairman. I do not know that I can agree with some of them or any of them, but the quality of patience was perhaps apt and correct. But I must add that the whole Committee had patience, not just the Chairman. We all sat until midnight.

One can in the end say that in the Committee on Commodities there was no shortage of the commodity of patience, friendliness and good humour. In our deliberations we considered and discussed a range of commodity problems and problem commodities. I can repeat that our labour which, as Marx taught us is also a commodity, was also well spent. We also think that our time, which is another precious commodity, was also well spent.

The debate today has reflected more or less the discussions we had and the issues that were raised in the Committee. Various paragraphs in the report have been expressed by various delegates and various measures, such as the Common Fund etc., have been stressed. As in the Committee, a dismal picture has been painted once again that we are on the brink of the trade war stated by the Director-General in his introduction, or that as some would like to emphasize, we are in the midst of a trade war and so on. The report has been called, perhaps rightly so, as a varying report. This is not the stage for me Mr. Chairman to go into repeating or reporting the discussion again. In any case I am not the Chairman of this Session. My function today was only to report what had happened in the Committee and to present the report of the Committee which I have already done. But I would nevertheless comment on one or two points raised by several speakers relevant to the report as it stands, and the way committees in general prepare their reports and the tasks of the Chairman as I see it.

As regards the report as it stands, some specific statements were made by several delegates. One stated that paragraph 3 of the report "should add or reflect some portion of the Director-General's statement in paragraphs 14 and 4". Personally I could live with that but I think we have to see whether what has been a tradition in reporting such matters will be reproduced in paragraph 3 or the gist of the Director-General's statements in these reports. I would personally have no objection to that.

Regarding the way committees prepare their reports and reflect viewpoints and consensus and the role of the Chairman in this respect, points which have been raised by several delegates, it was suggested by a delegate and by others that the Chairman should have a summary of conclusions at the end so that committees' consensus view can be reflected and not treated like the vast majority, and some said this and that.

On this I would say (1) as far as our proceedings in the Committee on Commodity Problems are concerned if those who participated in it, and I am afraid that some delegates were not there, invariably Mr. Chairman I used to have the practice of summing up each and every item at the end in quite some detail, so that was done. But that I found myself did not offer the solution to the problem that has been raised just now because it is not a simple issue. In spite of the fact that a detailed summary or summing up can be done by the Chairman involved, and was done in this case, the issue remains highly thorny and very complex because sometimes the sense of the house can be sensed by the Chairman, which is his function, and can be meaningful, but sometimes the consensus would be empty and platitudinous. The Chairman's task then sometimes can be to point out not the consensus but dissensus rather than the consensus, and the expression of various viewpoints, sometimes irreconcilable viewpoints. It is therefore the drafting committee and the Plenary at the adoption stage to give expression to the various viewpoints and decide whether to include in the report an empty sounding and platitudinous consensus, or some more meaningful statement of dissensus which statement such as "the majority said this, the vast majority said this, but some said this, " and a reflection of minority views. This in my view is therefore a continuing issue and not a separate issue. But each chairman and each committee has to find its own way through this thorny issue, and often blunder through it, negotiate through it, and so on, and then to produce it to a simple and fixed formula may not be the best thing to do even if it were possible. The definition of consensus given by Italy for example, quoting Pakistan and the United Nations, is fine, but the point I am trying to state is that it may lead to an empty and platitudinous consensus not providing the basis of any concrete expression. With that I will leave that issue and confine myself to those remarks.

Coming to some of the other more specific points raised by delegates, I would like to comment on one or two. The question of quorum was raised by one delegate. I would only remind the Committee and the Council here that all had agreed, all the shades of opinion in the Committee, during the Committee's deliberations that the Committee should proceed with its work and recommend the report to the Council. There is a precedent in this respect in this very Council and that precedent can be accepted. So that I think is not in issue.

Another point raised by Italy, if I've got Italy correctly, that Italy wanted to add its reservation to paragraph 50, but that, I think Mr Chairman, is for you to take a note of. I may not have followed the point myself very well.

Finally it has been stated that the last sentence of Paragraph 57 as has been stated by the EEC at the end, that the word "proposal" is not in line with EEC terminology, it should be "reflection". I do not know but I think here perhaps each organization will have its own usage and commensurate terminology, and "proposal" perhaps is the accepted term here, but this is a matter for the Council to decide.

I think Mr Chairman I will just confine myself to that, and thank you for giving me the floor.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman of CCP. I thank all members of the Council, the observers and the Chairman of CCP for this detailed debate. In fact the Ambassador of Venezuela said that she became emotional on this issue. I think this is an issue of life and death for so many millions of rural people all over the world, so the Ambassador need not apologize for having become emotional. If anybody has seen some of the areas affected by this kind of calamity situation, they will weep. I am hence fully in agreement with the sentiments of concern that have been expressed.

As far as the report is concerned it is a report of the subsidiary body, the CCP, and has come to the Council. We can commend this report, but our own report of the Council's proceedings will show Council's viewpoints expressed here.

I do not want to get into a lengthy debate about report writing, decision making and consensus formulation. It is obvious that a report should reflect truly what happens at a meeting. The decisions are certainly governed by the Rules of Procedure. The majority view represents the decision. Consensus is a matter of converting the viewpoints to the extent that people have the ability to do this. It is to be welcomed without sacrificing one's basic principles, but I do agree that maybe at some other time or in some other forum one could have a longer discussion on how to develop consensus on important issues. Consensus and unanimous decision certainly are somewhat different. But this is not the occasion to discuss this. So I would recommend that we adopt the report of the CCP, and our drafting committee will try to bring out some of the viewpoints expressed here.

With this we will come to the close of this morning's session and I hope you will all be back promptly this afternoon when we will start with the next item on Genetic Resources.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 88/PV/2

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(4 November 1985)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours,
M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00 sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15. 00 horas bajo la presidencia
de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

5. Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83

- Plant Genetic Resources

5. Application des résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 de la Conférence

- Ressources phytogénétiques

5. Medidas complementarias de las resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83

- Recursos fitogenéticos

CHAIRMAN: As members of the Council are well aware, this document will come up for discussion before the Conference in Commission II on Wednesday 20 November. We have the Chairman of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources here, the Ambassador of Costa Rica, Ambassador Carlo di Mottola Balestra. I will first request Dr Bommer to introduce the item briefly. Then we will hear the Chairman.

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I do not think the item needs any particularly long introduction because, as the Chairman rightly mentioned, it is a document for information and will be discussed in Commission II in detail.

I just wanted to mention that the document briefly recalls the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the views of the first session of the Commission, as well as the recommendations emanating from it.

The follow-up action to these recommendations is briefly described, and the document at the end discusses developments with respect to the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. Further details of this will be presented in Commission II.

Carlo di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos): Agradezco al Sr. Bommer su rápida, pero exhaustiva presentación, que ha hecho del tema. En mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión no voy a entrar en el fondo de los problemas, ya que el fondo de los problemas va a ser examinado en la Comisión II durante la reunión de la Conferencia y porque no me toca a mí hacerlo. Quisiera simplemente tratar un punto general. La Comisión está encargada de constituir un grupo de trabajo de 25 miembros, en consulta con los grupos regionales, cosa que se ha logrado y, por lo tanto, ya los países están avisados y los grupos y los nombres de los países integrantes están contenidos en el informe C 85/24.

La reunión del grupo de trabajo está prevista para mediados de febrero, más o menos. La Comisión formuló muchas recomendaciones y estamos trabajando con la Secretaría para dividir estas recomendaciones por grupos de tema; o sea la agenda que vamos a proponer está dividida por temas, ya que hay una cierta confusión en el contenido de cada una de esas recomendaciones. Haríamos una parte del período de sesiones del grupo de trabajo dedicado a temas jurídicos, después se pasaría a temas técnicos, a temas de información de capacitación y de follow-up. Pensamos que divididos por grupos de temas será más fácil el trabajo de la Comisión.

Desde el mes de marzo ha habido muchas adhesiones a la Comisión y unas adhesiones al compromiso. Yo creo que los dos problemas principales frente a los cuales se encontrará el grupo de trabajo, me permito decir esto, tal vez puedan ser meditados antes de la Conferencia y ya podría surgir una propuesta. Lo que nosotros queremos es hacer participar en los trabajos de la Comisión a los países que no son Miembros de la FAO; es un problema jurídico bastante complejo; por lo tanto yo ruego a las delegaciones de los países que estén interesados en este problema, y me gustaría que fuesen los más posibles, que estudien ellos mismos la resolución jurídica de este problema y aunque parece es un problema únicamente jurídico, prácticamente es un problema político, ya que si tenemos

todos los países que se interesan en los productos fitogenéticos y quien los produce, el diálogo va a ser mucho más fecundo y mucho más amplio.

El otro problema que se tendrá que estudiar en el grupo de trabajo son las reservas. Ya algunos países se han adherido a este grupo de trabajo. Estas reservas las estudiaremos muy a fondo ya que entendiendo las reservas podremos estudiar qué fórmulas se pueden encontrar para eliminarlas y para obtener una acción incondicional al Compromiso.

Antes de terminar quería hacer un llamado para que los países que todavía no se han adherido ni a la Comisión ni al Compromiso, traten de hacerlo ya que prácticamente es sólo participar en un diálogo por tanto les exhorta para que se adhieran al Compromiso y para participar en este diálogo, aunque sólo sea para decir que no están de acuerdo, pero explicando el por qué no lo están. Deben adherirse antes que nada a la Comisión, y al Compromiso, si es posible, sin reservas. De lo contrario, las examinaremos con las reservas.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Deseo expresar en nombre de la delegación mexicana nuestro agradecimiento al Sr. Bommer por la presentación que hizo del tema y, especialmente, al Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos por la magnífica exposición que nos ha presentado. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo con él en lo que se refiere a la invitación a los Estados Miembros para que participen en la Comisión y expresen sus disidencias o los problemas que enfrentan relativos al Código Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

La delegación de México otorga todo su apoyo al Informe y a las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Ha sido un buen inicio de actividades y lamentamos que varios países no se hayan unido entonces a los trabajos de la Comisión y al Compromiso Internacional, pero esperamos que lo hagan pronto.

La delegación de México está dispuesta a colaborar para superar los inconvenientes y dificultades que esos países tienen. Propongo que este Consejo haga un llamado a todos los Estados Miembros para que se unan a esa Comisión y al Compromiso Internacional, o bien expresen cuáles son las razones de su resistencia. Debemos también profundizar en las alternativas existentes para permitir la participación de Estados no miembros de la FAO en los subgrupos de trabajo, como lo ha recomendado el Sr. Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. La FAO debe hacer una labor de atracción por otra parte, de todos los países a estas cuestiones de recursos fitogenéticos que son tan importantes y estratégicos para lograr una mejor situación en la seguridad alimentaria, particularmente en los países en desarrollo. En este sentido debemos dar un contenido práctico al Artículo 7/1/a del Compromiso Internacional sobre la creación de una red internacional bajo la jurisdicción internacional.

Los estudios de carácter técnico y de carácter jurídico que deben estar en marcha, como fueron planteados en la primera reunión de la Comisión, sin duda arrojarán importantes elementos de juicio y permitirán evitar situaciones lamentables, como podría ser el caso de que ciertos países o bancos internacionales patenten los genes de las materias primas colectadas fundamentalmente en países en desarrollo o que, en virtud de las leyes de patentes existentes, ciertos países de origen de los recursos fitogenéticos tengamos que pagar por nuestro propio material genético existentes en bancos que cito.

Buscamos con todo esto garantizar el respeto a los principios de que los recursos fitogenéticos sean patrimonio de toda la humanidad y deben estar disponibles libremente. Para ello, la Delegación de México apoya la creación de un fondo internacional de recursos fitogenéticos.

Es indispensable, además, que la FAO apoye soluciones regionales y subregionales para la promoción de bancos, programas de información, de capacitación y de investigación. El ejemplo del Comité del Sudeste Asiático financiado por el CIRF es un magnífico ejemplo que deseamos ver reproducido en otras regiones. El CIRF ha hecho una buena labor, pero la consideramos aún incompleta e insuficiente y, por otro lado, creemos que perfectamente se acomoda al trabajo complementario y cualitativamente diverso que estamos emprendiendo a través de la Comisión y de los efectos del compromiso internacional.

Esperamos que, al ser congruentes con los principios que ha declarado, nos acompañen y se unan plenamente a nuestros esfuerzos en la FAO.

Debo advertir que al respecto hay problemas técnicos con obvias implicaciones políticas que debemos superar. Solamente subrayar algunas de ellas: Se le ha dado importancia relativa mucho mayor a cultivos de interés global que a aquellos de interés local y, digamos, de inversiones relativas del CIRF, y la cantidad de gente que depende de esos cultivos locales, así como la erosión genética o desconocimiento sobre ella derivada del cambio de cultivos, de consumo, de cultura alimentaria y en general de los cambios de estructura de la economía agrícola dan, entre otros, prueba de lo que decía yo.

Al respecto, subrayamos que, por tanto, los cultivos de interés económico tienen preferencia sobre los de interés social. En México, por ejemplo, a pesar de contar con un importante Instituto Internacional, no existe una oferta adecuada de semillas para la agricultura de temporada y la que existe requiere de un obligado paquete tecnológico de alto costo y con grave implicación de dependencia económica; resulta también que en la situación actual el lugar de multiplicación y evaluación genética no tiene en la gran mayoría de los casos características similares a las del lugar de recolección, porque los bancos de colección in situ se ubican en su gran mayoría en países desarrollados. Esto de por sí es grave, pero más grave es que casi inmediatamente se seleccionan automáticamente los genes que son útiles aplicados en esos lugares de multiplicación y de evaluación. Ello tiene un efecto negativo de carácter económico, social y político contra los países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la erosión genética de los bancos de germoplasma es superior a la del campo, posiblemente esto ocurre en perjuicio de los países en desarrollo porque al multiplicar esos recursos fitogenéticos se eliminan ciertos genes no representativos de la muestra a reproducir, pero quizá fundamentales para el clima, suelo y la organización socioeconómica del lugar de la recolección, esto termina beneficiando principalmente a los países desarrollados en tanto que desaparecen de la multiplicación de genes de interés para el tipo de ecosistema y organización social en los países en desarrollo.

Por eso, la Delegación de México enfatiza la importancia de la conservación in situ, pero advertimos que es necesario la creación de un fondo o de un sistema financiero para apoyarla. La creciente presión demográfica amenaza con reducir aún más la posibilidad de mantener, de conservar la diversidad genética en los genes en nuestros países.

Es cierto, por otro lado, que la conservación de germoplasma aprovechando condiciones naturales favorables tiene un coste de mantenimiento significativamente menor; todo esto está planteado en muy buena parte en el informe de nuestra Comisión, y la FAO deberá estudiarlo y presentarlo para el inicio de los trabajos de la Subcomisión y para la celebración de la segunda reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Solamente con esta información podremos llegar a conclusiones útiles, eso es lo que esperamos de estos esfuerzos.

Como complemento indispensable es prioritaria la integración del sistema de información y el impulso a la formación de especialistas en países en desarrollo principalmente. Como órgano técnico científico, el CIRF tiene una función de asesoría, pero no de carácter político, ésa la deben llevar todos los países miembros de FAO a través de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos con el marco del compromiso internacional.

Invitamos a todos los países a que se unan a estos esfuerzos honestos y positivos en favor de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

José Manuel WATSON (Panamá): La Delegación de Panamá agradece al Sr. Bommer y al Sr. Embajador de Costa Rica, di Mottola, Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, por la magnífica presentación del tema en examen.

Nuestro país, Panamá, no sólo apoyó y acogió la resolución 8|83 emanada del 22° período de sesiones de la Conferencia, por la cual se adoptó el compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos, sino que también aceptó de manera rápida y entusiasta la invitación del Sr. Director General a ser miembro de la Comisión que el Consejo había establecido en su 85° período de sesiones, con el fin de vigilar los acuerdos del compromiso y examinar todas las cuestiones de la FAO relativas a los recursos fitogenéticos.

Asimismo, Panamá es uno de los países que integran el grupo de trabajo de la antes citada Comisión, tal como la había denunciado el Sr. Embajador de Costa Rica, di Mottola. Es dentro de este contexto y por la gran importancia que concedemos a este tema cinco de la agenda, que la Delegación de Panamá desea hacer unos breves comentarios al documento C 85|24 que trata sobre la aplicación de las Resoluciones 8|83 y 9|83 sobre las cuales hemos hecho referencia.

En primer lugar, deseamos destacar nuestra participación en la primera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos celebrada en esta Sede durante el mes de marzo del año en curso, y en este marco de referencias reiteramos nuestro apoyo a las recomendaciones emanadas de dicha reunión y de manera particular a las que se señalan en los párrafos 11, 12 y 13 del Documento en análisis.

A este propósito, nuestra Delegación desea manifestar, tal como lo ha hecho en repetidas ocasiones, entre ellas durante el 22° período de sesiones de la Conferencia, que a nuestro juicio con el ánimo de ser realistas, el compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos será tanto más completo cuanto mayor sea su número de adhérentes, en especial de aquellos que controlan la mayoría de dichos recursos. En tal sentido, apoyamos las medidas indicadas en el párrafo 15 y exhortamos a los países que han formulado reservas a partes concretas del compromiso a que comprendan y aprecien los esfuerzos que en tal sentido se realizan y puedan adherirse al mismo sin reservas.

Asimismo solicitamos a otros países que no se han adherido al compromiso para que expliquen en forma clara y objetiva los motivos de su disidencia, a fin de tratar de encontrar solución a la misma.

Por otra parte, la Delegación de Panamá está segura de que podrán encontrarse lo más rápidamente posible las alternativas que permitan la participación de países no miembros de la FAO.

Para terminar, y con el ánimo de ser breve, deseamos manifestar en forma global que compartimos las medidas a las que se refieren los párrafos 14, 16, 17, 18 y 19 del documento C 85|24.

Fot is G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all I wish to express our thanks to Dr Bommer and to the Ambassador for Costa Rica, Mr di Mottola Balestra, for their clear introductions to the subject under discussion. We have closely followed the developments leading to the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We participated in its first session, and we have no difficulty in fully endorsing its report.

Since the first session of the Commission was held in March this year, new developments have taken place which we note with either satisfaction or some scepticism. It is certainly encouraging to note that the numbers of members of the Commission increased during this period from 67 to 77, and that the growth of the international undertaking on plant genetics has also slightly increased. We welcome the establishment of a Secretariat TaskForce to initiate and follow-up actions following recommendations made by the Commission. And we are sure that by appropriate analysis of objections and doubts from either non-members of the Commission or countries unable to adhere to the Undertaking, both numbers can be further increased.

The undertaking of studies, as listed in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of document C 85/24, covers most of the recommendations made by the Commission. We trust the results of those studies will be ready by the end of 1986, before the next session of the Commission. The results of these studies would provide the Commission with the information required for further action in the future. We look forward therefore to their completion, and we hope that the time frame outlined in the same paragraphs will be maintained.

We referred previously to some recent developments which have caused us some scepticism. This refers mainly to the working arrangements between FAO and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. Before the Commission on Plant Genetics was established some delegates had suggested that the work carried out in the field by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources was sufficient. We do not want to suggest that the IBPGR did not carry out satisfactory work in this field, but the conclusions of the External Programme and Management Review commission by the Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR suggest that, at least in research evaluation and utilization of genetic resources, much more needs to be done.

But more important is the suggestion of the Review Panel, that IBPGR become a fully independent centre outside FAO. We do not know the justification which lies behind this recommendation, but we are hesitant to believe that it will serve to avoid duplication of efforts and overlapping of activities between FAO and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. We welcome therefore the response of the Director-General, in informing the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources that its association with FAO is still valid, and that the Organization is prepared to continue its support of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources under the existing arrangement. We believe that the two bodies should work together towards implementation of the undertaking, avoiding duplication, and complementarity between their work.

K. N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): In the first place I would like to compliment the distinguished Ambassador of Costa Rica for preparing such an excellent report. He has brought the issues forward very clearly, and we would like to thank him for this report. I would like to emphasize the need for participation by the non-members who have certain reservations. It is necessary to open a dialogue with them, and ensure that they also become members of the Commission. We should take all possible steps to initiate the dialogue and also to remove their misgivings.

I would also like to emphasize the need for conservation of our genetic resources. These constitute the heritage of mankind, and every effort should be made to preserve this heritage for all time to come.

In paragraph 17 there is a reference to in situ Conservation. It is reported that guidelines on management of in situ Conservation are being completed. In this connection my delegation would like to suggest that where in situ Conservation involves abandonment or postponement of any development project, those countries concerned should be compensated for this in situ Conservation which may involve a cost in real terms to the developing countries. The question of compensating them for the loss should be considered.

We would like to compliment the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. They have done excellent work. We would like to see meaningful collaboration and meaningful interaction between the Commission and the International Board. The workplan on complementarity should be completed as soon as possible, and we would suggest that the two Organizations should collaborate closely and take all action required to complete the workplan at the earliest possible moment.

We would also suggest that the legal questions relating to the setting up of the collection centres should be resolved as soon as possible. The collection work should begin, and there should not be any impediment or difficulty in taking up the collection.

We would also suggest that the information systems should be set up. There should be free access to the resources of the Commission. The launching of FAO's seed information system has been proposed and we would point out that access to the resources of the Commission is important. Access can improve only if there is a meaningful information system.

We would also emphasize the need for training. The requirements should be properly assessed, and we should prepare a detailed plan. In this connection we would also support the suggestion by the distinguished delegate of Mexico and we would welcome the setting up of an international fund for development of genetic resources. This is a very valid and useful suggestion, and we recommend that it be pursued. We would also suggest that some regional centres be set up and that the work of the fund be strengthened and made more meaningful.

With these suggestions we would like to support the report of the Ambassador of Costa Rica.

kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): To begin with I would like to associate myself with many of the previous speakers in congratulating the three Vice-Chairmen on their unanimous election.

I have listened to the short and excellent presentation made by Dr Bommer, supplemented by the excellent report of the Chairman of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources with interest. My Government recognizes the need to enhance international activities related to plant genetic resources since many valuable plant genetic resources, it has been recorded, are disappearing from the earth. From this point of view Japan has been actively participating and supporting the voluntary activities of IBPGR and we believe that these activities have been fully satisfactory in terms of the international exchange and protection of plant genetic resources.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, which a Japanese delegation attended as an observer, recommended that, as was mentioned in paragraph 12 of the document, special attention be given to avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities, and that the letter of agreement between FAO and IBPGR be reviewed. I would like to reiterate, however, that the approaches which weakened the current activities of IBPGR should be strictly reframed. Since CGIAR is also reviewing the future activities of IBPGR, as mentioned in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the document, a close exchange of views between FAO and CGIAR is necessary in order to make the activities of both organizations run more effectively and efficiently.

My Government earnestly hopes that the Working Group which was referred to in paragraph 13 of the document will thoroughly consider ways of finding a solution to the following questions for implementation of the undertaking. Firstly, optimum efforts to avoid duplication of activities and to ensure better cooperation between IBPGR and FAO should be made. Secondly, my Government believes that plant genetic resources, in principle, should be voluntarily exchanged by the countries concerned since legal binding of these activities may not be acceptable to many countries. Thirdly, plant genetic resources defined in the undertaking, including the newest varieties which breeders have managed to create, is feared to infringe on the rights of the breeders.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I want to thank and congratulate Dr Bommer and Ambassador di Mottola for their concise and very concrete introduction of the subject, and furthermore I want to tell Ambassador di Mottola that the excellent report of his Commission has led my Government to reconsider its absence from the Commission. So I really want to announce that my Government is going to join the Commission, and possibly later the international compromise, hopefully without reservations.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like first to thank Mr Ambassador of Costa Rica and his group for the work that has been done in this report.

My delegation has taken note with interest of the progress made since the adoption of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as described in the document before us. We welcome particularly the statements in paragraph 11 of the document, according to which the FAO Secretariat was requested to investigate ways and means to increase participation in the Commission by non-member nations.

Beyond that we are of the opinion that the International Undertaking can only be implemented if those nations still taking a negative attitude will also adhere to the Undertaking. This will only be possible through serious work in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the Working Group. The need to avoid duplication or overlapping of activities with the work of IBPGR, as stated in paragraph 12 of the document, is also one of our concerns. We are of the same opinion that the IBPGR, with which we are working closely, has done qualified work in the last few years. We will therefore continue to support the work of the IBPGR. We feel that only those changes which are absolutely necessary should be made regarding the solution which has proved its worth so far, and which was chosen for relations between FAO and IBPGR.

Henrique da SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): First of all my delegation wishes to thank Dr Bommer and Ambassador di Mottola of Costa Rica for the introduction of this item. Brazil has given and gives great attention to the preservation, study and development of its plant genetic resources, and in this connection is very happy to participate in the Commission established in FAO. My delegation is also pleased to verify that the recommendations of the First Session of the Commission are being satisfactorily implemented.

As regards recent developments with respect to IBPGR, the Brazilian delegation commends this institution for the excellent work it has been performing. In fact the Brazilian National Centre on Plant Genetic Resources has had extremely fruitful cooperation from IBPGR and we would like to continue to do so. Based on our previous experience, Brazil believes that IBPGR should not become a fully independent centre outside FAO. The current statutes of this institution have proved to be valid and we urge FAO and IBPGR to continue to work in close cooperation within the present management structure. We are prepared to examine further modifications in the relationship pattern of both institutions provided that they lead to real improvement in the work of IBPGR.

With these short comments, my delegation wishes to support the report of the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

R. Mohammad BAHRAM (Afghanistan): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan supports the report on plant genetic resources. My country is rich in plant genetic resources, and for the best utilization of genetic resources certainly needs technical cooperation, particularly in training. We believe that genetic resources are very vital for agriculture production since potential productivity depends on germ plasm.

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan supports the establishment of an international fund for collection, preservation and use of germ plasm. We believe that such a fund will certainly promote the development of plant genetic resources, particularly in the developing countries.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to first thank Dr Bommer and the Chairman of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for their very lucid introduction of this important subject. We have already subscribed to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and have become members of the Commission and also the Working Group. Consequently, we attended the First Session of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission and entirely supported the recommendations and the report of the Commission. We also ask all those countries who have not yet subscribed to the Undertaking, not yet joined the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, to do so in order to make it more universal for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

We welcome the establishment of the Secretariat Task Force to take prompt action on the recommendations of the Commission in this connection, and we express our sincere appreciation to the FAO for their quick action taken so far in the matter. We also support the proposal for the establishment of the additional fund for plant genetic resources.

Lastly, we support what has been stated by the distinguished delegates of Mexico and India.

Vincent MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important topic, and particularly because this is the first occasion on which I have had the opportunity to represent my country at an FAO Council meeting. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to congratulate Dr Bommer on the tremendous work and effort put into the formulation of this report and the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and especially its significance to small developing states like Trinidad and Tobago.

In many instances countries like my own do not have the technical expertise and infrastructural development required to establish an adequate genetic resource base for crops that are vital to agricultural development and economic survival. We therefore view this as an essential aspect to world food security, since it provides the opportunity to small nations to tap technological advancements in other more developed countries.

Trinidad and Tobago therefore supports the report and establishment of the Commission, and has instituted measures to become a member of the Commission. Like the delegate of Panama, we wish to particularly support the recommendations made in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of the report.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): We too would like to thank Dr Bommer for his intervention and thank the Chairman of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for the report on the activities of that organization.

My Government has not found it possible to participate either in the Undertaking or in the work of the Commission, in large part because of our concern about the character of that work and its potential for duplication with existing work undertaken by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. It has often been said that while the FAO is a specialized agency dealing with technical problems, it has become somewhat politicized, and I think the topic that we are looking at today is one of those areas which has not been devoid of perception governed by political sentiment. This is not necessarily something to be regretted. Being a multinational agency such as we are, it certainly has the potential for political observation and perception which sometimes creep into our interventions. Be that as it may, we are talking again about the concept of a commission on plant genetic resources governing and directing the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization, which in turn has an undue impact with respect to the independent Board funded by independent means already working actively in this field. While there have been many pious hopes expressed that duplication is to be avoided, one feels from having listened and participated in some of the conversation that that task will be difficult at best. The concept of a joint work plan between the Board and the Commission, I think, is a good one depending on the quality of the partnership in establishing such a work plan. It is in this sense where the Board must answer for its funding and its activity to its funders and that it must have the degree of independence to make such decisions.

Nevertheless, my purpose in intervening at this stage was to query, on the basis of document C 85/24, whether there is further to report with respect to developments in the CGIAR. I note in particular in paragraph 25 of document C 85/24 that the Director-General is to provide us with up-to-date information regarding the developments. It is my understanding that there has been a meeting of the Consultative Group in the last few weeks. Perhaps we could be informed of such developments that have taken place which may be helpful in our consideration of this particular item.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Participamos como miembros en la reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos que se celebró en marzo pasado bajo la presidencia dinámica y competente de nuestro distinguido colega y amigo, el Embajador di Mottola de Costa Rica, quien ha hecho una excelente y clara presentación. Ya el Dr. Bommer, Subdirector General del Departamento de Agricultura había anticipado algunas adecuadas consideraciones de orden técnico. Como lo dijo nuestro colega, Embajador Poulides, de Chipre, es satisfactorio registrar el hecho de que después de esa reunión, tres meses después, al 31 de julio de 1985, el número de miembros de la Comisión haya aumentado de 67 a 78 ó 79, tal vez más, gracias a las actitudes positivas que nos ha comunicado el distinguido Embajador Pascarelli, de Italia, y nuestro colega y amigo representante de Trinidad y Tabago.

Creemos que actitudes positivas como éstas deben ser buenos ejemplos dignos de imitar por otros estados. Esto confirma el interés de los gobiernos por vincularse a estas actividades que deben estar dirigidas principalmente a preservar los recursos fitogenéticos y asegurar su libre distribución ya que esos recursos son patrimonio de la humanidad y deben estar a la libre disposición de todos.

Lamentamos que algunos importantes Estados Miembros aún no hayan pedido entrar a hacer parte de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos ni hayan adherido el Compromiso. Su presencia en estas actividades sería importante ya que son países que desempeñan funciones esenciales en el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos, y cuyas contribuciones positivas todos apreciamos sinceramente.

Como ejemplos, desearíamos vivamente, los representantes de Colombia, que países, entre otros, como Estados Unidos, Suiza y Canadá se asociaran cuanto antes a estas actividades que llevamos a cabo de la manera más positiva y constructiva posible.

Creemos que a la luz de estas consideraciones y de otras intervenciones de colegas que han hablado anteriormente, en nuestro Informe el Consejo debería hacer un llamado muy cordial y respetuoso a esos importantes países para que cuanto antes superen las dificultades y limitaciones que tienen y se asocien con nosotros en este campo.

Estamos también reconocidos al Director General quien ha seguido insistiendo ante los países para que se adhieran al Compromiso, aquellos estados que aún no lo han hecho. Pensamos que también el Consejo debe apoyar ese esfuerzo del Director General e instarlo a que siga haciendo esos llamados a esos países.

La cifra al 31 de julio de 1985, de 83 Estados Miembros es significativa y debe incrementarse. La delegación de Colombia apoya particularmente la recomendación de la Comisión que aparece en el párrafo 12 de este documento, sobre la necesidad de tener sumo cuidado para evitar la duplicación o superposición de actividades y para lograr una complementariedad entre la labor del CIRF y de la Comisión en la aplicación del Compromiso. Creemos que esta cooperación debe estar delimitada dentro de los marcos y las funciones respectivas, tal como lo ha dicho muy bien el colega López Portillo, de México. Hemos oído con atención a algunos colegas, sobre todo al Sr. Musgrove, de Canadá, y creemos que si esa concepción clara y definida ha de regir la cooperación entre el CIRF, la FAO y la Comisión, podrían disiparse las dudas que algunos colegas han expresado al respecto.

Consecuentemente apoyamos la opinión de la FAO en el sentido de que no convendría que el Consejo se convierta en un centro plenamente independiente ajeno a la FAO. Apoyamos el párrafo 24 en el sentido de que nuestra Organización debe seguir apoyando al CIRF en el marco de los acuerdos existentes. Esperamos que el grupo de trabajo pueda reunirse en febrero de 1986, y no 1985 como se dice en el párrafo 13 del documento en español. Grupo de trabajo que se reunirá bajo la presidencia del distinguido y capaz Presidente de nuestra Comisión, el Embajador di Mottola, de Costa Rica.

Finalmente, ya habíamos compartido en nuestras notas la inquietud que ha planteado nuestro casi vecino de la izquierda Musgrove, del Canadá, sobre el párrafo 25. Tal vez el Doctor Bommer por su brevedad en la presentación, se abstuvo de actualizarnos la evolución ulterior de la cuestión que habla el párrafo 25, aunque la reunión tuvo lugar hace pocos días, podría ser conveniente, si la Secretaría está en capacidad de hacerlo, que se nos transmita alguna información acerca del resultado del subgrupo que fue creado.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Bula Hoyos for his contribution. I was about to draw attention to an error in document C 85/24, and am happy that Ambassador Bula Hoyos has already done this. It is in paragraph 13 of the document where it says: "The Working Group will meet in February 1985...." - that obviously should read 1986, so the text will read: "The Working Group will meet in February 1986 to review the on-going follow-up actions. "

I. NYOWAN ARDHA (Indonesia): My delegation would like to congratulate the work of the Commission and wish to stress that Indonesia not only supports the resolution, but is ready to implement activities to enable the Undertaking to be implemented in a realistic and useful manner. We realize that the Undertaking with regard to plant genetic resources is of great importance for agricultural deployment, including support for world food security which we all wish to attain. My country is also a member of the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Therefore, I reiterate our support of the Undertaking and recommendation of the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The delegation of Indonesia also supports the appeals for close cooperation between the Commission and IBPGR as suggested by other delegations before me.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar primeramente nuestra felicitación al Sr. Bommer y al distinguido Embajador di Mottola por la presentación que han hecho del tema tan objetiva y claramente.

Los recursos fitogenéticos y su Comisión es un tema que ha venido discutiéndose con bastante fuerza y creemos que hemos avanzadobastante. Por primera vez el Comité de Agricultura discutió este tema y se han ido aclarando una serie de aspectos que ya ponen en condiciones de poder expresar que el trabajo lleva buen ritmo. Nuestro país es miembro de la Comisión y se ha adherido al Compromiso plenamente; para nosotros las actividades sobre recursos fitogenéticos tienen una importancia como la que le damos a la agricultura. Creemos que la agricultura, tanto en la actualidad como en el futuro, necesita del desarrollo técnico de estos recursos, pero tanto la preservación y la distribución libremente son dos principios fundamentales en las actividades del recurso.

Pensamos que la delegación de la India y la delegación de México, específicamente los primeros que han hablado, hicieron una exposición completa de este documento y nosotros la apoyamos en todas sus partes y consideramos que también debemos plantear conjuntamente con el Embajador di Mottola, la esperanza de que los miembros que no estén integrados se adhieran a la Comisión sobre la base firme y segura de que la entrada no es el que se tenga que adoptar un criterio, sino que son las discusiones, los análisis, la investigación que tomamos lo que hace que dentro de la Comisión son los que van a garantizar que podamos ir adelante en este trabajo tan importante.

Nosotros queremos expresar también que nos interesa conocer las consecuencias de la última reunión que tuvo el Comité Asesor Técnico. Creo que es muy útil para nuestros trabajos sobre todo antes de entrar en el punto específico dentro de la Conferencia conocer esta situación.

Por nuestra parte apoyamos totalmente el criterio que FAO ha aconsejado de que no se convierta el Consejo en un centro plenamente independiente ajeno a la FAO.

Finalmente, felicitamos a la representación de Trinidad y Tabago y a la República italiana por su acción. Creo que son ejemplos dignos de seguir como ha dicho nuestro amigo el Embajador de Colombia.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): On the document now before us, the Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on Plant Genetic Resources, I would like to offer a few very brief comments. To begin with, we note with satisfaction that the number of members of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has increased considerably since its first session. This is an important development since the effectiveness of the undertaking will depend on global participation.

Turning to the proposed follow-up on the recommendations of the two resolutions, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its First Session suggested that several measures be taken. As to the studies proposed in paragraph 15 about legal matters, it is evident that the reservations made when the undertaking was adhered to were well-founded in the national legal systems of the member countries, and will not be changed by the studies carried out by FAO. The same thing applies to the problems mentioned under paragraph 16 about legal questions in connection with gene collections.

We agree that the question of NC² conservation is getting increasingly important and that the existing gene banks and systems should give every possible support to new institutions. We do however doubt that FAO should take an active part in this. The same is true about our opinion of FAO's involvement in special information systems, which can only duplicate what is already being done by the IBPGR and the European Cooperative Programme for Genetic Resources and other institutions.

The document raises the issue of the present institutional arrangement between IBPGR and FAO. In this connection my delegation would like to mention that we have received information from our experts and Nordic gene bank members indicating that there is room for considerable improvement in the coordination between the two organizations. In this respect it has been noted that they have, during the past two years, received communications enquiring about matters of which the IBPGR was already fully informed and, as such, the information requested was regularly available here in the FAO buildings.

May I conclude by stating that my Government is not happy with the process leading to the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The fact that this has led to the excluding of large geographical areas from participating in the work is a matter which will need the most urgent attention. These matters can, in our opinion, only be tackled with full global participation.

Mame Balla SY (Sènegal): Je vous remercie de me donner l'opportunité d'intervenir sur cette importante question. Je voudrais au préalable, par votre intermédiaire, adresser mes vives félicitations au Docteur Bommer pour la présentation claire et intelligente faite sur le document C 85/24 relatif aux suites données aux résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 portant sur les ressources phylogénétiques, ainsi qu'au Président de la Commission sur les ressources phylogénétiques, l'Ambassadeur di Mottola (que nous avons pu en tout cas voir à l'oeuvre durant la réunion de cette Commission) pour nous conduire aux résultats très satisfaisants et encourageants qui sont relatés dans ce document. Je voudrais également témoigner de notre considération pour son doigté et son habileté qui ont permis ces résultats.

L'initiative prise par le Directeur général de faire adopter un engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques a retenu toute l'attention de mon pays qui a adhéré à cet engagement et nous sommes également membres, aussi bien de la Commission du Comité que du Comité consultatif. Aussi voudrais-je lancer un appel à tous les pays qui hésitent encore à adhérer à cet engagement et leur dire de le faire, car je suis persuadé et les délégués qui m'ont précédé savent également que la sélection et la conservation des ressources phylogénétiques constituent, à n'en point douter, des moyens sûrs d'améliorer la production agricole. C'est une des meilleures formes de collaboration scientifique au service de l'agriculture. Permettez-moi de souligner également ici les efforts appréciables réalisés par le CIRPG et le GCRAI qui ont, en tout cas dans ce domaine, fourni des efforts très appréciables. Nous souhaitons donc que la collaboration entre ces institutions et la FAO, dans le sens des intérêts de l'humanité, soit renforcée. Nous tenons aussi à dire ici le soutien de notre pays aux efforts déployés par la FAO pour créer un fonds pour les ressources phylogénétiques. Nous aimerions également mettre l'accent sur les programmes de recherche et de formation de manière à permettre aux pays en développement qui disposent d'important matériel génétique de participer plus efficacement à sa sélection et à son utilisation rationnelle. La conservation constitue également, à notre sens, un champ d'action important qui mérite d'être pris en compte afin que tout le potentiel génétique local soit pleinement mis à profit. Tout ceci pour vous dire que nous appuyons le rapport de la Commission internationale sur les ressources phylogénétiques avec l'espoir que très bientôt les recommandations de celle-ci seront prises en considération par tous les pays membres de notre Organisation, comme viennent de le faire d'ailleurs, et nous voudrions nous en féliciter, l'Italie et Trinidad-et-Tobago.

Enfin, nous passons, en donnant notre appui à ce rapport, à l'article 12 relatif aux relations entre la FAO et le CIRPG pour dire que pour notre pays l'intérêt est que plus que de mettre, en tout cas, un accent sur les divergences, ces deux organisations devraient renforcer leur collaboration pour en faire bénéficier les pays en voie de développement, parmi lesquels le nôtre. L'article 16 également est relatif à un domaine très important puisque pour nous la libération des échanges du matériel génétique provenant des collections de base ex situ devrait être encouragée de manière à ce que ce potentiel puisse bénéficier à tous les pays qui en ont besoin. L'article 24 mérite une attention particulière puisqu'il tend à encourager le renforcement de la coopération entre la FAO et toutes les institutions concernées dans ce domaine.

José Miguel BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Mi delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Bommer y al Embajador di Mottola por la excelente introducción y presentación que han hecho del tema.

Deseamos expresar nuestro convencimiento de que tanto el CIRF como la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos son totalmente complementarios y de que no existe un riesgo de duplicación, puesto que el uno es un cuerpo técnico y la otra un cuerpo político. Estamos convencidos de la necesidad de que ambos cuerpos se complementen. En este sentido queremos expresar nuestra esperanza de que la colaboración entre el CIRF y la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se estrechen fuertemente en un próximo futuro; en caso contrario deseamos expresar también nuestra grave preocupación si esta cooperación no llega a ser así de fuerte.

Creemos que las Resoluciones 8/83 y 1/85 marcaron un hito importante en la historia de esta Organización, y esperamos que este Consejo y la próxima Conferencia sirvan para darles un último y decisivo impulso.

Apoyamos también la creación de un fondo internacional de recursos fitogenéticos bajo los auspicios o la jurisdicción de la FAO.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): First my delegation would like to address its compliments to Dr Bommer and the distinguished Ambassador of Costa Rica for the presentation of this Report contained in document C 85/24. We have carefully studied this report and would like to make a few brief comments.

The main concept of plant genetic resources is to arrest the diversity of crop plants developed in sites in sanctuaries and to save it from extinction due to the introduction of improved varieties. It is the common heritage of mankind and the duty of all FAO Member Nations to further the cause of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. It is encouraging to observe that the membership of the Commission has increased from 67 to 77. We welcome the statements made by the delegates of Italy and Trinidad and Tobago that their governments will soon be joining the fold of this Commission. We hope to have the same statement from the delegate of Canada and others in the not very distant future. The cooperation of all nations is the key to the success of the work initiated by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Therefore my delegation emphasizes the urgent need to open discussions with those countries which have not yet declared their intention to join in this task of vital concern to mankind.

We would like to commend also the good work done by the IBPGR. We also hope that the complementarity between the work of IBPGR and the Commission in the implementation of the Undertaking will be strengthened and that any legal issues in this regard will be amicably settled. We also support the establishment of an international fund for furthering the work of the Undertaking.

My delegation would also like to welcome paragraph 19 of the report, bearing on the follow-up action on training, including assessment of capabilities, manpower resources, training needs in plant breeding, genetic resources and seed production.

With these words my delegation has no difficulty in fully endorsing the report, document C 85/24, and the future work programme of the Commission.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): May I say at the outset in considering this document that I was not entirely clear about what we were taking a decision on, but I think in fact what we are doing is noting the work that has been done since the resolutions. We note the report on the follow-up action of the recommendations of the Commission. We do find and agree that many of the issues are complex, particularly those raised by members this afternoon. As has been noted, these will be, at least in part, the subject of discussion at the Conference.

Perhaps I should note in relation to the establishment of the working group, which includes Australia as a member, that we would still see the work of that group as very much subordinate to the work of the Commission itself.

We would not be willing to lend our support to some of the proposals being made at this session of the Council, certainly not without detailed consideration of the issues involved. As I said, perhaps we can take up some of the issues where appropriate during the discussion of this topic at the Conference.

Just to reiterate, Australia has joined the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. However, we have not seen our way clear to signing the Undertaking, and we have indicated to the Director-General that we are not in a position to become a signatory until the Australian government

has finalized its own domestic policy on several significant aspects of plant breeding. However, we have indicated that we do abide by the principles expressed in Article I of the Undertaking itself.

As far as the Commission itself is concerned, quite frankly I do not think it is purely a question of numbers; I think the Commission has to show itself to be effective and responsible in its work and this in itself will be a landmark of its success or otherwise.

As far as our own attitude about the development of plant genetic resources is concerned, we do hold in collection throughout Australia plant genetic resources which are freely made available to bonafide research organizations worldwide. Secondly, the Australian Government has embarked on a programme to upgrade plant genetic resource facilities which form the Australian network of plant genetic resource centres. In fact, we are spending 1.5 to 2 million Australian Dollars over the next five years for this purpose.

Concerning the developments with respect to IBPGR and its relationship with FAO, I will reserve our position at this time and discuss the matter during the Conference, but can I repeat that it is our view that it is necessary that these two organizations cooperate to the utmost extent and acknowledge together that the needs of research and conservation in plant genetic resources go far beyond the resources of the two institutions combined. They are both required with their respective skills and interest to complement each other to the utmost. As I have indicated previously it is our view that it is necessary to obtain the widest possible acceptance of the undertaking and to this end we have noted previously that some changes in the undertaking or format of the undertaking may be necessary. For that reason we welcome the references made in the document, in paragraph 14 on follow-up action, that there is an analysis being made of the reasons behind countries' reservations, and also, of course, the proposals on ways and means of obtaining wider participation.

Since the subject has been raised by my colleague of Denmark I think we should remember that some undue haste at the last Conference in both preparing the undertaking and in the formation of the body that was concerned has made the first part of paragraph 15 necessary. Perhaps that is cautionary to future decisions and activities that we might undertake.

Finally, I think as further development of this question about the relationship between FAO and IBPGR, which I have noticed and which we consider with some importance, I also would be interested in any further information as was indicated would be provided in paragraph 25.

ZHU PEIRONG (China) (original language Chinese): We would like to thank the two gentlemen who have given us a very lucid introduction of the work which has been done as China sends its delegate to attend the first session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We endorsed the decision at the meeting to set up a working group of 23 member countries, which was given the mandate of monitoring the implementation of the Commission's work programmes and other relevant matters. At the same time we believe that the establishment of an *ad hoc* group of the Secretariat and the mandate it has been entrusted with are essential for the implementation of the Commission's proposals.

Regarding the relationship of the FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, we endorse the views embodied in Paragraph 12 of the document, that is, the evidence of the duplication or overlapping of the activities of the two bodies to ensure their complementarity. We think that these two points should be regarded as our guiding principles in adjusting the relationship between the two bodies.

H. M. MBALE (Malawi): Since I am speaking for the first time, I wish to congratulate the three vice chairmen on their unanimous election and wish also to congratulate Dr. Bommer and the Ambassador of Costa Rica for their lucid introduction of the topic under discussion. Considering the important role that plant genetic material plays in the development of agriculture, FAO should be congratulated on the establishment by Council Resolution 1/85 of a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

My delegation welcomes the terms of reference of the Commission as we consider that these are relevant in furthering the improvement of plant genetic materials throughout the world.

My delegation also welcomes the open invitation to join the working group of the Commission, and we will be working towards this goal. The study mentioned in paragraph 16 is timely and therefore most welcome. My delegation considers that while the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources has done an outstanding job in providing germplasm and training in germplasm conservation, its role and collaboration with FAO has been in a way overshadowed by the latter. We therefore consider that the proposals by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research that the IBPGR be established as a fully independent centre outside FAO, but with a liaison unit at FAO, is a step in the right direction.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise a participé en tant que membre à la première session de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques organisée en mars dernier; cela, pour vous dire que le Congo appuie entièrement le mandat qui a été confié à cette Commission.

Nous voudrions d'ailleurs à cette occasion rendre hommage à l'ambassadeur Carlos di Mottola qui a eu la charge de présider cette première session; et nous voudrions dire combien il a bien accompli le mandat qui lui a été confié.

Nous sommes également reconnaissants à M. Bommer pour la présentation brève et concise qu'il a faite dans son introduction de ce document.

Participant à cette Commission nous avons montré l'intérêt qu'attache notre pays au développement des ressources phytogénétiques; en effet, nous mesurons toute l'importance que les ressources phytogénétiques ont sur la production agricole et par conséquent leur contribution à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

C'est pour cette raison que nous appuyons entièrement les sujets sur lesquels ont porté les délibérations de la Commission, notamment la conservation in situ des ressources phytogénétiques, ainsi que les activités et les besoins de formation.

Je crois qu'il s'agit là de points extrêmement importants pour nos pays en développement qui contribueront à promouvoir le développement des ressources phytogénétiques.

Nous souscrivons également aux recommandations faites par la Commission parmi lesquelles nous relevons ce qui est écrit au paragraphe 12 concernant les efforts qui devront être faits pour que les activités du CIRPG et de la FAO ne se chevauchent pas; nous sommes certains à cet égard que la Commission remplira entièrement sa mission sans pour autant empiéter sur les activités du CIRPG.

Nous disons également que nous appuyons ce qui est écrit au paragraphe 17: nous l'avons d'ailleurs déjà dit; la conservation in situ est à notre avis un élément important pour le développement des ressources phytogénétiques et tout devra être mis en oeuvre par la FAO pour la promouvoir.

Enfin, nous voudrions dire que nous partageons ce qui est écrit au paragraphe 24; nous sommes certains que le CIRPG et la FAO continueront à collaborer pour renforcer leurs relations et de ce qu'un tel renforcement aura des effets positifs sur nos pays.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): Like others who have preceded me I think I can be fairly brief on this item. I simply wanted to record the support of my delegation for the activities and proposals outlined in paragraphs 16, 17, 18 and 19 of this report. We think that what is proposed there, all the activities proposed there, are very important and we endorse them very strongly.

In relation to the IBPGR we very much agree with the conclusion which was reached by the Technical Advisory Committee as recorded in paragraph 23 of the report, that is, that there should be a small, fully autonomous institution working in close association with FAO. I emphasize the last

point about "close association" because I share the view of other delegates who have spoken of the need to avoid overlapping the functions which is mentioned earlier in the report.

Finally, we also endorse the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation that the IBPGR should shift and expand its activities into research and into evaluation and utilization of plant genetic resources.

Róbert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of the Czechoslovak Delegation I would like to congratulate Dr Bommer for his excellent statement.

I would like to express appreciation of the fact that the question of plant genetic resources has been receiving continued attention in the overall work of FAO and that the range of the specific questions has been constantly improved and expanded. This procedure is fully in accord with the importance of plant genetic resources which are to be inter alia conserved for future generations. As to document C 85/24, we support it. I would like to inform you from this rostrum that we attach great importance to the question of plant genetic resources in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Since 1980 to 1981 when we joined this programme, we have been collaborating with FAO. Thanks to this we have managed to gain a large amount of valuable information. Moreover, our specialists have had the possibility of becoming acquainted with top technology and standards applied in other countries and selected work places. We for our part are likewise ready to make available our achievements and experience.

I would like to document our approach to and cooperation in this field with the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources by informing you that this year we have prepared in Prague a session of The Genebank of Czechoslovakia, with broad international participation, on questions relating to genetic resources and with a symposium on raising the standards of genetic resource Studies.

Finally I would like to inform you that next January, our Republic will be the venue of a meeting with FAO, IBPGR and the European Programme of Protection and Exchange of Plant Genetic Resources.

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I must apologise for being very brief in introducing this item, because I was under the assumption that a full discussion on this item would take place in Commission II of the Conference, and we would come back to all these issues.

As you have requested, I am happy to provide the information which I had actually intended to give to the Commission to up-date the information contained in the report which you have received. In paragraph 25 it is mentioned that the CGIAR had set up a committee to look into the question. This committee met in September and accepted with some reluctance the argument put forward by the Technical Advisory Committee that IBPGR should be restructured into a small but fully autonomous institution, separate from but in close association with FAO. The mandate of the restructured IBPGR should be flexible enough to enable IBPGR to provide any required technical support to FAO, and particularly to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Chairman of CGIAR saw the Director-General of FAO in mid-October, seeking his views on his recommendations which were discussed in the CGIAR meeting preceding the FAO Council. The Director-General reported that he had continuously insisted on the need for close links between IBPGR and FAO, and in his opinion the present arrangements served this purpose best. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in its first session has urged that FAO and the bodies involved give particular attention to the formal and working relationship between FAO and IBPGR, the role which IBPGR could play in implementing the Undertaking, and the manner in which any duplication and overlap with FAO's activities could be avoided. The Director-General therefore requested the CGIAR to let him have in writing their proposals for further development to enable him to consult on the required changes with the FAO Governing Bodies.

The CGIAR, which met last week, discussed this item again, and agreed that the Chairman of the CGIAR should write such a letter, which is now in preparation. The general feeling is the CGIAR meeting is very much in line with the further thinking of the committee, but at the same

time there are quite a large number of members in the CGIAR who feel that it would be quite an advantage to keep CGIAR within FAO, and to see if there would be any possibility of achieving this. The Director-General is now waiting for this approach from the CGIAR, and will further the matter from then on.

Just to reply to one question, or remark, made by the delegate of Denmark, who raised, I think, a rather critical point on overlapping activities: I think he probably is not fully informed on this matter, because he referred to a particular questionnaire sent to governments. This questionnaire was said to be prepared jointly between the IBPGR and FAO, and we were seeking up-dated information. All similar information had been provided to the IBPGR two years ago, so there is certainly no overlap in this close collaboration.

Carlo di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos): Quisiera simplemente agradecer a todos los delegados por el interés que han venido manifestando en este tema. Como decía el Sr. Bommer, éste va a ser un tema examinado ampliamente durante la reunión de la Segunda Comisión de la Conferencia, pero estoy convencido que el debate que se hizo hoy va a facilitar la profundización de la situación. Muchas delegaciones han manifestado el concepto de que podría haber duplicación en el trabajo de la Comisión y el trabajo del CIRF. Yo me permito simplemente tomar nota de una síntesis muy brillante que hizo el representante de España, diciendo que son dos cuestiones de naturaleza completamente diferente; o sea, uno es en sentido muy amplio un cuerpo político que es la Comisión, y el otro es un cuerpo técnico. Entonces, ya por su naturaleza yo no veo que haya una duplicación sino que hay una integración y una complementarización. Esto es algo que me parece poder adelantar como idea más de mi delegación que digamos de la persona del Presidente, y de todas maneras va a ser profundizado durante los debates de la conferencia.

Mientras tanto, quiero agradecer al Embajador de Italia que veo vuelto a su puesto por la adhesión que ha manifestado y al representante de Trinidad y Tobago que es siempre provechoso, y espero que sea seguido por muchas otras delegaciones en un futuro muy próximo.

CHAIRMAN: I am glad that although this topic is going to be discussed in great depth and in great length at the Conference in Commission II, members have shared their views on this very important topic. I would like to join all of you in thanking the Ambassador of Costa Rica and all the members of the Commission for the excellent start they have given to the work of the Commission, as well as to Dr Bommer. Of course, Dr Bommer has practically devoted his whole life to the question of conservation of plant genetic resources, and I would like to thank him for his invaluable work. I would like to add a few comments which may perhaps stimulate some thought during the Conference.

Many speakers here have made an important point, namely that gene security is important for crop security, and therefore for food security - just as grain reserves are important for food security, gene reserves are absolutely essential for crop security. It has therefore given me immense pleasure over the past four years to hear again and again of this tremendous growth of interest in plant genetic resources conservation. I think the time has come, and I hope that the working group of the Commission will give some thought to this question, to develop an integrated conservation strategy.

Reference has been made in the proceedings of the Commission to in situ Conservation. For many years Unesco, FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other bodies, had worked on what is called the Man and Biosphere Programme - usually shortened to MAB. They have worked out detailed guidelines for biosphere reserves, national parks and protected areas. This is certainly a very important method of conservation of populations, but we also know that in spite of all the urgings of political and professional leaders, there are many habitats which are threatened, particularly forest ecosystems, mountain ecosystems and coastal ecosystems - many of them are threatened with various kinds of degradation. This was also clear at the Forestry Congress in Mexico, where many foresters drew attention to the vanishing tropical rain forest species. There is a book published periodically by the IUCN Commission - the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature - called "The Red Data Book", and it gives information on threatened species.

We also have today an opportunity to preserve genetic material at the molecular level. So from the population to the molecular level - populations, individual plants, cells, and organs, particularly in vegetatively propagated plants through tissue culture; and finally at the level of the DNA molecule. We can establish a molecular library, the gene library or the DNA library, as it is called. I think that the Commission and the Working Group should give particular attention to these important new possibilities because of the fact that whatever we may do, there are species which are going to become extinct. We should do something to preserve them at the molecular level - later on, we can revive them from the molecular level to the plants. So I hope this Working Group and the Commission can give some thought to an integrated conservation strategy from the biosphere reserves to the DNA libraries so that we can preserve some of the species for posterity, particularly the forest tree species from tropical rain forests, and particularly the medicinal plants which occur in the canopies of endangered habitats. In the Himalayan ecosystem there are many species which have already been lost and which can be lost, and the Working Group would serve a great purpose by trying to promote conservation at all levels.

May I also say that I fully endorse the plea and hope that the complementary and mutual beneficial collaboration between the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) which has done tremendous work in the past ten years, and FAO's work, which dates back more than 25 years in the field of plant genetic conservation, will not only continue but become strengthened. I recall attending meetings in the late 1950s and early 1960s chaired by Dr Vallega of Argentina, who has done so much work in the field of plant protection and production here - so this has been an on-going work, and there is so much work to be done. Hence we must ensure that whatever financial resources and whatever technical skills are available, they must be pooled together in a mutually supportive manner and made to work for the ends which we all want to achieve.

Finally, may I say a word about the proposed International Fund for Gene Conservation. I think the original document prepared by the Director-General also makes a mention of a Netherlands Government proposal for a world gene fund, which the Mexican Ambassador has also proposed. I personally feel that in addition to governmental resources there is enormous potential for attracting nongovernmental resources. I have seen in the last two years when the World Wildlife Fund and IUCN launched the Plants Conservation Campaign that there was enormous support from the public. One should therefore also try to tap the growing interest of the general public and the non-governmental organizations also in conservation. Let me conclude by saying that gene banks have a unique feature. Unlike the financial banks where money value always depreciates, in the gene banks the genes will always appreciate in their value because tomorrow's ideal gene pool is going to be very different from today's. Whether in terms of diseases or in terms of processing or in terms of foods for the future, enormous changes are on the horizon and this is why it is very important that we conserve these genes. What may be useless today may become exceedingly valuable tomorrow. So the gene banks are unique banks where there will always be appreciation. A thousand years from now their value will be greater in contrast to the financial banks, and therefore it will be very prudent to put some funds into this work because we are going to put them into an appreciating concern, not into a depreciating concern. So I do hope that whatever it may be called - World Gene Fund, International Fund for Gene Banks or whatever it is called - I do hope that whatever financial, professional and political resources we can mobilize, all of them can be canalized for this very important purpose of security of the food crops of the future.

I want to thank again all the speakers, 27 of them, who have made very valuable contributions and again Ambassador Balestra, Dr Bommer and all their colleagues for the excellent curtain raiser for a Conference preliminary discussion here.

3. Preparations for the Twenty-third session of the FAO Conference, including:
3. Préparation de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO, et notamment:
3. Preparativos para el 23 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular:
3. 1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendation to the Conference).
3. 1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de président de la Conférence et de présidents des commissions de la Conférence (recommandation à la Conférence)
3. 1 Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (recomendación para la Conferencia)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Vous vous souviendrez qu'à la quatre-vingt-septième session du Conseil vous avez eu à examiner le document CL 87/11 qui portait sur l'organisation de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence. Ce document traitait notamment de la désignation de candidats aux postes de président de la Conférence et de président des trois commissions de la Conférence.

Au cours d'une réunion informelle des chefs de délégation, il a été convenu que le Ministre de l'agriculture du Cameroun serait proposé pour l'élection au poste de président de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence,

Au cours de cette réunion informelle, ont été également proposées les candidatures suivantes: - pour la présidence de la Commission I: M. l'Ambassadeur Roger Martin, représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de la FAO; - pour la présidence de la Commission II: M. l'Ambassadeur Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, représentant permanent de la Colombie auprès de la FAO; - pour la présidence de la Commission III: M. Gamal Mohamed Ahmed, représentant permanent du Soudan auprès de la FAO.

Le Conseil a été informé des résultats de cette réunion informelle et il a pris note de ces propositions. Il a été convenu que le Directeur général prendrait contact avec les gouvernements des pays des différents candidats pour s'assurer que ceux-ci seraient disponibles et pourraient effectivement occuper les fonctions pour lesquelles ils ont été proposés.

Le Directeur général a reçu des réponses positives à cet égard, et il est maintenant demandé au Conseil d'examiner ces candidatures, de les entériner officiellement et de les proposer à la Conférence.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Savary. You have heard the conclusions of our recommendations in the June meeting. The Director-General has got confirmation from the Minister of Agriculture of Cameroon whom we had the privilege of welcoming this morning that he will serve as Chairman of the Conference; the Ambassador of Belgium, the Ambassador of Colombia and the Ambassador of Sudan respectively as Chairmen for Commissions I, II and III. I am sure the Council will be very happy to hear this and I hope will unanimously welcome the nominations.

Under item 3. 2 Election of the Nominations Committee, I have a note from the Ambassador of Mexico which says that we shall be ready to announce the members of the Committee tomorrow morning. The members of the Nominations Committee can be chosen on Wednesday because only on that day the Near East and African groups will have their meetings.

Well, if there is no other business today we have come to the close of this session.

The meeting rose at 16. 45 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16. 45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 88/PV/3

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1985)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours.

M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence

de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia

de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

III. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

12. Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85

12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1984-85

12. Examen del Programa Ordinario para 1984-85

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85, which is the document before the Council, is the fourth review of the Regular Programme. In preparing the review we have taken full account of the comments and suggestions made on all the previous reviews by the Programme Committee, the Council and the Conference itself. When considering the last review covering the biennium 1982-83 the Conference expressed appreciation for the additional improvements made in response to its own wishes. In particular, it welcomed the revised format and structure which substantially expanded the in-depth reviews of selected sub-programmes and special topics that cut across programme activities, while reducing the performance review section in Part I without any loss of substance. The Conference was satisfied that the review was comprehensive, result-oriented and well balanced, and that it served as an essential element in the monitoring and evaluation system in FAO. With this blessing of the Conference, we have tried to make the review now before you as specific and comprehensive as we can.

The structure remains unaltered. Part I of the review is a performance report covering all programmes, and it accounts for 40 percent of the text of the review. Parts II and III which deal with special topics and in-depth reviews each account for 30 percent. However, in all parts of the review a further effort has been made to focus more sharply on concrete achievements and results as well as on identifying the issues which emerged from the analysis.

In Part I, the tables containing data on training activities, meetings, workshops, publications, support to member countries and technical backstopping of field programmes, have been improved in coverage and presentation, and in particular the time frame has been expanded to five years to provide a better perspective of trend. The thrust of improvements in Part II has been to make the in-depth reviews of selected sub-programmes and activities as evaluative as possible by concentrating on concrete outputs, effects and impact, as well as on issues which emerge from the analysis. These in-depth reviews are intended to provide not only an analytical and result-oriented assessment of programme activities, but also to provide useful feedback for their future planning and implementation.

The Council may be interested to know that the specific topics selected in Part II of the review cover five programme activities which are specifically designed to support the priority needs of small-scale farmers, producers and the rural poor.

Part III of the review has two in-depth analyses, a chapter on FAO programmes in research - this was specifically at the suggestion of the Programme Committee - and a special chapter on our activities in support of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. These two chapters provide a comprehensive review of the efforts of the Organization in these areas and in an integrated way they cover both the Regular Programme activities and those carried out under field projects.

While I have concentrated in commenting on the format of the present review, it might be useful for Council also to bear in mind the coverage that has been provided for evaluation in the course of the four reviews which have been carried out so far. Over the four reviews which have been presented to our governing bodies we have two programmes, 17 sub-programmes, five programme elements and seven special topics. In terms of coverage of programme activities this represents over one quarter of all the overall programme activities under the agriculture, forestry and fisheries programmes.

I said at the outset the review has to be seen in the context of the total system of evaluation in FAO. In this connection the Council may be interested to note that the system of monitoring and

evaluation is constantly being strengthened. In the present biennium there have been further improvements in our system of work planning, in monitoring and implementation and in the auto-evaluation process. The evaluation of the field programme activities has also been streamlined. It is in this connection that the Joint Inspection Unit has just prepared a third report on evaluation in the United Nations System. This document will be issued very shortly and as usual, will be submitted to our governing bodies for their review, together with our comments.

But there are two brief conclusions of this JIU report to which at this stage, I think, it is timely to draw the attention of Council. In its summary assessment of evaluation systems and activities in the United Nations System, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit states, and I quote: "The ambitious and comprehensive FAO evaluation system framework which JIU reported on in 1981 has now been filled out as FAO continues to expand evaluation coverage, refine and improve operation of the system and integrate evaluation with other programme management processes. Steady progress in improving the system is shown by the greater use being made of evaluation findings and increasing request for evaluation reports".

The JIU report also says that FAO, together with the World Health Organization, and I quote: "is considered to have gone furthest in achieving the Organization-wide scope in evaluation coverage and appropriate methodologies for systematic assessment of progress and results in the Organization's activities".

The Review of the Regular Programme was considered in great depth by the Programme Committee at its recent session in September. In fact, whereas in earlier years the Programme Committee had only managed to devote a day's attention to this document, in this case at its most recent session it devoted over two days to it. As a part of the review of this document it also examined in depth the activities of regional offices. The views of the Programme Committee on the Review of the Regular Programme are given in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.35 of its report in document CL 88/4. I will not presume to comment on the views of the Programme Committee, as the Chairman of the Programme Committee himself may wish to do so.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): Given the obvious time constraint I will try to be very brief indeed and just highlight the main points from the Programme Committee report on the Review of the Regular Programme.

First let me say that the Programme Committee was glad to note further improvement in presentation, mostly along the lines suggested by the Committee and subsequently approved by the Council.

The summary provided at the beginning and the tables, which are a comparison of various aspects of FAO activities, the systematic coverage of regional offices' activities within the integrated programme of FAO, and the footnote listing the countries that benefit from FAO programmes, in our view, all presented a very welcome improvement.

Further, still on the format, we felt that a proper balance had already been reached in volume terms with about 40 percent of the volume devoted to the systematic review of all programmes, sub-programmes and major technical economic areas and support services, and respectively 30 percent each for in-depth and automatic reviews. ! We felt that this balance by and large should be maintained, depending of course on the future selection of documents for in-depth reviews and automatic reviews.

On Part I, I will just say that the Committee did not discuss this, though it fully agreed that Part I represented very valuable information, and the Committee agreed to use fully the information provided in Part I in consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

On Part II, again the format has been improved, better presented, more transparent, with the five major headings. In this regard may I only add that the Committee wanted to encourage the house - that means the small integrated unit of FAO - to take more liberties in assessing the successful activities of FAO and those which have not perhaps fully met their original objectives. I will not refer to the four sub-programmes and one programme element that we reviewed. But Mr Shah mentioned, on our suggestion, that research was covered and ECDC/TCDC activities. Generally

we want to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the review of the research activities was based on a rather conservative definition, incorporating only activities which are directly related to the research support. We then realized that about \$40 million of Regular Programme funds were spent on direct research support. The Committee was very much satisfied with the coordination of research activities within the house and with the leading role of the inter-departmental working group on science and technology for development. Then the gap in the feeling of the Committee was fully closed with the Research and Technology Development Division now very well established. We also welcome the close cooperation of FAO with the various international institutions dealing with research, for instance IFAD, the international service for agricultural research, and its support for international agricultural research through, among other things, the Technical Advisory Committee and its continued commitment to join the research activities alongwith the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On ECDC/TCDC, very briefly, we reviewed the whole array of activities in FAO in support of these activities. We concentrated in particular on the establishment and cooperation of FAO with various networks. It was our feeling that the approach of FAO and the increased presentation on the support of ECDC/TCDC activities was a very correct one. Finally, we suggested that the next Review of the Regular Programme should include the automatic review of FAO support to extension services in developing countries.

On the activities of the regional offices, just to complement what Mr Shah has said, on the basis of the document prepared for the Programme Committee we were fully aware of the history and the evolution of the regional structure in FAO dating back to 1945. at the first Conference of FAO. Then we are fully aware of the fact that the regional structure and the regional activities were fully reviewed occasionally, one of the last reviews was in 1971 by the FAO Conference, and in a way the regional structure was also reviewed in 1976 on the basis of the Director-General's proposal. We welcome very much the fact that the Director-General prepared for the presence of regional representatives, which enabled the Committee thoroughly to review the regional activities of FAO. We emphasize in our report the need for substantial flexibility given the rapidly changing realities and the need for FAO to quickly adjust to changes in various regions.

We realise that the most important, most essential, of all the activities in the regional offices is the fostering of regional and sub-regional cooperation, and the number of bodies that FAO has formally established for a working relationship is really quite big.

Finally on regional offices, we emphasized again the importance of maintaining and further strengthening the coordinated efforts, and in particular the flow of information, between Headquarters and regional offices and even among regional offices. Of course the coordination efforts would also cover the FAO representatives at the country level.

Very briefly these are the main views of the Programme Committee on the Review of the Regular Programme.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I was not expecting to open the batting, but since others seem to be reluctant to face the bowling perhaps I can make a start.

This review is a very comprehensive and detailed document and we are very grateful for the introduction that was made by Mr Shah and by the Chairman of the Programme Committee. There is much that could be said about it, but I will confine my comments to points which seem to my delegation to be particularly important in this document.

Taking the subjects in the order in which they appear in the document, in the section on agriculture we very much endorse the Director-General's view on the need for more effective international action in the area of food production and food security, and his recognition in this document that this action cannot be confined to the agricultural sector alone and also is likely to take decades to achieve. We think this is a very realistic assessment. We very much support the study which is described here to better the policy initiatives required to overcome the food crisis in Africa. We believe that it is essential that the closest

collaboration be maintained with the World Bank in this very difficult area. It is our view that the priority must be to concentrate efforts on the existing better agricultural areas where increased production can be readily achieved by improved inputs, extension and pricing policies.

We commend the work carried out by FAO on quantifying crop and population potentials and culminating in the publication of potential population supporting capacities in lands of the developing world, and we look forward to seeing the country level analyses when these are available.

Turning now to the sections on livestock in paragraphs 1. 62 and 1. 63 there is once again emphasis on animal feed security. The initial response to the drought in the rangelands of southern Africa and the Sahel should in our view be to reduce overall numbers and to retain a nucleus herd of breeding animals. In our opinion animal feed security can have only a limited effect in such areas. In areas where crop by-products are available there is considerably more potential. We would ourselves place a much higher priority on the use of crop by-products as animal feedstuffs in Africa than pasture improvement. The problems of improving communally grazed rangelands are legion and relate more to human and livestock numbers than to technical constraints.

Coming on to population, which is dealt with in paragraphs 1. 93 and 1. 94, in my delegation we very much approve FAO's progress in reviewing its population activities and its intention to assess the population impact of all its development programmes in accordance with the recommendations of the 1984 International Conference on Population. In our view there is a need to ensure that this consideration be continued with enthusiasm in all existing programmes and in planning new projects for the indefinite future. The United Kingdom believes that population considerations should be considered as an important factor in all rural development planning and programmes.

I would like to turn now to marketing, where we found the programme of work proposed to be very comprehensive, although we do consider that within the resources available FAO may be attempting here to cover too wide a field. We wonder whether it might not be better to concentrate on specific areas identified as having priority. We note that within the countries covered, very little work appears to have been done in the sub-Saharan region. At the present time a great deal of effort is being devoted to developing and improving the production in these areas. However, there is also a critical need in our view to improve marketing systems and collection and infrastructures for both inputs and products. We feel, perhaps, more emphasis should be placed on assessing the marketing problems of this region.

In paragraphs 1. 17 to 1. 124, there is information about the food and agricultural information and analysis work. We would like to congratulate FAO on its continued work on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning all aspects of agriculture. We believe that FAO is in an unparalleled position to establish international data bases on prices, output, crops, trade situations and prospects and should be supported by all Member States in its effort to extend and improve this service.

On inland fisheries and aquaculture which appears in paragraph 8. 1 and subsequently in the paper, we regard this as a very important sub-programme and it is an area in which we would encourage increased FAO activity, bearing in mind the difficulties which have been encountered, particularly in Africa, in establishing successful programmes in this sector.

I think I will stop there, I have got a considerable number more comments but I imagine other colleagues would like to intervene in this debate. I realize we have a very heavy programme.

I would like to say finally in his introductory statement Mr Shah touched on the question of evaluation. We believe, in my delegation, that independent in-depth evaluations of various aspects of FAO's Regular Programme can only be helpful both to the management of the Organization and to the member countries, and we hope very much that this is an area in which we will see increased activity on the part of FAO in the next biennium.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation very much appreciates the introduction to this item given by Mr Shah and the Chairman of the Programme Committee. As has been observed, the

Programme Committee considered this review of the Regular Programme at some extent and we were able to make our views known there. This morning we would like simply to make a few general comments about this review and reserve other more specific comments until the Conference.

In the view of our delegation this document maintains the standard of quality which was achieved in the last review and it contains an impressive amount of information on FAO's wide range of programmes. We welcome that.

Mr Shah noted the attention to evaluation contained in the review. The United States attaches considerable importance to evaluation of assistance programmes both our own bilateral ones, and multilateral programmes. We consider that it is only through evaluation that we are able to assess the effects of our efforts at economic cooperation and thereby to improve those efforts. So, we would wish to commend the Secretariat on this continuing attention to evaluation in the document and on the candid approach in presenting the problems and recommendations in the outlook and issues sections of its chapters.

We would also commend the serious attempt to assess the progress achieved and to the identification of constraints in the individual programmes and sub-programmes. We consider that these efforts are quite helpful, much to be appreciated, and we also hope that they will be continued and increased in the future.

I would like to make one specific observation concerning this review, and that has to do with chapter IV, major programme 3. 1, Field Programme Planning and Liaison. This delegation is quite pleased to note the progress in the consolidation and computerization of project pipelines and the increase in joint project execution between FAO and other agencies of the UN System. We consider that coordination among donors and participants in economic cooperation activities is very important. We are always glad to see it and commend it when we find it.

As a last general observation the United States would only note that this document as a whole not only reflects the Conference wishes and recommendations on the format and substance of it, but also reflects the substantial contributions made by a vigorous, dedicated and productive staff in implementing a diverse and difficult Programme of Work aimed to benefit the Member Nations of this Organization.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panama): Al analizar el Examen del Programa Ordinario de la FAO, documento C 85/8, mediante el cual se evalúa el funcionamiento de los programas de la Organización desde el punto de vista de sus objetivos así como de la forma en que éstos se ejecutan y los efectos prácticos que ellos tienen, la delegación de Panamá desea referirse muy brevemente a algunos aspectos de carácter conceptual que dicho documento le merece.

Mi delegación, antes que nada, quiere reconocer la utilidad y la importancia de la evaluación periódica de los Programas como un instrumento eficaz para introducir, mejorar, corregir errores y de esta forma obtener mejoras progresivas en la labor de la FAO.

Es dentro de este contexto que estimamos oportuno manifestar nuestra complacencia por los cambios operados en la estructura y el contenido del Examen del Programa Ordinario, el cual es cada vez más informativo, analítico y orientado hacia los resultados. Asimismo expresamos nuestro apoyo al documento en análisis, reservando nuestras observaciones detalladas sobre el mismo para la Conferencia.

Deseamos, sin embargo, en esta ocasión aun reconociendo y apoyando totalmente, no sólo los objetivos y las prioridades de los diferentes Programas, sino también la manera como los mismos se ejecutan, manifestar nuestra preocupación por las necesidades de una gestión austera por parte de la Organización mientras que aumentan y aparecen nuevos problemas y necesidades para fomentar el desarrollo agrícola, a los cuales la FAO deberá hacer frente.

A este respecto, lo decimos ahora y lo seguiremos manifestando en otros temas de este Consejo y durante la Conferencia, se hace imprescindible aumentar los recursos de la FAO en forma justa y

cónsona con los reales problemas del mundo agrícola y rural en todo el mundo y de manera especial en Africa. Deseamos expresar nuestro apoyo al sistema de seguimiento y evaluación interno y a la evaluación conjunta con otros organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Por último, destacamos la importante labor de las Oficinas Regionales de la FAO como agentes del Programa Ordinario a nivel de campo.

Para finalizar, la delegación de Panamá desea manifestar su agradecimiento al señor Shah y al señor Trkulja por su clara introducción al tema en examen.

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India):. On this subject we had thought that since we have discussed this matter in detail in the Programme Committee perhaps it would not be necessary to make an intervention here. In any case we would like to sincerely commend Mr Shah and Mr Trkulja for their very comprehensive and pointed introduction of the subject.

The work of the evaluation in itself is very complex for the simple reason that data from the field on the performance of the projects is always scanty, and it is not always easy to come up with an evaluation which is thoroughly reliable. But we sincerely commend FAO for this on-going activity. This presentation in three parts we found extremely convenient dealing with certain major programmes of the Organization and certain topics presented in the form of in-depth studies, as well as two subjects as systematic reviews.

I wish to confine my comments to Part II and Part III of this document. With regard to the vegetable sector, particularly Programme 2. 1. 2. 2, we feel that this is a very important sector which is unfortunately neglected in most of the countries, neglected in the sense that no systematic data is being collected about production, about preservation and about marketing and we have no idea overall globally what role or importance vegetables have in the dietary systems of the people in providing nutrition, and particularly so in our context, in India, where a major part of the population is vegetarian. They depend heavily on minor crops like pulses for vegetable protein and for various minerals and vegetables. We would like to stress in this context that a systematic approach to vegetable production has to be adopted with proper linkages right from input, proper planting material, production, preservation and marketing. This is important because unless we deal with the entire chain as such, vegetables being a highly perishable commodity, will be lost in substantial quantities in the whole chain. We would like FAO to concentrate on this aspect in a comprehensive manner so that vegetable production is tackled in a proper way.

With regard to the role of women in development, we feel that we have to have a fresh approach to this particular aspect. A lot of lip service is paid to the role of women, about ameliorating their condition, about making their lives better, about reducing their workload and so on, but we feel that two important aspects which have to be tackled are literacy and women's organizations.

In our experience women's organizations which have a kind of exogenous leadership of middle class urban women who go to rural areas as a hobby and who try to organize rural women will not solve the problem. We have to educate the rural women and create rural leadership, mobilize them and make them a force in the rural sector. Only then they will get their due in the rural environment, in their share in production, in income distribution, and, to the extent possible, in the lives of the families as such so that the next generation to come will be improved. So these are some of the areas in the context of WCARRD's Programme of Work which have to be tackled. Women have to be organized, they have to be educated, and local leadership has to be generated among rural women; only then can we tackle this problem.

With regard to inland fisheries and aquaculture, these programmes are particularly important for developing countries because until these countries have the wherewithal to engage themselves seriously in deep sea fishing, until they have the right type of equipment and training, and until a survey of the potential is available, they will have to concentrate on inland fisheries and aquaculture. These are activities which can be low-cost and which do not require high technology. Even in our own country we are the second largest producer of inland fisheries in the world. There is tremendous scope in terms of large areas of water being available and of combining aquaculture and fisheries together. There is tremendous scope in this area and we would like work to continue on these aspects

The Fuelwood Development Programme is perhaps the most critical of all the programmes in the forestry sector which the organization is undertaking. We have seen that billions of people, particularly in the developing countries, are in serious danger of facing a tremendous amount of privation because of lack of fuel. There, the forests are being denuded. The approach to forestry as such is responsible for this state of affairs. We have for too long emphasized commercial forestry by trying to produce species which are of commercial value, and by trying to oust the local people from forests. This kind of approach, as we know, has failed completely, and we have to be continuously in search of the proper species. In any development of forestry programmes we have to take care of the people who live in these areas and whose livelihood depends on forestry, and we have to encourage kinds of species and kinds of programmes which are of advantage to the people, which produce fuel, fodder, and fruit, and which give some kind of an annual crop-not that a tree grows for a hundred years and only then is it of any use to the community or to the State. We have to have a complete reorientation of forestry programmes to encourage the kind of forestry which gives an annual return to the people, so that their participation may be maintained and so that they have some incentives. We have to change the approach of the foresters to the forestry sector altogether. This is not a policing kind of work, where you have to prevent people going into forests-it has to be rationalized, it has to be worked on a scientific basis. People's cooperation is necessary, and we have seen during the discussions of the Programme Committee that this is the kind of orientation that the organization has towards the forestry programme, and we would like it to continue in that way.

With regard to Part Three in which the research and ECDC/TCDC are dealt with, we found that FAO as such does not, and is not perhaps charged to, undertake any research directly. FAO has to provide support, it has to provide policy guidelines, and it has to provide the direction in which research is to proceed. We feel that the most important area in which FAO can assist countries is to determine priorities for research for developing countries, particularly by considering their agro-climate situation, their social and economic status-FAO has to assist them in finalizing and drawing up appropriate research programmes, and again in trying to find, through its investments and other activities, ways to generate funds for those kinds of activities. This is the line we would like FAO to take in the research sector.

With regard to ECDC and TCDC, our own experience is that we are trying to tackle too many things at the same time with limited resources and with limited capacities. We have this Caracas programme of action which, with all respect to everybody, has become some kind of a structure which is too unmanageable, too huge, and too gigantic, to manage at the same time. In the ECDC and TCDC sector the effort has to be made to determine priorities, to figure out or to target on certain areas in which potential exists within the developing countries themselves to assist one another instead of trying to do everything at the same time themselves. The ECDC/TCDC approach should be to concentrate on certain areas-certain given areas-and to direct the limited resources and efforts which are available in developing countries to these areas. This is the approach which we would like to take to ECDC/TCDC.

For the first time, in the last session of the Programme Committee, we had an opportunity to take an in-depth view of the work in the regional offices of FAO. We had the opportunity to hear the regional representatives speak about their activities, and what they were doing; and it was really heartening-it was a very reassuring kind of review, because at certain times we had heard reservations being made about the work of the regional offices, about their need, and about their justification. We discovered now the regional offices, with the expertise and with the subject matter specialists that they have, are providing assistance to country projects and regional activities. They are undertaking training programmes, they are undertaking seminars, publications-it was overall a very enlightening and very heartening experience.

Those are some of the observations we would like to make about the Review of the Regular Programme. We would commend the Secretariat for its candid approach: we found many places where the programmes have not succeeded, and where there were shortcomings or failures, they were candidly admitted-and this is the kind of approach we would like to develop

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El Sr. Shah hizo una magnífica presentación del tema y nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Trkulja, Presidente del Comité del Programa, una vez más ha confirmado sus altas calidades y su amplia experiencia y conocimientos.

Pensamos que en la Comisión II de la Conferencia vamos a ocuparnos de este documento y preferimos concentrarnos en las observaciones del Comité del Programa, o sea en el documento CL 88/4, porque consideramos que en esta oportunidad el Comité del Programa ha realizado un excelente examen del Programa Ordinario.

Convendría tal vez destacar, como aparece en el párrafo 2. 6, la satisfacción que expresó el Comité del Programa sobre el hecho de que este documento es una fuente valiosa de información y análisis en lo concerniente a las actividades y logros del Programa Ordinario y sus interrelaciones con el Programa de Campo.

En el párrafo 2. 9 también, y esto lo anotaron tanto el Sr. Shah como el Sr. Trkulja, conviene registrar el hecho de que se está cumpliendo una evolución favorable en la presentación de este documento a través del seguimiento de las recomendaciones y sugerencias que se han hecho en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y que han complementado luego los miembros del Consejo cuando los informes de esos Comités se nos han presentado.

Creemos que esa evolución favorable ha dado lugar a dos intervenciones positivas con las cuales se inició el debate esta mañana: la declaración del Reino Unido y, sobre todo, la de Estados Unidos. Pensamos que la declaración del representante de Estados Unidos fue muy positiva; esto nos alienta sinceramente, Sr. Presidente, porque así podremos tener la esperanza de que esta mañana vamos a disfrutar de una sesión plena del más positivo espíritu de cooperación internacional. Decimos esto porque si representantes de países tan importantes han hecho tan sincero y positivo reconocimiento al Programa Ordinario de esta Organización, es lógico y coherente esperar que seguirá en una actitud positiva cuando más adelante vamos a pasar al tema 8: Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica y al tema 11: Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, pues su Organización tiene un Programa Ordinario tan excelente como éste y es obvio que necesita de un mínimo de recursos para poder seguir avanzando en sus actividades.

Nos complace también destacar lo que se dice en el párrafo 2. 10 del Informe del Comité del Programa sobre la atención creciente que se ha ofrecido a las actividades a nivel de país y a los pequeños productores; en esto de los pequeños productores coincide el Comité de Finanzas en sus párrafos 3. 82 y 3. 83. Los párrafos 2. 28 a 2. 30, se refieren a las actividades de las Oficinas Regionales de la FAO. Nosotros debemos lamentar, Sr. Presidente, que el Comité del Programa en la frase final del párrafo 2. 29, se haya limitado simplemente a tomar nota de la tendencia a la baja, en los últimos años, del porcentaje correspondiente a las Oficinas Regionales en el Presupuesto del Programa Ordinario de la Organización. Creemos que el Comité del Programa no debió tomar nota, sino reaccionar y recomendar al Director General que invierta esa tendencia a la baja y que siga reforzando las Oficinas Regionales.

En el párrafo 2. 30 tal vez el Comité del Programa ensaya una débil defensa de esa última frase del párrafo 2. 29 cuando habla de las diferencias existentes entre una y otra región. Esto es evidente, hace muchos años el Sr. West cuando era miembro del Consejo, participó conmigo en numerosos debates, y hemos reconocido que no puede concebirse un marco standard para todas las Oficinas Regionales, y que si bien unas Oficinas Regionales trabajan bien, otras trabajan menos bien; pero eso no quiere decir que deba generalizarse esa tendencia a la baja contra la cual creemos que el Comité del Programa debió manifestarse. Nosotros pensamos que si hay Oficinas Regionales que funcionan bien, que cuentan con el apoyo de los gobiernos de las regiones de las cuales los países reciben beneficios directos, y éste es el caso de América Latina y el Caribe, pues esa Oficina Regional, aunque en otras no se reúnan las mismas características, deben ser apoyadas.

Aprovechamos esta ocasión, Sr. Presidente, para reiterar el apoyo del Gobierno de Colombia a la descentralización. En 1976 la descentralización, junto con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, constituyeron los dos pilares fundamentales del Programa de quienes asumían en ese momento la dirección general de la FAO. Nosotros creemos que esos ejemplos de descentralización logrados a través del fortalecimiento de la Oficina Regional y del establecimiento de representantes propios de la FAO en los países, ha dado resultados satisfactorios y deben continuarse. Pensamos una vez más, Sr. Presidente, que en las regiones y en los países están los problemas, allá están las

necesidades y hay que atenderlas prioritariamente. Las elucubraciones académicas y técnicas que se llevan a cabo en la sede no podrán jamás permitir válidamente a los funcionarios que desde aquí, sentados en sus escritorios, hagan recomendaciones o traten de asistir a gobiernos cuyos Estados están muy lejos y en condiciones muy difíciles.

Por eso pensamos que en nuestro Informe debemos reiterar una vez más el apoyo de este Consejo a la descentralización y, obviamente, lo haremos más adelante en la Conferencia.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): Also I would like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his explanations. My delegation would like to compliment the Secretariat for the very comprehensive review which forms a valuable source of information and analysis on the activities and accomplishments of the regular programme and its links with the field programme.

The review is an essential component in the examination of programmes and we note with satisfaction the additional improvements made in the preparation of the review document. My delegation specifically welcomes the in-depth review of four sub-programmes and one programme element, all concerned with activities addressing rural development with a special emphasis on the critical situation for small scale producers and the integration of women in rural development. However, once again we want to stress the overall need for coordination with other organizations' activities, particularly in the field of rural development.

In order not to prolong the discussion in this forum my delegation will come back with more detailed intervention specifically concerning the decentralization to the country level of FAO representatives and regional offices in Commission II during the Conference.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation has noted with satisfaction that document C 85/8 takes the recommendations of the Twenty-second Conference of FAO into account to a large extent. My delegation is largely in agreement with the statements of the document and the conclusions drawn in it.

Allow me a few general remarks. We welcome the clear structure of document C 85/8 consisting of three parts; the performance reports on the major programmes in Part I, the special programmes designed to benefit the rural poor in Part II, and the research activities of the FAO Regular Programme and FAO's activities in support of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in Part III. The document shows the efforts of the FAO Secretariat to carry out the assessment of the Regular Programme in a more informative, analytical and more result-oriented way as had been requested by the Twenty-second Conference of FAO.

In view of the importance and the volume of the TCP within the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget we would, however, have expected in Chapter Four on page 77 of the document a detailed assessment of that programme. The FAO Secretariat has submitted document CL 88/INF/10 for this topic which we, however, received only this morning here in Rome.

We welcome the fact that the Director-General of FAO has arranged for an external evaluation of the TCP. We, however, hold the view that this is a task which devolves on the Joint Inspection Unit, being the instrument responsible for that task in the United Nations System. We would have preferred it if the Director-General had entrusted this unit with the external evaluation of the TCP. We do recognize the increased internal evaluation within FAO but we feel that it requires the supplementation by external evaluation, and that in particular in very cost-effective areas of work. We consider the JIU the best suited agency in the United Nations System

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos felicitar al Sr. Shah por la presentación de este tema tan claro, tan objetivo y concreto, a que nos tiene tan acostumbrados, así como al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la información que nos ha brindado, tan amplia, del tema.

Ciertamente, como planteaba también la delegación de India, nos pareció que no íbamos a tener necesidad de intervenir en la mañana pensando que la presentación había sido tan clara, tan objetiva y era obvio la aprobación total de este examen tan completo para la Conferencia y poder preparar unas buenas intervenciones con vistas a su discusión en la Conferencia; sin embargo, queremos muy sucintamente decir que el examen, por su sistematicidad, de los programas, subprogramas y temas precisos, creo que es necesario felicitar porque se ha logrado el equilibrio, el balance que se buscaba; realmente hay transparencia, hay información suficiente como tema, y como instrumento de consulta este documento puede ser un instrumento de consulta muy valioso en esta materia, y además tiene indudablemente mejor formato.

Se habló con bastante énfasis, y nosotros consideramos que es muy importante lo que se pensó sobre las actividades de investigación; consideramos que hay que tener en cuenta esta esfera para ser respaldada en todas sus partes por la FAO, porque la FAO puede impulsar estas tareas nuestras iniciales de trabajos de investigación en la agricultura.

Los programas de investigación en nuestros países necesitan de la inyección, del apoyo, de la investigación de la FAO en la forma práctica y concreta que puede ser bastante valorizada, y hasta podíamos buscar una fórmula parecida a los Programas de Cooperación Técnica que son aquellas cosas que concretamente se resuelven en nuestros países.

También nos hacemos eco de lo que la distinguida representación de Colombia ha planteado referente a las Oficinas Regionales, que nos parece que fue bastante débil la respuesta del Comité del Programa al decir solamente que tomaban nota; tomar nota no es lo más indicado a una situación en que la baja nos parece que es una tendencia preocupante, porque sencillamente las Oficinas Regionales quien las evalúan realmente son los países que las tienen y los criterios de los países han sido bastante reiterantes, y las Oficinas han dado un respaldo a nuestra agricultura por su aporte y apoyo directo a los Programas Nacionales. Creo que en esto igual que en las actividades de los Programas de Cooperación Técnica que constituyen los medios prácticos y concretos más válidos que tiene asignada la FAO en apoyo a nuestra agricultura; no conozco ningún PCT que no haya obtenido validez, no hemos tenido ningún tipo de problemas referentes a endeudamiento, ni hemos creado ningún elefante blanco, sino que vamos prácticamente a las cuestiones que el país necesita en concreto.

Queremos, finalmente, dar nuestro apoyo en todas sus partes, a lo expresado sobre la pesca y silvicultura por la representación de India; es importante el análisis que hace sobre la silvicultura.

Apoyamos en todas sus partes este documento para discutir en la Comisión II y en la cual ampliaremos nuestras consideraciones generales y específicas en nuestra intervención en la Conferencia.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Brevemente, quiero expresar mi complacencia por el excelente documento que estamos estudiando, porque además de ser muy completo, claro, da un verdadero marco de estudio para las discusiones que habrán de tenerse en el próximo evento de la Conferencia.

Quería, en aras de esta brevedad, manifestar mi apoyo e identificación con los problemas, con la posición fijada por los delegados de India, Colombia y Cuba, con relación a esos planteamientos específicos que ellos han hecho; pero quería insistir un poco en el punto en que no es que no nos satisfaga el documento, pero que no habría gustado ver un poco más explícitamente planteado en su texto lo relacionado con el problema de la mujer.

Ciertamente, el documento recoge en sus párrafos 2. 91, 2. 92, 2. 95 y 2. 99 referencias a la mujer, pero siempre, no sé si es que yo soy demasiado exigente, pero siempre lo hace de una manera así como al pasar, confundida en denominaciones tan al acaso como, por ejemplo, "el Comité acogió complacido la importancia concedida a la mitigación de la pobreza rural y la atención que se prestaba a grupos específicos como las agriculturas, los jóvenes, etcétera". Lo mismo vamos a decir en el punto 2. 92: "El Comité reiteró su apoyo a las actividades de capacitación en beneficio

de los pequeños agricultores, las campesinas, etcétera. " Y lo mismo en el 2. 95: "El Comité recordó que había apoyado las actividades a nivel de los países relacionadas con la mujer en la seguridad alimentaria" y más adelante también "con la mujer, tanto hombres como mujeres. "

Quiero decir que la mujer no merece que haya ni siquiera un párrafo en este maravilloso documento, en este estupendo documento tan preciso, no ha merecido un párrafo que concrete la situación de la mujer, siquiera la mujer en el medio rural. No hace falta decirlo aquí porque ello es una verdad tan antigua como la leyenda de Adán y Eva, la mujer es necesaria en una sociedad organizada aún cuando los hombres puedan pensar que no, pero indudablemente es indispensable, para participar en las actividades algunas veces muy pesadas de la agricultura y de la conducción del hogar; eso ya lo sabemos de memoria, pero entonces si todo eso lo sabe este Comité y lo saben todos los Comités que lo han planteado ¿por qué no podemos lograr que en un problema como el desarrollo rural tan concreto podamos tener un párrafo en donde se plantee la necesidad de que la mujer en el medio rural reciba una atención especial, específica, como elemento importante de ese medio rural para su capacitación, para una capacitación que va a ser productiva para la familia, para la producción agrícola, para el desarrollo de la comercialización?, porque la mujer puede, además de productora, puede participar en el mercadeo como lo hacen en muchísimos países que yo personalmente conozco. ¿Por qué no dedicar un párrafo en donde nos refiramos a la atención que merece la mujer de parte de estos Programas de la FAO para capacitarla en lo relativo a la agricultura, a la nutrición, a la atención de la familia, que con eso ya estaríamos satisfechas en nuestra muy modesta aspiración en beneficio de las mujeres?

Yo sinceramente puedo decirles que me siento un poco traicionando la responsabilidad que tenemos aquí cuando no nos ocupamos realmente de la mujer, que significa casi el 50 por Ciento de la población en muchísimos países, en el mío el 49. 5; de manera pues, que vería con agrado que para el futuro, no pido que se modifique actualmente nada aquí, pero que para la Conferencia, en la que todavía tenemos la posibilidad de hacer una intervención, o una proposición, se dedicara un párrafo y se pensara en traer a la aprobación una proposición que hice en la reunión del Comité de Agricultura cuando nos pasaron aquella estupenda película que mostró la realidad de la mujer en el mundo, bueno, muy dolorosa, pero muy real, y que haya la posibilidad de que la FAO organice o piense crear un grupo de trabajo para atender a los problemas de la mujer, y son problemas porque no me voy a referir a la mujer solamente de un determinado país, ni siquiera a los problemas de la mujer en el medio rural; con eso me sentiría satisfecha. De manera que dejo esta preocupación, la voy a calificar hasta allí de preocupación, a ver si en el futuro el Comité que estudie el futuro documento pueda incorporar esta propuesta que hice sobre la conveniencia de estudiar la creación de un grupo de trabajo para atender el estudio de los problemas de la mujer con relación a su capacitación, a su condición de miembro de una sociedad que bastante poco le da en cuanto a su preparación, y a como ser eficiente en el trabajo duro que ella conduce en muchos países igual como en el trabajo menos duro que hace en otras sociedades.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I had not intended to ask for another opportunity to speak on account of women, but I am on the Programme Committee and take very much to heart the remarks of my distinguished and dear friend and colleague about the deficiencies of the Programme in that regard. I want to thank Mr. Trkulja, my dear Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his fairness and unfailing justice and kindness. I also want to thank my dear colleague from Colombia for the warm and welcome words in which he has mentioned my country today.

I will be brief, but I am convinced that it is only in the spirit of good will, in the spirit of not searching for criticism, of saying, "yes, we must admit faults where there are faults. We must insist on honest dealing and be frank and not look for duplicity"-we must proceed in this spirit of good will, and we must agree that we will not be looking for trouble. We must proceed in a brotherly fashion.

I keep thinking of the Minister of Agriculture of Mali who, when speaking of the effort to increase the welfare of people in this world, said of this great enterprise that we are partners. It is as partners that we must operate. I do not like these groups. I will be honest about that. We are all partners in an enterprise. That is why we are here. That is why our governments are paying for us to be here. That is what we are supposed to be doing. It is wonderful to see that so often it does work. Fair dealing and affection for one another, and respect towards each other, seem to be the key.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The enormous task of evaluating the Regular Programme is mind-boggling. Therefore, I commend the work of the Programme Committee in this regard. I should also like to thank Mr Shah and Dr Trkulja for their lucid introductions of the evaluation of the Regular Programme. I shall limit my comments to ECDC and TCDC

We welcome the comments of the Programme Committee on the activities of FAO with regard to ECDC and TCDC. As we see in paragraph 2. 25 of document CL 88/4, FAO has indeed stepped up its activities in this regard. As is indicated, FAO has assisted one hundred of the estimated 164 TCDC networks as well as 29 economic groupings and 11 international groupings. Indeed, FAO has a very great role to play in ECDC and TCDC. FAO has a basic mandate in the transfer of technology and we believe that TCDC is one of the most effective ways of doing this. In the past we have had Conference Resolutions defining the mandate of FAO in this regard.

However, as pointed out in the paragraph I have just cited, we must indicate our concern that "the work of FAO in these areas had been adversely affected by the limitations of UNDP resources and the difficulty of mobilizing support from other donors. "

If we look at document C 85/8, at page 226, in paragraph 11. 106, there is a reference to the fact that: "Although cooperating governments have made facilities available for inter-country activities and have opened their institutions for the training of nationals from other developing countries, their financial contributions, particularly in convertible currency, cannot for various reasons be expected to meet all the needs. "

The problem is that while developing countries are willing to open their institutions to help other countries in this respect, very often the seed money is lacking. One obvious lack in this respect is the money for international travel. Sometimes some of the weaker institutions have a lack of money for the DSA of trainees who are to be transferred from one country to another. We know that the role of FAO in this regard is essential. With the backing of the headquarters staff which is very well described here, and with the help of the country representatives and the regional offices, FAO can do a lot in promoting this transfer of technology and economic cooperation among developing countries. But as we have said, there is sometimes a lack of a small amount of money so that this vital cooperation in transfer of technology is not being given greater impetus.

Like the delegate of India, I think we should focus our attention on this question in order to determine our priorities in those areas where there is a greater chance of success. There should be a focus on specific issues, on successful examples, otherwise concrete results will be lacking at a later stage; everything will be on paper, but final results will be lacking. We should concentrate on areas which can give concrete results in the sphere of food production, particularly basic foods such as cereals, root crops and the so-called minor crops which are all of essential importance in the diet of many people. We believe the efforts of FAO in this regard, which we commend and which are well documented here, should not be slackened. This is a sphere of activity in which FAO can indicate its own dynamic spirit, perhaps I should say its missionary zeal, because in this matter we need enthusiasm. There is a lot one can do, but it depends a lot on personal initiative. One may have few resources to dispose of, but nevertheless one can see that the potential is great. Therefore, we commend the work done in this respect, but believe that a lot more has to be done. Indeed, it is to be lamented that no greater importance is given to meeting the demand for small amounts of money, which can do a lot in this respect.

For this reason, my delegation supports the creation of a new category in the TCP project expenditures. When we come to that we shall again address ourselves to this matter because small amounts of money can do a lot in transferring technology and fostering economic cooperation, particularly when conditions are similar between developing countries and especially if a country has made a breakthrough in a technology which has been proved to be successful in that country and which can successfully be transferred and learnt by another country.

I should like to conclude by commending the work of FAO in this regard as already indicated in this document, and by asking that the small amounts of money that are required, such as the seed money required for international travel, for the DSA, and so forth, be made available because this will go a long way in promoting cooperation among developing countries.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, we would commend Mr Shah and Mr Trkulja, Chairman of the Programme Committee, for their clear and succinct presentations of the Review of the Regular Programme contained in comprehensive document C 85/8. It is encouraging to observe that the improvements in the review have been along the lines suggested by the Programme Committee. We discussed this report in greater detail in the autumn session of the Programme Committee in September last, and we are again going to take it up in Commission II at the Conference. Therefore, my delegation will be brief and I will make only a few general comments.

The importance of evaluation in assessing the results of our efforts can hardly be over-emphasized. My delegation appreciates this comprehensive review as a rich source of information bearing on the activities of the Regular Programme of FAO. It is quite analytical and has been undertaken with remarkable candour. It assesses the progress achieved, and the constraints encountered in the way of progress have been clearly highlighted.

The review of major programmes for agriculture, fisheries and forestry have been quite specific. The four sub-programmes focus on the critical needs of small producers and the poor in the rural setting. Despite several constraints, the review of the research into ECDC and TCDC activities has also been accomplished with considerable success. My delegation also welcomes the inclusion of the systematic review of FAO's support of economic cooperation among developing countries in the forthcoming review of the Regular Programme. This document presented to us also reflects the outstanding contribution by the Secretariat, which aptly needs to be commended for this laudable effort.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): We shall be very brief, bearing in mind that there is ample time to make fuller comment during the Conference itself. We join with others in expressing our gratitude to Mr Shah and Mr Trkulja for the introduction of this item. We would like to say that we were pleased and impressed with the main document and noted the improvements in candour and clarity that it contains.

We will not take time to comment on the substance of the Programme's review but merely comment very briefly on process. It is because we regard the Review of the Regular Programme as one of the most important documents before us, next perhaps to the Programme of Work and Budget itself, that we believe that this Review should document as fully as possible the impact of FAO programmes: are the activities that we are engaged in improving the global food situation; what adjustments should we be making to improve our effectiveness and our responsiveness to global problems?

Perhaps it is because we attach such great importance to this review exercise that we find ourselves not entirely satisfied with it. We feel that there is a need for more tangible evidence of what has been achieved. We feel we need to know how the results of the past have influenced the proposals we make for the future, and while we are cognisant that the problems of timing would inhibit this, we feel that there should be a linkage between the review process and the proposals that we make for the future in our programmes of work. It is a cyclical process. We realize that programmes of work and budget are begun halfway through a biennium and earlier, and that the review process by definition cannot be done until things have happened and proposals have been implemented. Nevertheless we feel that it is not impossible to link the review process to some greater extent with the proposal and budgetary process.

In our opinion one of the significant weaknesses in the review is the apparent lack of discipline in the formulation of objectives by not adequately mentioning the ends, the targets, the beneficiaries, or giving clear progress indicators. In our view far too much emphasis is given to statements of quantity of output, such as the number of meetings, the number of networks, the field trials, the number of them held, as opposed to the qualitative impact of such activities. We realize that it is far more difficult to accomplish that end and it is much easier for us to say than it is for the Organization to accomplish. Nevertheless we feel that the root of the evaluation problem stems from failure to define objectives in terms of desired impact and measurable results at the programme proposal stage. In this respect we find that programme proposals as contained in programmes of work and budget are too frequently stated in terms of means rather than the ends. For this reason we would continue to urge some linkage between the review process and the programme proposal process as a contribution to improvement in the overall evaluation process.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal): En vous remerciant de m'avoir donné la parole, je voudrais à mon tour joindre ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter M. Shah et le Président du Comité du Programme pour l'excellente présentation qu'ils nous ont faite du document CL 88/4. A l'examen de ce document j'ai pu noter qu'il comporte des informations détaillées et complètes sur l'exécution des programmes : concernant l'agriculture, la pêche et les forêts. Il ressort également de ce document que la FAO, malgré une situation économique internationale peu favorable, a accru le volume des activités exécutées, en même temps qu'elle a privilégié l'appui direct aux Etats Membres et le soutien technique des projets de terrain.

Ces considérations générales montrent la ferme volonté de la FAO de donner une plus grande priorité à l'assistance pour le développement agricole et d'accroître l'efficacité de l'utilisation des ressources limitées mises à sa disposition. Cette option qui mérite d'être saluée et appuyée devrait encourager tous les membres à continuer à soutenir les programmes ordinaires de terrain de la FAO en vue de contribuer à l'élimination de la misère et du sous-développement dans le monde.

Ma délégation voudrait se réjouir de l'accent mis sur le programme concernant la protection animale, le rôle des femmes, surtout dans le développement, l'aquaculture et les activités agro-forestières; ces secteurs, vous en conviendrez avec moi, sont très déterminants dans nos efforts communs pour réaliser la sécurité alimentaire. Certes l'on entend très souvent certaine liaison objectifs moyens, en nous demandant quels secteurs privilégier... mais il reste sûr que ce sont ces objectifs qui doivent déterminer les moyens, et je crois que nous avons eu l'occasion ici, d'une manière générale, d'appuyer ces objectifs, et les priorités déterminées par la FAO. On pourrait donc s'étonner qu'on puisse s'abstenir de reconnaître que ce sont les priorités et les objectifs qui déterminent les moyens. Autrement, je vois très mal comment on pourrait atteindre des résultats si on ne met pas en place tous les moyens nécessaires pour réaliser les objectifs sur lesquels nous sommes tombés d'accord.

En conclusion, je voudrais appuyer les conclusions figurant dans ce document et insister pour un rapprochement de l'appui à la coopération économique et technique entre les pays en développement. Les efforts consentis dans ce but sont certes très appréciables, mais ils méritent d'être poursuivis et accentués.

Enfin, pour ce qui est des activités des bureaux régionaux, je voudrais dire, à l'instar d'autres délégations, la Colombie notamment, que les moyens mis à la disposition de ces dernières doivent être renforcés de manière à leur permettre, compte tenu de leur connaissance des réalités locales, d'être plus dynamiques. En attendant de revenir, lors de la réunion de la Commission II de la Conférence, sur toutes ces questions, je formule, en tout cas, le vœu que l'appréciation favorable de la FAO entendue aujourd'hui se traduise plus tard par des décisions conséquentes et concrètes allant dans le sens du renforcement des moyens mis à la disposition de la FAO à laquelle je veux rendre un hommage particulier.

Mohamed DESSOUKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabie): At the outset I would like to thank Mr Shah as well as Mr Trkulja for their excellent presentation of the subject under discussion. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for this well prepared document. We all know that the document as well as the reports of the Programme Committee will be discussed in detail in Commission II of the Conference. This is the reason why I will speak only briefly to some of the programmes that seem to us to be most important within the activities of this Organization.

We support programmes oriented to small farmers because they present the very nerve of production in all developing countries, including Egypt. We welcome the efforts witnessed in livestock programmes, especially those combatting certain diseases in Africa. We would like also to welcome the Organization's efforts to promote and develop research at national, regional and international levels.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Shah and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their very lucid introduction of this item. In fact my delegation has several comments on this item but we will have a chance to speak again at the Conference.

To save our time on this occasion we would like to make only one comment, that is, to draw your attention to the role of the FAO representative as described in document C 85/8 on pages 83 and 84. We think that the statement in paragraph 4. 40 makes a conclusion based on an optimistic idea about which we are doubtful, especially the conclusion in the first sentence of this paragraph, which said that the FAO representatives continue to play an important role in project and programme development, and so on. Let us listen to our pessimistic idea. My delegation is very sorry to tell this Council that this is not true in the case of Thailand. The FAO representative does nothing which is said in the first sentence of this paragraph. Instead of helping us to develop the project, the FAO Representative to Thailand has the mandate, we believe, to refuse initially whenever we propose a TCP project.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation): I would like first, on behalf of the Director-General, to express our thanks for the level of the debate and the quality of the comments that the Council has seen fit to make on this document. It will never be in the nature of a Secretariat to rest on its laurels, because we serve our Member Nations, but I hope I can speak for the Director-General in saying that we are greatly encouraged by the sort of comments that the Council has made today. The usefulness of this document to the Council and then to the Conference in reviewing our activities, in assessing our activities, in seeing what one delegate called the linkages between the past and the future, are the true purposes of the Review of the Regular Programme.

The Council will allow me to recall that, in fact, it was the Director-General who started this process, which did not exist before in FAO, eight years ago. My colleagues and I of course follow similar developments in other major organizations and specialized agencies, and I think the Council may also be happy to know that to our knowledge there is not any document in any other organization which quite compares with the Review of the Regular Programme. There are reports prepared, certainly, on what has been done, but there is no attempt made in the same way as we try to do. The Director-General continues to attach importance to these processes, firstly by ensuring that it responds to your needs, secondly by permitting and ensuring the degree of objectivity which you look for, and thirdly, by providing the guidance and the staff resources for it. I understand he has every intention continuing to do so.

Several comments were made about coordination of evaluation. Indeed, this is something which we have not described in the document but is very much an on-going process. Evaluation activities are coordinated among organizations in a variety of ways. For example, UNDP established a central evaluation unit only two or three years ago. They approached us immediately to ask for our assistance, to learn from our experience, and to get our suggestions.

The UN has a number of evaluation units but it was only last year that the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a central evaluation unit. Here again we were approached by colleagues in the UN who wished to share our own experience. The Joint Inspection Unit has been mentioned, in fact, in addition to their periodic reports on the status of evaluation, the JIU has a meeting every year of the evaluators concerned, not only from organizations in the UN System but also from evaluation units of government departments. We participate in those actively.

Finally, some reference has been made to thematic evaluation which we undertake not only by ourselves but with the countries concerned with UNDP and, in the latest case of aquaculture, with the participation of one member country.

In view of the brevity that you have requested me to ensure, I will not try to respond to individual comments. May I only say that every comment made has been heard and absorbed with the greatest attention and we shall try to reflect the results of these comments in our future efforts.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I will try to match the record set up by Mr Shah. There are two points on which I want to reflect, on which I am obliged to reflect, one is the point raised by our colleague and friend Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Ambassador of Colombia to FAO. His views were invigorated by some subsequent diversions on the issue of regional offices and their, in fact, slightly declining share, in the overall Regular Programme funds of FAO. Of course, the

logical connotation of the word "nought" is a sort of general agreement with the tendency, and indeed, his interpretation was very correct. The Committee was in fact generally speaking in agreement with a slightly downward turn in the regional offices' share in the Regular Programme. I have to explain why.

First, the Committee was in a position to compare FAO funds spent on additional offices with UN agencies of comparable size. Of course, any straightforward comparison might be even misleading and, in light of that fact, it is really surprising that the share of major UN agencies on regional offices in Regular Programmes fall between a very narrow margin. For example, between 9.5 and 11 percent. FAO is placed at the end of the list with a share of regional offices of approximately 9.6 percent.

It declined, in fact, not from 15 percent, it was 15 percent in 1975 when the Conference formally approved a 15 percent share of regional offices, but in 1976 again, it unanimously agreed that it should be lowered to 10 percent. So we are speaking of a very slight tendency from 10 percent in 1975 to 9.6 percent in the current band.

Secondly, if our note of caution about a highly noticeable downward trend is interpreted as a conceptual agreement on the lowering of regional offices, that impression is definitely wrong. The Committee was fully aware of the overall tendency in the whole system towards more regional and sub-regional cooperation. They are particularly aware of the famous UN Resolution 32/197 on restructuring, and the whole change of subsequent resolutions, all calling for more regional support by all UN systems, including all agencies. But we fully realize that with the establishment of country offices beginning in 1976, part of the funds available to regional offices were, in fact, free for use in other activities, and in that sense, the regional and sub-regional support of FAO has, in fact, increased in the last ten years or so. With this in mind we said, "well, we felt that the tendency of hardly noticeable degrees in the share of funds for regional offices was agreeable."

Let me add finally, that we got the strong feeling in our very frank exchange of views with the regional heads that they were by and large satisfied with the amount of funds placed at their disposal.

Of course, we have to wait and see what the tendencies will be in the future, but it is surely not the position of the Programme Committee that a tendency of even a very slight downward trend continue indefinitely or will even continue over a medium term. I think I have sufficiently explained the position of the Programme Committee on that issue.

The second point I want to mention very briefly is about women, and I am really very sorry if the brief paragraph which has been incorporated in our report dealing with the women's sub-programme left the impression that we, in a way, routinely passed over the whole matter. It is a totally different situation that prevailed in the Committee. We desperately tried to evade the normal words which are so extensively used on such occasions. I want to assure the Council that the Committee has always given full weight to the problems of women in the whole of the development process. We have always studied very carefully the FAO approach primarily stemming from the Conference on Rural Development. We felt very strongly that the sub-programme has been very well established and that it has passed through logical phases: firstly, to establish a most essential information base and to create awareness about women's issues; secondly, to approach the whole matter within the overall development efforts, and thirdly, to specifically promote targeted activities aimed at improving the position and all other aspects concerning women in rural areas. In that sense, we put very clearly on our report the need for relative future increases in Regular Programme locations for this programme as well as for the whole array, indeed, of activities related to women throughout the various FAO programmes and sub-programmes.

Finally, I would also mention that the machinery aimed at coordinating housewives' efforts in this area is already in place. There is an interdepartmental Working Party on women, which has tried and has been quite successful in coordinating the various activities, the various programmes and the organization units which deal more or less with women's issues.

Róbert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): I would like to congratulate Mr Shah and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their excellent introduction. On behalf of our delegation I would like to express satisfaction with the very comprehensive document CL 88/4 which became sufficient and good basis for the discussion about many principal topics during the Twenty-third Conference.

In the document CL 88/4 a great part is devoted to the budgetary methods, and I would like to say very briefly some comments on this item. The FAO Draft Programme and Budget for 1986-87 is in our opinion basically a balanced one, corresponding to the requirements of FAO Member States, particularly developing countries. We believe it is based on rightly set priorities. We are gratified to know concrete steps are being taken by FAO to gradually reduce non-productive costs and we are in favour of additional savings through new fund reduction with non-technical, administrative, or support costs. That is why we welcome their cut by US\$ 4.8 million in favour of an expansion of technical and economic programmes. We may refer here to one of those measures already taken aimed at the gradual reduction in the number of administrative staff despite the growth of 400 anticipated after the 1974 World Food Conference.

As to the Review of Field Programmes 1984-85, we think that document should include the reasons for some deflections of UNDP from the agricultural development programmes, that the causes of decreasing of the UNDP contribution to the agricultural sector. I would like to support the reminder of the distinguished delegate from Venezuela regarding the important role of women in development.

CHAIRMAN: When the item was started there was considerable hesitation on the part of Members to speak and the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom started the "bowling". It has been a prolonged one, nearly two hours of bowling, but I hope we can be brief on the other items.

I am therefore going to refrain from adding my own comments except to say that we can all be proud of what has been accomplished under the Regular Programme documented in C 85/8. I would like to convey my congratulations to the Director-General and Mr Shah and all the staff for the very hard and dedicated work they have put in, and to the Chairman and members of the Programme Committee who have reviewed this in great detail. May I add only one word, since the last part of the debate has been on women. I would like to endorse what the distinguished Council member from Venezuela said. Although there is a coordinating committee, I feel that this is an area which has to transcend purely symbolic action. In other words, we should not be content with the psychological satisfaction that we are doing something. The active participation of women is an area of vital and crucial significance to the future of agriculture. Therefore, I do hope that there could be other mechanisms in addition to on-going ones, at least to share the information on how the role of women in agricultural technology can be enhanced in a location-specific manner.

For example, countries like Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and several other countries have excellent machinery, simple machinery, which can be used by women. When I was in charge of rural development planning in India, I made a review of the flow of institutional credit to women's specific occupations. It was so low, about 3 percent or so, in contrast to a very large percentage to operations done by men. We therefore introduced a simple procedure of adding one whole time officer to every district rural development agency to monitor and facilitate the flow of credit to rural women for enabling them to take to skilled professions. Within a year there was a substantial improvement in the flow of credit to women. I think we have to share ideas and experiences of this kind and really go beyond the stage of just feeling that we are doing something on the subject-so I do share the sentiments of several members here.

13. Review of Field Programmes 1984-85
13. Examen des Programmes de terrain 1984-85
13. Examen de los Programas de Campo para 1984-85

R. S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur general, Département du développement): Comme les années précédentes, le rapport qui vous est soumis sur les programmes de terrain de la FAO est un document qui fournit une analyse globale de la nature et de la tendance du programme, qui procède à une évaluation des activités de terrain, et qui étudie en profondeur un secteur de nos activités.

Je voudrais très brièvement vous présenter ce document. Il est composé de quatre chapitres:

Le premier chapitre est une analyse des tendances que nous avons essayé de montrer dans la mesure du possible par des graphiques que nous avons souhaité être clairs; on peut résumer les grandes lignes de ce chapitre en disant que ce biennium a montré une croissance modeste en ce qui concerne les activités de terrain par rapport au biennium précédent; et il est important de noter que ces activités sont encore à un niveau modeste et inférieur à celui des précédentes années, notamment des six précédentes années.

Toutefois, par rapport au biennium précédent, on peut noter une augmentation sensible des activités de terrain de la FAO, puisqu'elles sont passées de 265 millions et qu'elles s'élèveront au cours de ce biennium (de cette année 1985) à 300 millions de dollars.

Il y a eu des changements significatifs dans les activités de terrain de la FAO; les projets financés par le PNUD sont restés à un niveau relativement stagnant après la chute très aiguë que le PNUD avait subie dans le précédent biennium; d'autre part, il faut noter que la part de la FAO dans les projets financés par le PNUD est passée de 30 pour cent dans les années 70 à 20 pour cent aujourd'hui en dépit de l'évidente priorité que tout le monde s'accorde à donner à l'agriculture et au développement rural; de plus, il faut se rappeler que les activités de la FAO sont essentiellement orientées vers les pays qui sont le plus dans le besoin.

En revanche, à côté de cette stagnation du PNUD, il y a un développement des programmes de fonds fiduciaires, c'est-à-dire de programmes coopératifs entre les gouvernements et la FAO; ceux-ci sont toujours en phase de croissance assez nette et ceci est une réponse généreuse des pays donateurs aux programmes d'action prioritaire de la FAO, puisque la plupart de ces programmes sont étroitement liés à ces programmes d'action.

Il est important de noter qu'une partie de plus en plus grande de ces ressources proviennent de fonds qui ont été accordés à des pays dans le cadre de prêts donnés par la Banque mondiale essentiellement ou de grandes institutions financières. Ceci est important et à noter dans la mesure où, comme vous le savez sans doute, la Banque mondiale est probablement actuellement le plus grand fournisseur, et de loin, d'assistance technique.

Comme vous pourrez le noter, le Programme de coopération technique s'est développé normalement suivant une évolution normale et nous avons essayé de montrer dans ce chapitre comment les activités du Programme de coopération technique sont étroitement imbriquées dans les autres formes de l'assistance de la FAO.

Je voudrais aussi dire un mot sur le rôle des activités du Centre d'investissement qui, malgré les difficultés du renouvellement des ressources et notamment des ressources qui peuvent être fournies à des fonds privilégiés, a été toujours très important.

Parmi les activités qui ont été initiées au cours de ce biennium et plus précisément au cours de cette année, je voudrais rappeler très brièvement le programme de relance de l'agriculture dans 25 pays d'Afrique. Je pense que nous aurons l'occasion au cours de nos discussions sur la situation de l'agriculture en Afrique de revenir sur ce programme. Je voudrais simplement vous dire qu'il s'agit de 25 pays africains qui ont été le plus sévèrement touchés par la sécheresse. Ils représentent 272 projets qui correspondent à un montant total de 250 millions de dollars. Dans l'ensemble de ce programme, on peut considérer que 92 millions de dollars ont déjà été financés par des donateurs bilatéraux, multilatéraux, par des organisations non gouvernementales aussi et, je voudrais souligner, par un certain nombre de pays en développement qui ont déjà participé à l'exécution de ces projets. Il y a un pourcentage important, environ 100 millions de dollars, de projets, qui ont appelé l'attention des donateurs et il reste encore, pour financer globalement et de façon définitive ce programme, 53 millions de dollars.

Dans le chapitre deux qui est particulièrement important dans cette revue, nous avons procédé à une évaluation de l'activité des programmes de terrain de la FAO au travers de deux approches: la première est une évaluation qualitative que nous avons demandée aux représentants de la FAO sur le terrain et vous pourrez dans ce chapitre voir les commentaires qui ont été relevés par les représentants de la FAO à propos des projets qui se situent dans leur pays. Cette évaluation qualitative des représentants de la FAO a porté sur environ 1 200 projets et des projets de toute nature. A côté de cette évaluation qualitative, disons plus subjective, nous avons procédé à une synthèse des activités de l'unité d'évaluation et le document présente la synthèse de l'évaluation de 220 projets sur une période de quatre ans et non pas sur simplement le biennium, ce qui permet de tirer des conclusions quelquefois plus claires et en tous cas sûrement plus précises, surtout que ces 220 projets sont des projets de grande dimension, en général financés par le PNUD pour une grande partie et qui ont surtout un caractère multisectoriel donc complexe.

Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail de ces évaluations qui sont décrites tout au long du chapitre deux, mais nous avons essayé de procéder à une analyse franche et objective en montrant les déficiences et les résultats positifs obtenus globalement. On peut dire que le programme de terrain de la FAO est en voie permanente d'amélioration, de perfectionnement, et nous pensons que, grâce à un système d'informatisation du cycle des projets, nous arriverons à maîtriser encore mieux le contrôle et la surveillance des programmes de terrain, ce qui constitue, comme vous pouvez le penser, un souci permanent de l'Organisation et notamment au travers du Comité des programmes de terrain qui se réunit périodiquement pour procéder à une évaluation continue des activités en cours.

Le troisième chapitre est consacré à une étude sur le développement forestier. Nous avons choisi cette année les problèmes forestiers d'une part parce que c'était l'année internationale de la forêt, d'autre part parce qu'il y avait la Conférence mondiale des forêts à Mexico et aussi et surtout parce que les problèmes forestiers prennent une importance de plus en plus grande dans les activités de terrain au travers d'un certain nombre d'interventions qui tournent autour de plusieurs thèmes, notamment celui du rôle de la forêt dans le développement rural, du rôle de la forêt dans la préservation des ressources et de l'utilisation de l'énergie et de la lutte contre la désertification.

Je pense qu'on peut noter que, dans ce cadre-là, le Centre d'investissement a permis à la FAO de préparer des projets qui ont été financés par la Banque et, depuis la création du Centre, plus de 2 milliards de dollars ont été investis dans des programmes forestiers par le financement des banques, des institutions financières internationales sur la base de projets préparés par le Centre d'investissement.

Le chapitre quatre de la revue est un chapitre dans lequel on essaye de voir les principales évolutions du programme de terrain au cours des années récentes. Nous avons insisté sur un certain nombre de sujets comme par exemple l'application des nouvelles dimensions, c'est-à-dire l'utilisation plus grande du personnel local. Plus de 430 projets de la FAO sont dirigés par des directeurs nationaux. L'évolution s'est faite aussi dans le domaine de la formation en essayant d'adapter nos programmes de formation à des activités très opérationnelles au niveau de la production du terrain et de la production elle-même.

Enfin, je crois qu'il faut parler du rôle des gouvernements dans l'effort que nous faisons pour améliorer notre programme de terrain; je pense que vous verrez dans ce document que nous avons particulièrement insisté sur le suivi du projet. Je pense que c'est un secteur particulièrement important et que dans le cadre des nouvelles dimensions, la participation du personnel local, l'association plus étroite de nos projets avec des institutions solides dans le pays permettent et permettront de plus en plus d'améliorer le suivi de nos projets.

Voilà ce que je désirais dire. Je ne vous ai pas parlé de la coopération technique entre pays en développement mais vous verrez que ce souci, cette préoccupation est constante tout au long du document. Elle ne fait pas l'objet d'un chapitre particulier mais elle est sous-jacente tout au long de l'analyse faite au cours de ces quatre chapitres. Nous avons essayé d'être concis et clairs et je me tiens maintenant à la disposition de tous les délégués s'ils ont des questions complémentaires à poser.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (l angue originale arabe): Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier M. Lignon pour le brillant exposé qu'il a fait au sujet des programmes de terrain pour la période 1984-1985. Je voudrais également remercier tous les fonctionnaires qui ont contribué à la réussite de ce programme. J'avais eu l'occasion en tant que membre du Comité du programme de discuter de cette question, mais j'ai l'honneur actuellement d'en parler en tant que représentant du Liban au sein du Conseil. Après avoir pris connaissance des documents relatifs aux programmes de terrain 1984-1985, nous avons été heureux de constater l'augmentation du niveau des activités financées par des fonds fiduciaires et que les dépenses qui étaient de 269 millions en 1984 se sont élevées à 300 millions de dollars en 1985. Cela est dû aux dispositions bilatérales et multilatérales prises avec les pays industriels donateurs et à l'augmentation de la participation de la FAO dans l'exécution des projets financés par les ressources des pays bénéficiaires eux-mêmes. Nous sommes également heureux de constater que la part réservée aux opérations de terrain en Afrique a augmenté au cours de cette même période et représente ainsi près de 40 pour cent des montants affectés à ces projets. Nous avons constaté avec satisfaction le rôle accru de l'assistance dans le domaine des forêts et que le niveau de cette assistance a augmenté d'une manière continue depuis les années 70, en raison du rôle important des forêts dans l'augmentation de la production agricole, l'amélioration de l'environnement, le développement rural, l'utilisation du bois de chauffage, la lutte contre la désertification et autres.

La délégation libanaise ne peut qu'exprimer sa considération pour les efforts de la FAO dans l'exécution des programmes de terrain au cours de l'année écoulée ainsi qu'au cours des quatre dernières années, mais elle voudrait cependant faire quelques observations à ce sujet.

En ce qui concerne les dépenses extrabudgétaires, affectées aux projets de terrain, nous demandons quelle est la raison de la diminution des assistances fournies par la FAO pour la promotion des récoltes et leur amélioration, assistances qui étaient de 29 pour cent et qui ne sont plus que de 26 pour cent maintenant. En 1982-1983, elles s'élevaient à 144 millions de dollars alors qu'en 1984-1985 elles se sont limitées à 134 millions de dollars bien que ce soit là un des plus importants domaines auxquels s'intéresse la FAO.

Nous nous demandons également quelle est la raison ou quelles sont les raisons de la non-augmentation substantielle des assistances affectées au domaine des pêches, bien que la FAO déploie tous ses efforts pour développer les ressources halieutiques, considérées comme un élément fondamental de la nutrition humaine, et qui contribuent grandement à combler les carences de la production alimentaire. Cette augmentation n'a représenté que deux millions de dollars en 1984-1985, soit 57 millions au lieu de 55 millions affectés en 1982-1983. Il ressort d'autre part du tableau V/1 concernant les principales dépenses extrabudgétaires pour les projets de terrain en 1984 que le pourcentage affecté aux experts et consultants est toujours élevé par rapport aux affectations concernant le matériel et la formation, bien que le nombre des experts de terrain ait été réduit et que leur nombre actuel soit de 1500 experts, soit 125 experts de moins que ce que la FAO comptait en 1984, étant entendu que nous accordons une grande importance à la formation. Nous espérons que ce programme poursuivra sa mission en améliorant la situation agricole dans les différents pays en développement et nous croyons que les responsables voudront bien tenir compte des observations que nous avons faites à ce sujet.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): Since we will have the opportunity to make more detailed comments on the document now before us during the Review of Field Programmes 1984-1985 at the Conference, I will at this stage limit myself to a couple of general remarks based on my country's own experience with the field programme in recent years. The support for agriculture and rural development has always been an important feature of Danish development policy, and Denmark has for a number of years been among the largest Trust Fund donors of the Field Programme. Although we in the coming years probably will maintain our position as a major contributor to the FAO Field Programme, we do not foresee at this time any increase in our contribution. The freeze on our contribution to the FAO Field Programme has to do with the fact that Denmark's increasing development fund in accordance with a recent cabinet decision in the coming years will be channelled through other multilateral organizations, for example WFP, IFAD, UNDP and UNICEF. As we have stressed several times during our discussions with FAO on Trust Fund arrangements, we believe that there is a need for greater coordination between the FAO projects and other donors operating in the country in question, as well as for the FAO to establish a clear-cut order of priority when submitting project proposals for donor consideration.

Another point to which we often have drawn the attention of the FAO is the need for more extensive use of independent evaluations of FAO projects funded through trust funds. We consider such independent evaluations to be of paramount importance in enhancing the efficiency and impact of the field programme, and we have recently funded an evaluation of the FAO fertilizer programme.

Finally, my country has a strong commitment to the improvement of living conditions for women in developing countries through their active participation in the development process. In spite of our stated preference in this respect, we have noted with some regret that the projects submitted for our consideration by FAO often have lacked clear indications as to how the projects would benefit women.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá): Nuestro país no sólo presta particular atención al alcance de las actividades operacionales de la FAO sino que se interesa también en forma especial en su contenido, siguiendo muy de cerca sus tendencias y prioridades. Es dentro de este contexto que hacemos una breve y global referencia a los documentos CL 88|8 y CL 88|4 con algunas consideraciones al Programa Ordinario ya que debido a sus estrechos vínculos, sería prácticamente imposible referirnos a los programas de campo sin tocar algunos aspectos del primero, así como en general de los efectos del presupuesto sobre los programas.

A este respecto, la Delegación de Panamá desea, en primer lugar, reiterar una vez más su firme rechazo tanto al crecimiento cero como al crecimiento simbólico propugnado por algunos países, así como también expresar su preocupación por la tendencia generalizada de reducir la asistencia internacional en condiciones de favor o no para el sector agrícola, y en manera particular hacia aquellos organismos que como la FAO practican la acción multilateral. Dentro de este marco de referencias, y a pesar de la moderada recuperación experimentada durante el presente bienio, nos preocupa el volumen que las actividades de los programas de campo de la FAO puedan prestar a las crecientes necesidades y demandas de los países en desarrollo, especialmente en Africa. Motivo de particular preocupación en este sentido son las sensibles reducciones que desde 1981 se han venido registrando sucesivamente en la cuantía de los recursos del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, PNUD, asignadas para asistencia técnica en alimentación y agricultura, tal como se señala en el Capítulo I, en los párrafos 1. 4 a 1. 7.

Nuestra delegación ha prestado particular atención a los aspectos relacionados con la importancia creciente de los fondos fiduciarios en los programas ejecutados por la FAO, y que se consideran principalmente en los párrafos 1. 16, 1. 17 y 1. 18. A este propósito, desea evidenciar la manera con que la asistencia técnica prestada por parte de la FAO financiada con dichos fondos se ha ampliado. En efecto, la misma ha aumentado al punto de representar en la actualidad el mayor porcentaje de los recursos extrapresupuestarios que la FAO destina a actividades de campo. Al respecto deseamos expresar nuestra satisfacción ya que la disponibilidad de tal apoyo permite por lo menos la continuidad de la asistencia técnica vital en muchos sectores prioritarios afectados por la reducción de los programas FAO|PNUD, y le proporciona también la flexibilidad para responder a importantes necesidades de asistencia técnica y cooperación técnica que van surgiendo, tal como se indica en el párrafo 1. 15.

Por cuanto se refiere al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), la Delegación de Panamá comparte plenamente lo expresado en el párrafo 1. 28 en el sentido de que dicho Programa es un medio importante para encauzar la asistencia y el apoyo técnico de la FAO en los países en desarrollo, y que satisface en forma rápida y eficaz, agregamos nosotros, las necesidades urgentes y no programadas, así como en algunos casos la ayuda de urgencia.

Deseamos en este contexto expresar el enorme valor que nuestro Gobierno concede al PCT así como nuestro más decidido apoyo al Programa, su contenido, sus tendencias y prioridades. Mayores consideraciones haremos sobre este asunto en la discusión del tema 8.

Nuestra delegación, aun reconociendo y apoyando en general las prioridades asignadas a otras regiones y en particular la de Africa, desea manifestar su preocupación por la situación de nuestra Región, América Latina y el Caribe, en lo que respecta a la distribución de las asignaciones para los proyectos de campo de la FAO, como puede apreciarse en el gráfico 1, en el cuadro 1 y 3 en el cual se muestra la disminución progresiva de dichas asignaciones para nuestra Región.

Con relación al Capítulo II, estimamos oportuno y en forma global apoyar la resultados de la evaluación sobre la realización de los programas de campo, indicando que compartimos gran parte de sus conclusiones. Asimismo compartimos y apoyamos en general los resultados del estudio especial sobre las actividades forestales de la FAO que se nos presenta en el Capítulo III.

Para terminar, nuestra delegación no puede dejar pasar la ocasión sin agradecer al señor Lignon por su magnífica introducción al tema que nos ocupa.

Michael A. COMMINS (Australia): In our view, the report represents a fair and frank assessment of areas of FAO operational activities. As explained by Mr Lignon in his very lucid and helpful introduction, the analysis in the report is based on two different approaches. Assessments by FAO Representatives, which in the apparent absence of verifiable objectives of project performance and the necessary degree of detachment, as suggested in the report, can only act as insights into achievements and weaknesses, common problems and so on. A more detailed synthesis of reports and independent evaluation missions carried out by the FAO evaluation service force is in our view a more systematic and coherent approach to the exercise. Predictably, the former approach indicates a better level of performance than the latter method.

The problems of FAO seem to us to relate to the more complex multifunctional projects which Mr Lignon touched upon in his introduction. Also, without wishing to labour performance figures, it is apparent from our reading of the review that there continue to be weaknesses in the field programmes of FAO.

The basic problem which has affected all development agencies, including Australia's, is the apparent lack in FAO of an appropriate framework for project planning and implementation. This is sometimes known as the project planning and planning cycle and covers systems needed to organize multi-purpose and multifunctional development programmes from the initial identification on function stage to the final follow-up and analysis of action stage. Cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness is an integral part of this process and special stress is placed on appropriate project design and monitoring, which are usually the main factors hindering the attainment of project objectives.

From our reading of the report, it acknowledges the deficiencies in a number of these interrelated parts of the project cycle, but perhaps falls short of making comprehensive recommendations concerning specific ways of overcoming them. In this regard we note from the Programme of Work and Budget that there is virtually no increase for evaluation in the 1986-87 programme.

Delegations will be aware of the four principle functions of FAO, which were set out succinctly in the introductory statement of the Director-General to the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget. Without wishing to prolong the matter, I would just like to recall them for the benefit of this meeting. The four functions are: first, as a collector and purveyor of information; second, as a centre for policy analysis; third, as a forum for intergovernmental discussion; and fourth, as a provider of technical assistance at the field level and mobilizer of investment and aid.

In our view, the balance in the emphasis on activities requires examination, particularly in the growth of the TCP, and the field programmes generally need to be justified in terms of well-defined objectives and detailed evaluations of their impact, rather than vague generalizations about promoting development and alleviating hunger.

We also need, we would suggest, to consider whether the present structure of FAO enables it to deliver its field activities in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We will seek to expand upon these themes during discussion in the Conference. With regard to the role of FAO in development activities, we would like to share our experience of the handling by FAO of field projects funded in Australia under trust fund arrangements.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all, I wish to thank Mr Lignon for his concise and clear introduction of this very important subject. Cyprus was not in the sample of countries studied by the consultants in assessing the performance of the TCP. Therefore, we would like to add

our satisfaction with the way the programme has assisted my country to meet some unforeseen and urgent requirements. More than once we requested and received assistance from the TCP in order to control disaster outbreaks or possible shortcomings in relation to the Government's development efforts.

Since its inception in 1976 the TCP has twice reviewed and evaluated the positive conclusions of the first review of 1978, followed by positive conclusions and the evaluation carried out by the commission of free, independent, senior consultants. This evaluation is presently under review. In consulting 16 countries, the consultants covered satisfactory geographic regions. The sample of almost 500 projects evaluated representing about 20 percent of the total number of approved projects, might be considered adequate, and their conclusions can be generalized. It has to be underlined, however, that the vital importance of the programme and its usefulness to developing countries is well illustrated by the number of requests for assistance received by the Organization since the inception of the programme. From the data provided by the consultants we see that the number of requests has steadily increased from 241 in 1978 to 592 in 1984, with a present total of 3 017 requests. Out of these, 2 441 have been approved, which means that at least one project is approved every working day. Since the number of requests is steadily increasing, we fully endorse the recommendation of the consultants that adequate resources should be available to the Organization so that it can continue to meet the demand for quick assistance to Member Nations, with strict application of the TCP criteria. The allocation of approved projects as given on pages 33 and 34 indicates the relatively favourable treatment of the African countries and the least developed countries, and meets with our approval. In this respect we support recommendation 27 on page 77 that the TCP should continue to pay special attention to the most needy countries in allocating these approvals.

Following the first review of the programme, several proposals were made aiming at further improvement of the performance of the programme in regard to action, including regional and inter-regional projects as appropriate in regard to TCP, a more liberal interpretation of the investment category, flexibility, time limits and formulation of categories of action. These have been approved by Resolution 1/74 of the Council. Following the analyses of the consultants one can realise that their introduction was of vital importance to the future operation of this programme.

In the present review, the consultants make a number of proposals and recommendations for further improvement of the programme, either in order to face new challenges or to solve problems which have arisen. Recommendation 21 calls for a review upwards of the ceiling for project costs. The consultants recommended that the present limit of US \$250 000 be raised to US \$400 000 per project. The justification of that recommendation is mainly inflation.

My delegation fully supports these recommendations. It might be suggested that since the present ceiling of project costs has not been an issue up to now-there is no need for it to be increased, but we believe we should be flexible. Approving and increasing the ceiling should not mean that all approved projects would reach this same limit. The result of the present analysis indicated a much lower figure represents the average of approved projects, but we believe that if the need arises the Director-General should be free to approve such projects.

The next recommendation we would like to address is Recommendation 16 in which the consultants suggest that a new category C should be established for projects capitalizing inter-country cooperation, ECDC/TCDC research networks, twinning of institutions of two developing countries or the twinning of an institution in a developed country with one in a developing country. The importance of ECDC and TCDC cannot be over emphasized. Few examples of TCDC are mentioned in the present review like the biogas training course to China from Latin American countries and the audio-visual technology passing from Peru to Brazil and which is now transferred to Korea. These are things which should be promoted by all the means available to us, and we fully endorse them.

We also support paragraphs 59 and 60 of document CL 88/8 to the effect that interested governments, particularly those of developing countries, should keep FAO informed of the availability and experience of experts engaging in TCDC activities, plus their release for potential TCDC assignments. The recipient governments should "consider the possibility of renouncing the formal practise of clearance of TCP experts and consultants of up to three months duration"-that is as set out in paragraph 60.

Finally, we recommend the Director-General for the action he has already taken, or is planning to take, as outlined in paragraph 93 of the document under All these measures aim at maintaining a quick response and flexibility of the programme, characteristics which make the TCP distinctive and unique.

CHAIRMAN: You have already moved into the next item, item 8, but we will take your comments as referring to that item.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El señor Lignon, Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo, presentó muy bien el tema. Apoyamos a nuestro colega y amigo de Panamá en relación con el hecho de que dentro del necesario equilibrio regional se siga concediendo a América Latina y el Caribe la asistencia necesaria en materia de actividades de campo. Igualmente estamos de acuerdo con la declaración que hizo nuestro colega Poulides, Embajador de Chipre. Creemos que en realidad se han logrado notables mejoras en las actividades de campo, que ha progresado mucho la escogencia de los expertos que ahora tienen muy alta calidad, y sobre todo los proyectos corresponden a las prioridades fijadas por los gobiernos.

Igualmente destacamos la cooperación de la FAO en el incremento de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Vamos a limitar nuestras observaciones al Informe del Comité del Programa, cuyo párrafo 2. 45 contiene elementos inquietantes en relación con la constante disminución de la participación de la FAO en los proyectos financiados por el PNUD. El Sr. Lignon dijo que en los años 70 cuando esa participación era el 30 por ciento, ha descendido ahora al 20 por ciento. Esto debe preocuparnos sobre todo a la luz del hecho evidente de que también en los propios recursos del PNUD han venido disminuyendo.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que todo esto hace parte de lo que han venido sosteniendo los representantes de nuestro país sobre la existencia de una crisis profunda en la cooperación multilateral que afecta gravemente a los países en desarrollo. Pensamos que los distinguidos colegas miembros del Comité del Programa en el párrafo 2. 45 fueron muy tímidos y excesivamente diplomáticos. En efecto, después de señalar en ese párrafo esa constante disminución, luego en la frase final dicen que a ese respecto el Comité examinó varias novedades en el PNUD; cuando uno examina novedades se supone que se obtienen conclusiones o que surgen recomendaciones. Por ello pasamos con ansia al párrafo 2. 46, para saber cuáles eran las reacciones del Comité del Programa y notamos con sorpresa que ya en el párrafo 2. 46 se hablaba de los fondos fiduciarios. Mi amigo el Profesor Trkulja Sabe que yo cuando planteo cuestiones relacionadas con el Comité que él preside de manera tan competente, no lo hago en actitud crítica negativa, sino más bien inspirado en el deseo de ofrecer a él y a los miembros del Comité del Programa, oportunidades para que confirmen la importancia de ese Comité. Por esta razón quiero preguntar, Sr. Presidente, por conducto suyo, sea al Sr. Lignon o al Sr. Trkulja, dos hechos concretos: primero, si en relación con la constante disminución de la participación de la FAO en los proyectos del PNUD, hay una incidencia, hay una relación directa con el hecho de haberse creado en el PNUD la oficina de ejecución de proyectos y el servicio de recursos humanos y preparación de proyectos. Pensamos que eso ha debido decirlo el Comité del Programa en su Informe, muy lacónico.

Una segunda pregunta, durante muchos años la FAO era el primer organismo de ejecución de proyectos agrícolas con recursos provenientes del PNUD. Ahora, a raíz de la creación de esos organismos del PNUD, de la disminución de la participación de la FAO ¿sigue aún nuestra Organización ocupando ese lugar prominente o ha sido desplazada?

Afortunadamente, nos conforta el párrafo 2. 46, donde se habla del aumento de las actividades financiadas con fondos fiduciarios, destacamos siempre la participación altruista y generosa de los países nórdicos en esos fondos fiduciarios. Tomamos nota de la reciente declaración del colega John Glistrup de Dinamarca, y esperamos que más adelante esa actitud de espera de Dinamarca y otros países nórdicos va a ser modificada en relación con aumentos futuros a los Fondos Fiduciarios.

Confiamos también en que la preocupación del distinguido colega de Dinamarca sobre la función de la mujer va a ser disipada por las declaraciones constantes y profundamente feministas de nuestra distinguida colega y amiga, la Embajadora Fermín de Venezuela.

Creo, que este Consejo debe destacar un hecho importante que aparece en el párrafo 2. 46 y es el de que los propios países beneficiarios ahora estamos obteniendo fondos fiduciarios para la ejecución de los proyectos. Esto se recoge también en el párrafo 2. 50.

Creo que el Consejo debe destacar este propio esfuerzo de los países beneficiarios. Desgraciadamente no son suficientes esos esfuerzos y seguimos dependiendo de la asistencia externa que suele negárse nos en muchas ocasiones. Igualmente el párrafo 2. 50 contiene un elemento importante y es el crecimiento del empleo de directores de proyectos y expertos nacionales. Nos parece que el Comité del Programa debe estimular el incremento de esa práctica porque constituye un beneficio para la capacitación de los elementos nacionales de los países beneficiarios y así, gradualmente, podremos ir liberándonos de la dependencia que antes teníamos de los expertos provenientes generalmente de los países desarrollados.

A la delegación de Colombia le preocupa el párrafo 2. 46 en cuanto al hecho de que hay una lamentable disminución de los recursos disponibles para el desarrollo agrícola en condiciones de favor y decimos que nos preocupa porque esa situación afecta esencialmente a los países menos desarrollados, a los países más gravemente afectados. El Consejo debe acoger esa manifestación del Comité del Programa y lamentar esos hechos en nuestro Informe. Afortunadamente el Centro de Inversiones lleva a cabo una labor encomiable que debemos apoyar.

Finalmente, en el párrafo 2. 47 la Delegación de Colombia apoya la prioridad para el Africa subsahariana y sobre todo para el programa de rehabilitación de la agricultura en Africa, si bien la ayuda alimentaria tiene beneficios temporales, el futuro de la economía y de la vida de los países de Africa dependen del aumento de la propia producción agrícola en los países africanos.

R. MAC INTOSH (Canada): We would like to thank Mr Lignon for his very concise and helpful summary of the documents, and we also very much welcome the spirit in which his account was delivered, which is a spirit we think which pervades much of the document, that is, that programmes can always be improved.

We noted the comments of our colleagues from Australia on the problems faced in managing field programmes and on the problems of evaluating those programmes. I think the most important point that was made is that the problems are not unique to FAO, they affect all development assistance and development cooperation agencies.

We think that in approaching any document of evaluation, its usefulness is dictated primarily by three considerations: the degree of candour which it demonstrates in describing problems that are encountered in project management and in explaining the reasons for those problems; secondly, the amount of objective as distinct from subjective information which is contained in the evaluation; and thirdly, the degree of precision in identifying the areas for improvement.

The question of candour is sometimes a delicate one. We think that it need not be so. There is a tendency among all agencies of international cooperation to be a little defensive at times. The real task of evaluation, however, is not to criticize for its own sake but to suggest a better way. As such it is not a matter of admitting shortcomings but of expressing confidence in our ability to overcome them.

We are very much pleased that FAO is not only taking the evaluation process more seriously than perhaps it did in the past, but there is an improvement in the degree of candour in describing the problems that they have encountered. We are not always convinced, however, that the reasons for these problems are as thoroughly and as frankly explored as they might be.

Much has been made of the uneven flow of extra-budgetary resources. It is probable that the argument is true, that this results from a proliferation of international agencies, but it also reflects the degree of confidence that donors, whether they are multilateral or bilateral, will have in a given agency.

In the case of FAO, it is important that FAO is and is seen to be a cost-effective mechanism for delivering technical assistance. Should it not be so regarded I am afraid that FAO's share of extra-budgetary resources delivered through the UN System or through bilateral channels may decline.

At the level of programme evaluation we think it reflects very well on FAO and on the document that they recognise the problems of government involvement and the problems of transfer of skills. Sometimes, though, we found the analysis of the weaknesses to be a little limited in scope. Sometimes the focus was on governments' performance in project support, certainly important, but we felt it should be balanced by a greater appreciation of the policy environment for implementation and follow-up.

The second theme is that of the objectivity of the information presented. We wonder if the problems that the review very frankly describes are always or primarily the lack of hard statistical measurements of project output and follow-up economic performance, or are they a reflection, in part of the use of criteria which can lend itself to subjective rather than to objective assessments. We are inclined to agree with the assessment elsewhere in the review that there are problems in fully assessing technical cooperation within the timeframe provided by one FAO biennium. But we also believe that there has to be greater rigour in finding and presenting data. Perhaps a good start might be a firmly and clearly understood definition of the term 'project output' or 'output targets', something which we regret is not very evident from the present review.

On the question of identifying the areas for improvement, we are impressed by the section beginning on page 57 entitled 'Concluding remarks'. As mentioned earlier, we feel that broader account should be taken of the policy environment in the recipient country as a determinant of the amount and quality of project follow-up. Nevertheless, the review's recognition of the importance of organizational and manpower constraints is important and we hope that these factors in the spirit of trying constantly to improve projects will be taken into fuller account, not only at the time of project completion or in the process of implementing projects but at the time of appraisal and design.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): We welcome the document bearing on the Review of Field Programme undertaken by FAO in the preceding biennium 1984-85. We would also like to commend Mr Lignon for his brief and brilliant exposition of the document before us. We are conscious that during our deliberations in Commission II of the Conference we will have an opportunity to comment in much greater detail. Besides, we have already held in-depth discussions on this document in the last session of the Programme Committee. Therefore I will confine myself to only a few general observations.

The importance of external assistance to the agricultural sector in the cause of promoting food and agriculture development is indeed critical. Resource is a big constraint in the way of the developing countries to give an impetus to their agricultural promotion policies and programmes.

It is indeed disheartening for my delegation to note the decline for the third consecutive year in the funds made available by UNDP to the agricultural sector. The stagnation in the UNDP funding has however been more than compensated for by the rise in assistance forthcoming under a trust fund programme.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for us to note that the total delivery of all field programmes is expected to rise from US\$269 million in 1984 to nearly US\$300 million in 1985.

The generous initiatives of donor countries and their increasing trust in FAO to undertake a larger number of projects and to develop the agricultural and food production in the needy member countries of this Organization is indeed appreciated. We also appreciate the first of the programmes on Africa, where the need for assistance is the greatest, in their present hour of great trial and tribulation. We also commend the Director-General for the imaginative initiative he has launched in developing a special programme of urgent agricultural rehabilitation projects for African countries experiencing acute food shortages. We also welcome the emphasis on TCDC and linkages of forestry with world food security.

My delegation would wish to express the hope that the new dimension will not only be continued but further strengthened to utilize the talent available in the developing countries.

Lastly, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the good work being carried out by the Investment Centre. We congratulate the Investment Centre for its collaboration with IBRD and IDA, regional development banks, IFAD and various other development finance institutions.

Mohamed Mazlan bin JUSOH (Malaysia): First of all we would like to thank Mr Lignon for his comprehensive introduction of the agenda item. We feel that FAO must be commended for preparing this frank review of its field programmes.

However, due to the constraints in time I will be most brief and confine my comments to just a very few points. We are particularly concerned about the downward trend of the FAO Field Programme due to the decline in UNDP funding, and also about the ever-increasing costs of inputs needed for projects. Due to this lack of funding my delegation feels that projects should be carefully selected, and efforts should be made to ensure their success. We would urge the recipient governments to consider the importance of continued total commitment to ensure successful implementation and impact. This is in view of the problems as pointed out in the review relating to some on-going activities. We hope that participating governments and FAO's own field officers take all the necessary remedial measures to correct the weaknesses. Future programmes should also be implemented only after careful planning and study.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation appreciates the efforts of FAO to put the evaluation of field projects on an as broad as possible basis. In addition to the Joint Evaluation Missions, with UNDP, Trust Fund donors as well as with recipient countries a great number of FAO field projects were examined in the field by FAO representatives. We welcome the frankness with which the results are grouped into categories such as good, satisfactory and not satisfactory. We feel that these efforts to assess FAO field work should be further increased. This could primarily be done by independent external evaluation through JIU which is responsible for evaluation in the UN System. We have noted with satisfaction that the volume of FAO field programmes in 1984-85 has slightly increased compared to the biennium 1982-83.

My country is granting bilateral aid through its own development agencies. Rural development has a great share in this bilateral aid, increasing continuously in the last few years from 20.6 percent of Government pledges within the framework of financial and technical cooperation in 1982 to 26 percent in 1984.

Jean-Pol NEME (France): La délégation française tient tout d'abord à féliciter M. Lignon pour l'excellente présentation qu'il nous a faite ainsi que pour la qualité du document qui nous est présenté. Nous appuyons tout particulièrement le fait que l'Afrique ait absorbé une part croissante des activités de terrain de la FAO et qui s'est élevée à environ 40 pour cent des dépenses pour les projets au cours du présent exercice. Et nous espérons vivement, comme le mentionne le document, que ce pourcentage augmentera encore au cours du prochain exercice biennal en raison des mesures spéciales qui ont été prises pour aider les gouvernements africains à faire face à la crise alimentaire qui frappe ce continent.

Comme l'a rappelé M. Lignon dans son introduction, plus de 92 millions de dollars sur un total de 250 millions de dollars ont déjà été financés par divers donateurs, dont la France, pour le Programme spécial de relèvement de l'agriculture dans 25 pays africains les plus touchés par la sécheresse.

Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de ce résultat remarquable qui a été obtenu dans un délai record.

En revanche nous ne pouvons que regretter que la part de la FAO dans les projets financés par le PNUD soit tombée de 30 à 20 pour cent au cours des dernières années alors que le développement agricole et forestier a été unanimement reconnu comme la première priorité pour les pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre II nous appuyons la remarque du document concernant la nécessité d'accorder une attention particulière à la conception et à la mise en oeuvre des grands projets multidisciplinaires car les projets plus courts et moins ambitieux s'avèrent souvent plus efficaces.

En outre, en ce qui concerne les activités forestières, nous considérons que les projets forestiers devraient recevoir à l'avenir une priorité accrue tout particulièrement pour la lutte contre la désertification en Afrique.

Pour sa part, mon gouvernement concentre actuellement son effort d'assistance dans ce domaine en dégageant des ressources supplémentaires à cet effet. En particulier, dans le cadre de notre contribution volontaire au fonds fiduciaire de la FAO, notre effort porte actuellement en priorité sur les projets forestiers, notamment sur l'amélioration de la fixation symbiotique de l'azote des essences forestières.

Enfin, nous tenons à appuyer vivement les paragraphes 3. 116 et 3. 117 du document qui soulignent la nécessité d'associer très étroitement les activités d'investissement du Centre d'investissement de la FAO avec l'assistance technique forestière assurée par l'Organisation. Cette association s'effectue à deux niveaux:

- d'une part par l'identification des possibilités d'investissements complémentaires lors du suivi des projets de terrain de la FAO; et
- d'autre part par l'assistance technique apportée par la FAO dans de nombreux programmes d'investissements forestiers.

Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage à ce stade en me réservant la possibilité de revenir sur ces différents points plus en détail lors de l'examen de ce document par la Conférence.

R. S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Je serai très bref dans mes réponses. Je voudrais simplement remercier les délégués de cet échange de vues extrêmement fructueux dont j'ai pris soigneusement note. Je pense que beaucoup de suggestions, de commentaires qui ont été faits, seront pris en compte, vous pouvez en être assurés.

Je voudrais très brièvement répondre à deux questions évoquées par plusieurs délégués. La part des activités de la FAO financées par le PNUD est en décroissance, bien sûr, parce qu'il y a eu la création du Bureau des opérations dans le cadre du PNUD et que cette part a grandi ces derniers temps. Mais il y a aussi le fait qu'un certain nombre d'autres fonds, que d'autres institutions satellites ont été créés et que beaucoup d'entre elles s'occupent plus ou moins de l'agriculture. Je pense en revanche que le Programme des fonds fiduciaires de la FAO est en augmentation et ce fait montre que les pays donateurs d'une, part font confiance à la FAO pour exécuter ces projets malgré les insuffisances que l'on peut constater dans un programme aussi vaste, mais aussi parce que je crois qu'ils ont le souci de mieux orienter leurs ressources vers des activités qui leur paraissent, à eux, importantes, par exemple les femmes dans le développement pour les pays nordiques, et le rôle de la forêt dans les activités communautaires.

Deuxièmement, remarque au sujet du rôle du transfert des technologies et de l'utilisation du personnel local. Bien sûr, je crois que nous faisons un effort de plus de 40 pour cent actuellement concernant les experts qui sont sur le terrain et qui proviennent de pays en voie de développement. Mais je crois aussi que ce qu'il faut prendre en compte c'est le fait que non seulement il y a des individus mais aussi des institutions qui doivent être étroitement associées à nos efforts et c'est ce que nous faisons dans le cadre des réseaux de transfert de technologies, notamment en Amérique latine, mais qui se développent aussi dans d'autres régions du monde comme l'Asie et plus récemment l'Afrique.

Je pense avoir répondu très brièvement à vos requêtes et je voudrais vous remercier encore une fois pour l'intérêt que j'ai pris aux commentaires qui ont été faits pendant cet échange de vues.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I have been specifically asked, and I will try, to reflect very briefly one issue. May I say I am a bit surprised with the apologetic mood of my friend, Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. I have not the slightest doubt that his approach to the Programme Committee and to me personally has always been most constructive. So in that regard there should not be any doubt about it. He felt that the Programme Committee was a bit diplomatic in one paragraph and did not adequately reflect the concern with regard to the additional problems in FAO dealings with the UNDP. I do not think it was a matter of diplomacy on our part, but we feel strongly that in all previous instances we expressed very serious, or at least, concern, with regard to three major tendencies in UNDP, and in relations between UNDP and FAO: the decline in overall funds of UNDP, first, the declining share of agriculture in overall funds, second, and finally, and most critical perhaps, the declining share of FAO in UNDP funds for agriculture.

You will recall that there has been a very serious issue, and the Director-General jointly with Mr Morse sent on two occasions circular letters to all country representatives of UNDP and FAO asking them to join in the common effort to properly advise governments with the aim that the governments increase their allocations to agriculture. You also certainly recall that a year ago the JIU produced a report on these famous OPE, and recommendations of the JIU centred, I would say, on one single issue that the scale of operation of OPE should be reduced, even substantially, from about 10 percent to not more than 7 percent. I would also say that the Programme Committee fully shares without any reservation all the recommendations of JIU with regard to OPE. The matter was studied by the Council about a year ago. These were only a few of the reasons why the Committee felt that it should not be overly-repetitive in all its concerns with these three layers of problems which have been traditional in the relationship between FAO and UNDP-but I have no doubt at all that the Committee continues to be very seriously concerned with the standards. We did not include them in our report because we did it a number of times on several occasions in recent bienniums.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. With this we come to the end of our discussions on this item.

I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

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

2. Election de 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: I now have pleasure in announcing the composition of the Drafting Committee.

The Chairman will be Mr David Gregory of Australia, and the members of the Drafting Committee are: Denmark, Italy, Japan, the United States of America, The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Lebanon, Brazil, Mexico, India, Malaysia, Tanzania, and Senegal. I would like to thank all those countries and the Chairman who will serve on the Drafting Committee.

The meeting rose at 13. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13. 00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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CL

CL 88/PV/4

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA
(5 November 1985)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours

M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00 sous la présidence

de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15. 00 horas bajo la presidencia

de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 8. Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)
- 8. Evaluation du Programme de coopération technique (PCT)
- 8. Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT)

R. S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Le Directeur général a décidé de procéder à une évaluation du Programme de coopération technique à la fin de l'année dernière et a confié cette mission à une équipe de trois experts indépendants, MM. Linner, Johnson et Palmer. Cette décision montre évidemment le souci du Directeur général de constamment améliorer le Programme de coopération technique, son efficacité, sa mise en oeuvre, et de surveiller que ce Programme de coopération technique respecte les règles qui lui ont été appliquées par les organes directeurs de l'Organisation.

Cette mission d'évaluation, qui a été confiée aux trois personnes que j'ai déjà mentionnées, avait essentiellement pour but d'évaluer la mise en oeuvre du Programme de coopération technique, dans le cadre de ses objectifs et de ses règles, en tant qu'extension du programme régulier de la FAO.

Le second aspect de cette évaluation devait porter sur l'impact du PCT sur la mise en oeuvre des politiques et des priorités de la FAO. Vous avez devant vous deux documents, comme l'a indiqué le Président:

- un premier pour information, qui est un document préparé par un groupe d'experts, c'est le document CL 88/INF/10; et
- un second qui est un document qui vous est présenté par le Directeur général et qui comporte des propositions d'action s'appuyant sur le rapport de la mission des experts.

Cette mission d'évaluation a visité 16 pays dans les différentes régions, Asie et Pacifique, Afrique, Amérique latine et Caraïbes et Proche-Orient.

Au cours de ses visites, la mission a pu avoir des entretiens avec les responsables politiques des gouvernements et plus particulièrement avec les ministres avec lesquels les projets du Programme ont été exécutés, avec les représentants du PNUD, ainsi qu'avec les chefs des agences d'aide au développement bilatérales et multilatérales. Ensuite, la mission s'est rendue à New York et à Washington où elle a eu des entretiens d'une part avec la Banque mondiale, avec la Banque interaméricaine de développement, et à New York avec le PNUD notamment.

Je voudrais très brièvement m'arrêter essentiellement sur le document CL 88/8 qui contient les propositions du Directeur général. Je voudrais dire aussi que ces deux documents ont été examinés par le Comité des programmes et le Comité des finances; ils ont apprécié ces documents préparés par les experts, en ont endossé les propositions ainsi que et surtout celles proposées par le Directeur général.

Ce document CL 88/8 est composé de deux parties:

- la première partie est une analyse des observations et des conclusions contenues dans le rapport des consultants;
- la seconde partie s'inspire des recommandations des consultants et de la propre expérience du Directeur général dans l'exécution du Programme de coopération technique, et indique les mesures que personnellement il estime opportunes, dans le but de répondre plus efficacement aux besoins, de surmonter les problèmes et d'améliorer l'efficacité du Programme.

Je ne m'arrêterai pas davantage sur le rapport de la mission des consultants; vous avez eu l'opportunité de le lire; disons qu'il est très exhaustif, qu'il couvre tous les aspects du Programme de coopération technique depuis les règles, les critères, et les différentes modalités de son intervention; il conclut que le Programme de coopération technique a atteint les objectifs qui lui avaient été fixés et que sa continuation et même un renforcement de son action seraient essentiels dans la mesure où les demandes d'assistance continuent à augmenter et où l'on voudrait y répondre.

Ce rapport contient un certain nombre de recommandations qui sont reprises dans le rapport du Directeur général, recommandations qui peuvent être divisées en trois groupes:

- des recommandations sur lesquelles le Directeur général avait déjà pris-avant même que les consultants aient accompli leur mission-un certain nombre de dispositions ou avait l'intention de les prendre sous sa propre responsabilité parce qu'elles sont de sa compétence;
- une seconde catégorie concerne des propositions qu'il soumet au Conseil parce que l'action à mettre en oeuvre nécessite votre approbation;
- et enfin une troisième catégorie de propositions qui visent à appeler l'attention du Conseil sur certains points au sujet desquels celui-ci pourrait adresser des recommandations aux gouvernements des Etats Membres.

Dans la première catégorie de recommandations un certain nombre de dispositions, de nature administrative et technique, sont en cours d'exécution.

Je voudrais m'arrêter un peu plus longuement sur deux groupes de propositions pour lesquelles l'approbation du Conseil a été demandée. Ces propositions ont déjà été approuvées et endossées par le Comité des programmes et le Comité des finances.

La première de ces propositions consiste à mettre à jour le niveau du coût des projets du PCT. Lorsqu'il a été créé en 1976, vous avez décidé que le plafond des projets serait de 250 000 dollars; huit ans après sa création, le plafond n'a pas été modifié; les consultants indépendants ont suggéré qu'il soit remis à jour en tenant compte de l'inflation et ont proposé un montant de 400 000 dollars.

J'appelle votre attention sur le fait que ces 400 000 dollars ne correspondent pas exactement au coût de l'inflation mais lui sont inférieurs dans la mesure où le coût des experts a augmenté au cours de cette période d'environ 80 pour cent alors que l'augmentation à 400 000 dollars correspond à une augmentation de 60 pour cent seulement.

Il est évident que la définition de ce plafond ne signifie pas que tous les projets arriveront à ce niveau; d'ailleurs comme vous avez pu le constater à la lecture de ce rapport de consultants, la moyenne des projets est bien inférieure à ce niveau. Toutefois, dans certains cas, le plafond peut être gênant: je pense particulièrement à certains cas d'urgence ou à certaines interventions du Programme de coopération technique où l'efficacité de l'intervention de la FAO aurait été bien supérieure si l'on avait pu aller au-delà. Ainsi donc, ce plafond permettrait au Programme de coopération technique, comme cela a été demandé, d'être encore plus souple et plus flexible pour répondre aux besoins des pays Membres. Je pense que ce plafond, qui représente une adaptation à l'inflation qui a été celle des dix dernières années, est une augmentation raisonnable mais efficace.

La seconde recommandation pour laquelle l'intervention du Conseil est demandée concerne l'établissement d'une nouvelle catégorie du programme de coopération technique. Vous avez pu constater que le Programme de coopération technique opère dans un certain nombre de catégories qui ont été établies à sa création et qui ont été modifiées un an et demi après la création du PCT, à la suite d'une première évaluation qui avait déjà eu lieu à cette époque. On s'est aperçu que dans le cadre de la coopération technique entre pays en développement, dans un secteur où le rôle du PCT a été particulièrement efficace, par exemple dans le cadre de la promotion des réseaux de coopération et de transfert de technologies en Amérique latine et aux Caraïbes, par exemple dans certains réseaux qui s'installent en Asie, que la création d'une catégorie permettant de mieux définir, de mieux orienter les projets du Programme de coopération technique serait particulièrement efficace. Elle serait d'autant plus efficace qu'elle répondrait ainsi à un voeu qui a été très souvent exprimé dans la mesure où la promotion de la coopération technique entre pays en développement est un objectif fondamental de la FAO et que la FAO s'efforce de promouvoir.

Parallèlement à ces deux recommandations essentielles, et dans le cadre du Programme de la décentralisation qu'avait établi le Directeur général, vous savez que les représentants de la FAO ont la possibilité d'approuver eux-mêmes des projets qui répondent à des critères parfaitement définis et dans la limite de 20 à 60 000 dollars pour l'année et selon les pays, suivant une disposition qui a été particulièrement étudiée.

En se référant à l'augmentation du plafond, je pense qu'on peut admettre que passer de 30 000 à 100 000 dollars pour ces plafonds est une bonne chose et je crois que cela permettrait de renforcer l'efficacité des représentants de la FAO sur le terrain, sans s'arrêter à de trop grandes difficultés administratives et de circulation lorsqu'il s'agit de questions urgentes et de projets de petite dimension puisque le coût de ces projets ne devrait pas dépasser 20 à 30 000 dollars.

Voilà les deux points les plus importants de ce projet et, pour conclure, je voudrais dire qu'un certain nombre de recommandations qui sont mentionnées dans le document CL 88/8, et qui sont déjà en cours d'exécution, ont pour but d'améliorer et de simplifier les processus administratifs qui permettraient d'accélérer encore l'efficacité du Programme de coopération technique, en particulier dans le problème des achats d'équipement et de fournitures de secteurs, dans lesquels les consultants ont trouvé quelques améliorations à faire. Nous sommes en train de regarder comment on peut améliorer ces procédures pour aller plus vite, notamment dans des cas particuliers où les dates sont très importantes, par exemple l'achat de semences; ensuite, dans le recrutement des experts. Là aussi, il faut trouver des formules qui permettent, avec l'aide du gouvernement, de pouvoir accélérer le recrutement des experts, notamment dans le cadre d'experts de pays en développement et dans celui de la coopération technique entre pays en développement. Là, nous souhaitons d'une part obtenir des listes d'experts disponibles et l'assurance que ces experts pourront être mis très rapidement à la disposition de la FAO.

Enfin, le troisième groupe de recommandations inscrit dans ce document s'adresse surtout aux pays membres dans la mesure où, dans de nombreux cas, les retards observés dans la mise en oeuvre du PCT proviennent de ce que les procédures d'agrément par les gouvernements sont quelquefois longues et ne permettent pas, surtout lorsque les dates sont importantes, d'exécuter rapidement des projets déjà approuvés. Il est bien évident que les gouvernements gardent leur souveraineté pour savoir dans quelle mesure ils doivent approuver, mettre en place des procédures d'autorisation, mais je crois qu'on ne peut faire autrement que d'appeler leur attention sur le fait que, comme pour les experts du siège de la FAO, et, compte tenu du fait que ces experts se rendent dans le pays pour des missions brèves-en général de courte durée, et les missions de consultants des projets du PCT durent rarement une année entière, 11 mois disons, et, en général, ce sont des missions qui s'échelonnent sur un ou deux mois, quelquefois trois mois-, par conséquent, je crois, et le Comité du programme et le Comité financier ont débattu longuement de ces projets, que l'attention des gouvernements devait être appelée sur la souplesse qu'il pourrait accorder à ces procédures d'accord des experts pour améliorer encore l'efficacité du PCT, sa flexibilité et surtout sa rapidité de réponse à des besoins urgents.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It is almost needless to say that the Programme Committee studied with great interest the evaluation report. Just to illustrate, it spent one and a half days on CL 88/INF/10 and CL 88/8, that is the Director-General's paper, to give effect to the major recommendations of the evaluation team.

The Committee first welcomes very much the Director-General's initiative to initiate an independent external evaluation of this cooperation of FAO.

Second, it was the unanimous view in the Committee that the report itself was very comprehensive and of a very high analytical value. It is our hope, Mr Chairman, that it will decisively contribute to the full comprehension of the members criteria and the mechanisms of technical cooperation programmes. We feel, in other words, that the whole programme is now adequately transparent.

Thirdly, the Committee unanimously agreed that the Technical Cooperation Programme achieved its original objectives and we also continue to say it should be continued and further strengthened to meet growing, of course, assistance requirements. We welcome very very much its increasing concentration on food production and small farmers as principal beneficiaries.

Coming now, as I am trying really to be very brief, to CL 88/8. It is sufficient to say we fully share the recommendations indicated by the Director-General of the actions that he has already undertaken or is planning to undertake under his own authority. We felt that the action of the Director-General was fully consistent with the recommendations of the Evaluation Team.

We spent a considerable time on the principle of competitive bidding. As you have seen we again underlined that the competitive bidding should be strictly observed, the rules governing it should be strictly observed and should be made only if in exceptional circumstances where the speedy delivery of inputs would benefit from the suspension of the normal rules.

We also welcome very much the tendency of maximizing local recruitment. Now, coming to the most tangible issue, that is, the formal proposal of the Director-General and the rest of the Council on which the Council is supposed to take a decision. We, on our part, recommend the Council to give additional authority to the Director-General first, to raise the ceiling to US\$400 000 which we felt was fully justified on the basis of inflation alone, or even more than justified on that basis.

Secondly, we felt that the establishment of a new category for products that would act as catalysts in inter-country cooperation was desirable. So, in other words, it is a recommendation of the Programme Committee to Council to give its endorsement to the authorities asked for by the Director-General in paragraph 94 of CL 88/8.

Then there is the other issue of speedy delivery and we ask in particular developing countries engaged in TCDC activities to keep the Organization informed of the availability of experienced and qualified experts and to be ready to give their prompt release for TCP assignments.

Finally, on clearance of the TCP experts, specially for projects of three months or less duration, you will see in paragraph 2. 43 we recommended the Council to urge all governments concerned to take steps towards this end. I am authorized by the Committee to say that the Committee was on the verge of formally recommending the Council to establish a sort of time frame automatism. In other words, if the country is requested by FAO to give its clearance in a reasonable time, time reasonable from the standpoint of the prompt nature, the very prompt nature of TCP project, say one month, and if the government for any reasons does not respond to the FAO request, that it should be taken as consent. However, it was not possible to reach the full agreement in the Committee on that matter, but I am in my oral presentation to you, just mentioning that such a possibility might be considered by the Council.

Finally, we address the issue of the share of Least Developed Countries and those countries which face acute food shortages and we feel quite strongly that these countries should continue to be given high priority within TCP resources.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban voudrait tout d'abord remercier M. Lignon pour l'excellent exposé qu'il vient de nous faire concernant l'évaluation du Programme de coopération technique.

Nous adressons également nos remerciements au Directeur général qui a établi une équipe d'experts pour évaluer le PCT et nous remercions ce groupe d'experts pour l'excellent rapport qu'il a mis au point après la mission qu'il a effectuée auprès des pays bénéficiaires.

Il y a neuf ans déjà que M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, a créé le PCT et ce, au début de son premier mandat, en tant que Directeur général, après qu'il ait été élu en novembre 1975 à la tête de la FAO. Son objectif principal était de répondre de façon efficace aux besoins imprévus des pays membres, besoins qui ne peuvent pas être satisfaits par d'autres programmes. La priorité donc a été accordée dans ce cas aux pays les moins avancés et surtout à ceux qui font face à une crise alimentaire aiguë ou à des difficultés imprévues et imprévisibles.

Nous savons que le PCT a commencé avec 18 millions et demi de dollars qui lui ont été attribués par le Programme de travail et de budget de 1976-1977 avec l'accord de la Conférence. La FAO a ainsi informé en temps voulu tous les pays membres des modalités de fonctionnement de ce programme de coopération technique. Le programme a commencé ses activités et les a poursuivies avec succès. Sur la base des projets exécutés nous voyons l'importance du PCT car 3 017 demandes d'aide ont été adressées à la FAO, dont 2 441 demandes ont été approuvées, d'un montant global de 164 millions de dollars pour 1 820 projets exécutés jusqu'en 1984. Toutes les activités enregistrées dans le cadre du PCT et les résultats obtenus ainsi que la satisfaction des pays bénéficiaires me font rendre hommage au Directeur général pour les efforts qu'il a déployés dans ce sens.

Ma délégation voudrait le remercier, ainsi que ses collaborateurs, pour les efforts qui ont été déployés, surtout que le Liban a bénéficié du PCT, et compte tenu surtout de la crise que nous continuons de traverser depuis plus de 10 ans. La délégation du Liban approuve pleinement les recommandations du Directeur général visant à relever les approbations de projets par les représentants FAO entre 30 000 et 100 000 dollars et que le plafond en soit fixé à 30 000 dollars. Nous approuvons également les recommandations de la FAO, visant à faciliter certaines activités et surtout permettre l'achat d'équipements et de fournitures locales dans la mesure du possible et ce, pour faciliter la mise en oeuvre des projets. Nous appuyons pleinement toutes les recommandations visant à améliorer ces situations. Ma délégation est d'accord pour donner l'autorisation nécessaire au Directeur général de relever le plafond du coût des projets à 400 000 dollars au lieu de 250 000 dollars. Elle approuve également la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets et ce, pour promouvoir la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement et permettre au Directeur général de couronner ainsi les initiatives qu'il n'a cessé de prendre au profit des pays en voie de développement afin de répondre à leurs besoins les plus urgents. Donc, nous espérons que les membres du Conseil approuvent ce projet et le transmettent à la Conférence.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): Forgive me for my bad throat!-though my voice is sinking I would like to raise it in favour of the TCP. First of all I would like to congratulate Mr Lignon and Professor Trkulja, Chairman of the Programme Committee, for their excellent and comprehensive exposition of the Report of the FAO TCP. I recall that the Report was examined in-depth in the September meeting of the Programme Committee, and universally acclaimed and endorsed. Therefore I shall be brief and confine myself to a few general observations.

We have carefully gone through the documents CL 88/8 and CL 88/INF/10. There can be no two opinions regarding the usefulness and effectiveness of this innovative programme. Regional distribution of projects shows that assistance has gone into the regions where it was recognized that need was greatest. Not only this Council but I believe the Programme Committee of the Conference have time and again universally endorsed the unprogrammed nature, practical orientation, speed and flexibility of this unique vehicle of assistance to the countries in most urgent need and, in the Director-General's words, "TCP as conceived gives a new dimension to FAO, as it has become a vital part of the necessary effort to make FAO more relevant to member countries' needs and desires and more effective and more fully supported by governments, NGOs and the public". Not only has the importance of this programme been underlined by the governing bodies, but the governing bodies have been urged by the member countries to further strengthen this programme and to direct a greater chunk of resources towards it.

This is the second evaluation carried out by independent consultants at the request of the Director-General. I am sure there is universal consensus here in this house in commending the Director-General for taking this initiative. We endorse this evaluation report, and we also appreciate and generally endorse the Director-General's response to the constructive proposals and recommendations put forward by the able team of external consultants.

Octavio Rainha da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for deciding to undertake an external evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme, proving his permanent interest in the activities of the Programme and in the increased impact and efficiency of TCP. We warmly congratulate the Secretariat for the work performed so far on behalf of the TCP.

Brazil has been a strong supporter of the Technical Cooperation Programme of this Organization, persuaded by the excellent results TCP has given by meeting urgent needs on short-term technical assistance and, as well, by stimulating investment and technical aid for development from multiple sources. The findings of the external evaluation proves the continued validity of our assessment. and, moreover, induces us to endorse further actions to strengthen the TCP.

The first and most urgent measure to this effect is to raise the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project from US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000. Although, as has been mentioned, it would not re-establish the real value of the ceiling to projects approved in 1976 and eroded in the past nine years, the adoption of the consultants' recommendation will represent the initial provision to enable FAO to respond to developing countries' requirements under the Technical Cooperation Programme. This measure, however, will certainly lead to a decrease in the number of projects since, unfortunately, no significant increase in the TCP's share of the Regular Programme it envisaged. Accordingly, my delegation will seek in future biennia a net increase in the TCP resources in facing the large number of demands and the real needs of the developing countries. By the same token, my delegation excludes any thought of a reduction in the TCP's share of the Regular Programme.

Secondly, my delegation considers that the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries is one of the most fortunate policy objectives of TCP and, in this connection, gives its full support to the action proposed under paragraph 94(b), aiming at establishing a new category (c) for projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation. In fact, FAO has been developing a commendable effort to promote TCDC, particularly from TCP initiatives, and this effort has also been recognized on the Joint Inspection Unit's Report of April 1985 on the "United Nations Development System Support to the Implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries". In the report prepared by Inspector Miljenko Vukovic, it is stated that "FAO has a well-established TCDC focal point which is contributing to infuse the TCDC principle in all FAO's major programmes of work". Nevertheless, Brazil urges FAO to make every possible effort to increase the share of TCDC arrangements under the TCP. Although the percentage of resources allocated on TCDC projects from 1976 to 1985 is only 2 percent, the figure has been always increasing during the years, from zero in 1976 to 7 percent in 1984. We hope this number will increase further.

As regards our assessment of the TCP, the Brazilian delegation believes the regional distribution of TCP projects approved, referred to in paragraph 21 should be maintained in the present circumstances of no significant increase in budgetary allocation to the TCP. Likewise, the average of 25 percent of project approvals for emergency is perfectly acceptable. The distribution of the remaining 75 percent by nature of projects is also welcome, giving special attention to projects devoted to training. My delegation is also satisfied to see the main policy priorities of the Organization respected in the TCP, taking, for instance, the allocation of 36 percent of resources to the LDC's and 65 percent to the low-income food-deficit countries.

Turning to the recruitment of TCP experts and consultants, the Brazilian delegation notes, only as a suggestion, the possibility of renouncing the formal clearance practice for TCP experts and consultants for missions up to three months, as contained in paragraph 60 of the document. My Government would, of course, reserve itself the right to proceed with formal clearance in any case, in line with concepts given in paragraph 62, since we feel that our procedures have so far not imposed undue delays on the beginning of the work of experts or consultants.

Mr Chairman, my delegation gives great importance to the need to strengthen the liaison between TCP projects and all initiatives from agencies involved in the process of development assistance. In this connection, we are pleased to verify that an adequate flow of information amongst the various organizations is under way and we urge continuation of work in this direction.

The Brazilian delegation agrees that an adequate follow-up is one of the key issues of the technical assistance in general. We then endorse the consultants' recommendation to stress the need to provide full information on the follow-up of TCP projects at the present time of project formulâtion.

My delegation is also in agreement with the position expressed by the Director-General that public procurement and contract procedures are in general time-consuming. We then endorse the steps taken by the Director-General, shown in paragraphs 68 to 71, to provide the best possible service to member countries in the procurement of essential equipment and supplies. We have been a beneficiary of TCP projects and must pay particular tribute to the initiatives this Programme has undertaken in the most emergency stricken areas of the country. Other development oriented projects have proved to be equally successful. Brazil has also started participating in TCDC arrangements through FAO and under the Technical Cooperation Programme, and is ready to examine ways and means to further strengthen such cooperation. At the same time, Brazil remains a potential receiver of technical assistance not only in meeting emergency needs resulting from natural calamities, but also in filling considerable shortages in technical expertise.

Being so identified in both directions with technical cooperation, Brazil could not fail to stress the universal character of the TCP meeting when and wherever possible regarding the needs of the whole developing world, while preserving the Organization's main priorities, such as the dedication of its resources, in first instance, to the sub-Saharan African region. That is for my country the essence of multilateralism: the possibility of having from the international community through an efficient multilateral agency, such as FAO, the necessary relief for natural and man-made disasters, allied to inputs in development programmes.

That is why my delegation supports most strongly the measures leading to the strengthening of the TCP to enable it to meet the ever-increasing demands of aid and cooperation from developing countries, in general, and from those in the Latin American and Caribbean region, in particular, and again here I speak on behalf of our regional group.

I hope to have conveyed our views on the measures contemplated in both paragraphs 94 and 95.

Vladimir STOYANOV (Bulgaria): On behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation regarding the activity of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The main purpose of TCP, as we know, is to meet more effectively unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs of its member countries. This was an idea of the Director-General Dr Saouma submitted at the Sixty-ninth Session of the Council in July 1976, which was practically confirmed. Indeed, this is an important action of the Organization during the last eight years.

We are agreed upon the evaluation referring to TCP, given by the three senior consultants. Interesting suggestions, considering the expansion of the sphere of work of TCP, its financing, etcetera are being put up. This really gives "a new dimension to FAO". We maintain the "proposal for action" underlined in document CL 88/8. Of course TCP's activities have numerous applications, especially in the developing countries. We hope that in future the projects will be increased and well organized.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we endorse again this effective work of FAO and the documents put forward.

R. Mohammad BAHRAM (Afghanistan): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan gives a higher value to the Director-General's initiative in the evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Afghanistan delegation highly evaluates the effects of the TCP in solving the urgent agriculture problems. We are convinced that TCP with its valuable practical measures achieved the original objectives in my country, and wish that this important programme be continued and further strengthened to meet the needs of my country.

We can assure you that this valuable programme has been very useful particularly to small peasants. To make it more successful and effective in my country we feel that the recruitment of the qualified experts from developing countries where they have high potential of expertise, especially when they are from the same region with common problems of agriculture, common mode of agriculture production and common structure of agriculture, will prove most useful. For example, experts or consultants from India in this regard, if recruited in technical cooperation programmes in my country, will be very successful in the achievements of the Technical Cooperation Programme's objectives.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): Our thanks to Mr Lignon for his very thorough introduction to this topic. I cannot think of a subject on our agenda, except possibly the next one, that will create more interest and possibly recreate a greater diversion of view and approach, and I certainly hope that what I have to say does not contribute to that and to ask for understanding from my fellow delegates, particularly those countries that are beneficiaries of the Technical Cooperation Programme. I would also like to indicate that time is not in our favour, and we had expressed ourselves in other committees and will probably do so in much greater detail in the Conference itself, so we will certainly try to confine our remarks to some very short points.

First and foremost we should like to commend the Director-General for commissioning the evaluation study and also for his foresight in originating this programme because we agree with those speakers who had spoken that there is no doubt as to its usefulness and even less doubt as to its popularity with those countries who are beneficiaries. It is popular for the very reasons of its unprogrammed nature, of its quickness, of its lack of red tape, if you will, in providing technical expertise. But, if you open the half price gas station on the Cristoforo Colombo it would be popular too, and it would have increasing demand placed on it, as we cannot entirely accept the concept because it is unprogrammed funding, and that it is increasingly popular which is reflected by increasing demands on the resources that this is a rationale for an increase in the Programme itself.

There are a number of principles that we have addressed in the past. A few of these perhaps I could just touch on very briefly, and one of course is the funding principle of the TCP. In its inception ten years ago I understand that it was to make very good use of funds that had been saved from their intended purposes and the programme was set up with these funds. It was an experimental programme, one that started almost ten years ago, and since that time has had increasing levels of funding for appropriation devoted to it, but at that time and without reopening the original debate, there were serious concerns on the part of a number of countries about the concept of funding a development assistance programme from assessed contributions.

Furthermore it is a programme that is completely unprogrammed in its nature, and also in its nature is very difficult to purview and overview. It is even more difficult with the accountability provisions unique to the TCP to find within any biennium, or indeed within any two biennia a discreet explanation as to how the funds had been spent let alone on how they are going to be spent.

We feel that with the increases in funding that had been applied to the programme, not least in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget which called for I think-and I do not have the figures in front of me-a 7 percent increase a day in the next biennium, a programme that has again moved upwards and again I do not have the figures, but I believe I am correct in saying from about 11 percent of the Regular Programme to about 13 and a half or a little more-13.6 I believe in the next programme, that this does not reflect entirely the sensitivity that might be devoted to an issue on which I say there are some basic principles. We have indicated that one could probably increase this Programme by 100 percent a year and it would find its takers and it would find demands placed on it, because after all we have infinite problems in this world of ours and very finite resources to address them.

The second principle I could point to is that of criteria and here we have a dichotomy. The Director-General in his wisdom described the programme ab initio and throughout as a programme to address emergencies, the unforeseen and unexpected, and to address problems that could not be addressed by others. We find that to be a particularly admirable set of criteria. These were augmented, of course, by the funding limit per project of 250 thousand dollars in a programme of short-term duration that had a relevance to the agricultural sector, but I contend Mr Chairman in looking at the Programme, at the experience of the programme and indeed looking at the evaluation report, document CL 88/INF/10, I think on pages 69 to 70-71 there are a list of some 30 areas that TCP could address and when I look at those 30 areas only five or six conjure in my mind a matter of emergency, the unforeseen or the unexpected. The Programme has very usefully, but in contrast to the emergency criteria, very usefully devoted a large part of its address to project formulation and other such type of address which cannot, I think, in large part be characterized as of an emergency character, which leads to the third point that I have to make and that is in respect of its very useful work in project formulation, particularly in project formulation which may be assistance to larger bilateral donors, utilizing the Trust Fund facilities of the FAO, that we might take a very serious look at cost recovery prospects of work done under TCP, and in

this I think there is a certain analogy or parallel with the work done by the Investment Centre for such projects in terms of formulation of cost not recoverable by the ultimate funder.. We make this proposal and we particularly direct those delegates who may have a copy of the evaluation report in front of them-some of them may wish to look at the first paragraph or two on page 17 where it indicates a number of projects have been done which were of benefit to large bilateral funders.

The fourth point is the concept that we, because of the usefulness of TCP, are loath to be negative to the extent of suggesting that its funding be cut back. We are loath to suggest that the funding be constrained, but at the same time my authorities are sensitive to a number of these principles and perhaps would like to suggest that we tighten the criteria of TCP within the Regular Programme to really address emergencies while at the same time opening a second window or a second fund, if you will, under Trust Fund auspices which could address a number of these normal TCP problems in a voluntary funded manner. We feel that the Programme is universally recognized as being useful, that because this is so that a separate fund opened within the context of a trust fund type of arrangement to address those non-emergency aspects of TCP would attract funding. This would prove to be popular because of the widespread acknowledgement of the usefulness and popularity of the Programme. We throw that out for consideration and perhaps will return to it later.

The fifth point we ought to make is with respect to TCP management and overview. Here we lack some definition in what it is we want to say, but it is simply this-that because of the nature of the Programme it is most difficult, as Mr Lignon will agree, and in fact for three meetings now we have talked to each other and at each other as to the exact funding status of the TCP in terms of its committed inputs, obligated, liquidated, expanded, and so on, in terms of funding. A casual look at some documents would indicate a carry-over of funds from one biennium to another which have been expended in large part. There is the fact that there are obligated funds usually within a biennium for appropriation, but for reasons which are obvious not all of these can be expanded or, indeed, sometimes committed within that biennium, and there are flowbacks, rearrangements, rescheduling and re-programming, but at the same time there is a second appropriation, the appropriation for the following biennium so we have lump-summing of funds. Further, there is the financial provision which gives a fifth year to liquidate the funding, so we have a five-year period for what is really one single appropriation which encroaches on no less than three biennia, if my understanding is correct.

It is difficult to keep separate accounts. Without being facetious it seems to me that TCP is more like a bank that is topped from time to time; the projects come in one door and the funds come in the other, because we have the greatest difficulty in ascertaining just how much is spent, when and where.

Further, there is the concept of how. We make no apologies here in suggesting that if the programme is to address emergencies, in looking at the historical perspective of its expenditures either by global region or country we would have thought there would be variations from year to year as emergencies and disasters appear in one part of the world or another. But we have heard those who commend it for its address to emergencies, saying how useful it is, They go on to say how nice it is that it addressed each country with some degree of equity, and some regions with even more equity. We think there is a little contradiction in terms here, to say the least. While we appreciate there are strongly held views and political considerations, nevertheless we feel it should address emergencies. In that sense, the Programme might usefully benefit from some overview. We do not have definite thoughts on how such an overview could reasonably be conducted without impeding the virtues of the Programme and adding to the work of the management team looking at it, but we think it is a point worth considering.

The evaluation report itself has three points to which we thought useful reference could be made. One is the concept of project commitment, both in the host country and to some extent by the technical officials of FAO who, because of their very "busy-ness" have not always had time to devote to the projects. In a number of places in the evaluation report both in the lines and between them, one can see a suggestion that there are occasions when TCP projects have not had the follow-up and the impact that they deserve because of a lack of commitment by the recipient country who requested something but having requested and received it, was busy with other concerns and did not follow up the commitment by FAO technical officials who, because they were so busy, were not able to oversee to the extent they should. If money is to be expended, commitment at both ends should be expended,

and care should be taken in this regard. If there are to be perhaps increments of commitment on the part of the recipient countries, the key may be found in some of the suggested local procurements. If recipient countries have a financial commitment in a project, and this might be the local procurement aspect of it, they would then have so much more commitment to the project itself.

The other point which comes through in the evaluation report is the concept of development cooperation. Here, I think I need not say too much, but it is suggested that the cooperation and liaison, particularly in the recipient countries, with UNDP and other donors may not be the best and, indeed, it is the same with respect to the general criteria of projects that cannot be done by other sources because other sources may not have the chance to know unless there is some consultation in this regard.

We would like to underline that, and particularly to underline the relationship with UNDP. While we are not apologists for the UNDP, we would suggest that concept reciprocity is not well placed in this report. We think FAO can perhaps go the extra mile and earn the laurels of being a good cooperator regardless of whether UNDP reciprocates on a day-to-day basis. This is sometimes difficult to do, but we believe it is a useful and worthwhile function, particularly as FAO has undertaken not to do projects that can be done by others.

We have quite a number of other points to raise, and I do not want to go on too long about the size of the project limit. The proposal to increase from US \$250 000 to US \$400 000 is not one which meets with our approval. The US \$250 000 was set at a very notional level ab initio, with no experience, and that US \$250 000 was thought at the time to be a notional figure. It proved to be more than adequate. I think 95 percent of the projects-2 400, or maybe it was 2 100 because it did not cater for emergencies-were less than US \$150 000, so the argument "Let's say inflation indicates a growth" is not well founded in this case because the fathers of the original programme could well have set a figure of US \$100 000 or US \$150 000, and it would not be out of line today. Indeed, the inflation factor could be applied to that figure and not to US \$200 000.

Secondly, we have some fear not only that if there were an increase in the size of projects indicated there would be fewer projects to go around if the maximum were approached or used, but that the increase in maximum would change the character of the application that may be received from countries, and while we have heard the assurances which have been given and taken them on board, that because the limits are increased the project costs will not necessarily be so, our Parkinsonian experience tells us this will not be so. So we feel not only would there be fewer projects from a fixed funding level, but that the character of the projects may well change because of that level. So we do not favour that increase, with the possible exception that there may be a case to be made for the specific portion of the TCP which deals with emergencies per se.

Badr BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne voudrait intervenir à propos du point 8 de l'ordre du jour de cette session du Conseil, à savoir le point relatif à l'évolution du Programme de coopération technique. Ce programme, initié par le Directeur général depuis une douzaine d'années, a fait ses preuves de réussite et les conclusions de l'évaluation, consignées dans les documents CL 88/INF/10 et CL 88/8, ne font que confirmer l'avis des pays ayant bénéficié de l'assistance de ces programmes.

Nous constatons aussi avec satisfaction que 40 pour cent des projets approuvés ont concerné l'Afrique et nous souhaitons que le PCT puisse parvenir à aider, quoique timidement compte tenu de ses limites financières, mais efficacement, ce continent à résoudre des problèmes alimentaires dans lesquels il se débat depuis des années. Concernant les mesures prises ou à prendre par le Directeur général sous sa propre responsabilité et qui sont de nature à faciliter l'exécution des projets du PCT, la délégation tunisienne ne peut que les appuyer et féliciter le Directeur général pour cette initiative.

Pour ce qui est des propositions contenues dans le document CL 88/8 et soumis à l'examen des membres du Conseil, la délégation tunisienne voudrait exprimer son appui à la proposition de relever le coût maximum des projets du PCT à 400 000 dollars ainsi qu'à celle relative à la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets du PCT afin de catalyser la coopération entre pays tout en insistant plus particulièrement sur la CEPD et la CTPD.

Enfin, la proposition de recommander les pays en voie de développement qui souhaitent s'engager dans la CTPD de dresser une liste d'experts et de consultants qu'ils peuvent proposer pour l'exécution des projets dans le cadre du PCT, cette proposition ne peut être que soutenue par la Tunisie. Toutefois, et pour ce qui est de l'approbation des experts par les pays bénéficiaires, la délégation tunisienne souhaite que soit accordée une période limitée, par exemple un mois au maximum, aux pays bénéficiaires pour qu'ils puissent donner leur avis sur les experts proposés. Nous croyons qu'une telle procédure garantirait la souveraineté des pays bénéficiaires sans pour autant causer des retards importants dans l'exécution des projets du PCT.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation would like to express its appreciation to Mr Lignon and to the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their introduction of this item. We will make every effort to comply with your request, Mr Chairman, for brevity. Unfortunately, however, because we do not here have the option of deferring a part of our comments to Conference, we may not be as able to do that as we would be otherwise.

We begin by welcoming this expressive evaluation of TCP which has been undertaken on the initiative of the Director-General. We note it is the first since 1978. We hope that there will not be a comparable interval before another evaluation because we feel that continuing attention should be given to the operation of this important Programme.

We consider that TCP is a very useful vehicle for quick action on the part of FAO. We consider that a large part of its usefulness derives from the flexibility which TCP gains from the project ceiling, the ceiling on the size of projects.

Consequently we do not support the Director-General's proposal to increase the maximum cost of a TCP project from US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000, a 60 percent increase.

My delegation notes that the average project cost for the period under review here was only \$67 000. Much more than a majority, to be exact 79 percent, of all TCP projects cost under \$100 000. The average cost even of emergency projects, which we believe to be the most expensive category, was only \$118 000, less than half the present ceiling. We do not therefore believe that these figures show a need to increase the project ceiling, quite the contrary. In our view they reflect the success of the present guidelines. Moreover, the Director-General's discussion of the effects of inflation, the principal justification for the proposed increase, fails to take account of the large increase in the value of the US dollar in recent years. The US dollar has increased some 40 percent since 1980, which has largely offset the effects of inflation.

We are also troubled by the realization that increasing the ceiling would reduce the number of projects which could be accomplished under TCP. We do not feel that an increase in the size of TCP overall would be in order.

Also we are not in favour of the Director-General's proposal to establish a new category for TCP projects, that category being to enhance inter-country cooperation. We believe that voluntarily funded mechanisms for this purpose already exist and are adequate. The scope of this proposed category is so broad that it would represent a major new drain on the TCP budget if it were approved, drawing away resources from the other important TCP categories, particularly the emergency projects.

We do support the Director-General's recommendations addressed to the members of FAO for countries to do more to inform the Organization of the availability of experts, particularly experts from developing countries, and his recommendation that recipient countries might wish to facilitate approval of TCP experts for missions of less than three months' duration. Of course that would be entirely within the decision of those recipient countries.

We realize also that local procurement can be beneficial and even necessary in certain circumstances. We use local procurement as a matter of fact in some of our bilateral programmes. We would only caution that these instances should be carefully considered so that they will not impair the general principle of international competitive bidding for TCP projects as well as other projects.

The United States supports the conclusions of the evaluation, especially that there is a need for greater information flow from FAO to governments on the structure and role of TCP. We would urge the Director-General to take further steps on follow up to TCP projects and their evaluation, as recommended by the external evaluation.

In conclusion may I say that my delegation recognizes the role that TCP has to play in supplementing FAO's overall programme. We believe that this evaluation confirms the important role that TCP has to play as it is presently constituted.

José Manuel WATSON (Panamá): La Delegación de Panamá agradece al Sr. Lignon por su valiosa exposición sobre el informe del PCT.

Sobre este importante tema, la Delegación de Panamá quiere formular algunas consideraciones que a nuestro juicio son de sumo interés.

La primera de esas consideraciones es de índole general y consiste en reiterar que se mantenga el objetivo principal del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO, cual es dar respuesta en la forma más eficaz posible a las necesidades imprevistas e inesperadas de los Estados Miembros.

Por otra parte, la Delegación de Panamá, al igual que muchas otras, destaca la característica de este Programa que, sinceramente creemos por experiencia de nuestro país, da realmente impulso a esta Organización al atender solicitudes de nuestros Gobiernos en forma rápida y flexible y mediante intervenciones relativamente pequeñas.

Como bien se desprende del análisis de los logros del Programa cuando se constata que el valor medio por proyecto es de poco más de 67 000 dólares de los Estados Unidos, y en casos de proyectos que no son de urgencia sino de asistencia técnica el costo medio del proyecto es inferior a 60 000 dólares de los Estados Unidos, intervenciones éstas que efectivamente vienen a tener efectos catalíticos multiplicadores y estimulantes en los sectores agropecuarios de los países beneficiados.

Estos señalamientos que a la Delegación de Panamá le resultan obligados están en coincidencia con lo que plantea el documento CL 88/8 en las dos primeras líneas de su texto, en las cuales destaca la especial atención e importancia que le dan los Estados Miembros de la FAO al PCT. En esta oportunidad estamos frente a los resultados de una segunda evaluación integral a este Programa en su noveno año de existencia y los resultados de la misma son claramente favorables al funcionamiento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y a este respecto consideramos que el párrafo 32 del documento CL 88/8 confirma este hecho cuando señala que el PCT ha permitido a la FAO atender mejor a sus países miembros movilizand o rápidamente los medios técnicos, operativos y administrativos en momentos en que era necesario actuar sin pérdida de tiempo para hacer frente a solicitudes urgentes e inesperadas de los gobiernos. Con ello, continúa señalando el párrafo 32, se han reforzado las relaciones entre los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo y la Organización y entre los propios países en desarrollo (CTPD). Sucintamente, termina señalando el párrafo 32, el PCT ha dado a la Organización más relevancia con respecto a las necesidades de sus miembros.

Es por todo esto que la Delegación de Panamá apoya la existencia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO dentro de la programación ordinaria de esta Organización; y en esta parte de nuestro señalamiento queremos tanto destacar como apoyar el contenido de lo expuesto en los párrafos 13 y 9, entre otros, relativos a que el PCT puede promover la cooperación técnica y también económica entre países en desarrollo al atender y dar respuesta a la asistencia a grupos de países, así como a organizaciones regionales y subregionales.

En nuestra región, Señor Presidente, América Latina y el Caribe, tenemos ejemplos palpables de la necesidad y beneficio de este tipo de asistencia, la cual es perfectamente canalizable a través del PCT, tal es el caso, por ejemplo, de la solicitud de asistencia que beneficia a la empresa multinacional latinoamericana de comercialización de fertilizantes, MULTIFER, integrada actualmente por ocho Estados de la región, pero abierta a la participación de todos los otros.

Es por todo esto que mi Delegación da su firme apoyo al establecimiento de una nueva categoría de proyectos del PCT destinada a actuar como catalizadora de la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, y por las razones que claramente se exponen en el párrafo 46, damos nuestro apoyo a las medidas consistentes en aumentar el límite de costo máximo de un proyecto del PCT de 250 000 dólares de los Estados Unidos a 400 000.

Igualmente, nuestra Delegación no tiene dificultad en que este Consejo formule las recomendaciones a países miembros conforme el contenido del párrafo 95 en el sentido de que se mantenga informada la Organización de la disponibilidad y experiencia de expertos y consultores calificados y que faciliten su rápida aprobación, cuando sea considerado, para proyectos del PCT; al igual de que se examinen las posibilidades de renuncia a la aprobación oficial de los expertos y consultores del PCT para misiones de menos de tres meses de duración, esto conforme a lo explicado en el párrafo 60.

Finalmente, y en relación con los aspectos insatisfactorios encontrados en la evaluación y que tienen que ver especialmente con el apoyo operativo y técnico, así como de las funciones de los representantes de la FAO en los países, la Delegación de Panamá confía en la aplicación de las medidas tomadas, que propone el Señor Director General de conformidad con su propia autoridad, y que están recogidas en el párrafo 93 del documento que estamos discutiendo.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos, primeramente, felicitar al Señor Lignon por la presentación que ha hecho de este tema tan importante.

Nuestro país siempre ha dado una alta valoración al Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO como la más válida medida de las transferencias tecnológicas solicitadas por los gobiernos de acuerdo con sus propios programas nacionales, ya esto creo que es una tarjeta de presentación.

Creo que es necesario, sí, creadoramente, cuando se hace evaluación y analizamos, profundizar los números; pero también nos parece que debemos analizar los números globalmente en sus resultados, o en sus grandes resultados.

La implementación de todo tipo de proyecto, inclusive los grandes proyectos del Banco Mundial y del Fondo Monetario Internacional, han tenido serios problemas de factibilidad sobre todo; factibilidad o inefectibilidad que ha llevado a generar grandes deudas a los países receptoristas; por eso, insistimos que el análisis hay que hacerlo creadoramente, no limitado ni restrictivo, sino con interés de apoyar y de ayudar a una solución para todos.

Hay otro criterio que queremos expresar en forma muy leve, no vamos a utilizar mucho tiempo, Señor Presidente; nuestra Delegación trae a la Conferencia un estudio profundo y pormenorizado de la utilización de los Programas de Cooperación Técnica en nuestro país y cómo vemos su implementación futura. Por lo tanto, vamos a dar algunos criterios muy generales. Creo que sobre la evaluación que se ha presentado, es una evaluación excelente y oportuna. Creo que la FAO tiene toda la autoridad para evaluar y los gobiernos soberanamente también para analizar con la FAO los resultados y alcances de los programas de cooperación técnica que han pedido. Concretamente para no dar muchas vueltas, los programas de cooperación técnica apoyan directa y sin intermediarios, rápidamente en forma expedita los esfuerzos de los países para rehabilitar su capacidad de producción de alimentos, y en fin apoyan la programación. Los programas nacionales de la agricultura producen un incremento en la conciencia de utilización mejor de los recursos naturales así como prestan asistencia para crear servicios, y resultados tangibles en el mejoramiento de calidad de la actividad agrícola.

Todas estas actividades, en resumen, se puede decir que durante este tiempo de ejecución, el programa de cooperación técnica ha tenido flexibilidad y rapidez para proporcionar insumos y expertos técnicos. Todo esto son realidades. Referente al alcance y costo y duración de los PCT no han creado dificultades grandes para los gobiernos puesto que ha habido flexibilidad en la discusión. Nosotros somos testigos de excepción en cuanto al análisis del alcance costo-duración con la Secretaría de la FAO, y hemos logrado la flexibilidad necesaria para la implementación de nuestros proyectos.

Los gobiernos así reciben asistencia para elaborar programas, para establecer estructuras institucionales, para asegurar eficazmente el control de su producción agrícola en nuestras regiones. Y analizando un párrafo muy importante de la evaluación del Programa de Cooperación

Técnica que nos presentaron los Sres. Linner, Johnson y Palmer, a los cuales de paso quiero felicitar por el trabajo enjundioso y profundo que hicieron, aparece un párrafo que nos preocupa. Nosotros queremos expresar que en nuestra región, la Oficina Regional FAO ha establecido y ha ejecutado redes de cooperación técnica con asistencia programada de cooperación técnica. Esto es prometedor para la integración regional que puede ser ayudada eficientemente por FAO en proyectos de cooperación directa a empresas multinacionales en la región, como ha expresado la delegación de Panamá a Multifer, en estos momentos del CELA. Esto realmente es muy prometedor. Sin embargo, nos preocupa que el párrafo no tiene una proposición definida. Creo que ese párrafo debe terminar con una proposición.

Asimismo tenemos un pequeño comentario sobre la utilización de la asistencia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica también de la evaluación. El cuarto párrafo del 6. 2: Utilización de la asistencia. Ahí se dice que la región latinoamericana registra el porcentaje más bajo en las asignaciones destinadas al componente de capacitación.

Un análisis autocrítico de nuestra región, pensamos que ahí estamos pecando un poco de un orgullo del cual tenemos que deshacernos. Necesitamos capacitación. Los latinoamericanos es posible que a veces creamos que no la necesitamos; necesitamos capacitación. Así que creo que esto es un error de los países en solicitarla porque necesitamos aprender mucho. Aquí en estas reuniones vemos cómo realmente necesitamos ser un poco más cultos en estas cuestiones. Nosotros, nos parece que aquí hay una causa un poquito visible. En nuestra región, la concentración de la tierra en pocas manos es significativa. Por lo tanto no hay una posibilidad de acceso a la capacitación por las grandes masas de obreros y pequeños agricultores sin tierra. Hay

que seguir insistiendo con un enfoque más amplio en la necesidad de la capacitación local, local con orientación práctica, con cursos y estudios microlocalizados para resolver los problemas más actuales. Nosotros seguimos insistiendo en que los proyectos de esta forma son más útiles que los grandes elefantes blancos. Es la mejor inversión en recursos humanos para lograr efectividad en la aplicación de la técnica agrícola, en la medida en que sean capaces de estudiarla y entenderla primero y sin eso la técnica no se podrá aplicar eficazmente.

Nuestro héroe nacional, José Martí, nuestro héroe creador en nuestro pueblo del real sentido de la libertad, nos decía siempre: "Es necesario ser cultos para ser libres"; estar totalmente capacitados para ejercer las funciones a las que nos dedicamos. Entonces, si nosotros queremos realmente que nuestra agricultura sea realmente libre, debemos invertir más del cincuenta por ciento en capacitación, que la técnica va entrando en la medida que nuestros pequeños agricultores sean más capacitados.

Finalmente nosotros queremos expresar nuestro apoyo total a la evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica y medidas propuestas por el Director General. Específicamente queremos aprobar, en todas sus partes, el párrafo 93. El párrafo 93 en todas sus partes nos parece interesante así como el párrafo 94. Son dos párrafos definitorios de todo el análisis que se ha hecho.

Nos parece que también se habló de una aceptación automática y que no hubo total aceptación. Queremos repetir que nuestra delegación traerá a la Conferencia un análisis pormenorizado de este punto porque lo considera muy importante, y creemos que la aceptación automática puede ser una fórmula expedita, no lesiona intereses legítimos ningunos y sí puede facilitar que se dé el impulso a la acción de la FAO que solicitan los gobiernos para la necesaria ayuda a su agricultura, y sobre todo la producción de alimentos que no espera, porque los hambrientos no esperan.

Queremos hacer finalmente una última observación. Sí, he recordado que no participé en los inicios cuando el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se germinó, cuando surgió, pero he oído varias veces hablar de los ahorros para implementar el PCT. Sin embargo quiero hacer un comentario un poco ligero al vuelo. Creo que si desde la implementación del PCT a esta fecha los presupuestos de la Organización no hubiesen sido sometidos al crecimiento cero, los ahorros fueran un poco más sustanciales.

MA GENG'OU (China): The Chinese delegation carefully studied the independent and external evaluation report on the Technical Cooperation Programme. We think that it is a comprehensive and objective report and some of the comments are pertinent. As everyone acknowledges the advantages of the Technical Cooperation Programme, it will be unnecessary for me to go into details. But in our view, the most important thing is that TCP should maintain its unprogrammed nature and other features such as quick response, catalytic effect and flexibility. Document CL 88/8 prepared by the Secretariat mentioned the proposals for action to be taken by the Director-General, the Council and member governments, all for the purpose of strengthening the said features of TCP. In this way, the technical expertise of FAO can be brought into full play to meet the urgent needs of Member Nations. The Chinese delegation endorses the proposals contained in Paragraphs 93 to 95. At the same time, we wish to highlight the following points:

One. We shall never overemphasize the importance of promptly providing equipment for TCP projects characterized by quick action. Without doubt, the delay occurred was caused by various factors. We are happy to note that paragraph 93 of the document has suggested concrete measures for the solution of this problem. We appreciate such efforts.

Two. As for the proposal to raise the present limit of US\$ 250 000 for a project, to US\$ 400 000, paragraphs 45 to 47 of the document have already offered detailed explanations. The US\$ 250 000 ceiling was set upon the establishment of TCP, which has been in operation for 10 years without an adjustment. Due to inflation rate and other factors, therefore, it is justifiable to raise the limit of US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000. We suggest that the Council approve this proposal.

Three. It is appropriate to add the item of Technical Cooperation among the Developing Countries within the framework of FAO. As multilateral international organizations have widespread channels of contacts and miscellaneous connections, the addition of such an item will be conducive to the developing countries for the promotion of their economic and technical cooperation and exchanges among themselves through FAO.

Four. Paragraph 95 of the document puts recommendations which the Council might wish to address to FAO member countries. Concerning recommendation (a), that is, those developing countries who wish to engage in TCDC activities, to keep FAO informed of the availability and experience of qualified experts and consultants, we wish to inform the Council that the department concerned in our country has approached FAO's department and concrete arrangements are in progress. With regard to recommendation (b), there have been no obstacles in the formal clearance of experts who went to our country for project implementation. In the future, we shall continue to render them every possible assistance within the framework of the procedures stipulated by the Government.

Five. As to the formulation and the preparation of investment projects, the evaluation report pointed out the relationship between formulation and the preparation of such projects and follow-up activities. In our view, this relationship has an important bearing on the improvement of the impact of TCP. So that, the availability of follow-up financial resources should always be taken into account both by member countries in submitting project proposals and by FAO in approving them. Although paragraph 57 of the document points out that it is only in very exceptional instances that TCP formulation or investment projects are submitted and approved without an aid or financing agency having been identified, we still think it is necessary and relevant to bring this question to the attention of the Council in order to ensure the impact of TCP.

The success of a project is the result of the joint efforts of donor agencies and recipient countries. As a beneficiary country of the Technical Cooperation Programme, we shall continue to cooperate closely with FAO and improve our submission and execution of projects in a view to maximizing the impact of the limited resources of TCP in our country.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all I would like to thank Mr Lignon and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their comprehensive introduction on this urgent item. I would also like to commend the three independent consultants for their effort made in preparing a very informative and original and analytical report before us.

My delegation extends its appreciation to the Director-General for having taken the initiative to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of TCP for the first time since its inception.

Before touching upon two specific proposals of the Director-General contained in paragraph 94 of the document CL 88/8, my delegation first would like to make a few general comments. As it is well known to all of us, TCP was established to meet unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs of the problem countries the finance of which could not be covered by other assistance programmes. My delegation feels that the *raison d'être* of TCP can be found therefore in case of an emergency situation, and we recognize that the TCP study has played a significant role in this area. My delegation has however repeatedly expressed its concern about an increase in the share of TCP within the regular budget for various reasons, one of which is a lack of information on TCP. Since TCP is an unprogrammed budget and since the authority for approval of TCP projects is delegated to the Director-General, member countries have practically no means of participating in the process of approval of projects, while other activities in the FAO regular budget follow the principle of Programme of Work and Budget and are subject to consultation by member governments. Because of this characteristic peculiar to TCP, my delegation has stressed on various occasions that information on the performance of TCP projects should be provided more intensively than for any other activities in the regular budget. In this connection my delegation appreciates the evaluation report and would like to underline that such evaluations of TCP should be carried out more frequently in the future, and preferably on a periodical basis.

Although the present evaluation report contains quite a lot of information which helps us grasp the TCP, we feel that the report still has some weaknesses, particularly in the analysis of the catalytic role of TCP. We would like to suggest therefore that FAO should analyse, both quantitatively and qualitatively, to what extent the TCP projects have enabled mobilisation of external assistance, and which types of funding sources have been catalysed.

The evaluation report has made a number of recommendations. My delegation strongly supports the recommendations regarding improvement to information flow—that is numbers 6 to 8, 12 and 36. In this connection we welcome the decision taken by the Director-General which is stated in subparagraph 93) j) of document CL 88/8.

One rather minor point: recommendations number 36 suggests that "stronger measures should be taken by the Organization to urge experts to deliver their terminal statements on time". We feel that this is a very important point, although mention has not been made of it in the Director-General's document. Since we have been informed that FAO is now developing a computerized monitoring system of TCP, we would like to draw attention to the fact that inputs of accurate and prompt information are crucial for an effective monitoring system. Due consideration should therefore be given to this recommendation.

I would like now to briefly touch upon the Director-General's proposals namely, the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project and the establishment of a new category.

With regard to the proposal for raising the limit from US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000, my delegation is not in a position to go along with it for the following reasons:

Firstly, according to Table 1 of the Director-General's document the average cost of TCP projects approved in 1984 was around US\$ 70 000. Furthermore, more than 90 percent of 2 450 projects approved to date were less than US\$ 150 000. From this fact, we cannot see any justification in raising the present ceiling.

Secondly, my delegation wishes to draw attention to one of the characteristics of TCP that is relatively small-scale assistance. In this connection I would like to refer to the average cost of UNDP projects, which was around US\$ 420 000 in 1984. The raising of the TCP ceiling up to US\$ 400 000 will make this TCP characteristic very ambiguous vis-à-vis the project financed by other funding sources like UNDP. My delegation prefers to maintain TCP projects on a relatively small scale.

With regard to the second proposal, my delegation does support the activities referred to in 94) d), however we feel that such activities can be foreseen and programmed for in advance. We see no reason for incorporating these activities in TCP when TCP's character is an unprogrammed budget,

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): To begin with, we feel that by the introduction of the Technical Cooperation Programme and FAO regional offices in 1976, the role of FAO in our development activities has undergone a fundamental change, and that FAO's activity, assistance and relevance to the developing countries has been substantially enhanced by the inclusion of these three activities in the FAO programme.

With regard to the report of the consultants, some of us have had the opportunity of knowing these capable people, Messrs Linner and Johnson and Mr Palmer who was one of our colleagues here, and we have every confidence in their analytical capacity and judgement. Generally we support the outcome of their study, and we continue to feel that TCP is an extremely important Programme. This is highlighted by the fact that this mission went to a number of developing countries and had extensive discussions with field officers and administrators at authority level and at field level, and with international funding agencies, and there was wide support for this kind of activity. It is a question of perception of what is useful and what is not and perceptions can always differ as to how an activity should be carried out and how it can be programmed-there can be differences of opinion. The consultants, as the report points out, continued seeking areas of weakness in this Programme, some of which are some kind of feedback or follow-up on what happens to various programmes which are initiated by TCP funding and whether adequate funding or investment is available for those programmes later on, or whether the countries which have requested these projects have continued to benefit or to build up on what is being provided by these projects.

Another area which the experts touched upon was delays in getting equipment and experts, and there are certain other things which are covered later on in the Director-General's proposals in terms of what he thinks is of importance, what he wants the Council to do, and what he has suggested to the Council for recommending to the FAO Conference. The fact however remains that, with the experience, with the knowledge, and with the expertise the developing countries have built up over that period it is absolutely necessary that the local experts who have no relevant knowledge of the conditions in their own country or in neighbouring countries are encouraged more and more, and the same applies to equipment because international funding for any programme must not become a means of transferring resources back to countries which substantially contribute to funding. If experts continue to be provided by those very countries which are major funding units of international organizations, then part of the purpose of the programme is lost. Therefore we feel that the recommendation to this extent is extremely valid and must be seriously pursued.

I now address myself to paragraphs 93) and 94). We would like to commend the Director-General for having taken certain action in terms of delegating more authority to the representatives of FAO to sanction individual projects, for a ceiling for a particular area, and with regard to the procurement of material. We continue to feel that the international competitive bidding is the most sensible way of doing these things but we must not let this time-consuming matter involving the use of a lot of red tape become a hindrance to implementation of these projects, which are essentially very small projects funded to a very limited extent. We have to make exceptions, and certain delegations have been given for local purposes-and we welcome these steps.

With regard again to the follow-up: we believe that country representatives of FAO can play a very crucial role in following up on these projects, in trying to find out what happened to the project ideas which are being initiated with these funds, and whether the countries had utilized them or not. Further, they can play a crucial role in liaising with other international funding organizations, because UNDP has offices in all the major countries, and FAO representatives have a close liaison with UNDP. Other funding agencies can also play a very useful role.

With regard to the Director-General's recommendation for increasing the TCP ceiling from \$250 000 to \$400 000: we have heard the interventions of distinguished delegates from Canada, from the United States and Japan. We would like to point out that it is a fact that for most of the projects which have been funded through the TCP the maximum limit has been approximately \$ 70 000. We propose here, on the basis of the report, that a new category of projects should be created-that is, projects for ECDC and TCDC. These projects essentially would be inter-country projects, not small projects confined to districts or small provinces, but inter-country projects which would lead to greater funding and much more follow-up. It is in this context that we feel there is need to raise the ceiling from \$250 000 to \$400 000.

In this context I would refer to the intervention of Canada. I must say I have the highest personal regard for the majority of the Canadian delegate's views: I never miss his intervention but I feel he laid excessive emphasis on the fact that this was an emergency kind of programme. Let us not overemphasize this word "emergency". It was intended to be an emergency programme to cater to the unforeseen. We must recognize that FAO has a budget passed once in a biennium. Even though we have budgeting every year for projects, we have to divert funds from one source to another because unforeseen needs do arise, and in an organization where the budgeting is done once in two years there is every reason to feel that unforeseen needs would arise and such expenditures should be available.

The distinguished delegate of Japan has answered quite a few questions raised by Canada. The anxiety is to see that there is more accountability, that there is more information, that there is more transparency. Certainly we should approach the problem in a different way. We should ask the Organization to provide more information to the various bodies of FAO to consider at the Conference about what happens to the TCP funds, how they are spent, what is happening to its projects. I certainly cannot agree that we have a minor commitment to TCP projects than developed countries do. After all, if we help every country from an international organization with a loan of assistance, we consider it as valuable as our own resources and we have the same amount of commitment if a follow up is carried out. I think it would be borne out that these funds have been used by countries, that they have benefitted from them and that they have carried on the work that was started from this fund.

With regard to the two last recommendations, Chairman, which the Council is requested to make to the Conference, I have serious reservations about recommendation b) in paragraph 95. Mr Chairman, I would recall that the Director-General in his own review of this report of the consultants in paragraph 50 says "draws the attention of the Council to the pertinent remarks made by the consultants in section 1. 7. 1 of their report concerning the recruitment of experts under TCDC arrangements, as well as the employment of nationals in TCP projects." Then in paragraph 51, "It is not suggested, therefore, that they should be reviewed in detail in connection with the TCP alone, but that discussions at the country level, between the government and all organizations of the UN system, complemented by the necessary harmonization of procedures". You cannot take the TCP in isolation and lay down a separate procedure for experts which are sent to countries under TCP projects. TCP projects in the long run are projects which are valued. We would like to know what kind of experts are coming and the emergency nature must not be overemphasized. We would like the same kind of scrutiny for TCP experts as for any experts. We certainly agree with paragraph 62 that if there is delay the Organization should not be responsible and we feel this kind of recommendation has a very serious repercussion, it is a very delicate matter so far as the countries are involved, and we cannot support this recommendation being made to the FAO Conference. I am a little disturbed that after the Director-General has expressed his views in the note in paragraph 51 and 62, still paragraph 94 b) contains the recommendation in paragraph 95 would be more balanced, more cautious, rather than the bald statement given by countries in this matter.

I would also like to remind this Council and I can cite a number of cases where experts had been approved by the countries concerned and then were not available. There have been cases where experts are not available for six months or a year after they had been approved by the countries. It is not a one way process; there are so many things involved. Even after the expert has been cleared he may be engaged elsewhere, he may have personal problems, he may not be available, his institution may not release him. So this over-dramatizing of the situation is not called for and we would like the Council to seriously consider the recommendation contained in paragraph 2. 43 where it is recommended to the Council to ask all donors concerned to take steps towards this end, to expedite the clearance of experts. This is the way a sober consideration of the matter is possible, and we must not hasten into taking or making any recommendation which could be opposed in the Conference later on.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): Let me first congratulate Dr Lignon and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the comprehensive introduction given to this item. Before turning to the document

CL 88/8 my delegation would like to make some introductory remarks. Denmark supported the establishment of the TCP in 1976 because we felt that there was an uncovered need for short-term projects of an unprogrammed and flexible nature. The idea was that TCP should not in any way compete with other forms of assistance, and that it should complement and not substitute other forms of financing. At the last Conference the Danish delegation went against further increase in the relative size of this Programme because the Programme, in our opinion, had reached an adequate level to fulfill its task. Other delegations expressed the same point of view, but nevertheless in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 we find the relative share of the TCP increased from 12.7 to 13.7 percent. This increase has in our view not been subject to a thorough discussion in particular in relation to the impact on the general budget policy of this organization.

Mr Chairman, my delegation finds that before considering further increases totally and within this Programme, it is important to discuss the establishment of a monitoring system making it possible for member countries to follow more closely the use of TCP funds. We are not proposing a rigid control system where all projects would have to be agreed upon by Member States. We rather suggest a follow up system which will make it possible to evaluate the implementation and the results of the Programme or the projects in an appropriate way.

Turning to document CL 88/8 before us, we find it difficult to discuss the proposals put forward as we received the document very late. This is unfortunate because my delegation on several occasions has expressed a need for an evaluation of the Programme.

As far as the use of TCP funds up to now is concerned, we are satisfied to note that in 1983-84, 36 percent of the funds have been allocated to projects in least developed countries and 65 percent have gone to low-income food-deficit countries. We would like to see that policy pursued even further. We are also pleased to note that 40 percent of the approved projects are in Africa.

However, concerning the distribution of activities within the projects, we find that the allocation for training during the period has been rather high. We do of course consider training a very important element in the overall development process, but we find it is an element which rather belongs to long-term projects, and only through a limited extent should be covered by TCP.

Mr Chairman, concerning the actual proposals to raise the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project to 400 thousand dollars and establishing a new category of TCP projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation, the Danish delegation will refer to these issues in more detail at the forthcoming Conference when we have had a chance to study document CL 88/INF/10.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, my delegation supports the concept of the TCP as a means within the Programme of Work for providing urgent short-term assistance to developing countries. We do find however that the Programme has reached a size which justifies a request for the establishment of a flexible monitoring system to enable Member States to follow more closely the Programme's activities.

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): My delegation would like to join the other distinguished delegations in commending both the Director-General and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the comprehensive presentation of the independent report on the evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We would like to congratulate the Director-General for having had the evaluation study undertaken which we think is very objective, and whilst reaffirming the continued need for the TCP, some very important points have been noted and put forward by the consultant. The strength of the TCP is that it provides the FAO with a rapid response system. In dealing with food matters one very often faces such situations that cannot normally be dealt with by means of regular bureaucratic procedures. We feel that TCP is especially useful, taking into account the failure to secure additional financing from various aid institutions.

We also think that TCP should continue to form part of the regular budget. The TCP should also maintain its basic characteristics. However, its management procedures might be looked into to ensure not only greater efficiency but also greater accountability and evaluation.

My delegation is particularly attracted by the proposal of the consultants with respect to recommendation 16, but particularly the twinning of research institutions between developing countries as well as between developed and developing countries. This in our view would really enhance the information flow and technology transfer, and facilitate more rapid training and cooperation. We strongly support this proposal.

On the role of TCP as the catalyst in generating further long-term projects or programmes within the recipient countries, we share the view of the consultants regarding the less than satisfactory progress in this direction. We feel that the effectiveness of TCP will be somewhat diluted without the proper follow-up programmes.

In view of the technical nature of the TCP we fully support recommendation 33 to strengthen some technical units of this Organization as in paragraph 78. We think it is fully justifiable to sanction these units to facilitate technical backstopping. On the matter of procurement we support the preference for the purchase of local goods and services. We have observed that sometimes the purchases of goods or services have been solicited from foreign sources even when such goods or services are available locally at comparable prices.

Finally with regard to the proposal to increase the limit of TCP from 250 000 to 400 000 US dollars, we wish to register our support to this proposal in view of the inflation rate that has taken place since TCP's inception. We have taken into account also the higher cost of consultancies prevailing now as compared to eight years ago. However, we hope the Director-General will exercise prudence in the use of the increased ceiling.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): First I would like to thank Mr Lignon and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their very sharply focused remarks. We thank the Director-General for having had the Technical Cooperation Programme evaluated when it was necessary, and we think the independent evaluation has been extremely well done. It has brought out several facets and other very useful elements of the Programme.

In our discussion today, one element has been commonly shared, that is, the usefulness of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We, too, think that the Programme is useful. In our country it has been of particular benefit.

An increase in ceiling does not necessarily mean that the number of projects is going to be reduced merely on account of the increase. I think this is supported by historical fact, that even though a US \$250 000 ceiling did not necessarily inhibit the number, in fact the average project cost remained lower than that. It does not necessarily support the assumption that increasing the limit would mean the utilization or designing of projects of a cost order of US \$400 000. It merely allows further flexibility to design projects which are necessary to be rated at a higher cost, and the costs are obviously more for materials and services. We endorse the recommendation that the ceiling be raised from US \$250 000 to US \$400 000.

With regard to the establishment of another category of inter-country programme, I wish to join with those who have already highlighted the point that this category would facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas between countries with similar experience, similar backgrounds and similar technological status. In my mind, this is exceedingly important. Relative to this is also the question of appointment and recruitment of local consultants and consultants from other developing countries.

While we generally endorse the proposals made by the Director-General we would like to share the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of India as to the recommendation in paragraph 95(b). The concern expressed need not necessarily be a legitimate one for the simple reason that in our own experience-as in the experience of others that we know-the process of approval actually is accelerated. Governments have become very, very conscious of the need to accord clearance expeditiously to consultants for the simple reason that the quick establishment, launching and completion of a project is highly desirable.

I would like to add another point which has been discussed by a number of distinguished delegates; that is, the value of TCP as a catalyst. In our own experience, TCP projects have led to investment projects, and also to the realization that certain organizational structures have to be modified to suit changing needs. As progress occurs, there is always a need to infuse this dynamism into the various organizations within countries, and in this the TCP has played an important part.

Mohamed DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Lignon and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their introduction of this item. I should also like to express our thanks to the Director-General of FAO who undertook an independent evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. I will try to be very brief indeed.

I think the key words here are flexibility above all, flexibility in the response to requests from Member States. All the measures which have been suggested in the documentation will increase the required flexibility.

We also approve the increase from US \$250 000 to US \$400 000 as a ceiling, even though we know that the number of projects amounting to this sum will be very limited. We would like also to support the idea of increasing the ceilings authorized for country representatives. We recommend that the Organization and the recipient governments follow-up as efficiently as possible all projects undertaken under TCP.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by emphasizing our general support in principle for the Technical Cooperation Programme. The objectives of the Programme with its context of raising food production and helping the small producer are laudable. We also welcome the initiative by the Director-General to hold an independent evaluation and look forward to this as a regular process. We hope there will not be such a long gap between evaluations in future.

We are very pleased to have before us document CL 88/INF/10, although for reasons I will explain later this pleasure is slightly tinged with disappointment. The paper contains much useful information and a number of sound recommendations which will enhance the management of the Programme. It merits a welcome from us all.

The evaluation contains many general comments and recommendations. But we consider it could have been improved if it had contained more material of an analytical nature, detailed assessments of specific projects and quantified assessments of programme impacts. We appreciate these are sensitive areas, but as the distinguished delegate from Canada suggested this morning, there are methods which make it possible to carry out the objective analysis which are acceptable to all parties.

We consider the composition of the terms of reference of the evaluation team could have benefitted from a different balance. It seems to us an opportunity has been missed here to assess the quality of the output of the Programme and the interrelationship of the objectives and results. While recipient satisfaction is an important factor and should be taken into account, we consider other more quantifiable elements could have been given greater weight.

After reading the paper, we note that TCP fills useful gaps and that recipients have described themselves as satisfied, but we do not know just how effective individual projects were in achieving their objectives. Presumably, some projects were more satisfactory than others, and it would be interesting to know why. One of the objects of evaluation is to improve project design through learning from experience. Unfortunately, in our view this paper is not sufficiently specific in its content to adequately fulfil this particular function, although it is more helpful in terms of overall programme management. Perhaps I am being unfair and the evaluation has produced information and recommendations which have not been included in the papers before us because they were considered to be too technical, but they have been used internally to influence programme design. Perhaps the Secretariat could confirm whether this is the case.

On a more positive note, the report has identified some areas where communication and coordination can be improved. We welcome proposals for action by the Director-General on this point.

Turning now to document CL 88/8 which asks us to make a number of decisions in relation to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we welcome the action already taken by the Director-General. These actions are listed in paragraph 93 of the paper.

Turning to paragraph 94, we have not been convinced from the arguments in both documents CL 88/INF/10 and CL 88/8 that it is necessary to raise the limit of a single TCP project to US \$400 000. In these circumstances, I am afraid that until there are further more convincing arguments we cannot support this proposal. Similarly, as far as the creation of a new category is concerned, while we support the idea of greater inter-country cooperation, we do not feel it has been explained convincingly that TCP is the most appropriate source of funding for these proposals. Therefore, we cannot support the proposal in paragraph 95(b) as it stands.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our support for the principle behind the Technical Cooperation Programme and its objectives. We express the hope that in the future we will see a series of independent evaluations which do justice to the achievement of the Programme through an assessment of the achievement of individual projects.

We are particularly attracted to a suggestion made in an earlier debate by the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany that a future evaluation could be undertaken for example by the JIU. Another possibility might be an independent evaluation by an academic institution. Of course, there are other possibilities. The Director-General has recognized the value of external consultants, and his recognition is very welcome. We hope this principle can be pursued in the future.

Orlando SACAY (Philippines): My delegation commends the decision to have an independent and external evaluation of TCP although it has already recognized that this Programme has provided a direct impact on member countries.

We also commend the consultants for being able to put together a very good report from information gathered from varying circumstances over a span of several years. In this connection my delegation agrees with the conclusion of the report.

We also endorse the recommendation to establish a new category for TCP projects and to raise the limit of maximum cost for a single TCP programme from \$250 000 to \$400 000. However, this delegation would like to point out that if project limits were raised, either other projects would be reduced in size or there would be fewer projects in the future unless the TCP budget were also raised. This delegation therefore feels that in view of the success of the programme, a way should be found to increase the resources allotted to TCP perhaps from savings or reallocation of funds from lower priority projects.

Vincent MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): The Trinidad and Tobago delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Lignon on his erudite remarks concerning the TCP, also the Director-General for the appointment of an independent evaluation team.

My delegation views the TCP as one of the most effective and efficient programmes organized by FAO for a rapid response to problems in member countries. We in Trinidad and Tobago have benefited from such programmes and wish to take this opportunity to congratulate FAO for the assistance given. In this connection we endorse the recommendations made by the evaluation team. We also support the increase in the level of financing from \$250 000 to \$400 000.

When one views the table on page 124, Table 8, and the distribution of allocations one can see quite clearly that 79 percent of these allocations fall between the limits of \$50 000 to \$100 000. I think this indicates sound fiscal responsibility by those who have been given the mandate to administer the project and I think that even if the allocation is raised such responsibility would continue to be exercised by those who have been given that administrative responsibility. However, I think it may be useful to have included some mechanism for improved financial accountability and monitoring of the projects which have been instituted.

I would further like to endorse the recommendation with respect to the various categories under which assistance could be obtained from FAO in the areas of project identification and formulation, including the preparation of investment projects for which financing institutions have been identified. Many small island states like my own are constrained by the lack of personnel in such areas and therefore have problems in the preparation of bankable project documents. We therefore urge FAO to pursue in this area, review this as one of the catalytic rules embracing the TCP which should not be underscored, particularly in countries which suffer structural deficiencies like my own. Therefore we feel that the programmes should not only address emergency problems but other deficiencies in agricultural development which require a catalytic action to propel them into an action-oriented and implementation plan.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): Due to the rather late distribution of document CL 88/INF/10 my delegation was unable to study it in an adequate intensive way, which we regret. May I, however, make some brief remarks on the subject that we are discussing now.

The Technical Cooperation Programme was set up within the framework of FAO's Regular Programme in July 1976. Although we recognized the efforts made by the Organization to meet effectively unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs of its Member States, we have always expressed doubts about the establishment of that Programme within the framework of the Regular Programme because we are of the opinion that technical aid should be financed from voluntary contributions of Member States.

We had already stated at the Twenty-Second Conference of FAO that the TCP with its then proposed share of 12.7 percent of the overall budget for 1984-1985 should not exceed that level. The proposal put forward by the Director-General for the biennium 1986-1987 shows a share of 13.7 percent. Although we do not fail to realize the success achieved by the TCP and the great volume of TCP projects as outlined in part D of document CL 88/8, we do not consider it appropriate to implement the proposal in paragraph 45 of the document and raise the ceiling. This also applies to the follow-up proposal in paragraph 47 of the document, all the more so since the average financial volume of the TCP projects between 1980 and 1981 varied between US\$57 000 and US\$79 000.

Despite our doubts which we still have about the TCP and its further increase in the biennium 1986-87 compared to the biennium 1984-85, we welcome the fact that the Director-General has arranged for an external evaluation of this Programme, as well as for endeavours to increase the efficiency of the Programme. We are, however, of the opinion that the most suitable agency for external evaluation within the United Nations System is the Joint Inspection Unit. We would have preferred it if the evaluation of TCP projects had been carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit.

We recognize the efforts of the Director-General to take the financing possibilities into account in determining the resources for the TCP programmes as stated in paragraph 100. We however doubt the need for introducing a new TCP category as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation, as suggested in paragraph 94(b). We feel that the projects in question can neither have short-term objectives nor do they meet an unexpected need of Member States.

Atif Y BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): May I also say a word of thanks to Mr. Lignon. It is the second time that we owe him a word of thanks, because he previously introduced this point at the Finance Committee.

I am sure that all of us recall that it was in 1976 that this Programme was finalized as part of the Regular Programme of our Organization. All Member-Nations then concurred in the desire to create this Programme, the aim of which was above all to enable the Organization to react in a positive way to unexpected contingencies and urgent needs in developing countries, to satisfy those needs and to also foster economic and technical exchange between developing countries.

The evaluation report shows that all the countries that were visited expressed their gratitude for the Technical Cooperation Programme and emphasized how important it was. They emphasized the lofty and useful objectives that were met in a very effective way by this Programme.

We have been told during this debate by various delegations that they pay tribute to this Programme. For example, there were the delegations of beneficiary countries in particular who paid tribute to it. So we can see what a sound Programme it is.

With that in mind, my delegation realizes that it is for the beneficiary countries first and foremost to judge, appraise and criticize the effectiveness of the Programme and the various activities which form part of it. They are in the position to tell whether the Programme has really done what it was supposed to do for the benefit of the peoples and Nations concerned. In other words, these beneficiary countries shoulder full responsibility in regard to the success, or alternatively the failure, of the Programme.

There can be no doubt that there are certain shortcomings in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme, and that this is an altogether natural phenomenon. Indeed in our view it is something positive, since it bears out the famous dictum that says that the only way to avoid error is to do absolutely nothing at all. All the more so, the TCP being such a vast programme cannot possibly be in the lee of error to such a wide-ranging programme. Therefore there are bound to be shortcomings. We knew that perfectly well even before the report was presented. Nonetheless this report is particularly useful in pinpointing just where the lacunae are, highlighting them so that they lead to recommendations, which indeed have just been presented to us, designed to deal with them.

I think this august body of the Council owes it to itself not to lapse into inaction as a result of these shortcomings. We should not overestimate them. After all, the Programme has been working for the benefit of developing countries for years now. Therefore we must shoulder our responsibilities in a yet more efficacious and thoroughgoing way. It is for us to shoulder our responsibilities in a constructive way. We must construct, not destroy.

I think we should take on board these recommendations. I think we should endorse them, so as to be able to open up new avenues of aid and so as to breathe new life into this Programme, to relaunch it, and of course also to give the beneficiary countries more time, if they need it, to address the problems and try to plug the gaps. Indeed it is our hope that this will be done satisfactorily and that the Programme will meet its targets in the way which all of us without any exception would of course hope that it will.

We have heard quite a wide range of glosses from various Member Nations on this Programme. A lot of the statements were informed by the deliberations of the Finance Committee, a Committee of course which was elected by the Council, and the Council expressed its wholehearted confidence in it, and indeed, circumscribed its powers very clearly.

A number of points which were aimed today have already been discussed in the Finance Committee and at that time we received all the explanations which we had asked for. We were completely convinced then, yet today we have heard some comments from Council members who were themselves on the Finance Committee. Now some of those points are valid. For example, it was said that the Organization and its officials do not have enough time to follow-up the implementation and indeed evaluation of projects. That point, in fact, was made in the evaluation report. It was emphasized that the Organization ought to strengthen the technical units working for the Programme.

In fact, in the Finance Committee my delegation stated that we did not agree with this. That is to say, we did not agree with paragraph 81 which the Director General referred to. Now, of course, we understand what the Director General has in mind in this field perfectly well, but, we would wish to reiterate here that the consultants vigorously urge the strengthening of the technical units, as indeed was stated at paragraph 33. I think the Organization owes it to itself to take this on board and ensure that this is achieved in the future, so that the Programme can really do what it is supposed to do and meet its targets in a constructive way, which will be of benefit to all concerned.

When the Director-General was expounding his reasons in paragraph 81 of the report, he referred to the immediate economic situation and the crisis which many countries are experiencing. We for our part however, think there are things which are more important than the short-term economic situation and we would want to reiterate here and now, that for us, this is a programme which is a sound one.

Having heard what the Secretariat has said today we would like to repeat that this Programme is subject to all budgetary monitoring and auditing just as all other programmes in this Organization are. It is meticulously scrutinized by the auditor which is the point which we really wanted to emphasize, since some people have been saying that there is some ambiguity on this point that it is not always possible to see just how the monies earmarked are actually dispersed. That is what some delegations have been saying. I must say as a member of the Finance Committee, I really do have to make this point. All the details were given to us in respect of the income and the manner in which the monies were spent.

Perhaps I can wind up by reassuring you that we are utterly convinced that this is a useful Programme. We have confidence in the Organization. There is not a shadow of doubt about that.

We in the Council here are duty bound, I think, to adopt the Programme and to endorse all the recommendations in the report.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma tâche est difficile je dois l'avouer. Je crois que le débat qui se déroule sur cette question est suffisamment important pour que nous puissions prendre quelques minutes pour pouvoir nous exprimer. Dans tous les cas, nous essayerons de faire tout notre possible pour pouvoir vous donner toute satisfaction.

Les neuf dernières années de l'Organisation ont été marquées par deux innovations majeures qui, chacun en convient, ont contribué de manière décisive à accroître l'efficacité de la FAO sur le terrain. Il s'agit, vous l'avez deviné, de la décentralisation dont il a été amplement question ce matin, et du PCT dont l'utilité a été reconnue par tous dans cette salle.

Je ne m'étendrai pas longtemps sur l'évolution de ce Programme qui a connu une progression depuis sa création en raison de la pression qui s'exerce sur ses ressources du fait du nombre des demandes toujours croissantes, elles-mêmes liées à la situation qui prévaut dans le monde en développement. Cela montre à notre avis, s'il en est encore besoin, le dynamisme de cet instrument efficace dont s'est dotée la FAO et qui, de toute évidence, est venu combler un vide qui ne permettait pas aux pays en développement de faire face à certaines situations imprévues, qu'elles soient urgentes ou non, mais dans tous les cas impératives.

Nous nous félicitons de l'initiative du Directeur général de faire procéder à une nouvelle évaluation extérieure de ce Programme, évaluation qui est à notre avis fiable, et qui selon nous n'a pas à envier une évaluation que nous ferait, disons, le CCI.

Nous pensons que cette évaluation est valable en raison de la compétence de certains cadres qui ont fait cette étude. Pour notre part nous pensons qu'elle est utile et nécessaire au moment où certains pays s'acharnent sur le PCT et demandent à ce que les ressources au niveau du budget ordinaire consacré au PCT ne puissent plus croître.

Nous le disons: cela est nécessaire dans la mesure où cela aboutit à faire des recommandations qui visent à améliorer l'efficacité de ce Programme hautement utile et dont la gestion nous semble conforme aux directives du Conseil et de ce Comité.

Tout au long du débat sur le PCT nous pensons que le renforcement de ce Programme était une chose nécessaire parce que le PCT rend d'énormes services à nos pays surtout grâce à la rapidité de son action. Cependant, nous pensons en tant que pays membre que nous devons aider la FAO à améliorer son fonctionnement; et pour cette raison nous souscrivons aux recommandations qui ont été faites non seulement sur la mise à jour du plafond de 250 à 400 000 dollars mais également sur le fait qu'il faut autoriser la FAO à moduler ce plafond en tenant compte de l'inflation et ce, pour chaque période biennale, afin de conserver le niveau originel.

Ceci vaut d'ailleurs également pour les délégations de pouvoir qui ont été confiées aux représentants de la FAO. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un plafond qu'il faut réviser au cours de l'examen de chaque biennium afin de maintenir le niveau originel.

Pour la création d'une nouvelle catégorie d'actions destinées à catalyser la coopération entre pays, nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'une excellente initiative qui ne peut que combler un vide et qui a pour but de renforcer la CTPD qui a toujours reçu un appui unanime dans cette salle.

Bien sûr, nous sommes d'accord avec les mesures déjà prises par le Directeur général qui toutes visent à améliorer et à accroître la souplesse du PCT.

Dans tous les cas, la délégation congolaise souhaite longue vie au PCT ainsi que son renforcement car nous continuons à penser qu'aucun fonds ou contribution volontaire ne pourra suppléer le PCT dans aucun des domaines ouverts par ce programme car de tels fonds seraient trop aléatoires et pourraient faire l'objet de pressions politiques intolérables dans son affectation suivant les pays.

J'espère pour ma part qu'on n'ira pas jusqu'à proposer la création d'un Comité d'approbation des projets PCT, ce qui irait à contre-courant des objectifs visés par ce programme. A ceux qui s'inquiètent du relèvement du plafond proposé pour chaque projet, nous disons que l'excellente gestion dont vient de faire état l'ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite, nous pensons que cette excellente gestion du PCT devrait apaiser leurs craintes, puisque les montants moyens de projets PCT actuels ne laissent pas présager que beaucoup de projets atteindront ce nouveau plafond. Mais on ne peut accepter d'enfermer le PCT dans des limites qui risquent d'être préjudiciables dans l'avenir et, par conséquent, de contribuer à limiter sa souplesse dont chacun reconnaît le caractère unique qu'il convient de maintenir à tout prix. On peut d'ailleurs s'étonner que ceux-là même qui à d'autres occasions appuient à juste titre des systèmes évolutifs et se refusent à tout statisme en viennent à proposer que le PCT puisse non pas avancer, mais reculer. Bref, nous nous félicitons de la répartition des projets approuvés, surtout de l'accent mis sur l'Afrique tel que ceci ressort dans le paragraphe 21. Nous espérons que l'Afrique continuera à bénéficier de ressources toujours plus importantes du PCT compte tenu de sa situation actuelle. D'accord aussi avec la répartition du paragraphe 21 et espérons que la formation continuera à bénéficier d'une priorité dans l'avenir. Toutes les mesures concrètes préconisées pour accélérer la mise en oeuvre des projets PCT rencontrent notre appui le plus ferme.

Enfin nous voudrions conclure en disant que les paragraphes 93, 94 et 95 rencontrent notre plein appui même si le paragraphe 95 b) mérite un réexamen visant à accorder un délai au-delà duquel on pourrait considérer comme acquis l'accord du gouvernement.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Me voy a permitir hacer una breve declaración en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y por tanto también de la delegación de México. Felicítamos al Sr. Lignon por su presentación y felicitamos también al Director General de la FAO por haber solicitado una evaluación externa del PCT.

Apoyamos firmemente al PCT como instrumento flexible, subrayamos flexible, de gran beneficio para los países en desarrollo, especialmente cuando otros recursos de asistencia al desarrollo han disminuido como es el caso del PNUD, del FIDA y de otros. En efecto, el PCT ha sido un apoyo muy importante para el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario y no es, ni queremos que sea sólo un instrumento para atender emergencias o suplir deficiencias de corto plazo de otras organizaciones o Programas.

Apoyamos, por tanto, el concepto amplio del Programa de Cooperación Técnica y su carácter universal. Apoyamos también en ese sentido la prioridad que tiene el Africa subshariana. Apoyamos el porcentaje que ocupa el PCT dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 13, 7 por ciento que representa sin embargo un leve aumento. Así se responde a una prioridad señalada y reiterada por la gran mayoría de los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

Apoyamos el que se eleve el límite máximo de los costos de un proyecto del PCT de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares.

Solicitamos que parte importante de los recursos del PCT puedan dedicarse a la promoción de la PCT y CPTD, conforme se indica en la sección C) de las propuestas de acción del documento CL 88/8, particularmente el párrafo 52 que apoya el establecimiento de un nueva categoría (C) para proyectos que catalicen la CTPD.

Apoyamos por tanto, y para concluir, los párrafos 93 y 94 de dicho documento.

Carlos R. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): De alguna manera la intervención del Presidente del Grupo de los 77 nos ayuda a ser breves.

En resumen, lo que queremos es apoyar todas las medidas sugeridas en los tres niveles, tanto en los párrafos 93, 94 y 95 y, sobre todo, queremos destacar que nos felicitamos de que se hayan incluido recomendaciones que tienden a promover la CPTD dentro del Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Tenemos algunas dudas en cuanto a la recomendación del párrafo 95 b), que se refiere a la aprobación oficial de los expertos. Nosotros estamos seguros de que la FAO hará todo lo posible para seleccionar a los expertos y consultores que reúnan las mejores condiciones de competencia, etc., tal como consta en el párrafo 61; pero aun así quisiéramos que continúe existiendo un sistema de consultas con los países beneficiarios acerca de las características que debe tener el consultor, máxime cuando la asistencia otorgada a través del PCT generalmente tiene lugar dentro de un programa de más largo plazo que está a cargo del país beneficiario. Nosotros entendemos que si el Gobierno del país beneficiario tiene un papel activo tanto durante la fase de ejecución del proyecto, o sea del proyecto del PCT, como después en el seguimiento, creemos también conveniente tenga algún papel en la selección del experto designado. Quizá podríamos volver a reflotar lo que el mismo Presidente del Comité del Programa sugirió acerca de qué pasa cuando la Organización somete un nombre y si no hay, en un mes, en un término de 30 días, respuesta negativa, darlo por aprobado. En fin, ya a eso se han referido Túnez y Congo, y nosotros estaríamos de acuerdo con esa idea.

Queremos reiterar nuestro total apoyo a las medidas sugeridas y en particular las que hacen referencia a la componente de introducción del CPTD dentro de la ejecución de estos programas.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): It is likely that the budget resources available to FAO in the future will continue to be limited. Therefore, we believe there is a need for FAO to focus its activities in this area to what we might call its comparative advantage. Perhaps then this is the time for a period of consolidation and where necessary some rationalization.

We would like to emphasize the role, as we see it, of FAO as the principal United Nations body on food and agricultural information and policy. The TCP has a place in technical assistance activities of FAO, but as a complement, not a replacement, for the assistance mechanisms of development agencies.

With specific regard to the TCP we would wish to emphasize our desire to see the TCP operating with effective controls and accountability, with criteria which are focussed more on unforeseen and emergency circumstances, with mechanisms for better coordination with other forms of assistance, and with less regular programme budget fundings which could otherwise be used for activities which reflect FAO's real strength.

As we did through our representative on the Finance Committee, and as members of other delegations have covered in one way or the other many of the details of what we would say, we have indicated a number of other concerns which are I think expressed in paragraph 9 of the report of the Committee. We have continued to question the need for an increase in the ceiling of TCP as well as for any additional categories which do not come within the areas of unforeseen needs and emergency circumstances. It appears we have a conundrum: on the other hand we have virtually unanimous support for the TCP from recipients and programme managers in terms of flexibility of the operation on the Programme; on the other, we have many important donors who continue to have difficulties with the financing of the programme. We have the regular programme of the FAO budget itself, particularly for projects which do not come within the category of emergency or unforeseen circumstances. One is forced to ask: how can we overcome this conundrum to enable wider support in the longer-term for the Programme itself?

For that reason we would agree to look seriously at proposals along the lines suggested by Canada-that is, for what I think is called "a second window" for projects which do not fall within the category of emergency or unforeseen projects and which could be funded from extra-budgetary resources. For example, through establishing a trust fund which can take donations from a number of different sources. In that connection, I would like to ask Mr. Lignon whether such a mechanism would at least be technically possible.

Anastase MUREKESZI (Rwanda): Je voudrais, même si c'est un peu tard, remercier le Directeur général de la FAO qui a bien voulu faire procéder à l'évaluation du Programme de coopération technique. Il était opportun de voir où nous en sommes. Ceci dit, je voudrais passer au vif du sujet avec le paragraphe 94 aux points a) et b), notamment le relèvement du plafond des projets PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars. Je ne voudrais pas revenir sur les justifications que mes collègues ont apportées. Je voudrais cependant souligner le fait que nombre de demandes qui doivent répondre à des situations d'urgence, conjoncturelles et structurelles, augmentent dans les différentes régions, et si la moyenne des projets PCT jusqu'aujourd'hui ne dépasse pas pour la plupart les 100 000 dollars, c'est probablement dû à ce que ces projets ont été nombreux et continueront à l'être et que l'esprit de répartition, l'esprit de cohérence, pour répondre à la plupart des demandes, affecte la moyenne des propositions qui, pour chaque projet, n'a guère dépassé dans la plupart des cas les 100 000 dollars. Pour le paragraphe 94, je souscris entièrement à cette recommandation ainsi qu'à la recommandation du paragraphe 95 a) et, en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 95 b), je voudrais que le Conseil et la Conférence n'aillent pas jusqu'à demander aux Etats et aux gouvernements de renoncer aux procédures d'approbation des experts et consultants du Programme de coopération technique. Nous devrions plutôt aller dans le sens de la sensibilisation de ces Etats et gouvernements pour accélérer les procédures parce que je pense que cela relève du domaine de la souveraineté.

En ce qui concerne les services, équipements et fournitures notés au paragraphe 69, je suis d'accord avec l'engagement du Directeur général de la FAO visant à restreindre l'appel d'offres international et à faire appel dans la mesure du possible aux achats sur place.

Jean-Pol NEME (France): La délégation française tient tout d'abord à remercier le Directeur général pour avoir pris l'initiative de faire évaluer les activités du PCT par des équipes extérieures. Une telle évaluation, après huit années d'activités, traduit une volonté de rigueur et de transparence que nous appuyons vivement et nous espérons qu'elle pourra être répétée à intervalles réguliers, tous les cinq ans par exemple. Cette évaluation permettra de déterminer les moyens d'améliorer le fonctionnement de l'efficacité de ce Programme. Ma délégation a toujours approuvé la priorité accordée au PCT dans le budget ordinaire de la FAO en raison de son impact considérable dans les activités de terrain de l'Organisation. Son utilité nous paraît indéniable car c'est le seul Programme permettant à la FAO de répondre rapidement à des requêtes non prévisibles des pays membres.

Nous avons noté avec satisfaction au paragraphe 21 la part de l'Afrique dont le montant total des projets du PCT s'élève à 40 pour cent et nous espérons que la priorité accordée à l'Afrique sera maintenue, voire renforcée à l'avenir, tout particulièrement en faveur des 25 pays les plus touchés par la sécheresse.

En ce qui concerne les propositions d'actions, ma délégation apporte son plein appui aux recommandations des consultants et notamment à la recommandation 21 qui propose de relever le plafond des projets du PCT de 250 000 dollars à 400 000 dollars. En effet, un tel réajustement permet de prendre en compte l'inflation cumulée pendant les neuf années d'existence du programme à un taux moyen de 5,36 pour cent par an, ce qui nous paraît raisonnable par rapport au taux effectif de l'inflation.

En outre, nous appuyons la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets du PCT destinée à catalyser la coopération entre pays et tout particulièrement les réseaux coopératifs de recherche, qui constituent, à notre avis, le moyen le plus efficace et le moins coûteux de renforcer les capacités

de recherches agricoles dans les pays en développement. En effet, on a trop souvent eu tendance dans le passé à privilégier les structures centralisées de recherche agricole internationale en sous-estimant le rôle essentiel que peuvent jouer des structures beaucoup plus souples comme les réseaux de recherche. C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons qu'encourager la FAO à renforcer ses activités dans ce domaine pour parvenir à un meilleur équilibre entre ces deux approches.

Nous appuyons également la recommandation du paragraphe 60 du document qui propose aux gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires de renoncer aux procédures formelles d'approbation des experts et consultants du PCT pour les missions ne dépassant pas trois mois. Une telle disposition permettra d'accroître considérablement la rapidité d'intervention du PCT et donc son efficacité.

Enfin, parmi les mesures déjà prises ou prévues par le Directeur général, je tiens à relever tout particulièrement celles qui donnent instructions aux représentants de la FAO dans les pays de mettre au courant du PCT les représentants des autres organismes d'aide et surtout des pays donateurs et d'établir tous les six mois un catalogue de tous les projets de la FAO opérationnels, et achevés dans le pays en indiquant l'action consécutive aux projets achevés. Une telle mesure nous paraît essentielle pour renforcer la concertation entre les aides et éviter les risques des doubles emplois.

En conclusion, je tiens à féliciter les auteurs de ce rapport d'évaluation qui justifie à posteriori la confiance que le Gouvernement français a toujours apportée à ce programme.

Robert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, the documents we have before us, CL 88/8 and CL 88/INF/10, have been prepared in a qualified manner and provide a good review of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We are aware of the fact that the implementation of the main purpose of TCP to raise food production and to enable it to meet more effectively unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs of FAO member countries, especially developing countries, is not easy. In paragraph F of the document CL 88/8, which we fully support, the burden of external debt in many developing countries, increasing resources problems, the duration of the terms of trade, inflation and many others are mentioned. There are very serious global problems. In the document the term "vicious circle" is used in this connection TCP cannot of course sort out them, but it has been able to create better conditions and contribute to their successful resolution. TCP has better served the developing countries by mobilizing their technical cooperation and other facilities.

On pages 9 and 10 of the document CL 88/8 and other pages, great attention has been paid to the role of experts. We support it because during both the preparation and implementation of each project activity they play a very important, maybe decisive role. We think it is necessary to take into account the financial limits significance of this Programme, but in the same way not to overestimate its possibilities.

We support the intention of Mr. Director-General not to increase in any significant manner the TCP share of the Regular Programme, nor to broaden its terms of reference, and to allocate 18.5 million dollars for this programme entirely covered through savings in the Programme of Work and Budget and resulting from major cuts in new cost administration.

Marne Balla SY (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, le document CL 88/8, brillamment introduit par M. Lignon et le Président du Comité du Programme, est assurément l'un des points de l'ordre du jour de nos travaux qui devrait, du point de vue de ma déléation, retenir notre plus grande attention. Cela pour des raisons très simples que je souhaiterais, avec votre permission, rappeler brièvement.

D'abord, le PCT, en dix ans a fait ses preuves et s'est révélé un moyen de coopération capable de répondre, dans des délais relativement brefs, à des situations d'urgence.

Ensuite, le PCT apparaît incontestablement comme un modèle d'assurance technique qui s'efforce de tenir largement compte des besoins réels des pays bénéficiaires, tout en fournissant la participation effective de ces derniers à la conception et à la réalisation des projets retenus.

Enfin, le PCT vise essentiellement des projets ponctuels à court et moyen terme concernant des secteurs économiques prioritaires.

Toutes ces considérations sont suffisamment corroborées par les conclusions de l'évaluation de ce programme dont nous sommes saisis.

A propos de cette évaluation, l'on se félicite qu'elle ait été réalisée par experts indépendants, ce qui témoigne de sa fiabilité. Bien sûr, certains soutiennent que cette évaluation gagnerait à l'avenir à être réalisée par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies. Cette remarque qui, je l'espère, ne cache d'autre intention que celle de garantir plus de neutralité à l'appréciation du PCT, ne diminue pas néanmoins la valeur technique de l'étude réalisée par des cadres sérieux, rigoureux et compétents. A ces derniers, je voudrais rendre un hommage mérité et me féliciter de leurs efforts.

A la lumière de tout ce qui précède, vous comprendrez que la délégation sénégalaise donne tout son appui au PCT et souscrit aux recommandations faites dans le document CL 88/8. Je pense particulièrement à ses paragraphes 93, 94 et 95, encore que l'alinéa b) de ce dernier article mérite d'être revu dans un sens plus souple.

La délégation sénégalaise souhaite également l'élargissement de l'autonomie des représentants de la FAO et l'élévation du plafond du coût des projets financés par le PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars. Cette dernière recommandation semble plus être un réajustement rendu nécessaire par des considérations inflationnistes qu'une seule augmentation des ressources affectées à ce programme. Il s'y ajoute que l'Afrique, le principal bénéficiaire, se trouve dans une situation d'urgence généralisée et croissante. Les nouvelles dispositions, si elles étaient adoptées, permettraient de renforcer les projets multinationaux et régionaux et de stimuler une coopération plus dynamique entre pays en voie de développement.

En conclusion, je reste persuadé qu'aucun pays ne remettra en cause l'efficacité et l'utilité du PCT, les observations formulées ici devant être considérées comme une volonté d'aider à l'amélioration du fonctionnement de ce précieux outil, de manière à lui donner plus de moyens et à le rendre davantage efficace.

Hermann REDL (Austria): Owing to your request Mr. Chairman and to the late time I shall try to be very brief. We also believe that TCP should give quick assistance to developing countries in the future by means of small projects which are aimed at raising food production. We fully share the opinion that TCP should maintain its unprogrammed nature, practical orientation, flexibility and speed. During the last years there was a worldwide increase in prices. We support the proposal that the present ceiling should be raised to 400 000 US dollars and that a new category of projects should be created. We further believe that the use of nationals should be increased.

Finally we would underline that we fully support this very important Programme of FAO and we look forward to the discussions in the course of the Conference.

HIDAYAT GANDA ATMADJA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, the Technical Cooperation Programme which was initiated by the Director-General in 1976 has proved it is of tangible benefit for the developing countries. Indonesia has experienced a number of seed funds from technical cooperation projects which generated further programmes and projects financed by other sources. My delegation therefore also appreciates the amount of funds allocated to technical cooperation which has in fact increased from time to time, although we all know that FAO budget reflects zero growth in several biennium, and more importantly, the extent of recent progress and constructive proposals made by the Director-General for further strengthening the finer role of technical cooperation in the agricultural development of the developing countries. In particular Mr Chairman my delegation fully supports the increase of the Technical Cooperation Programme ceiling level from 250 000 US dollars to 400 000 US dollars, and the proposal to enable the technical cooperation sources to finance the promotion to TCDC inter-country programmes as expressed in paragraph 94 a) and 94 b).

My delegation would like to concur with remarks by the distinguished delegates of Malaysia and India that the increase in standard costs of consultants, equipment, etc. and the expansion of technical cooperation to the inter-country programmes of TCDC would increase the fund required. In the case of the promotion of TCDC programmes, my delegation would be happy to see that the TCP fund also strengthen support for the promotion of the utilization of local expertise available in recipient countries to maximize the efficient use of the technical cooperation fund.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos llegando al final de un debate que ha sido en ciertos aspectos desconcertante y que se ha caracterizado por las declaraciones de algunos delegados faltas de sinceridad. Decimos esto porque consideramos que no es serio ni coherente que algunas delegaciones reconozcan la popularidad, la validez del PCT que funciona con un mínimo de burocracia, la utilidad, la flexibilidad del PCT, anunciando que no van a asumir actitudes negativas, y humildemente tan solo proponen el fin, la desaparición, la muerte del PCT.

En efecto, si el PCT dependiera de contribuciones voluntarias o de sumas no gastadas, de hecho perdería la base misma de su existencia segura al precipitarse en la incertidumbre y al hacerle víctima de presiones políticas que no le permitirían cumplir sus fines con la transparencia y eficacia de hoy.

Nos oponemos a la creación de cualquier ventanilla luguere, siniestra, o técnica como se le quiera llamar; ventanilla que debe estar alimentada por la caridad porque a través de semejante cambio no encontraríamos los tres pies al gato, como dijo un delegado, sino que el PCT quedaría sin uno ni mil pies, caería en el vacío y se afectarían sus aspectos principales.

Se ha dicho que el PCT empezó con carácter experimental y por lo tanto no debe seguirse fortaleciendo. Creemos que es un criterio peregrino concebido en el limbo, porque justamente el resultado plenamente positivo de esa experiencia, comprobado en esta nueva evaluación, justifica todas estas propuestas. Afirman que es difícil controlar la ejecución del PCT. Entonces, ¿a qué sirve esta evaluación? ¿Acaso los representantes de esos gobiernos se consideran propietarios omnímodos de la cooperación internacional dentro de la cual todo programa deba estar sometido al solo y exclusivo control de sus gobiernos? ¿Es ésta otra intención de desvirtuar el verdadero sentido de la cooperación internacional?

Se ha dicho que falta información. ¿Es que acaso no les bastan las 124 páginas del documento CL 88/INF/10? ¿Desean ellos que sus países participen en la ejecución de los proyectos? Bienvenidos. Ellos tienen recursos. Que organicen misiones y que vayan a visitar a nuestros países para que allá, los funcionarios de nuestros gobiernos les confirmen la validez del PCT.

Hablan de evaluaciones más frecuentes, y son justamente aquellos países que insisten de este modo quienes se oponen al aumento de los gastos. No queremos que el PCT sea evaluado por la DCI, con la cual tenemos ingratas experiencias. Se ha hablado de universidades. ¿Es que acaso se pretende descalificar la competencia y seriedad de tres consultores externos, respetables, independientes y competentes?

Podríamos seguir, si no fuera tan tarde, enumerando una serie de hechos pero vamos a concluir sólo con dos referencias a la obsesión con que ciertos países se oponen sistemáticamente al PCT.

Uno de ellos ha dicho, ¿por qué es la primera vez que se evalúa el PCT? ¿Pretende ahora en retrospectiva dissociarse de la resolución 1/74 que aprobó en noviembre de 1978 el Consejo, del cual ha sido permanente miembro ese país? Otro miembro del Consejo descalificó públicamente a la Jefe de su propia delegación quien, en representación del gobierno de ese Estado, en el Comité del Programa, como afirmó el presidente, apoyó el aumento del límite de los cuatrocientos mil dólares; ahora ese miembro del Consejo se opone aquí a ese aumento que fue aprobado, repito, por la Jefe de su delegación en el Comité del Programa.

Pero es muy tarde, señor Presidente. Vamos a colaborar con usted. No queremos que este debate concluya con una nota desapacible y por tanto apoyamos todas las propuestas sobre el PCT.

Sra. Dona Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela quiere sencillamente expresar su pleno apoyo al documento que estamos estudiando ahorrándoles a ustedes todos los elogios que ya abundantemente han hecho los delegados que me precedieron en el uso de la palabra. Y queremos apoyarlo para que el PCT pueda continuar cumpliendo la útil labor que realiza en beneficio de los países más necesitados, en nuestro continente y en otros continentes.

Nosotros queremos también expresar precisamente nuestro apoyo a las propuestas, medidas tomadas y que podrán tomarse, que se enumeran en el párrafo 93 así como estamos también por la aceptación de las medidas propuestas en el párrafo 94.

Sólo queremos hacer una salvedad en cuanto al apartado (b) del párrafo 95 en el cual estamos de acuerdo con las observaciones hechas por los delegados de la India y del Senegal, esperando que de ser mejor estudiadas puedan ser por lo menos tomadas en cuenta nuestras reservas.

Por lo demás, creo así cumplir el deseo expresado por nuestra delegación de apoyar absolutamente todos los demás puntos contenidos en el Informe que estudiamos.

H. M. MBALE (Malawi): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the support other delegations have given to the TCP. This is one of the most important programmes of FAO and as such should be given full support by all of us.

I also wish to support the proposed increase in TCP projects from US \$250 000 to US\$400 000, because this does not necessarily mean that all projects will be at the higher figure, but rather that that amount would be the maximum for the projects which are being put forward for consideration by FAO.

I believe, too, that the timing of the evaluation was most convenient, considering the fact that the programme has been operating for nine years. I hope we will continue to have this kind of arrangement so we can be sure that TCP is able to fulfil the ideals that were the basis of its establishment.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): Although I requested another opportunity to speak a long time ago thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. I realize it is very late in the day, and I will try to be very brief.

We have the highest regard for the distinguished delegate of Canada, but are a little bit concerned at some of the observations made this afternoon. We have always admired him for his wisdom, sagacity, frankness, maturity and capability. Perhaps it is inconceivable to call the TCP a gas station on the Via Cristoforo Colombo, but we more than agree with him. We think our founding fathers, perhaps, conceived FAO as a "gas station" or a "power house" to muster help and assistance in eradicating hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty from this dismal world of ours. The entire FAO technical and economic programme should serve as a universal "gas station" to serve the immediate needs of the poor countries.

We appreciate what the distinguished delegate of India said a while ago about our differing perceptions of emergency. As perhaps all of us present here see it, an emergency is not essentially an earthquake, an epidemic, a hurricane, or a ravaging flood. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition is not only a continuing state of emergency, but a perpetual catastrophe. We would only be stating the whole truth if we said that the majority of the population of third world countries lives and dies in a state of continuing emergency. Ninety percent of the world population lives in the third world; only 20 percent of world income is generated there. According to one estimate, nearly 800 million people in the developing countries suffer from endemic malnourishment; more than one third of the children in the developing countries have no school to go to; two-thirds of the world population have no access to clean tap water. The predicament of the majority of the population in the poor parts of the world is an emergency sufficient to merit FAO diverting its entire programme resources to the alleviation of poverty and hunger on a most urgent basis, perhaps, under the aegis of a useful programme conceived on a grand scale, such as TCP.

We wish to underline once again that the criteria for TCP assistance are not only well established but well tried, and have stood the test of time. Therefore, we wish to reiterate that TCP should not only be continued, but should be further strengthened to serve as a universal powerhouse to meet the urgent needs of the neediest countries.

Avraam LOUCA (Cyprus): We have already expressed in the morning session our assessment of the role and effectiveness of TCP. We have already stated that we are very pleased with its performance and the way it has been administered by the Director-General. We fully endorse the recommendation of the consultants that adequate resources should be made available to the Organization so that it can continue to meet the demands for the quick assistance of Member Nations within the strict application of TCP criteria.

With regard to the recommendation for raising the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project of US \$400, 000, although the result of the last evaluation indicates that a much lower figure represents the average for approved projects, we feel that the Director-General should be free to approve such projects should the need arise.

We also endorse the establishment of a new category (C) intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation. We further support the recommendation that interested governments should keep FAO informed of the availability of experts on TCDC activities to facilitate their release for potential TCP assignments, and that the recipient governments should consider the possibility of renouncing the formal practice of clearance for TCP experts and consultants for missions of up to three months' duration.

Finally, I would like to endorse the actions that have been taken, or are planned to be taken, as outlined in paragraph 93 of the document under review.

Raphaël RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Nous appuyons chaleureusement la présentation claire et pertinente du sujet faite par M. Lignon. La délégation de Madagascar félicite vivement le Directeur général d'avoir eu l'heureuse initiative de faire entreprendre l'évaluation experte du PCT. D'emblée nous tenons à faire part de nos sentiments à l'endroit du rapport de la mission d'évaluation. Ce rapport est tout simplement excellent, et mérite par conséquent toute notre attention et surtout toute notre confiance. Il démontre une fois de plus, si cela était encore nécessaire, le caractère exceptionnel du PCT et le fait que tous les pays et les gouvernements consultés à son sujet ont manifesté leur vive satisfaction. Pour notre part, nous connaissons parfaitement ce programme, car d'une part, nous en avons bénéficié sous diverses formes, et d'autre part, en notre qualité de membre du Comité financier, suite à des contacts fréquents et soutenus que nous avons eus avec les responsables de l'Organisation, ces derniers ont toujours fait montre d'une grande disponibilité à nous recevoir et à donner toute sorte de renseignements pouvant être sollicités. Nous sommes convaincus qu'une telle attitude est une règle de conduite du Secrétariat et quiconque, pourrait désirer des renseignements, des informations ou des éclaircissements, s'il fait l'effort de rencontrer les responsables compétents, il aura à coup sûr satisfaction.

A ce sujet, nous voudrions confirmer les précisions données par le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite quant à l'effort que le Secrétariat a fait pour donner tous les détails exigés par le Comité financier à sa dernière session. Nous nous étonnons donc que certains membres se plaignent de cette insuffisance de données. Il nous semble inutile de donner les preuves de l'efficacité du programme de coopération technique. Ces preuves figurent clairement dans le rapport. Il suffit de s'y reporter. Nous voudrions citer un exemple réel, vécu, qui démontre le caractère vraiment indispensable et salutaire du PCT pour nous, pays en développement. Dans les années 1981-1982, Madagascar a été menacée par une invasion généralisée de criquets migrateurs. Toute la province du sud de 160 000 km² a été la zone du départ des sauterelles. Le gouvernement a fait appel à la FAO, connaissant la capacité de cette Organisation dans la lutte contre le criquet. Dans la semaine qui a suivi la requête, un expert du Siège était sur le terrain et nous a aidés à élaborer le document du projet. En se servant du PCT, le Directeur général, en l'espace de deux mois a pu mobiliser les experts, nous faire parvenir les premiers produits de lutte, recycler le personnel de terrain et remettre en marche le matériel d'intervention. C'est ainsi que le pire a pu être évité

de justesse. Ce projet montre le caractère multidisciplinaire du PCT. Il le doit à son rattachement au programme ordinaire. Les experts de haut niveau de la mission d'évaluation dont les compétences n'ont jusqu'à présent pas été mises en cause, ont insisté sur le rattachement du PCT au programme ordinaire. Aussi, il ne nous paraît pas raisonnable de l'envisager autrement. En ce qui concerne le pourcentage du PCT par rapport au budget, on relève que le pourcentage était de 11 pour cent à l'origine et qu'il est actuellement de 13 pour cent. Donc, en l'espace de dix ans, il n'a progressé que de 2 pour cent alors que les demandes des pays ont triplé pendant la même période.

D'autres exemples pourraient être donnés mais le temps ne nous permet pas de nous étendre. Nous voudrions seulement préciser que les domaines d'activités qui figurent à la page 68 du rapport sont bien justifiés. A l'instar des autres pays en développement, nous avons nous aussi un peu souffert du plafond trop bas du PCT, car souvent, nous avons dû classer certains projets d'urgence dépassant 250 000 dollars. Aussi, il est vraiment indispensable de porter ce plafond à 400 000 dollars, et même peut-être, d'accepter la modulation de ce plafond comme l'a proposé le délégué du Congo. Enfin pour terminer, nous appuyons sans réserve les mesures proposées aux paragraphes 93, 94 et 95, notamment son alinéa.

Humberto CARRION McDONOUGH (Observador de Nicaragua): No deseo abusar de la paciencia de usted como Presidente del Consejo en este privilegio que tengo de hablar en este foro como observador. No necesito extenderme para apoyar las recomendaciones del Director General incluidas en el documento CL 88/8. Desde que nuestro Gobierno recibió la agenda de trabajo de este Consejo y los documentos que acabo de mencionar, nuestro deseo ha sido apoyar los párrafos 93, 94 y 95 del documento CL 88/8. Sobre este particular deseo recordar también el documento CL 88/4, Informe del 45° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa que se reunió en septiembre, y que en su tercera Parte bajo la voz: Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en los párrafos 2. 36 al 2. 44 hace una serie de comentarios favorables y acoge particularmente las medidas propuestas del Director General que están contenidas en el documento CL 88/8, párrafo 94. Me refiero al apoyo del Comité del Programa contenido en el párrafo 2. 41.

Asimismo el Informe del 56° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, de septiembre pasado, bajo la voz: Otros asuntos, también evaluó el PCT en sus párrafos 3. 83 a 3. 93 e igual recomendación hizo en sus párrafos 3. 92 de aumentar de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares el techo de cada proyecto por país.

Deseo también hacer un comentario adicional no contenido en los documentos mencionados, puesto que éstos son suficientemente amplios y claros, sino que a nadie escapa la necesidad de nuestro país de apoyar una propuesta como la contenida en los párrafos 93, apartados a), c), d), g) y h) y 94 debido a la situación en que se encuentra Nicaragua para poder obtener financiamiento y ayuda económica e incluso relaciones comerciales estables por la agresión de que somos víctimas.

Deseo recordar también lo que otros miembros ya han recalcado, y es la disminución existente en términos reales de la ayuda multilateral. En este sentido, repito Sr. Presidente, nuestra delegación apoya firmemente los párrafos 93, 94 y 95 del documento CL 88/8.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Observer for Libya) (original language Arabic): This programme enjoys our attention, and the consultants in their evaluation of the Programme have indicated its value for developing countries. Therefore we have to support this programme and we have to increase its funds. We also endorse the efforts of the consultants.

The Director-General has reiterated once more the significance that he attaches to this Programme and its importance for developing countries. We support the Director-General in all the proposals referred to in the document, especially in raising the ceilings for each project and in establishing a new category that encourages cooperation among developing countries. What is referred to in paragraph 94 (a) and (b) would facilitate and accelerate the implementation of the Programme and we endorse these arrangements.

SAHADOU BAWA (Observateur du Niger): Sachant que votre temps est très limité, je ne m'attarderai pas sur les questions de détail. La délégation du Niger voudrait se joindre aux nombreux orateurs qui l'ont précédée (je citerai en passant celle du camarade sénégalais) pour présenter ses vives félicitations quant à la qualité du document que nous a présenté M. Lignon. Ma délégation approuve avec chaleur et fermeté les propositions concernant le PCT qui sont le fruit d'un travail sérieux et qui font du PCT un outil précieux pour la FAO dans la poursuite de ses nobles objectifs.

Permettez-moi de vous rappeler que mon pays, membre de la FAO, appartient à cette frange névralgique de l'Afrique au sud du Sahara, appelée le Sahel, où les préoccupations demeurent encore la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Grâce au PCT notamment, la FAO cherche à mieux cerner la recherche de solutions à ces problèmes.

Vous avez sans doute lu l'interview que Son Excellence le Général de brigade Seyni Kountché, Chef d'Etat du Niger et Président en exercice du Comité interétats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, a accordée à la revue Cérès, numéro spécial du quarantième anniversaire, et qui disait, je cite: Le quarantième anniversaire me donne l'occasion de réaffirmer l'attachement du Niger et des peuples du Sahel aux objectifs fondamentaux que lui ont assignés ses fondateurs en 1945, fin de citation.

Voilà une des raisons essentielles qui me permet et qui permet à la délégation du Niger de soutenir vivement les propositions contenues dans le rapport du PCT dont nous avons pris bonne connaissance. De même, nous soutenons toute nouvelle initiative de nature à améliorer quantitativement le PCT et à accroître l'efficacité de la FAO.

C'est pourquoi, et pour en terminer, ma délégation voudrait saisir cette opportunité pour renouveler ses vives félicitations à l'équipe qui a réalisé cet excellent travail sur le PCT sous l'impulsion du Directeur général à qui nous rendons un vibrant hommage.

La délégation du Niger voudrait enfin remercier et encourager toutes les bonnes volontés qui aspirent au plaidoyer en faveur du relèvement du PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Observateur de l'Angola): Tout d'abord nous voulons féliciter le Secrétariat pour la présentation claire et précise du document soumis au Conseil. La délégation angolaise est d'avis que les projets PCT constituent pour les pays en développement une sorte de ballon d'oxygène dans des situations d'extrême urgence. Pour ce faire, ma délégation appuie tout effort d'augmentation du budget destiné à cette catégorie de projets, étant donné que beaucoup de projets PCT visent des actions immédiates susceptibles d'attirer des financements de sources diverses, en accord avec les résultats obtenus. Toute initiative du Directeur général de la FAO visant l'amélioration et l'efficacité de l'assistance au titre du PCT est pour mon pays la bienvenue. Ainsi ma délégation associe sa voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour donner son total appui à la nouvelle catégorie des projets PCT. En effet, les pays bénéficiaires de ces projets comprennent la nécessité de l'existence de tels projets. Cela étant, nous nous félicitons des consensus dégagés pour des discussions sur ces documents et nous soutenons les efforts de la FAO visant à la promotion de la TCDP et de la TCDE.

The meeting rose at 19. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 19 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 19. 00 horas

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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CL

CL 88/PV/5

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA
(6 November 1985)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours

M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence

de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09. 45 horas bajo la presidencia

de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 8. Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) (continued)
- 8. Evaluation du Programme de coopération technique (PCT) (suite)
- 8. Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) (continuación)

Abdul Wahab Naji Ismail AL-SAMURRAI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): I should like to start by saying how grateful we are to the Director-General for all the initiatives he has taken within this Programme to help developing countries, in particular by creating programmes which have made it possible to strengthen relations between Member Nations and the Organization. Strengthening these relations has extended to strengthening cooperation between developing countries. The Director-General himself has taken initiatives in this context which have made it possible for the organization to get closer to the needs of Member Nations and to meet those needs without increasing the funds allocated for this purpose and without overlapping with the activities of other organizations, while taking into account the necessary decentralization at the regional and country level. Quite clearly, the TCP, which we are reviewing now, is the best example of the Director-General's efforts in this field.

My delegation would also like to say a word of thanks to Mr Lignon for his presentation of this agenda item. I should also like to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the expert group which presented the evaluation of the TCP covering all TCP activities, and who also made some very constructive proposals. My delegation wishes the recommendations in the experts report, CL 88/8, in particular those contained between paragraphs 45 and 47, to be taken into consideration because the criteria indicated are reasonable. We also agree with paragraphs 93 to 95, inclusive, in regard to action to be taken by the Director-General in order to activate the Programme and to increase the ceiling from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. We also agree with the extension of the prerogatives of the country representatives.

Finally I should like to underline the importance of the technical assistance given, particularly to developing countries within the context of the TCP, and I should like to emphasize how necessary it is to ensure that TCP projects are followed up to ensure that the targets set are met in the long run.

In regard to the evaluation report, I should like to have this submitted to the Conference as well so that everyone can apprise themselves of the points included.

R. S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Tout d'abord, je voudrais, au terme de ce long débat, remercier les délégués qui ont tous, sans exception, apprécié la décision qu'a prise le Directeur général de procéder à cette évaluation, et tous, sans exception, ont reconnu le rôle irremplaçable du PCT qui a été créé à la suggestion du Directeur général en 1976. La plupart des délégations ont approuvé les recommandations contenues dans le rapport. Cependant, certaines d'entre elles n'ont pas cru pouvoir accepter ces propositions, notamment le réajustement du plafond des projets et la création d'une nouvelle catégorie. C'est en me référant à ces deux questions que je voudrais répondre aux objections et aux arguments qui ont été développés par ces délégués puisque, bien que ces arguments aient déjà reçu une réponse, lors de certaines des réunions du Comité des programmes et du Comité financier, en fait, je voudrais relever un certain nombre de contradictions qui existent dans cette argumentation.

Par exemple, lorsqu'une délégation souligne l'incapacité du PCT à réagir rapidement aux questions en matière d'urgence pour faire face à des situations imprévues, en même temps elle évoque la question des mécanismes de contrôle ou de contrôles préalables et supervisions, qui en fait n'aboutiront qu'à alourdir et retarder la capacité de réaction du Programme de coopération technique.

Je voudrais dire aussi que, parlant de l'urgence, on n'a pas approuvé de réajustements alors que s'il y a des cas où ce réajustement est particulièrement nécessaire, c'est bien dans le domaine de l'urgence. Notre point de vue c'est que la proposition d'ouvrir un second guichet est une reconnaissance, par là même, que les crédits du Programme de coopération technique sont insuffisants pour faire face aux demandes et par conséquent lorsqu'on s'aperçoit que le Programme de coopération technique, la part du Programme de coopération technique dans les programmes réguliers est passée en dix ans de 11 pour cent à 13 pour cent, on ne peut pas dire que les augmentations ont été considérables. Je pense que c'est un point important. D'autre part, la suggestion de recréer un second guichet par les fonds fiduciaires, qui sont donc par nature aléatoires, permettrait difficilement de faire face à des requêtes d'urgence, à des requêtes pour répondre à des situations imprévues, dans la mesure où la procédure d'utilisation des fonds fiduciaires comporte un certain nombre de contraintes ou de mécanismes et de procédures d'accords, qui ne permettraient pas de répondre rapidement à ces requêtes.

On a dit qu'il n'y avait pas de contrôle sur ce programme puisqu'il s'agissait d'un fonds non programmé. Il me semble qu'il convient là de regarder la situation d'un peu plus près et que la réalité est en fait bien différente. D'une part, il y a un certain nombre de critères qui ont été approuvés et qui sont bien définis. Je voudrais rappeler que les consultants extérieurs indépendants ont montré qu'ils étaient toujours respectés dans tous les cas. D'autre part, il y a des catégories qui sont aussi parfaitement définies. Enfin, l'ensemble des projets du programme de coopération technique qui fait partie du programme régulier de la FAO et une prolongation sur le terrain de l'action de la FAO, de la politique de la FAO, est en réalité, d'une certaine manière, le programme de coopération technique et l'application sur le terrain à une échelle très réduite mais c'est une application des politiques qui ont été approuvées par les organes directeurs de la FAO, et d'autre part, les comptes du Programme de coopération technique sont soumis régulièrement aux représentants des pays membres. Je pense que les informations qui sont livrées à ce sujet sont parfaitement claires et permettent de vérifier les mécanismes d'exécution et les contrôles de gestion du PCT. D'ailleurs il y a une terminologie bien définie qui a été établie par M. Shah et qui est disponible pour ceux que cela intéresserait. Je pense que lorsqu'on regarde de près le mécanisme du fonctionnement du programme de coopération technique, on s'aperçoit qu'il est extrêmement rigoureux et que la mise en oeuvre des projets va dans le sens de la mise en oeuvre des autres projets de développement à long terme, c'est-à-dire avec une mécanique très précise.

Enfin, je voudrais dire aussi, parce que cela a été signalé, qu'il a été noté que quelquefois il y avait du retard et que cela est très préjudiciable dans la fourniture d'équipements par le programme de coopération technique. Je voudrais dire au sujet des équipements qui sont fournis par les pays qui sont capables de les fournir, c'est-à-dire en général les pays développés, que bien souvent une partie de ces retards viennent de l'incapacité dans laquelle se trouvent des firmes auxquelles on s'adresse, de respecter toujours les délais de livraison. En ce qui concerne la Catégorie C, c'est-à-dire les projets qui s'appliquent à des programmes d'interpays, qui servent à promouvoir la coopération technique entre pays en développement, il me semble que ces projets présentent une importance de plus en plus grande. Le rapport des consultants le souligne et la tendance du PCT d'être un promoteur de la coopération technique entre pays en développement est de plus en plus claire. Alors, est-ce que l'on a dit qu'il était possible que ces programmes de coopération technique entre pays en développement ne relèvent pas de l'urgence? Je crois que là encore il y a des urgences liées à des catastrophes mais il y a des urgences liées à des actions qui n'ont pas été réputées d'"urgence" à l'avance mais qui prennent un caractère d'urgence compte tenu de la situation. Je crois que dans ce domaine il est important d'identifier le rôle que peut jouer le PCT dans ce domaine de la coopération technique entre pays en développement et dans la dimension des crédits qui sont affectés à cette intervention. Je dois dire aussi que les programmes interrégionaux ou interpays du PNUD ne constituent pas une part très importante des activités du PNUD et ont peut-être une place de plus en plus faible et que le programme de coopération technique peut jouer là un rôle particulièrement éminent.

J'ai répondu très brièvement aux principales questions qui ont été posées et je voudrais une fois encore rappeler que, alors qu'on reconnaît le caractère irremplaçable de la souplesse et de l'efficacité du programme de coopération technique, je pense que les mesures qui ont été proposées n'ont pour but et pour essence même que de renforcer cette souplesse et cette flexibilité.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): We have not requested the floor to discuss the TCP any further. We have expressed our views on that point, but we hoped for better procedural guidance. My delegation is unclear about exactly what this Council is being asked to do at this time. You will recall that in our intervention, we said that it was our understanding that we had to make our views completely known here because our reading of document CL 88/8 was that the Council was being asked to make a decision. We understood from the interventions of other delegations that they did not have that understanding, and we note that the provisional agenda states that this question is for discussion. So, we are not clear whether the Council will consider this question further at another session. It was our understanding that it is not on the agenda of the Conference. So, if you can give us a bit of clarification, we will appreciate it.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos sorprende siempre esta insistencia negativa por parte del país cuya representante en el Comité del Programa ofreció su apoyo unánime a las propuestas de este Informe de Evaluación. Creemos que la situación es muy clara y debe tranquilizar a nuestro colega de Estados Unidos. En la Comisión II de la Conferencia, se discutirá el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en cuyo Capítulo IV está comprendido el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, Luego, el segundo tema de la Comisión II será la revisión del Programa Ordinario, y en esa ocasión, la Comisión II dispondrá del extracto del Informe del Consejo sobre este punto.

De manera que puedo asegurarle al colega de los Estados Unidos que tendrá muchísimas ocasiones para que él siga oponiéndose a la voluntad de 125 Estados Miembros que están plenamente satisfechos con el PCT.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Leaving aside what might or might not happen at the Conference, the evaluation of the TCP and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom are matters before this Council and as indicated clearly at the end of the document CL 88/8, certain measures have already been taken and certain measures are now proposed by the Director-General to the Council for the Council's decision. I refer in particular to paragraph 94(a) and (b) on page 19 of the French text, where he asked specifically for the authorization of the Council to increase the permissible maximum for projects from US\$250 000 to 400 000 and for the creation of a new category of projects. So, these are the matters which the Director-General has asked Council to take a decision on today.

He also suggests to the Council that it may wish to address two other recommendations to member governments and that it can also make a decision, if it wishes, on those two recommendations to member governments. So, in effect there are four recommendations here on which the Council is asked to take a decision today.

With your permission I would like to come back with some general comments at the end.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I am not asking to intervene on behalf of these technical questions that have been very clearly, and I think properly, outlined by our representative here. I would like to comment just a word on the remarks of my dear friend and colleague from Colombia who mentioned my activities, feelings and opinions. He is absolutely right, I thought the evaluation document was extremely interesting, well prepared and a fine piece of work, and outlined, I think what all of us feel, that these programmes are very useful and helpful, as well as popular. In the Programme Committee at the time, however, I have repeatedly stated my Government's position, I think faithfully, I hope faithfully and accurately. We cannot approve the increase in the budget, and the fact that this excellent Programme rests on the assessed budget is a matter of regret to us. We feel that it could well manage with trust funds, popular as it is, and with everybody wishing to see it implemented. Those reservations appear thanks to our very careful and fair Chairman in the Programme Committee. Those reservations of my Government appear in the text.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I will be very brief. I have listened With great interest to the arguments on the part of some of my distinguished friends against the proposed increase in ceiling and the insertion of a new category, based, as I realized, on the fear that it might lead to an increase in the average rate of TCP projects, a slight departure from the original concept of TCP. I am not going to offer any comment because such views were not expressed in the Programme Committee, but I am obliged to draw the attention of the Council to the totally opposite, a one-hundred percent diametrically opposite, fear that was expressed in the Programme Committee. Even before the evaluation report, the Committee was very well aware of the declining tendency in the average size of TCP projects, even in monetary terms. If you look at Table 1 you will see that this table gives a certain annual situation resulting from the large share of emergencies. Despite this, however, it is quite clear that the tendency in monetary terms is on the decline. In the Programme Committee we raised this issue, because we perceived the fear that further decreases in average size and average value might be counter-productive. We did not include this issue in our report, but it was very clearly mentioned in our normal dialogue with the Secretariat. I wanted just to inform the Council that the Programme Committee was aware of this, and feared that the reverse danger might become legitimate. On this basis we did not see any grounds to fear that increasing the ceiling and the insertion of a new category might lead to a departure from the original concept. On the contrary, we very clearly mentioned to the Secretariat that the declining tendency, at least in monetary terms, of the average size of TCP projects should not be allowed to continue.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not want to hold you up, but I think in view of the importance of the subject and the intensity of the debate, I should make a few general remarks. It has been a remarkably intense and comprehensive debate which shows great interest in the Technical Cooperation Programme, not because of the differences expressed, but because of the remarkable consensus on the basic concept and value of the Programme. There are some exceptions, as we have heard, about certain points, but generally speaking I cannot think of another Programme in the United Nations System which is so free of controversy regarding the basic concepts, criteria, distribution, mode of operation and impact among groups of Member Nations, and I do not mean developed and developing, I mean among all groups of Member Nations. In other programmes there are differences, rivalries, competing interests, perhaps even between developing countries, but this is not the case here. I would like to note this because I think it is an exception, and a very significant exception, to the general rule about programmes of technical assistance, and the reasons for this, I think, are brought out in the report.

In that connection I would like to say I do recall that there was considerable controversy when the Programme was first proposed to an FAO Council in July 1976, and a lot of that concern stemmed from the worries at that time of UNDP. Here, I should like to stress that the justification and value of the TCP have been amply borne out by developments which have taken place since that time. I refer to the difficulties of the UNDP, the decline in funding of the UNDP for agricultural projects at any rate if not generally speaking, as well as by the difficulties experienced in certain trust funds at the present time. I think it is a splendid idea to add trust fund contributions to the TCP-but to add funds, not to take them away-keeping in mind, however, that such trust funds are unlikely to be forthcoming from a generality of donors or in any large amounts. We only have to look at the state of postharvest losses or seeds programmes or other programmes to see how many member countries are having difficulties, despite their good intentions, and how their interest in the programmes and in providing adequate trust funds for them are totally without controversy, even regarding the size of projects, or whatever.

So if there are difficulties there, there would obviously be difficulties here. But if any Member Nation would like to make an additional contribution to the TCP in addition to the Regular Programme budget, I think we would be delighted to try to find a way of accommodating them, even though there are difficulties as explained by Mr Lignon.

I mentioned UNDP, but not in contrast. The TCP is in no sense a competitor or rival to the UNDP or trust funds. It is complementary, and this is clearly shown by the vital role it has played over the years, especially in recent years, in saving a number of very good UNDP projects from premature extinction and destruction so that their potential could be realized with just small-scale short-term help from the TCP. It has played a critically important role, which I did

not find to receive much attention in the discussion today, possibly because of the shortage of time, but I would like to emphasize the role it has played in saving UNDP projects in agriculture at a time when this is so vital, particularly to African countries but to other countries as well. I could also mention, although I will not dwell on it, the positive role it has played in promoting additional investment in agricultural development.

The TCP is in no sense a substitute, a rival, a competitor, -it is a promoter, a catalyst, a support, and this has been one of its unique contributions in the necessity of coping with food and agricultural development problems.

It is not surprising that some concerns have been expressed during the debate, particularly from those nations which were in opposition to the TCP from its inception, but I think these concerns should be put into perspective. I should like to stress what an intensive and highly professional daily activity TCP is. Some delegates referred to the number of projects, and worked out the figure in terms of projects per day. I never see TCP projects myself, but I do see the people who are working themselves into bad health because of their intense activity in ensuring that TCP projects are approved quickly-but only if they meet the criteria and are good projects. This is a highly professional activity. It is not one that lends itself to "over-views" or whatever they may be called at the diplomatic level.

In this connection I would stress another general point. The TCP is, in fact, receiving more overview, more supervision, more control, more evaluation, more review than many other sectors of the budget which are larger in size. Take for example publications, or meetings -- I am not asking you to take more interest in publications or meetings-please don't get me wrong! I am just saying that more money is spent on their projects but far less attention is paid to them than to TCP, so I think that the question of review should be kept in perspective.

Another point on perspective I would make is, if you look at other programmes outside FAO-if you take the delegated responsibilities of UNDP representatives, I think you then get a better appreciation of the subject. I understand that those representatives have a limit of \$400 000 on each project. Consequently, the UNDP representative has more delegated authority without over-view than the Director-General or Mr Lignon on TCP. I need not refer to the WFP, which is a different kind of programme: but there I think one is thinking of delegated authority of millions, not hundreds of thousands, and in other organizations one sees the same.

I would like to keep in perspective the question of carry-over of funds from one biennium to another. This subject has come up repeatedly over the years and it has been a recurring subject in the Finance Committee-and I do sincerely hope that after two years in the Finance Committee I will have fully grasped the difference between obligations, commitments and expenditures. What I would like to say therefore on this subject is that the record of the TCP in performance and in delivery is remarkably good. Compared to the performance and delivery of virtually any other programme, multilateral, such as the Lomé Convention-I am not criticizing, just making a point of fact-or bilateral programmes-the rate of expenditure is very good, and the carry-over is really remarkably small under the circumstances.

Similarly, another point to keep in perspective is the question of the percentage of the budget occupied by the TCP. I have heard fears expressed that this is going to greatly increase, but the facts do not bear this out. The Director-General has always said that it is not his intention to increase the proportion of the TCP to the total on a continuing basis, and the facts confirm this. The proportion for 1986-87 is virtually the same as for the two previous biennia-if there are differences it is purely an arithmetical coincidence. If you take the proportion of the TCP to the total approved budget, the total approved budget has contained over the years very little in the way of programme increase. The main increases over the last few biennia for the Programme of Work and Budget have been in cost increases. The cost increases vary, from biennia to biennia; this time they are rather small in comparison to past biennia. Therefore the difference, or the percentage, of the TCP to the total budget is really a function of how much goes into the programme and how much goes in for cost increases, and is not a function of a policy of increasing the proportion, or anything like that. And the difference this time is virtually non-existent. So I think this can be kept in perspective, just as I would like to remind you again that there is no need for fear on this score. If the point is connected to the question of the provision in the Programme of Work and Budget of TCP, I suggest we leave that for the next item and for Conference, because it is an entirely different issue.

Lastly I come to the question of impact. One delegate raised the question of impact-they praised the evaluation report, but they said they would like to have seen more on impact. The evaluators did their best, but of course they were not dealing with large capital-intensive projects-they were dealing with very small technical assistance projects, and you cannot really make an assessment of impact for a project which costs \$60 000. The rat catcher either went and poisoned the rats, or a teacher went and trained 20 people, or 50 people, or he didn't: and to try to say what effect that had on the economy of the country, you can spend US\$400 000 in assessing the impact of a US\$60 000 project, if you try to do that.

That was the negative point. My positive point on this, however, is what we hear a lot these days, particularly during the Fortieth Anniversary, about the impact of the United Nations System. We hear criticisms of other organizations because the bulk of their expenditure is concentrated in the capital and not enough is being spent on the ground. Here in the TCP you have a programme which, par excellence, without reservation has its impact on the ground. How ironic is it then for the same Member Nations to say "we don't like this programme, we want less of it". You cannot criticize the Regular Programme for not using money on the ground, and then ask for the removal of the one element which in the last ten years has had the most tremendous impact in the most practical and uncontroversial way on developments in agriculture on the ground in individual countries. You could say "here is a project, it was started, then, it cost so much, and it finished-and this was the result, and the governments are satisfied". So I would ask everybody to recognize that this is a unique programme, which has achieved the objective of all. Member Nations-to have an immense impact on the ground.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. West for that clear contribution explaining the features of TCP.

It is now my turn to sum up what has been a long and very important debate on this subject. I would like you to listen carefully so that if I do not convey the main points, there will then of course be an opportunity in the Drafting Committee to clarify matters. First of all, let me thank the 36 Council members and 5 observers who have made very valuable contributions to this important debate-and of course my thanks go to Mr. Lignon, Mr. West and the Chairman and members of the Programme Committee for their very detailed explanations. Also the Programme Committee spent a lot of time, as was mentioned by the Chairman, in considering the evaluation report.

Secondly, there has been unanimous appreciation in the Council of the unique features of TCP and of its value, particularly in the context of the relevance of the programme to the needs of developing countries, and the timeliness of the response.

Thirdly, there is again unanimous appreciation in the Council of the Director-General's action in getting an evaluation of the work done under TCP since its inception in 1976 by an independent panel of three eminent experts.

Fourthly, the Council fully endorses the findings and conclusions of the evaluation team.

Fifthly, on the question of the operative part of CL 88/8, the proposals have been divided into three groups of actions: firstly, with regard to paragraph 93 of that document, the Council endorses and welcomes the action already taken or planned by the Director-General within his own authority. Next, the Council supports and approves the actions for which the Director-General is seeking authority from the Council under paragraph 94. The two sub-components proposed for the approval of the Council in paragraph 94 of CL 88/8 are: "(a) Raising the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. (b) Establishment of a new category (C) for TCP projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation (ECDC/TCDC, research networks, twinning of institutions, etc.). "

In this context I think for the record I should summarize the position within the Council based on those who intervened on this item. Those members who have given total and enthusiastic support to the recommendations, contained in paragraph 94 are: Lebanon, Pakistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Panama, Cuba, China, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Egypt, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Saudi Arabia, Congo, Mexico-who also spoke on behalf of the Group of 77-Argentina, Rwanda, France, Czechoslovakia, Senegal, Austria, Indonesia, Colombia, Venezuela, Malawi,

Cyprus and Iraq. Those who have expressed different kinds of reservations are Canada, United States of America, Japan, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany and Australia. Among the Observers, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Libya, Niger and Angola have extended full support to the action for which the Director-General is seeking the authority of the Council.

Finally, paragraph 95 is the only operative part of CL 88/8, i. e., the recommendations of which the Council might wish to address to the FAO member countries, I find that there is divergence of opinion and it is my conclusion that the Council would prefer the wordings contained in paragraphs 2.42 and 2.43 of the Programme Committee's report, i. e., the report of the Forty-ninth Session of the Programme Committee, document CL 88/4. I would like to read it out so that there is no ambiguity as to what we are recommending in lieu of paragraph 95. Paragraph 2.42: With regard to the recommendations which the Council might wish to address to their FAO member countries, the Committee supported the idea that governments of developing countries wishing to engage in TCDC activities be asked to keep the Organization informed of the availability and experience of qualified experts and consultants and facilitate their prompt release for TCP assignments.

Paragraph 2.43: "Concerning the clearance of TCP experts and consultants for assignments of three months or less, the Committee recognized that in keeping with the emergency nature of TCP assistance, governments needed to take appropriate measures to reduce the time required for certain actions, It recommended to the Council to urge all governments concerned to take steps towards this end". I think the majority of members would like this formulation rather than what is proposed in paragraph 95 of document CL 88/8.

I would like to conclude my summing up by saying that almost all members are happy that this evaluation was undertaken. They would like to periodically see such evaluations in order to satisfy ourselves of the impact and value of this very important programme. Many members felt that the procedure adopted by the Director-General in commissioning a panel of independent experts has been very appropriate, while a few felt that the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations would be the appropriate agency to undertake such periodical evaluations.

This I think concludes the important points made during the debate. I want to thank you all very much for this comprehensive and very useful debate on this important item,

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I am afraid I may have missed something. I appreciate your summing up and quite agree with it. Were conclusions or decisions reached?

CHAIRMAN: The decisions are that we approve the action proposed. The Director-General had, as Mr West also explained, wanted our recommendation particularly on the two proposals under paragraph 94 of CL 88/8, and the Council agrees with these requests of the Director-General, and I also indicated for the purposes of the record those members who had reservations and those who had not, because normally we make our decisions by majority.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): Chairman, a point of clarification please as to how the Council reaches its decision. Now, regarding the countries that you have mentioned who accepted, or refused, or expressed reservations on the Technical Cooperation Programme, we know that many countries have not expressed their opinions regarding any project. This does not mean that they are silent or inactive compared to countries that have spoken, but simply that they did not have the opportunity, for example, to express their opinions. I do not really get the total image. Is this interpretation correct?

CHAIRMAN: As far as I am concerned it is correct since those who have not spoken have endorsed and given their support. You have given your support. Thank you.

6. Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides
6. Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides
6. Código de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas

CHAIRMAN: Now we go on to item 6 of the agenda-Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides. You will recall that we deferred this item at the request of the Director-General. We have two papers for this item, C 85/25-International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and I would also like you to look at CL 88/INF/12-International Code of Conduct on the Distribution of Pesticides, a communication received by the Director-General from the President of the Council of the European Community. Dr L. Brader will introduce this item.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): In the Eighty-seventh Session the Council extensively discussed the Draft Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and prepared a Draft Resolution for the Conference on the adoption of the Code. While doing so the Council noted in paragraph 123 of the report of the session and I quote "The Council gave broad general acceptance to the draft Code as submitted to it and decided to transmit it to the Conference. A number of amendments were, however, proposed by various members and recommended to the Director-General for consideration to the extent that the amendments would lead to further clarification and improvement, and not weaken the substance before the final version of the Code was considered by the Conference...".

Consequently, the Director-General has carefully considered the various comments made by the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council and a slightly revised text, which is contained in document C 85/25, has been prepared. I would like to bring to your attention some of the changes included in this latest draft. They are the following:

In Article 1. 1 the word "voluntary" has been added before "standards of conduct". In Article 1. 2, second line, after "governments" the words "individually or in regional groupings" have been added. This is to cover the situation in which regional groupings can take specific action on behalf of member governments, such as is the case for EEC.

In paragraph 1. 6 we have a slight editorial change.

Article 2 on definitions, there are some editorial changes but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that under the definition of "Extension Service" after "entities" the words "of governments" have been replaced by "in the country concerned" because non-governments or institutions may also be involved in extension activities. And under the definition of "Registration" we have added the words "or animal" between "human health", so it now reads "human and/or animal health".

Article 4. 1 which deals with the testing of pesticides has been slightly modified. I would call that an editorial change.

In Article 8 dealing with the distribution and trade of pesticides, under Article 8. 1. 4 the words "technical grade" have been dropped before "pesticides", and this widens the scope of the article. In Article 8. 5 we have a slight editorial change at the end of this paragraph.

In Article 9. 1 dealing with information exchange, a reference has been added so as to make sure that attention is being paid to the UNEP provisional notification scheme for banned and severely restricted chemicals. Then Article 9. 6 on which there was very intensive discussion in the last Council session, this Article is now ending with the words "the information should be provided prior to export", and the various provisos which provided excuses for not doing so have been dropped. In addition the words "in-so-far as possible" in the middle of the last sentence have been deleted, and this strengthens the article.

In Article 12. 3 we have a slight editorial change, but Article 12. 7 has been extended with the words "The Code should be considered as a dynamic text which must be brought up-to-date as required, taking into account technical, economic and social progress".

All these changes have been included in the Draft which is before you.

Yesterday morning the Director-General received a telex from the President of the Council of the European Community and from the President of the Commission stressing the overall importance of the Code. However, in this telex it is also requested that a further change be introduced in the text, and as the Chairman announced, this text is available for you in document CL 88/INF/12. The change requested concerns Article 1. 2 where it is suggested to add the following sentence at the end of Article 1. 2 which deals with this matter. The Code describes the shared responsibility of many segments of society etc. It is suggested to add to that Article 1. 2, "To this end all reference in this Code to the government or governments shall be deemed to apply equally to the European Economic Community for matters falling within this area of competence. " This was the requested change from the EEC. The Director-General considers that in a code of global significance, no specific reference should be made to a certain regional grouping of states, but he also considers that a proposed addition could probably be acceptable if the words "European Economic Community" were replaced by "regional groupings of governments". In this sense it would strengthen the Code as it would also refer to the participation of the existing inter-governmental regional plant protection organization in the implementation of the Code. However, before taking any steps on this the Director-General would like to hear the opinion of the Council.

The Director-General considers that the changes already included in the Draft contained in document CL 85/25 are in line with the above mentioned recommendation of the last Council meeting, and do indeed lead to further clarification and improvement of the Code. Moreover, the amendment in paragraph 12. 7 stresses the dynamic character of the Code, and therefore allows us to up-date it in light of the experience gained during its implementation.

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): We would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr Brader for his comprehensive introduction, spelling out certain changes which have been included on the basis of our discussion in the last meeting of the Council. My only problem was that he was speaking a little too fast. I was not able to incorporate all the changes, or even to take note of all of the changes made in this draft against what was presented at the last meeting of the Council. Nevertheless, we feel that the efforts of the Organization and the Director-General to have this Code finalized is a very important step, particularly in an environment where the use of pesticides for increasing agricultural production has become a must. By their very nature, these pesticides are all poisons of varying toxicity; they are hazards, and they are all dangerous. Since they have to be used in developing countries, some of which may not have any infrastructure for appropriate evaluation and registration, this Code would provide some kind of framework for taking steps in the direction of more informed and judicious use of pesticides.

In the developing countries there is a very mixed picture. The use of pesticides is fairly low, or even non-existent in certain areas, but again within the same countries there is a different picture. Whereas certain crops do not receive any applications of pesticides, others, particularly commercial crops, are subjected to very heavy pesticide applications, and at times there is much wasteful use of pesticides. In my own country we have an extensive Code, but still I have seen 15 to 20 lots of pesticides being applied. In some cases the farmers do not know that too many applications are not so beneficial. They have been led to believe that the more pesticides they use the better their crops will be. So any extension of education to the farmers and to the users of pesticides is a step in the right direction.

Having made these introductory remarks, I would like to refer to the recent change proposed in the recommendation of the European Economic Community in Article 1. 2 where it is intended to say that any reference to government or governments is intended to be applied to the EEC within its overall competence. We feel that while the Code should have the widest coverage, it should apply to as many institutions, individuals and agencies as possible to make it more effective. We have certain problems in identifying one economic grouping, and there may be others, and to that extent the suggestion of the Director-General that this should include all regional groupings is welcomed. But we are apprehensive as to whether this is not an excuse to dilute the responsibilities of the governments. Whether we include these words or not, it should be clearly understood that ultimately it is the responsibility of national governments to ensure that where

pesticides are used, appropriate control measures and education extension activities will continue to be the responsibility of the national authority and to that extent their responsibility should not be diluted.

In our country, we have an elaborate system of pesticide registration and evaluation, and also laboratories, but with the level of general education being fairly low, the infrastructure being weak, and with the level of awareness of the farmers being what it is, we have had many instances of the wrong use of pesticides, with tragic consequences therefrom.

We are particularly concerned about the import and the manufacture of pesticides by multinational and transnational companies in developing countries. There are some ideas in Articles 5 and 9 of the Code of Conduct which deal with this problem. Particularly I would mention Article 5. 5 which says: "In establishing production facilities in developing countries manufacturers and governments should cooperate... to adopt engineering standards and safe operating practices appropriate to the nature of the manufacturing operations and the hazards involved." We know that this is a kind of compromise and would have not wished for the working to be different in order to provide that the same rigorous engineering standards and precautions as are enforced in the manufacturing process in developing countries are applicable in the home countries where there may be similar pesticides. However, certain people have difficulties. There is a lack of will. If I go a step further, there is a lack of understanding of the value of the human lives and human health in developing countries, and perhaps it is thought these lives are slightly cheaper than lives in the developed and richer countries. This we cannot agree to.

With regard to the export of pesticides, I refer to Article 8. 1. 4 which says that industry "should undertake to see that pesticides which are manufactured for export are subject to the same quality requirements and standards as those applied by the manufacturer to comparable domestic products". Again, the use of the word "comparable" considerably weakens the text. However, as I said earlier, it is better to have something rather than nothing; best should not become the enemy of good. Since we feel this is a step in the right direction we think we have to live with this.

With regard to Article 9, Information Exchange, this Article borrows a number of ideas from a UNEP expert consultation held on FAO premises in December last year. If I may remind members of Council, that expert consultation was a lop-sided affair. Developing countries were very poorly represented and it was more or less a show of pesticide exporters. To that extent, whatever has been borrowed from the proceedings of that consultation is more or less one-sided.

Take, for example, Article 9. 1. All along we have insisted it should be the responsibility of the national government in exporting countries to inform the country which is importing pesticides about the various hazards involved, about technical data, and anything else. But even then, this Article now reads:

"The Government of a pesticide exporting country which takes action to ban or severely restrict use of handling of a pesticide in order to protect health or the environment domestically should notify directly or indirectly" and I emphasize the word "indirectly"; we still do not know what is intended to be conveyed by this. The national government of the exporting country is trying to avoid its responsibility and is perhaps expecting the multinational companies to do this work on their behalf-and the record of the multinational companies in the pesticide sector is too well known to inspire any faith. The use of this word "indirectly" causes us much concern.

In Article 9. 6 we have insisted all along that we must ensure that the importing country has advance information of the likely export of pesticides from a manufacturing or exporting country. But in Article 9. 6 all we have is:

"It is the intention that the information should be provided prior to export".

We have emphasized perhaps 50 times that we have a situation in this document where this is non-binding and voluntary; it is a kind of guideline, and advice. Even in this context of a voluntary activity, people are not willing to put this in. They want exemptions. This is our feeling about the draft. But as I said at the beginning, we have to accept it as a first step in the right direction. To that extent we wholeheartedly support this initiative of the Organization and the Director-General, and commend this Code to the Conference for acceptance.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier, au nom de la délégation du Liban, le Docteur Brader pour la présentation rapide mais claire du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Il faut noter tout de même que le Docteur Brader nous a fait cette présentation à une allure très rapide, ce qui ne nous a pas permis de prendre note de tous les amendements apportés au Code en question. Vous vous souvenez peut-être que le Conseil avait déjà discuté, au cours de la dernière session (la quatre-vingt-septième session), ainsi que le Comité de l'agriculture au cours de la dix-huitième session, de ce Code international de conduite et qu'il a été tenu compte de tous les points de vue des pays membres des organisations internationales et autres. Les consultations ont duré plus de trois années et le résultat de tout cela a permis au Directeur général, sur la base d'un certain nombre de propositions, d'apporter des amendements à ce Code international de conduite. De même, le Docteur Brader a fait actuellement référence à certains nouveaux amendements qui complètent ce Code international. Nous connaissons tous l'importance des pesticides pour l'augmentation de la production agricole et vivrière qui diminue de plus en plus d'année en année, vu l'augmentation de la population. C'est pour cela que ma délégation se voit dans l'obligation logique d'apporter son soutien et son appui à ce Code international tel qu'amendé pour le soumettre par la suite à la Conférence générale.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegates of India and Lebanon have said that they could not follow fully all the changes made by Dr Brader. Is it the desire of Council that we should ask him to repeat the changes more slowly? I feel it would have been useful if this had been in the hands of Council members so that they could see it, but now we have this text. Perhaps Dr Brader would go through it once again.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I went through these changes rather quickly. The only one of these changes which has not been included before is a last minute one which the Director-General received yesterday from the EEC. That is why I read that one out more slowly, but all the others are in the text, and this is now the draft we are working from. It might have been relevant to give the change and compare it to the earlier draft, but if we had done that, it would have been difficult to know how far back we should go. There have been so many changes and suggestions in the past that I felt I should spell out the most important. I will go through them briefly and more slowly in order not to get any more remarks that I have gone too swiftly.

First, we had in the last Council meeting a rather long discussion on Article 1 on the point should 'voluntary' be included again or not. It was agreed by all that the Code of Conduct was an outline of voluntary activities of the various parties involved and although the word 'voluntary' was in the introduction, it was felt important that it should be included in the body of the text of the Articles of the Code. It is for that reason that we have now included under paragraph 1. 1 the word 'voluntary' before 'standards of conduct'. So it is a voluntary set of standards of conduct.

We have in article 1. 2 at the specific request of the EEC included in the second line after 'governments' the words 'individually or in regional groupings'. We felt that satisfied the request made then by the EEC but, as you can see from the later request, they now want this to be a little more specific. So that is a change in Article 1. 2.

Then in Article 1. 6 there was an editorial change. First this article read in the first line after the comma 'with due regard to the laws of the country' and legally it is felt better to read 'within the context of national law', and that is why we changed it that way.

Then in the definitions there are some small editorial changes. For example, on the third definition 'Banned' the word 'regulatory' is changed for the word 'registration'. Regulatory is better because it has a wider scope and covers more activities, and here before 'registrations' in the second line we have added the word 'all', to cover all registrations, so that there can be no misunderstanding. Also in the third line under 'Banned' after the words 'equivalent action' the words 'for all users' has been added to make sure that this covers everything.

Then under 'Extension Service' the eighth definition dealt with in this paragraph, we have replaced the text which originally read 'Extension service means those entities of government', we have replaced those words by 'entities in the country concerned' to make sure that all extension activities can be used in this implementation.

Then to the end to these definitions we have a definition 'Pesticide Legislation. We have added that legislation should also cover storage, which was not in the original text. It was proposed by the Council.

Then six definitions later under 'Registration' we have made the article more complete to ensure that animal health is covered. So after 'human' the words 'or animal' have been included, so that it now reads, 'to human or animal health or the environment'.

We have no changes in Article 3 compared with the draft that was last before the Council.

In Article 4, Testing of Pesticides, 4. 1. 1, the last line originally read 'with regard to the various anticipated conditions in regions or countries where the proposed use would take place' and we have changed these words to 'in regions or countries of use' to make this article more practical.

Article 5 there have been no changes, Article 6 no changes, Article 7 no changes.

Article 8, 'Distribution and Trade' in paragraph 8. 1. 5 at the end we have added 'with the requirements of the host country' the word 'host' has been added, 'and of the parent company', so both these requirements should be taken into consideration. I think it makes it stronger. There are no further changes in Article 8.

Article 9, Information Exchange, we have added the specific reference. We had various comments in the last Council meeting that we should make reference in this article to the provisional notification scheme for banned and severely restricted chemicals. It was agreed at the end of the Council meeting last time that by adding this reference it would cover the point, and this is what has been done.

In paragraph 9. 6 on Information Exchange we have already had the comments of the delegate of India about the change there was to make the article more explicit, more direct. We dropped all the provisos. The last sentence has now become more straightforward: "It is the intention that the information should be provided prior to export". We feel this strengthens this article considerably and seems to satisfy most of the parties involved.

There are no further changes in Article 10. Article 11, no change.

Article 12, Monitoring the Observance of the Code, there is a small change to paragraph 12. 3, which in the second sentence now reads "irrespective of any of the party's ability to observe the Code". I call that: an editorial change.

Then an important issue which was brought up at the last Council meeting that everybody felt we could go on discussing this text eternally and at the next meeting there would be new ideas about it and then We would come up with changes and in the light of experience we would certainly have to update it. The proposal was to put in something like that it was a dynamic text, and that has been done at the end in 12. 7, where the sentence has been added "The Code should be considered as a dynamic text which must be brought up-to-date as required, taking into account technical, economic and social progress. "

Then, as I said at the end of my introduction, we have had this specific request from the European Economic Community to make this reference to groupings of countries more specific. It is now the suggestion of the Director-General that that could be accepted if we would add at the end of Article 1. 2 a new sentence which would then read: "To this end all reference in this Code to a government or governments shall be deemed to apply equally to regional groupings of governments for matters falling within their area of competence. "

As I said, on purpose the Director-General felt that we should not refer this only to the European Economic Community, because the code is a document of global importance and there are other regional groupings of governments, such as the Regional Plant Protection Organization in Latin America and in other areas, which could partly implement certain activities of the Code. That is why on purpose it is now proposed to replace the proposal of the EEC by changing "EEC" to "regional groupings of governments". I think that clarifies the changes.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation would like to join those who have spoken before us in thanking Dr Brader for his introduction of the subject.

My government has expressed previously its feeling that the use of monitoring in Article 12 of this proposed Code is not consistent with the explicitly voluntary nature of the Code. We have however studied this draft of the Code quite carefully and, given that the Code as a whole makes it plain that it is a voluntary instrument and that it shall be used in a voluntary manner, we are willing, with the changes that have been made, to support transmission of the Code as now presented to the Conference for adoption. We consider that the Code will benefit countries which lack the necessary regulatory infrastructure for the safe distribution and use of pesticides and therefore we think it is an important advance.

With your indulgence, Sir, I would like to add just a few more comments to the effect that the national experience of my country indicates that it is a very dangerous thing to differentially value human life. We therefore make every effort to avoid doing that in any instance and we certainly would not wish to do so when dealing with the distribution and use of pesticides. We feel, however, that the use and distribution of pesticides within a country should properly and best be regulated by that country's national law. We conceive of this Code as a new step toward a situation in which this will be the case with regard to all the countries which are members of this Organization and in the world. We regard it as a positive but an interim step because of its voluntary nature. We feel that it is necessary to enlist the cooperation of all parties involved in its observance. As I said, we consider that this Code in this current form is now a useful instrument and we are prepared to support its acceptance.

One additional point, my Government would be willing to agree to the addition of this other sentence as the Director-General has proposed that it be amended.

S. E. C. SHUMBA (Malawi): Malawi is in the final stages of the introduction of pesticide legislation. A draft legislation was submitted to the Attorney General for advice. The draft has since been returned and the suggested revisions are being discussed with all parties concerned. Malawi therefore supports the Code in principle, but the following amendments, changes and suggestions, etc. should be considered by Council.

In Article 2 in the definition of "Residue" there should be a broader meaning so that the environment is also treated as an entity in which residue can be found. The definition should therefore read "residue" means commodities, animal feed or environment resulting from the use of pesticides. The conjunction "or" after "commodities" to be removed after "feed" and the word "environment" added after "or".

In Article 3. 9 the phrase "and other competent bodies" should be inserted after "Organizations" so that the source of information should not be limited to the international organizations only.

At paragraph 3. 10 the point being addressed is the avoidance of development of resistance to pesticides. The paragraph in the Code emphasises the prolonging of the useful life of a pesticide, which may also mean prolonging the shelf life and reduction of adverse effects from development of resistance of a pest. The second part of the sentence is not addressing the avoidance of the development of resistance of a pest to a pesticide. The issue of avoiding development of resistance would be adequately addressed if the words "prolong the useful life of valuable pesticides and" were deleted immediately after "which will" and also delete the words "the adverse effects resulting from the" after the word "reduce". The second part of the sentence would read "in developing strategies which will reduce development of resistant species. "

Paragraph 4. 15 should read "on request, any active ingredient, residue or formulation to provide the necessary analytical standards". That we would like included.

Paragraph 10. 26, the phrase "and the date of expiry" should be added after the word "formulation". This is important in order to protect the user from buying expired pesticides. There might be need for the industry to indicate storage conditions in which the expiry date will have relevance.

The definition of pesticide legislation should include the word "storage". I think that has already been covered, "after packaging", remove the word "and" and after packaging, then add "and disposal" after use. That part should read "labelling, packaging, storage, use and disposal of pesticides".

With these proposed amendments or revisions, the document is acceptable to my delegation for adoption by the Council.

Róbert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): The International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides adjusts the practical using of pesticides. We would welcome that after a discussion this document would become varied as, at least, generally keeping the regulation on a voluntary basis. In our country all these questions are being secured and defined in a legislative way to be able to influence all operations with pesticides and in case of occurrence of negative effects, to implement due measures to improve the situation.

As to the range of programmes concerning the handling, distribution and use of pesticides we expressed our views both in written form and again during the Eighth Session of the Committee of Agriculture and the last session of Council.

We regard this area as too technical to belong to special commissions to add them to the Eighty-ninth Session of the FAO Council. We support the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides which we regard as a very important document. Our two reservations are other reminders of recommendations regarding Articles 7. 2 and 10, and became the matter of discussion and explanation during the last session. I am authorized to assure you that all parts, on recommendations in this document are being fulfilled in our country and that the adoption of the document is in harmony with our interests.

HIDAYAT GANDA ATMADJA (Indonesia): As we all know pesticides is a vital element in agricultural development and therefore, based on our experience in meeting the country's food production, the role of pesticides to some extent is also recognized. However, my Government also realizes the possible side-effects of pesticides to human beings and to the environment. To this extent we fully agree that there should be a proper mechanism to minimize the harmful effects and, at the same time, to maximize the efficient use in order to achieve the safe conservation of human beings and the environment, as well as to accelerate the growth of food production. Therefore, after carefully scrutinizing the document before us and the information that has been added to the first draft, our delegation believes that this document reflects a sufficient balance on the efficient safe use and safe approach to maintain the environment as well as for the human needs. Therefore my delegation endorses the draft report for adoption by the Council.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar, Sr. Presidente, nuestro agradecimiento al Sr. Brader por su doble presentación de este tema y queremos expresarle también que para nosotros no fue difícil entender la primera presentación porque tenemos delante las dos últimas versiones de este Código, Código que ha tenido varias versiones, y nos parece uno de los instrumentos que más se han discutido y con más cuidado. No tenemos ningún tipo de preocupación en cuanto al análisis que se ha hecho para llegar a estos resultados.

Nuestra delegación, en relación con este Código lo considera fundamental para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, así como la resolución a la cual se anexa, o que podríamos anexar en el momento de su aprobación. Nosotros nos sentimos satisfechos ya que de este Código puede salir

una buena resolución, porque esta última versión que nos han presentado incluye muchas modificaciones que mejoran los textos y los hacen más precisos. Nosotros teníamos algunos otros intereses un poco más definidos, sin embargo creemos que esta última versión es digna de que la apoyemos en todas sus partes. Creemos que las necesidades de aplicación de este Código ya se han planteado en el anterior Comité de Agricultura, así como en el pasado Consejo 87; por lo tanto, considero que su aplicación efectiva puede contribuir a mejorar la agricultura de muchos países fundamentalmente subdesarrollados, a la vez que salvaguardar y proteger la vida y el medio ambiente en los mismos, que creo que es lo más importante de este Código. Estamos convencidos que éste es un instrumento útil en cuanto a la salvaguardia y protección de la vida y del medio ambiente, aunque a veces olvidamos esto porque el ansia de ganancias nos hacen olvidar que el futuro necesita que lo analicemos con mucho cuidado.

Tenemos confianza, sobre todo, en que los países más necesitados de este Código sean los mejores cumplidores de sus principios. Decimos esto porque creemos que para los países en desarrollo es una fórmula de base para implementar sus propias legislaciones que son las que lo van a salvaguardar. Pensamos que todos los países tienen interés por el bien de sus ciudadanos, por su patrimonio natural fundamentalmente, y que serán los primeros en promover las legislaciones nacionales consecuentes que regulen esta importante cuestión que asegura el uso eficaz de los plaguicidas y la forma de entrar en cada país, porque es una cuestión de soberanía sencillamente. La legislación nuestra trata de 10 años y en nuestro país entran los plaguicidas que nosotros consideramos de antemano que son necesarios.

Hay una afirmación aquí que yo considero que es totalmente errónea, Sr. Presidente, no vamos a proponer eliminarla, pero creemos que es errónea porque no da la verdad.

Creemos que cuando se comenzó a discutir este Código se tuvo en mente la necesidad de controlar sus efectos y sus consecuencias, pero no podemos decir, como decimos en el documento que la industria deberá ensayar todos los productos plaguicidas antes de su comercialización para evitar o para evaluar la inocuidad para la salud humana y el ambiente. La inocuidad contra la salud humana y el ambiente no la tiene ninguno, pero absolutamente ninguno, científicamente ningún producto pesticida; no podemos decir eso. Creo que específicamente buscando la salvaguardia de la salud humana y el ambiente, estamos tratando de discutir con bastante cuidado el mecanismo de control y la legislación de utilización; pero no creo que podemos decir así, con esta facilidad, que van a ser inocuos, ninguno es inócuo, el más sencillo matamoscas no se puede decir que es inócuo para el ser humano, el más sencillo matamoscas.

Creo que es necesario esto porque nos parece que esta afirmación es bastante encubridora y no nos da la realidad.

Nosotros creemos también que los gobiernos deben tener muy en cuenta a la hora de aplicar el Código y al momento de dictar las disposiciones legales nacionales el tema de la capacitación que para nosotros sigue siendo el más importante, porque no son las resoluciones ni los decretos ni los ruegos, ni las solicitudes, sino sólo capacitando es como vamos a hacer que nuestros campesinos, en la forma en que difundamos los conocimientos, los puedan comprender para que los apliquen consecuentemente a los productos y ellos se preserven sabiéndolos utilizar. Se les está dando un bombo de propaganda sobre las facultades de estos productos para hacer crecer la cosecha y, sencillamente, ellos van detrás de la necesidad de hacer crecer las cosechas y se despreocupan de problemas, y conocemos muchos casos graves de problemas de mal manejo y creemos que en eso la capacitación es fundamental.

Por tanto, las legislaciones nacionales que se editen deberán insistir en el tema de la capacitación; no podemos subestimar esta importancia, no entendemos, por lo tanto, porque se eliminó del artículo 3 el subpárrafo 3. 6 que dice específicamente lo siguiente, nos parece, esto sí, nos parece totalmente inocuo para todos porque no hace nada más que solicitar, "que las organizaciones nacionales, internacionales, los gobiernos, las industrias deberían colaborar en esfuerzos conjuntos con la cosa más bella que es ésta, el esfuerzo conjunto para difundir materiales educativos y de todo tipo a los usuarios de plaguicidas, agricultores, organizaciones de agricultores, trabajadores agrícolas, sindicatos y otras partes interesadas. De igual forma, las partes afectadas deberían recurrir a los materiales educativos y entenderlo antes de utilizar los plaguicidas y deberían seguir los procedimientos adecuados. "

Este párrafo se ha eliminado y no sabemos por qué. Se han eliminado los 3. 7, 3. 9 y 3. 10 de la última versión, la anterior, con la cual no tenemos problemas, creo que su eliminación está justificada porque están incluidos en todo tipo de precisiones que tiene la versión. Sin embargo, este párrafo 3. 6 sí consideramos que debemos analizar que no tenga ningún problema porque creemos que es la forma de difundir y que todos los participantes en esto apoyen la difusión y que constituye una noble actividad mancomunada de todos los factores. Somos de la opinión sinceramente que debe reconsiderarse la obligación de este párrafo.

Consideramos también importante el tema de la publicidad en el Artículo 11 en toda su extensión, y apoyamos su implementación, ya que desgraciadamente sucede que en aras de aumentar el comercio, y por ende de ganancias, se sacrifica el producto y se engaña al consumidor con productos sin base científica.

Es necesario, además, indicar que es imprescindible la voluntad de los fabricantes y distribuidores de plaguicidas de observar los principios de este Código para que la obra se complete.

Nos complace que se considere este Código como un texto dinámico, dialéctico, susceptible de cambio cuando las condiciones lo aconsejen; confiamos que así sea, y ello significará que se ha utilizado y que la práctica ha determinado sus mejoras, sus cambios, aunque también aspiramos a que todos los países dicten sus legislaciones correspondientes protegiendo los intereses nacionales.

Por todo lo expresado, nuestra Delegación considera que esta versión debe ser aprobada en todas sus partes en este Consejo, y pasarla a la consideración de la Conferencia. La apoyamos.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Agradecemos al Dr. Brader por su presentación, y al apoyar enteramente el proyecto de Código señalamos la importancia que representa su aprobación como un marco para el control de plaguicidas, especialmente en aquellos países que no tienen planes adecuados de registro y control de los mismos.

Este proyecto representa un compromiso mínimo entre las partes después de muchos intentos para tratar de controlar el uso y distribución de plaguicidas.

Al apoyar la Resolución que sustenta este proyecto invitamos a todos los Estados Miembros a que lo hagan sin reservas.

Instamos a la FAO a que asista, en los casos en que así lo decidan los países miembros, en la formulación de las legislaciones respectivas, en el análisis de casos específicos, en el proporcionamiento de información y en todo caso a que sirva de instancia para notificar a todos los países las medidas que se toman en países productores y exportadores respecto a la prohibición o limitación en el uso o manipulación de plaguicidas.

Este último, Señor Presidente, debería quedar plasmado en el artículo 9. 1 agregando quizá después de, y cito, "debería notificarse, directa o indirectamente, " el siguiente término "preferentemente a través de la FAO" a las correspondientes autoridades etcétera".

La aplicación efectiva de este Código, su alcance práctico, tendrá sin duda importantes efectos en la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Coincidimos con la preocupación del Delegado de Cuba, en cuanto a la eliminación del párrafo 3. 6 que debería reconsiderarse su reinclusión.

La versión en español presenta ciertas imprecisiones en los términos usados al ser traducida del inglés; sin pretender hacer aquí referencia a todas ellas deseo que pueda usted, Señor Presidente, tomar nota de nuestra intención de remitir a la Secretaría las precisiones que sólo afectarán a la versión en español.

Finalmente, nos sorprende notificaciones de modificaciones que vienen acompañadas de advertencias como las contenidas en el documento CL 88/INF/12. Estas fórmulas nos parecen de última hora y son advertencias, repito, poco corteses pero podríamos estar de acuerdo con la enmienda propuesta siempre y cuando no se hable de la Comunidad Económica Europea, y si en vez de ello se usa la fórmula presentada o recomendada por el Director General para incluir a las Organizaciones Regionales y Subregionales.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá): Permítanos, Señor Presidente, antes de iniciar nuestra intervención agradecer al Dr. Brader por la presentación del tema que estamos analizando.

Con referencia al tema 6 de nuestra Agenda, documento CL 85/25 que trata sobre la conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, la Delegación de Panamá desea intervenir muy brevemente con el propósito fundamental de apoyar firmemente la decisión del Director General de dejar, en general, prácticamente, inalterado el proyecto de Código aceptado por el Consejo en su 87º período de sesiones.

A tal efecto, nuestra Delegación no estima oportuno repetir en esta ocasión las consideraciones que hiciésemos en su oportunidad para respaldar dicho proyecto de Código, pues ello significaría alargar innecesariamente el debate; deseamos evidenciar la forma amplia y general con que el Consejo expresó su aceptación del proyecto y su decisión de remitirlo a la Conferencia.

Al respecto, nuestra Delegación estima que el proyecto de Código en general es balanceado, recoge las observaciones no sólo de una gran parte de los Estados Miembros, sino la opinión especializada de organismos internacionales apropiados, así como de la industria de plaguicidas, razón por la cual se puede recabar el máximo apoyo.

Para la Delegación de mi país se han introducido en el texto aquellas propuestas constructivas que respetan el espíritu de lo indicado en el párrafo 123 del Informe del 87º período de sesiones en el sentido de que no menoscaban su contenido, contribuyen por lo tanto a favorecer al consenso. Por tales motivos no tenemos dificultad en aceptarlas.

Asimismo, la Delegación de Panamá desea reiterar su apoyo al proyecto de Resolución recomendado por el Consejo en su anterior período para terminar refiriéndose al documento CL 88/INF/12 con la propuesta de los países de la Comisión Europea. Coincidimos con lo expresado por India y México, sin embargo no tenemos dificultad en aceptar la redacción propuesta por el Director General ya que estimamos que esta podría satisfacer a la CEE.

MANIRUZZAMAN CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh deems it appropriate to lend its strong support to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, as per draft put forward for consideration before this Council by the Director-General of FAO.

We have no hesitation in extending this support to the proposal as it is apparent to everyone that the proposed Code of Conduct is the outcome of a considerable amount of debate and deliberations conducted over a period of time, and not based on the whims and caprices of an individual or an attempt by a small interest group to take advantage of a situation.

While making this observation, we have not failed to take note, however, of the reservations made by some governments and organizations which are mainly based on the strength of the argument that supplying pesticides to countries having inadequate infrastructural facilities to register and record the flow may not meet the international standard safety requirements. But I would earnestly make an appeal to the members of this Council to take a dispassionate view of the subject for the following reasons: firstly, the proposed international Code is the result of long drawn consultations with appropriate United Nations agencies and others; secondly, the Conduct is designed to benefit the international community as a whole, though on a strictly voluntary basis,

through making pesticides increasingly available to all nations of the world. Besides, international confidence on the subject will grow due to the chain reaction that will be created through it, despite difficulties posed by various regulations and marketing problems etc. Thus, general improvement in agriculture, public health and personal comforts will far outweigh the above limitations in terms of benefits to national and international communities.

Thirdly, the proposed legislation, being voluntary in nature, will for the time being serve as a reference point till such time as the adequate infrastructural facilities are developed by the countries which do not have it as present. We have found from the discussions and the reactions that after long debate on this subject in this body, and also in the past, that this Council should not hesitate in taking a positive view on the subject, that is, going through the process of making a voluntary Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides with adequate safety measures thereof.

It deserves a fair trial, and we should not hesitate to take this step.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): At the last Council meeting the United Kingdom expressed its general support for the Code. I can confirm this support continues and confirm the acceptability of the present text before us.

The distribution and use of pesticides is a subject for which we have transferred certain responsibilities to within the competence of the European Community. I should be grateful therefore Mr. Chairman, if you would kindly give the floor to the representative of the Commission who will make a statement on behalf of the Community.

CHAIRMAN: I will certainly give it to him after the Council members have spoken. Normally we give the Observers an opportunity to speak after the Council members have spoken.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman I think this is one of the circumstances in which it is perhaps appropriate that the statement should be made within the body of the meeting because of the particular nature of the status of the Community. Therefore I think it would be more appropriate if he could speak now.

Cilles DESESQUELLES (CEE): La Communauté économique européenne et ses dix Etats Membres ont présenté lors de la dernière session du Conseil, en juin de cette année, quelques amendements et en particulier une clause d'assimilation pour la Communauté afin d'améliorer les dispositions du Code international de conduite pour la disposition et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous avons constaté avec satisfaction que plusieurs de ces propositions ont été reprises dans le projet que le Directeur général nous soumet aujourd'hui. Toutefois, nous avons relevé que certains de nos amendements n'ont pas été pris en considération, notamment la clause d'assimilation dans la forme et la portée juridique que nous souhaitons. Néanmoins, je peux vous assurer que, dans un esprit de collaboration et parce que nous attachons un grand intérêt à l'adoption du Code, la Communauté et ses Etats Membres sont prêts à accepter le Code tel quel, si, et c'est pour nous une condition essentielle, le Code contient une disposition permettant à la Communauté de participer pleinement.

Comme l'a annoncé ce matin M. Brader, le Conseil des Ministres des Communautés européennes souhaite que l'article premier, paragraphe 2 du Code, spécifie que "toute référence dans le présent Code à un gouvernement ou à des gouvernements est réputée valoir pour la CEE s'agissant de questions relevant de sa compétence". Cette clause existant déjà dans de nombreux accords internationaux, j'y reviendrai à la fin de mon intervention.

M. Brader, dans son introduction a déclaré, que le Directeur général estimait que pour des considérations générales et dans l'intérêt d'une portée aussi large que possible du Code, il serait préférable de dire "groupement régionaux d'Etats" au lieu de "Communauté économique européenne". L'amendement se lirait donc: "toute référence dans le présent Code à un gouvernement ou des gouvernements est réputée valoir pour les groupements régionaux d'Etat s'agissant des questions relevant de leur compétence".

Cette solution, qui correspond d'ailleurs à ce que nous avons demandé lors du Comité de l'agriculture et du Conseil de juin dernier, nous conviendrait car la Communauté n'a jamais recherché une réglementation particulière en ce qui la concerne, mais seulement la reconnaissance de ses compétences. Cette clause renforcera l'application du Code.

D'ailleurs, il ne s'agit pas d'une innovation. En effet, une clause de même nature existe déjà dans de nombreux accords internationaux de produits de base, négociés à la CNUCED: accord étain, accord cacao, accord caoutchouc, accord jute, accord bois tropicaux, blé, sucre, huile d'olive... De même que dans le Code des pratiques restrictives de la CNUCED ainsi que dans la Convention sur le droit de la mer et cette énumération n'est pas, bien entendu, limitative.

Si cette clause a été si souvent retenue, c'est en raison de la structure particulière et des compétences propres de la Communauté.

Pour terminer, je voudrais indiquer que l'acceptation de cette clause est indispensable pour nous permettre d'approuver le Code tel qu'il est formulé actuellement.

Nous le souhaitons d'autant plus que nous considérons le Code comme une initiative particulièrement bienvenue de la FAO et à laquelle la Communauté économique européenne attache une grande importance. La Communauté espère que toutes les pratiques concernées prendront sans délais les dispositions nécessaires pour une mise en oeuvre rapide du Code.

LI ZHENHUAN (China): We consider that the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is a very important international document. After three years' efforts by various sides concerned, it is now submitted to us as a complete document generally acceptable by all countries. We appreciate the hard work done by FAO in drafting this important document. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to this work, and sent a delegate to attend the relevant inter-governmental consultations. We also made suggestions for the document "submitted to the COAG session last March for consideration. In our view, the International Code of Conduct is not only a document for the entire international community to follow, but also a document of valuable reference to the countries which are promulgating or finalizing their national legislation governing the use of pesticides. We support the draft resolution and annex contained in document C 85/25. Now I wish to make a few observations.

(1) As the version of the International Code basically conforms to that considered at the March COAG session with only several amendments, we endorse this text.

(2) Article Two of the Code more clearly defines the meaning of "banned" and at the same time brings in a new element of "risk". This is very appropriate. And these two points are both essential.

(3) Paragraphs 6. 1 and 6. 2 of Article Six of the Code-Regulatory and Technical Requirements make it clear that pesticide products must be registered prior to domestic use. In our view, this is of great importance. And our country's existing regulations concerning the registration of pesticides also includes an explicit article to this effect.

(4) Article 12 states that not only the pesticide industry should observe the Code, but also all concerned such as international organizations, governments, users, as well as environment protection organizations, consumer groups also need to abide by the Code. We think this concept is important for our experience proves that pesticide management should not be the sheer responsibility of the management sectors, but that awareness and coordination of all concerned government institutions as well as users is called for. Otherwise it will be unimaginable for pesticide management to achieve the envisaged good results.

Finally, the Chinese delegation suggests that the Council submit the draft resolution and the Annex to the Code to the Conference for adoption.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): I will be very brief. As has been stated at the last Council session, we have some suggestions and proposals in order to improve the Code and to render it more effective and restrictive. However, following the great majority of member countries who abstained from presenting these proposals and realizing we should not re-open long negotiations, the adoption of these moral standards of conduct deserves urgent action and should not be delayed. This is still our position even if some of the amendments proposed by a few countries introduced in the latest revision have, in our view, further weakened the Code. We refer for instance to the insertion of the word "voluntary" to Article 1. 1 and to the Commission of important specifications in some articles. Nevertheless we still think that we should refrain from proposing amendments at this point. We are prepared to support the amendment for Article 1. 1 as proposed by the Director-General, and we join other previous speakers in recommending the Code for adoption by the Conference. As it is, the Code represents a minimum guarantee of some order and safety on the distribution and use of pesticides, but it still is an initial and right step of major importance.

CLOSURE OF DEBATE

CLOTURE DU DEBAT

CIERRE DEL DEBATE

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je dois m'excuser auprès des membres de notre Conseil. Je ne suis pas inscrit sur la liste mais je tiens à faire une proposition. Nous avons à notre ordre du jour beaucoup de points importants. Nous sommes en train d'examiner un travail qui a été vu plusieurs fois par nous-mêmes ici présents. Nous avons reçu effectivement des propositions écrites de la CEE et des contrepropositions ont été faites. Il semble qu'il y ait eu accord entre les propositions du Directeur général par rapport à l'exigence de la CEE. Je souhaite vivement que, si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objection, nous puissions en finir avec ce point rapidement, parce que nous risquons de recommencer à dire des choses inutiles. En fait, le point d'objection a trouvé sa solution et je souhaite que l'on mette fin à cette discussion pour passer à un autre point de l'ordre du jour. Je propose cela à l'ensemble de notre Conseil.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I want to adduce simply on the side of the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador from the Congo. We should have settled that proposal firstly, we should have seen if the other distinguished members of the Council accepted the proposal or not. In fact we are dwelling on details which are most inappropriate at this particular stage, and until now no delegation whatsoever said that it refused the Code in its present form. This is the reason why the delegation of my country heartily supports the proposal made by the honourable member from the Congo to put an end to the discussion and accept unanimously the International Code of Conduct, after which we can start dealing with the other very important points included on our agenda, especially as time is running out, and fast.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of the Congo has moved a motion for closure. Saudi Arabia has supported it. According to the rules, two can speak for and two against before we take a vote on the closure motion. Saudi Arabia has spoken for the closure.

Ricardo MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Había solicitado el uso de la palabra para hacer una breve exposición sobre el tema, pero estoy convencido de que la propuesta del distinguido Embajador del Congo es muy importante y que acelera los trabajos de esta Conferencia, y por consiguiente la delegación de Colombia la apoya firmemente.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I want to be clear, because I have just taken my seat here, whether the proposal of the distinguished delegate of the Congo for closure of the discussion would imply that the assimilation clause as proposed by the representative of the European Community would be included or not. It is not clear to me. Before I can oppose or approve the motion for closure, may I know whether this implies that the assimilation clause would not be in the text of the Code, or does it imply that it is accepted, or is it an amendment?

CHAIRMAN: It is not an amendment. We have accepted it, and are unanimous in our view not to spend more time on this. That is all he is saying.

Joseph S. MTENGA (Tanzania): I am for the closure but, Mr Chairman, I would like you to clarify the point that this amendment by the representative of the EEC is in the form you proposed as a group of countries.

CHAIRMAN: We agree that there is unanimous agreement on the proposal by the Director-General read out by Dr Brader.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation opposes the imposition of closure at this point. My delegation fully shares the concern of the distinguished delegate of the Congo and others that we have a great number of issues to deal with in this Council and that we appear to have reached agreement on this one. My delegation shares the hope that we might conclude our discussion of this item. However, we consider it so important that all members of the Council have the opportunity to express their views when they wish, that we cannot support and, indeed, must oppose this motion for closure.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have not much to add to what the distinguished delegate of the United States of America has just said. This is such an important item on our agenda that we should have been told earlier this morning that there was a proposal to close very soon. I am against closure.

CHAIRMAN: According to the rules we have allowed two speakers for and two against. Therefore, I will have to follow the rules now and seek the view of the Council members. Those who are in favour of the closure motion of the distinguished delegate of the Congo kindly raise your hands. Thank you. Now those who are against.

The closure of debate was adopted by 23 votes to 10.

La cloture du débat est adoptée par 23 voix contre 10.

Se cierra el debate por 23 votos contra 10.

CHAIRMAN: Since this is an important item, those who wanted to make specific comments perhaps could pass them on to Dr Brader so that the Secretariat, is not denied the opportunity of having the valuable comments of members. The Federal Republic of Germany and Spain have asked for their statements to be inserted in the verbatim records. There will be an opportunity in Conference to take up the matter again.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): May I draw your attention to the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany is a Member State of the European Community. In full respect of the treaties and as legal consequence of the competence of the European Economic Community in the field we are discussing now, my delegation fully supports the demand of the Council of Ministers of the EEC transferred by letter to the Director-General of FAO as cited in document CL 88/INF/12.

We appreciate that this demand has been taken into account by the addendum to para. 1. 2 in document C 85/25 mentioned before by Mr. Brader. 1/

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Me complace comunicar al Sr. Presidente la satisfacción de mi país porque próximamente podamos disponer de este Código que, sin duda alguna representa una adecuada solución a los problemas derivados de la utilización de los plaguicidas, problemas que preocupan profundamente a las Autoridades, al sector agrario, a la industria química y a la población en general.

Nuestra valoración de este proyecto es altamente positiva y nos complacemos de que se llegue a este pacto de colaboración, cuya aplicación permitirá potenciar los medios actuales disponibles para el conocimiento y la divulgación de los riesgos que entrañan los plaguicidas y de las directrices para su correcta manipulación y utilización, lo cual presenta gran interés para todos los países, independientemente de su grado de desarrollo.

En la sesión de hoy se han hecho interesantes aportaciones. La más señalada y comentada ha sido la de la Comunidad Económica Europea que nosotros aceptamos y apoyamos.

Suscribimos también la propuesta del Sr. Embajador de los Estados Unidos de México en el sentido de que se explicita la intervención de la FAO en el artículo 9. 1 del proyecto de Código.

La justificación de esta propuesta se basa en el propio espíritu del proyecto de Código que expresa, en el párrafo 6 de la Introducción, que la diversidad de factores climáticos, ecológicos, agronómicos, sociales, económicos y ambientales, en las diferentes áreas geográficas, impide que el país exportador pueda juzgar acerca de la utilidad y grado de riesgo de un plaguicida en el país importador.

Recíprocamente el país importador, que no siempre dispone de prestigiosos cuadros de expertos y de una adecuada infraestructura para el control de los plaguicidas, puede tener gran dificultad para apreciar las diferencias de utilidad y riesgo de un plaguicida en sus propias condiciones y en las del otro país donde este plaguicida haya sido prohibido.

El papel de la FAO podría consistir en la prestación de asistencia de sus servicios técnicos, a los gobiernos que lo soliciten, mediante informes que puedan servir de soporte técnico y científico para las decisiones de estos gobiernos sobre prohibición o restricción de algún plaguicida.

En esta misma línea subrayamos la importancia de los artículos 12. 5, 12. 6 y 12. 7, donde se determina la colaboración de FAO con los países en el seguimiento de la aplicación del Código y se declara que éste debe ser un instrumento vivo que se actualizará mediante las oportunas revisiones.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Ricardo MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Había solicitado el uso de la palabra para hacer una breve exposición sobre el tema, pero estoy convencido de que la propuesta del distinguido Embajador del Congo es muy importante y que acelera los trabajos de esta Conferencia, y por consiguiente la delegación de Colombia la apoya firmemente.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I want to be clear, because I have just taken my seat here, whether the proposal of the distinguished delegate of the Congo for closure of the discussion would imply that the assimilation clause as proposed by the representative of the European Community would be included or not. It is not clear to me. Before I can oppose or approve the motion for closure, may I know whether this implies that the assimilation clause would not be in the text of the Code, or does it imply that it is accepted, or is it an amendment?

CHAIRMAN: It is not an amendment. We have accepted it, and are unanimous in our view not to spend more time on this. That is all he is saying.

Joseph S. MTENGA (Tanzania): I am for the closure but, Mr Chairman, I would like you to clarify the point that this amendment by the representative of the EEC is in the form you proposed as a group of countries.

CHAIRMAN: We agree that there is unanimous agreement on the proposal by the Director-General read out by Dr Brader.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation opposes the imposition of closure at this point. My delegation fully shares the concern of the distinguished delegate of the Congo and others that we have a great number of issues to deal with in this Council and that we appear to have reached agreement on this one. My delegation shares the hope that we might conclude our discussion of this item. However, we consider it so important that all members of the Council have the opportunity to express their views when they wish, that we cannot support and, indeed, must oppose this motion for closure.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have not much to add to what the distinguished delegate of the United States of America has just said. This is such an important item on our agenda that we should have been told earlier this morning that there was a proposal to close very soon. I am against closure.

CHAIRMAN: According to the rules we have allowed two speakers for and two against. Therefore, I will have to follow the rules now and seek the view of the Council members. Those who are in favour of the closure motion of the distinguished delegate of the Congo kindly raise your hands. Thank you. Now those who are against.

The closure of debate was adopted by 23 votes to 10.

La cloture du débat est adoptée par 23 voix contre 10.

Se cierra el debate por 23 votos contra 10.

CHAIRMAN: Since this is an important item, those who wanted to make specific comments perhaps could pass them on to Dr Brader so that the Secretariat, is not denied the opportunity of having the valuable comments of members. The Federal Republic of Germany and Spain have asked for their statements to be inserted in the verbatim records. There will be an opportunity in Conference to take up the matter again.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): May I draw your attention to the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany is a Member State of the European Community. In full respect of the treaties and as legal consequence of the competence of the European Economic Community in the field we are discussing now, my delegation fully supports the demand of the Council of Ministers of the EEC transferred by letter to the Director-General of FAO as cited in document CL 88/INF/12.

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

En relación con ello, me permito señalar la conveniencia de que se estableciera una determinada periodicidad para estas revisiones, al menos durante la primera etapa de su aplicación en la que podrían ser necesarias mayor número de adaptaciones técnicas. Sería deseable que desde el principio se fijara la fecha o plazo para la primera revisión.

Hemos detectado también pequeños errores de traducción en el texto en lengua española, ya mencionados por el Sr. Embajador de los Estados Unidos de México, en cuya aportación nos brindamos gustosos a colaborar para que el documento tenga en nuestro idioma el mismo significado que en francés o en inglés.

Encontramos correcta la modificación efectuada por la Secretaría sobre la definición de Registro e incluso pensamos que podría completarse indicando la necesidad de demostrar que existen "métodos analíticos adecuados para el posterior control del plaguicida".

Deseo finalmente repetir nuestra aceptación y apoyo a este proyecto de Código y expresar mis votos para que su aplicación permita que los agricultores obtengan mejores cosechas y queden satisfechas las exigencias de la salud pública y el medio ambiente, y agradecer nuevamente al Sr. Presidente por su amabilidad. 1/

Robert PRINS (Canada): On a point of clarification, can you tell us, Mr Chairman, how many speakers there were still on the list?

CHAIRMAN: The Federal Republic of Germany, Senegal, Benin, Spain, Venezuela, Cyprus, Japan, France, Colombia, Canada and Saudi Arabia. But this is now an academic question.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: When this point was made I did not think it was being made as a formal motion with restrictions-two speakers for two speakers against, and no opportunity of commenting. However, apparently it was taken as a formal closure motion, but I hope it is clear to everyone that this was not an attempt in any way by anyone to shut off discussion in the Council. We are going to have a discussion in Conference, so it does not really matter, but I do hope it is clear it was not an attempt-and the distinguished delegate of the Congo can confirm this-to stop anyone saying what they wanted. Rather, it was an understanding that we were all agreed, and could save time. Whilst we will receive any points which delegations wish to make, I trust it is quite clear that we are not going to receive points which criticize the document or oppose what is in it, but rather that people who wanted to make clear their views on why they were accepting rather than rejecting should be able to do so. So I hope that is understood in the fullest, most positive sense, and not in any negative sense.

CHAIRMAN: This is an important item which has to be implemented by all governments. It is not an item on which I myself would have liked to deny anyone the opportunity to speak, so I am equally sorry, and hope that members of Council will give their views to the Secretariat so that we can forward this item to the Conference with the amendment proposed by Dr Brader this morning-that is, the text with the single additional amendment in paragraph 1. 2.

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

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

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

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives

11. Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The Council has before it some important documents on this important item. The main document is C 85/3 the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 which is supplemented by two documents, Supplement 1 which gives a list of publications, main documents and working papers for the next biennium, and Supplement 2 which gives a list of sessions. There is also document C 85/3, Corregendum 1, which refers to one of the tables in the Annexes and to which I will make reference in due course.

I need not dwell at great length on the debate which took place at the last session of the Council in June on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General, but I need to refer to it because that debate in the Council set in train some important changes which the Director-General decided to make in formulating his full Programme of Work and Budget. The Council had expressed unanimity in support of the strategies, the priorities and the Programme proposals which had been outlined in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. However, there was not the same complete unanimity with regard to the proposed budget level. Taking all these factors into account and after sober and serious reflection, the Director-General decided to make some important changes in his proposals for the full Programme of Work and Budget. The first part of my intervention will now deal with the changes of substance between the Summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget.

The net Programme increase proposed in the summary document amounted to US\$ 6.2 million. The net Programme increase now before Council in the full document amounts to US\$ 5 030 000, a reduction hence of US\$ 1.2 million. I should briefly explain what this reduction consists of. The easiest to explain is the reduction in the provision which had been proposed for contingencies. You will recall, Mr Chairman, that the contingencies provision had been proposed to be increased from US\$ 600 000 which is its present level for the biennium to US\$ 800 000. There was quite an interesting debate in the Council. I will not repeat the arguments which we had advanced and which we can still maintain for a contingency provision at a higher level. The fact of the matter is that in arriving at his decision on the full budget, the Director-General decided if he had to reduce the Programme increase at all, this was certainly one area in which he would have to retain the provision at its present level, so the contingency provision would not be increased and would remain at its present level of US\$ 600 000.

The second item of reduction is an amount of US\$ 300 000 under Programme 111 of Conference and Council.

You will recall that a reduction of some US \$700 000 has been proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget under this item. A review and a more detailed assessment of the document requirements following the Spring session of the Council Committees and the last session of the Council itself enabled the Director-General to decide on a reduction of US \$1 million. So the reduction here is increased from US \$700 000 to US \$1 million.

The third area of reduction is under Programme 3.4, FAO Representatives. Here you will recall that a reduction of US \$600 000 had already been proposed in the summary and this has been increased by US \$300 000 to the present proposal of a total reduction of US \$900 000. The reason for this decrease is that in order to bring down the programme increase it was decided to accelerate certain activities during this biennium, in fact during this year, which would preclude the necessity for budgetary provision in the next biennium. Very specifically, it refers to the programme of installation of libraries and information centres in the offices of FAO representatives, which is a programme that has been going on for some time and that was supposed to have continued into the next biennium. In order to reduce the budgetary provision of the next biennium, however, it has been accelerated this year.

The final reduction is of US \$400 000 under Common Services, Chapter 6 of the budget, which deals with maintenance and support facilities. This reduction is possible by also undertaking certain activities such as repairs of electrical systems in the buildings here during this year so as to preclude the need for the budgetary provision in the next biennium. The total reduction in the programme increase then amounts to US \$1.2 million.

I should emphasize here that there has been no tampering with any of the technical and economic programmes, because this represents the heart, the core and soul of the Organization. The Director-General was convinced by your own debate and the support extended to his proposals in the Programme

and Finance Committees that the technical and economic programmes represented an area which could not be further reduced. If there had been the wish of the Council to see them expanded I have no hesitation in assuring you that the programme increase in the technical and economic areas could have been even higher, but the Director-General maintained his proposal to the level he had made in the summary budget.

There has also been an important change between the summary and the full budget in the area of cost increases. For the present biennium the cost increases amounted to US \$52 million over the previous budgetary base and represented some 14 percent of the previous base. In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget the cost increases were estimated at US \$24 million, barely 5.7 percent of the present budgetary base. But in the summary we had indicated that price indicators and trends in expenditure would continue to be monitored so as to determine whether the provision for cost increases had to be maintained, increased or reduced, and in fact the developments have enabled us to reduce the provision of cost increases by US \$2 million, so the provision now amounts to US \$22 million.

Having dealt with the changes of substance between the summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget, may I now turn to the second part of my intervention dealing with changes in form because some comments may be useful to members of the Council.

In form the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was a fairly brief document of some 100 pages, whereas the full budget document is some 330 pages. But there are some parts of the document which will facilitate consideration by the Council, if you will allow me to draw attention to them.

First, the Director-General's introduction. This is a very comprehensive introduction which gives his approach in the formulation of the budget which calls for no comment by me.

This is followed by a chapter on the programme framework which tries to give an analysis of the programme budget proposals which may be useful to the Council and subsequently to the Conference. It discusses the question of posts, the proportion of expenditure on posts as a part of the total budget, changes in other objects of expenditure, details of cost increases and other financial aspects of the proposals. It brings us to a part of the document which amounts to no more than 3 pages, which is rather crucial to the discussion. I refer to the English text of the document. On page 32 there is a section dealing with the currency factor to indicate what the budget level would be at different rates of exchange. On page 33 there is a table showing a comparison of the present budget with the proposed budget, and on page 34 an explanation showing what would be the effect of the various budget levels on contributions of Member Nations. I would like to return to this aspect at the conclusion of my remarks.

There is a draft resolution provided in the document which is the text as will be considered by the Conference when it adopts the Programme of Work and Budget in Plenary. I should indicate that the figures given in the draft resolution are given at the rate of Lire 1 615 to the dollar, the present rate for the present biennium as adopted by the last Conference, and the text of the draft resolution which will be before the Conference will of course be updated on the actual day to permit the Conference to decide on the rate of exchange which it will adopt together with the Programme of Work and Budget.

The main part of the document, the Programme budget itself, is in essence on the same lines as has been presented in the last Programme of Work and Budget. That is to say, it describes clearly the medium-term objectives, the programme activities proposed, and the changes, the plan of action by sub-programme in as specific a way as possible.

The tables which relate to the programme budget are in the format which had been approved by the Council itself at its Eighty-seventh Session.

The three annexes in the document are more for information, and yet they are an integral part of the document because reference to them is necessary by our governing bodies.

Annex I gives the proposed programme by regions, and I emphasize here that it does not deal only with the activities of regional offices, because the whole technical and economic programme of FAO is on an integrated basis whether the activities are carried out at headquarters, in regional, offices or at country levels. Annex II deals with the budget by organizational unit, giving all information by objects of expenditure, both for the present biennium and the next biennium, together with organizational charts. Annex III deals with salary schedules and staffing tables.

This document was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees at their recent session in September. The views, the recommendations, of these two committees are in their reports, and I do not need to dwell on them but only to draw your attention to the fact that the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees expressed its views very clearly in paragraphs 1. 1 to 1. 7 of document CL 88/4. This section of the report indicates all views as expressed in the committees, both of the majority of members of these committees and of those who had some views which did not coincide with the views of the majority. It ends by recognizing all the views and by stating that the Committees recommended to the Council to endorse the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 as presented in document C 85/3.

There are two specific aspects which I need to draw to your attention as regards the Programme and Finance Committees. The Programme Committee reviewed in considerable detail the programme proposals in order to define the extent to which its own recommendations and the recommendations and views of the Council had been taken into account, and the report of the Programme Committee speaks for itself in commenting on these aspects.

The Finance Committee, according to its mandate, concentrated particularly on the cost increases and received detailed explanations both of the composition of the provision and the reason for the changes between the summary and the full budget. The provision as made and presented in this document has been endorsed by the Finance Committee.

To conclude-and may I come to the last part of my introduction of this item-it may assist the Council if I were to draw attention to three financial and budgetary aspects. Figures become a stock in trade for some, but figures are not without meaning, and in this case I would commend to you that the Council may need and may wish to distinguish between three different aspects. One is the aspect of the programme increase. Our methodology for defining the net programme increase which has been approved by our governing bodies is to take the present budget base, to recost it at the rates which will be applicable for the next biennium, and then to express the programme increase as a percentage of that. This is shown in the table on page 33 of the English text, and this is the first aspect of the budgetary presentation which shows that the net programme increase proposed is 1. 1 percent of the present recosted base. If I may remind Council, as I said at the beginning in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget the increase was 1. 416% which has now been reduced. The second aspect of these figures is that the whole document gives figures at the rate of exchange approved by Conference for the present biennium, for the present budget, I repeat It. L 1 615 to the US dollar. The Conference will adopt the new Programme of Work and Budget and will define the exchange rate which will be applicable to it. Therefore, to take the proposed Programme of Work and Budget at the total figure of US\$448 million as given in the document is, if I may say so, somewhat academic. We gave it at that rate in order to be completely clear and transparent and to promote comparison of the proposals with the present budget. However, for sovereign member Nations who are interested in seeing what the budget levels will be for the next biennium, it will not be US\$448 million or anywhere near.

At the time the document was sent for processing, in fact on the day it was sent for processing, 26 July, the rate was It. L 1 921 to the dollar. So, the Director-General decided to indicate in the document what the effective budget level would be at It. L 1 900 and then instead of US\$448 million you can see that the budget level would be US\$429. 7 million. The Council may wish to know what put the effective budget level at the rate of exchange which we now see. To ask me to give any forecast of the budget level, would be to put me in an impossible situation and I would not presume to give such a forecast. However, the average rate of exchange from January to September was It. L 1 844. The average rate of exchange for 1-31 October was It. L 1 785, so at It. L 1 785 to the US dollar the effective working budget would be US\$435. 5 million.

The third aspect, the final aspect, of these budgetary figures is what is the impact on Member Nations' contributions? As shown in the table on page 34 of the document, to arrive at the Member Nations' contributions one takes the effective working budget level and deducts the estimated miscellaneous income. The Council will note that the estimate of miscellaneous income for the next biennium is indicated at US\$41 million, a considerable increase over the present biennium. The composition of this estimate has been explained and was gone into by the Finance Committee and is, of course, given in the document itself. If one were to take a current rate of exchange, the average for October of It. L 1 785 to the US dollar, the share of Member Nations' contributions would amount to US\$394 520 000 which is a very small decrease over the contributions for the present biennium.

I have tried to be brief in this introduction but I hope I have drawn the Council's attention to those aspects which may be of greatest interest and I remain fully available to you to provide any clarifications you may wish.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Shah for this very clear and brilliant introduction. I now request Professor Trkulja, Chairman of the Programme Committee to speak.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I have hardly anything to add of substance to what I have referred to you last time, and I will attempt to be very brief indeed. It is now my turn to present in a very brief fashion indeed, the joint views of the Programme and Finance Committees. First, the Committees fully recognized the fact that the Director-General consistently pursued the line, as made out at the last session of Council, to develop final proposals on the basis of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and to take into account views expressed at the last Council session.

The Committees unanimously expressed their appreciation for the further efforts of the Director-General to present to the FAO membership the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, one that would most likely be met with the full agreement of all the FAO membership. I will not refer to the figures, Mr Shah explained in all details the figures. It is enough to say that in the final version, the Director-General proposes a further decrease in net programme growth of about \$1. 2 million expressed by Mr Shah, as well as the further revision of the cost increases.

Well, let me just highlight again that the Committees were fully aware of the full agreement in the Council of the strategies, priorities and programme frameworks, and the same agreement and same harmony was fully retained in our joint session. I will not even reflect on the last point that Mr Shah made. He explained the recent tendency that prevailed after our meeting in the rate between lire and dollars and he has given you the figures at present on the average rate for October.

It is understandable that since full unanimity has always existed in FAO about basic policy guidelines, strategies, priorities for the last nine years, the issue of overall budgetary level is bound to dominate them as it has dominated our joint and separate sessions. Here again the situation remains more or less the same. It means some members of the committee reach their traditional position, a position with regard to the principle of zero programme growth, or well off in the budgetary provisions in real terms, because it is very difficult to see semantically how something could increase "zerolly". It is perhaps a matter of semantics. But these Members stress that this policy of zero growth has to be understood as a consequence of the corollary on the limitations that many countries impose on their domestic public spending. They appreciate the additional effort by the Director-General and in September expressed the hope that he may be able to propose some further reductions in programme growth to the Council. Consequently, four countries reserved their position on the budget level at that stage. However, the majority of members in both Committees first stressed the fact that they fully agreed and supported the proposed level in that summary form. They were prepared at that time to support an even higher increase in the budgetary allocations given the serious world food situation and in particular the very acute and gripping food crisis in Africa. The majority expressed

certain concern regarding the reduction proposed by the Director-General and, in particular, that it might hamper the adequacy and level of the FAO administration and support services to a certain extent. However, the majority was prepared to endorse the Director-General's proposals in their final form, with the strong hope that the budget level, as proposed, would now be approved unanimously at the forthcoming Conference.

With these views the Committees recommended the Council to endorse the Director-General's proposals; all that means is to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

Now coming to the Programme Committee's views, I will try not to repeat some of the quite well-known positions. First of all, there is no question; I am not going to go into detail to explain why it is more consistent with better-framed and more visible links. While the Director-General's introduction was in general agreement with his views, the Programme Committee concluded that additional emphasis should be placed on the uncertainties regarding economic recovery, especially the effects of recovery on developing countries and, in particular, the least developed ones.

The food crisis in Africa was again very much underlined. I do not need to refer to the full endorsement of the statutory priorities; it is very visible from our report. We then, again, refer to the substantial uncertainties regarding extra-budgetary resources at this stage, and to the proposed deductions by the Director-General in both programme increases and costs. The Programme Committee again warned against the continuing decline of statutory provisions for administration and support services, though it was fully assured by the Director-General that the reduction he had proposed would not hamper the FAO capacity, quality and quantity of its administrative and support services to any measurable degree.

The Committee fully shared the proposal to modestly increase the number of posts and it felt that it was fully justified in doing so, with a further note that a modest increase in cost would not arrest the tendency of further reduction in the total budget of the share of established posts. On the question of levels, the majority of members even regretted that the Director-General had felt obliged to propose a decrease in budget level, and with the same kind of concern, they finally agreed to recommend that the Council give its full support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously. I have to add that one member, while sharing the Committee's appreciation for the recommended proposals and in particular because of the additional efforts made by him to decrease the huge demand for additional resources, reiterated that the position of his government with regard to zero growth applied not only to FAO but to all organizations in the United Nations System. Consequently, one member reserved the position of his government regarding the budget level at this stage,

I cannot obviously go into all the details with regard to major programmes and sub-programmes. Our views are-I believe, I hope-clearly expressed. In our deliberations we mainly concentrated on the issues not covered in summary form-that means the nature of the problems at all levels, then relative or approximate ranks of priorities and medium term objectives.

I do not need to assure you that we very carefully reviewed all details at the level of all programmes and sub-programmes, and we were in fact in agreement with the proposed activities for the next biennium.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I am grateful to you Mr Chairman for giving me the floor to address the Council on behalf of my Committee-in fact my task has been made very much easier by the two previous interventions by Mr Shah and the Chairman of the Programme Committee. In my intervention on this item at the last session of the Council I indicated to the Council the views of the Committee on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. At our last meeting, when we examined the full Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87, it reiterated its appreciation of the Director-General's efforts to review once more the proposals he had made in an attempt to find a consensus eventually. This was a clear indication of the responsiveness of the head of this institution to abide by the wishes of its members to the extent possible without compromising the important and pertinent objectives of the Organization which

have been endorsed for the past 40 years by its governing body. The clear, concise and informative presentation in document C 85/3, both in the narrative sections and in the tabular information, together with the lucid explanations provided orally by the Secretariat, enabled our Committee to consider these proposals more easily.

Our discussions were not so much on the format, strategies, objectives, priorities and world background, since these had been dealt with thoroughly and endorsed at the previous meeting. We sought and obtained clear explanations of the changes, propositions and estimates now presented to us in the full Programme of Work and Budget. These related to components in the provisions made for cost and programme increases. The Committee noted that while cost increases had been reduced by some US\$2 million, programme increases too had been pruned from the original 1.4 percent to 1.1 percent, enabling a total reduction of US\$3.2 million. It noted that this amount included further reductions in the provision previously made in Chapters 1, 6 and 7. For further information on these reductions, your attention is drawn to the Table in Summary of Estimates by Chapters and Major Programmes appearing at page 35 of CL 85/3, which has already been referred to by Mr Shah, and the document which you have before you-page 38 of C 85/3.

The Committee commended these efforts by the Director-General, and particularly appreciated the efforts to retain the limited increase, in resources for FAO's technical and economic programmes by effecting further cuts in the administrative and supportive areas. The Committee was also informed of the probability of reduced US dollar assessments on Member Nations in the next biennium: that has already been dealt with by Mr Shah. The Committee took into consideration the advantages of such a possibility for countries which have currencies with a favourable relationship vis-à-vis the dollar, and concluded that the fulfillment of the statutory obligation for assessed contributions would place a burden on developing countries which do not have a favourable relation vis-à-vis the dollar.

In the deliberations on the likely income accruing to the Organization under Miscellaneous Income, the Committee considered the very close link between receipt of contributions and miscellaneous income, and noted that the calculation of the amount of miscellaneous income for 1986-87 was based on assumptions regarding the rate of receipt of contributions and expectations of rates of interest to be obtained from these deposits. The Council is aware of the experience of the past in this regard, and I mention it here only as a reminder that the Budget carries with it the fulfillment of obligations of the Member Nations regarding punctuality of payment for assessed contributions. This aspect was covered under the item on alternative measures to deal with the problem of delayed payment of contributions, and the Council will be informed of the outcome of our deliberations on this aspect at the time the report of the Finance Committee is discussed.

There was considerable discussion on the budget level -- this has also been referred to by Mr Shah-- and the views of the Committee are reflected in paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12. Overall, the Committee accepted the thrust and focus of the Director-General's proposal, the emphasis on Africa, the weight given to the technical and evaluation programmes, and endorsed his proposals. Barring three members who could not commit themselves to the budget level and therefore reserved their governments' position, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council the endorsement of the Director-General's proposals as presented to the Council and Conference in document C 85/3.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La seance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 88/PV/6

Eighty-eighth Session

Quatre-vingt-huitième session

88° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA
(6 November 1985)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours

M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15. 00 horas, bajo la

presidencia de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- III. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 11. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 11. Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

Arkell D. WEYGANDT (United States of America): May I begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to Mr Shah for his presentation, which was both lucid and comprehensive. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committee for their comments.

We also appreciate the action by the Director-General in reducing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We are confident the reductions made will not affect programme delivery. We believe that further reductions can be made which also would not impair programme delivery. Such reductions would result in a programme of zero real growth which is a goal my Government has been actively seeking, given the budgetary restraints other members have been experiencing.

Although my Government appreciates the additional reductions in programme growth proposed by the Director-General, particularly the US \$2 million reduction in the provision for cost increases, we cannot accept the proposed programme growth of 1.1 percent. We have expressed this position at the Programme Committee meeting and continue to hold to it.

The United States is encouraged by the direction that FAO programmes increasingly are taking, especially programmes for small farmers and the priority given to Africa. There should be no question about US support for FAO, especially in this 40th Anniversary year. Nevertheless we cannot support the level of growth in this budget. In the interests of brevity I will spare the Council more detailed comments which we will certainly raise in the Conference.

R. Mohammad BAHRAM (Afghanistan): The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fully supports and endorses the strategies, priorities and programmes given by the Director-General for 1986-87.

The Afghan delegation supports the principle of zero net programme growth for the assessed budget of the FAO. We appreciate the reductions proposed by the Director-General in the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Afghan delegation proposes further reductions aimed at achieving zero net programme growth. We welcome the initiative of reduction in administrative and support costs.

Concerning the Programme of Work for 1986-87, we completely support and endorse this. This programme reflects very clearly the needs of the developing countries. We believe that the realization of this programme will achieve best results in increasing agricultural production.

Irrigation water in many countries, including my country, is the most limiting factor in agriculture. We believe that it is necessary to pay more attention to the proper and economical use of water and therefore a considerable amount of assistance should be given to the developing countries in the framework of water management activities. At the same time there is also a greater need for the extension of new land areas to the establishment of new irrigation projects. We hope that this issue will also be considered in the programme.

Soil erosion, desertification and depleted wildlife resources are common problems of many countries which need corrective measures to be undertaken. For the appropriate and rapid solution to these problems we believe that it is necessary to undertake overall comprehensive and integrated programmes of forestry, water management, rangeland agro-forestry, prevention of desertification, soil conservation and wildlife preservation.

The successful implementation of such programmes necessitates trained personnel and expertise. We believe that additional attention to these issues will achieve greater success.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Voy a hacer una intervención breve. En primer lugar, deseamos agradecer al Sr. Shah por la magnífica presentación de este tema.

Deseamos expresar nuestro rechazo a la política de crecimiento cero en tanto que simboliza un ataque al multilateralismo y congela posibilidades de desarrollo que en momentos de crisis económica en el mundo afectan sobremanera las perspectivas principalmente del mundo en desarrollo.

Reconocemos el esfuerzo hecho por el Director General para limitar al máximo el crecimiento del presupuesto con el objeto de que pueda ser aceptable para todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO, pero insistimos que las necesidades son también mucho mayores.

Apoyamos en su totalidad las seis prioridades de la Organización, a saber: fomentar la producción de alimentos y mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, consolidar los sistemas de información, dar máxima importancia a la capacitación, promover la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo y conseguir resultados sobre el terreno.

Apoyamos también en su totalidad la adecuada repartición regional de las actividades de la FAO, reconociendo que se debe hacer especial énfasis en la situación del Africa Subsahariana.

Apoyamos las actividades de las Oficinas Regionales, tomando nota de que no se propone aumento de recursos en este renglón.

Apoyamos los programas prioritarios, producción de alimentos y seguridad alimentaria. Apoyamos las prioridades en los medios de acción, bases de datos y capacitación. Apoyamos la disminución de gastos en los puestos de plantilla sin que esto signifique que se afectará a la eficiencia de la Organización. Apoyamos en forma total y expresa la prioridad que merece la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo en todas las actividades de la FAO. Dada la crisis económica mundial, esta cooperación se hace cada vez más necesaria para impulsar el crecimiento económico entre los países en desarrollo.

Las actividades de la FAP en esta esfera deben encaminarse hacia la ejecución del Programa de Acción de Caracas, pero en función de las prioridades que aquí digamos.

MANIRUZZAMAN CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): The Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87 and the medium-term objectives as presented by the Director-General have all along been supported by the Bangladesh delegation. We appreciate the programme of work which has already been approved by the concerned committees after being deliberated in various sub-committees and also upheld in various regional conferences.

The Bangladesh delegation notes with concern some proposals which have been put forward by a few developed countries aimed at the reduction of the FAO budget for the 1986-87 biennium. As we have already observed, such proposals if accepted and approved will definitely put constraints and limitations on FAO's role as the leading agency in the food and agriculture field.

As the African crisis has demonstrated and the recent tragedy of cyclone in Bangladesh has underlined, the need to meet such emergency situations calls for not only immediate responses by all concerned, but there is also a felt need to formulate and work out long term studies. Therefore the proposal by some fellow delegates for reducing the budget is not perhaps based on pragmatic considerations. The only way to enable the world to handle such a crisis, which has most unfortunately the habit of repeating itself without warning or notice, is to help the developing countries quickly to attain self-sufficiency in the food sector. However, it is gratifying to note from document C 85/3 that the budget has reflected, through a reduction, the real rock bottom position and we cannot perhaps think of going to a lower position than that.

Factors like currency fluctuations and others are so uncertain that this should not be a permanent factor or one which is really worth consideration in making a budget for an organization like FAO. However, since this budget is mainly affecting the developing countries it will be appreciated if the developed countries which continue to enjoy economic growth, despite a little difficult time, now would not like to press on and instead perhaps would like to withdraw their

objections to the proposal for a marginal increase between 1.1 percent and 1.4 percent in the spirit of accommodation and consensus which they have demonstrated in the past, instead of insisting on the present context of zero growth only.

We wish to put on record once more our deep appreciation of the good work done by the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees as reflected in their very useful reports. My delegation also wishes to extend its warm appreciation for the frank and lucid introduction of the budget proposals made by the Director-General. We endorse wholeheartedly the proposed strategies and priorities spelled out therein in attaining the four principle objectives of which we are all aware, namely, promotion of food production, increases in food security, achievement of impact at the field level, and enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

In this context, I would like to make an appeal, once again, for the fellow delegates of those developed countries who suggested a zero growth approach on budgetary proposals kindly to withdraw, in the same spirit of accommodation and moderation which they have always shown in the past, so that it may be possible to get this budget approved, as before, through a consensus. This will be in keeping with the spirit in which, as we have seen in the past, the developed countries have extended their attention and helped their less fortunate fellow citizens of the world. This nice gesture should not be missed in this session either.

Robert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): I am not going to repeat the point concerning the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next two-year period which was in a generally positive sense already expressed in our speech yesterday during the discussion on budgetary programme and administrative matters. We are ready to agree with the proposed level and structure of the budget.

We welcome the fact that the Director-General of FAO, Mr Saouma, has succeeded through a reduction of non-productive costs, in maintaining and even somewhat increasing the real part of the budget to keep and enhance the technical and economic activity of our Organization, particularly in developing countries. We are glad that in the last period some savings have been made in the management of FAO finance and we believe that the saved money will be used for good purposes.

Concerning the volume of funds for member countries' original programmes, I would like, as a representative of a European country, to say a few words on that part of the draft budget that covers our region. If we compare the volume of funds now proposed in the FAO draft budget for Europe to the two-year period in the past, there is an evident trend toward their systematic reduction. I would like to point out in this connection that we are fully aware of the preferential orientation of these funds in favour of other regions. If, however, the region of Europe is to play a role in the interest of assistance to developing countries, then successive cuts in the budgetary allocations for the implementation of programmes in the region of Europe are a little problematic.

We are afraid that should there be no extra-budgetary funds available in the future, then such a situation might amount to the potential danger of stagnation of the European programmes. We believe it is in the interest of universality to FAO and in the interest of the developing countries in our continents that development of technology in Europe, especially technology applied to research, should again be recognized.

Hiroshi NAKAGAWA (Japan): As there will be ample opportunity during the Conference to review and comment on the details of the Programme of Work and Budget, I will restrict myself here to a few general comments. Firstly, the Programme of Work and Budget now presented to us shows a net programme decrease of \$1.2 million as compared with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget submitted at the last Council. My delegation has duly taken note of the fact that it was the first time for the Director-General since he took office ten years ago to revise his original budget proposal by taking into consideration the views and suggestions expressed by many delegates regarding the principle of zero growth.

Apart from the magnitude of the reduced amount itself, my delegation highly appreciates the positive attitude of the Director-General for having improved the budget and for trying to reach a consensus.

Secondly, despite this positive element, my delegation still cannot but express our concern about some elements of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. The most important one is TCP. My delegation has already expressed its concern about the nature of TCP as well as its sharp increase in the allocated resources on various occasions, and has no intention of repeating them at this point in time. Here, we would only like to manifest our disappointment in seeing that TCP has not been touched upon at all in the course of the revising of the budget. The real programme increase of TCP for the next biennium is, in fact, amounting to 4. 2 percent and ranks the highest among the seven chapters.

Another important point is the level of the net programme increase of 1. 14 percent. My delegation, while fully appreciating the Director-General's efforts so far in reducing the cost of the less priority areas, would like to see him take another courageous step in seeking zero net growth.

The third point is the very recent development of the dollar/lire exchange rate which has a significant effect on the level of assessed contributions of each Member Government. My delegation will express its final position on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget at the Conference, taking into account the above mentioned factors.

K. N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): At the outset we would like to compliment Mr Shah and the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their lucid exposition of their Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. We would like to compliment the Director-General for presenting a balanced budget, a budget which is development-oriented. We are happy to note that even though the budget represents a net increase of only 1. 1 percent, the technical programmes are increased to the extent of 3. 8 percent. This increase has been possible because of reductions in administration and support programme budgets. We are happy to note that the priority areas would be the promotion of food production, the increase in food security and the creation of impact at field level and promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

We are also happy to note that in the next biennium agriculture, forestry and fisheries and research have been provided with higher allocations in the agricultural sector. We would like that greater attention be paid to dry land farming systems. This is field which requires high priority especially in areas where irrigation is highly limited. It is necessary to promote and stabilize production in areas allocated for dry land farming.

We would also emphasize the need for proper soil and water management. It is necessary to provide training facilities so that the transfer of technology is feasible. In this connection my delegation would like that crop insurance be taken out as a supporting function to dry land farming systems.

With regard to the forestry sector we would like national and regional institutions to be set up for the training of forestry officials and also for changing their attitudes towards forestry activities. We feel they should take a dynamic view in the administration of forests and their attitude should also change from a regulatory one to one of development approach.

With regard to fisheries we would like to suggest that there be assistance for proper assessment of the potential in the exclusive economic zones and also in the preservation and management of fishery resources.

My delegation would reject the proposals put forward by certain countries with regard to zero net programme growth. All of us know that the needs are growing. The Director-General has mentioned in his introductory remarks that poverty and wretchedness have been spreading. It is necessary to alleviate this trend and this would be possible only through a bigger programme, through a bigger intervention in the development activities of the countries that are struggling to establish themselves. In this context we would suggest that activities be set up and that necessary support be provided to the developing countries in their attempts to increase food production, and also in stabilizing agricultural activities at a reasonable level. With these remarks my delegation would support the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

ZHU PEIRONG (China) (Original language Chinese): My speech will be very brief.

At the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council held in June this year, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium was discussed. Now, the finalized Programme of Work and Budget is submitted to the Council and then to the Conference. We have taken note of some new alterations in the document, especially in the budget level. This is the result of the Director-General's effort to coordinate different views in light of the recommendations by the June Council session. We appreciate such adjustment which has brought divergent positions closer to each other. In September this year, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee examined the final text of the Programme of Work and Budget. Likewise, we have noticed the proposals of the two Committees in their report submitted to this Council. We agree to submit the finalized Programme of Work and Budget to the Conference for consideration. The Chinese delegation will further elaborate its views at Commission II of the Conference and wishes to express its readiness to contribute, together with other delegations, to the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget at the Conference.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): You referred this morning to the three-page agenda which has been presented to us. It only reminds me of the lines from Robert Frost "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have a promise to keep and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep". I hope we can finish the agenda before we all fall asleep this evening.

Allow me first of all to thank Mr Shah and the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for introducing the subject. We have already discussed it in great depth in the September session of the Programme Committee and this item is going to figure very prominently on the agenda of the Conference, therefore we limit ourselves to only a few general comments.

As we have done in the Programme Committee and the last session of the Council, we endorse the strategies, priorities, and the programmes set out in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. We would like to commend the Director-General for his continuing search to present a budget acceptable to all Member Nations of the Organization. We hope that the divisions and overall budgetary outlay brought about by him will pave the way for its universal acceptance. But we would like to caution the Director-General against any further reductions, lest the effective delivery of FAO's programmes is adversely affected.

We fully endorse the Director-General's budget proposals and the modest increase proposed in document C 85/3. My delegation is of the view the so-called doctrine of zero net programme growth cannot be applied indiscriminately in the United Nations System. We have to take into account the specialized nature of FAO and the unique character of its functions. The fact that the Organization has in its mandate the eradication of poverty, malnutrition and hunger from the present world, and in view of the critical food shortages in Africa and acute poverty in other parts of the world, it is indeed inconceivable to try to apply this doctrine of zero growth to the programmes of FAO, which are of immense value to the poorer countries.

My delegation therefore urges the Council to recommend to the Conference unanimous endorsement of the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): The document before us on the Programme of Work and Budget is the result of intensive discussion held in different FAO committees and in the last session of the Council. These discussions, and comments on the issue addressed by the Director-General and his staff on many occasions, gave us sufficient familiarity with all of the relevant elements of the Programme of Work and Budget, and opportunities to express ourselves on the strategies, the priorities and programmes contained in this document. The Brazilian Government has already offered its view and has supported the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as presented last June to the Council. On this occasion we shall limit ourselves to a few comments on some topics of the revisions made by the Director-General to his initial proposals.

In regard to the agricultural programme, we particularly appreciated the emphasis given, especially in the natural resources, crops and rural development programmes, to the needs of small farmers, improvements in productivity of minor crops, and the development of agro-industries. We also noted with satisfaction the activities related in the crop sub-programme with the Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides. My delegation also offers its support to the allocation of resources for the nutrition sub-programme, which is of great importance to Latin America, and to the recommendation of the Programme Committee that adequate attention be given through the Livestock Sub-Committee to the foot-and-mouth disease problems in the Latin American region. As far as the fisheries programme is concerned, we feel that support must be given to the proposed increase of resources for the Sub-Programme Fisheries Data and Statistics, which will enable the development of fisheries data collection and analysis in coastal states.

My delegation asks the Secretariat once again to avoid in all FAO documents the expression "shared stock" when referring to stocks occurring within the Exclusive Economic Zones of two or more coastal states. The correct wording of the Convention on the Law of the Sea has been adequately referred to in paragraph 14 on page 131 of document C 85/3, but not in paragraph 2.36 on page 12 of the same document. At the last Conference session the same procedure was followed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and my delegation hopes that it will not be further repeated.

We strongly support maintenance in the revised proposals of 3.8 percent of net growth for the technical and economic programmes, the additional cuts in non-technical and support areas of the food programme, and the new estimates of cost increase. We feel that on this point the net increase of \$5 million is minimal, and therefore should need the unanimous approval of the Committee.

We reiterate our support to increase resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is of vital importance to developing countries, especially now that multilateral cooperation is being systematically questioned and levels of national resources are declining. We also deeply appreciate the relevant initiative related to the ECDC and TCDC area, which can be highly developed and does not face much controversy.

In the same line, the activities of the Divisional Office in the overall priority given to Africa deserves our full support. We must however express our concern at the relatively lesser attention that seems to be given to the Latin American and Caribbean region with respect both to the Regular Programme and to the trust funds. The international community seems to be paying little attention to the Latin American and Caribbean region, which are plagued with economic and financial problems and with severe problems of food deficit and attrition. These comments should be taken into due consideration for timely correction. Finally, we wish to confirm that notwithstanding our economic difficulties and the disproportionate share of our contribution to FAO, an item on which we are going to intervene during the Conference, Brazil supports the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget proposal and recommends it to the approval of the Council.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): My delegation would like to place on record its appreciation of the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the full Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 now before us. We note with particular satisfaction that the net programme increase has now been reduced to US\$5 million, or 1.1 percent on the present recosted basis. It is our belief that this reduction will be instrumental in allaying the concern expressed by a number of member countries at the last Council meeting and in securing the broadest acceptance possible for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget at the Conference. My Government has never adopted a firm policy of principle concerning budget increases in multilateral organizations, and we continue to believe that the proposed increases should be judged on their own merit, taking into consideration the demands placed on the organizations by member governments. We do however feel that such increases should be carefully reviewed on the basis of full and transparent information in order to establish their justification and appropriateness. In this regard we commend the Director-General for his continuing efforts to reduce specifically the administrative costs in the proposed budget.

Let me stress however that we feel confident that further reductions could be obtained by rationalization and better targeting of the existing programmes and activities. We would like to encourage FAO's further efforts in this direction. In this connection we feel it might be appropriate to undertake an analysis of the present administrative set-up of the Organization for the purpose of making recommendations for the future streamlining of its activities, by taking advantage of the latest technology.

Turning to the strategies and priorities of the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget, I shall limit myself to stressing a few important points.

First of all, we note with appreciation the increased regional focus on Africa, which we find fully justified in light of the tremendous problems facing that continent.

Secondly, we find ourselves in full agreement with the stated priority of increased decentralization at the country level in order to achieve greater responsiveness to local needs and priorities. The Programme of Work and Budget does, however, contain little information on how this further decentralization is to be accomplished. Since we attach great importance to this point we would be grateful if the Secretariat could clarify this.

Let me add a general observation that the programme is trying in our opinion to embrace too many aspects, and thereby the limited resources available are spread in such a way that the results which might be achieved may be limited. We know it is difficult to focus on priorities with the numerous requests and wishes indicated by member governments. However, efforts towards reducing the vast number of areas in which FAO is engaged should, in our opinion, be made. The administration of scarce resources is always a difficult task. However, it is also a challenge to make the most effective use of such resources. There is no doubt that the current financial situation facing most countries today will have impacts on the resources available in the future. This is a fact of which we should be aware, and that is why the time may have come to take a look not only at the 1986-87 biennium but also further ahead. The Programme of Work and Budget determines, as it says in the preamble, the pulse of the Organization, and sets the framework for FAO's work during the next biennium. As we are celebrating the completion of FAO's fourth decade, we can certainly express appreciation for the progress achieved during those years. However, the future is full of new challenges and in our opinion the landmark of 40 years could also provide an excellent opportunity to stop and think how our Organization could become better-equipped to more effectively meet the tasks that lie ahead.

My delegation will therefore conclude by generally supporting the new Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, and at the same time by indicating our desire to start considering how we would like to see FAO function during the next 10 to 15 years. The purpose of such a discussion on the future role of our Organization would be to determine how the limited resources available could be utilized to the maximum benefit of all Member Nations.

Adel EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): The delegation of my country would like to express its full satisfaction with the quality of the documentation of the items under consideration. We also commend the efforts of the Organization in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. This bears witness to the efforts of the Organization in serving developing countries develop their agricultural activities within the framework of limited financial resources and on the basis of technical cooperation.

It is with satisfaction that we witness the stress on the economic and technical programmes, their receiving the necessary allocations and the reduction of their operational costs. However, we hope this reduction will not be taken to extremes so as not to affect the efficiency of operations. The delegation of my country welcomes the proposed level of budget for the next biennium.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): Australia recognizes the numerous calls being made internationally in trading through the United Nations System for additional resources to meet identified needs. We believe that UN agencies should each identify which areas of high priority are central to their basic mandates, and seek to identify and reduce expenditure on areas which are peripheral to their basic mandate or of lower priority. We believe the principal recipients of assistance provided by the UN agencies, mainly the developing countries, have most to gain both from efficiency in the use of scarce resources, as well as from ensuring that such resources are used with maximum effectiveness.

We reaffirm that we do not support any increase in the proposed 1986-87 budget. In this context we totally reject any suggestion that this position in any way represents a reduction of our support for the multilateral system. We look forward to elaborating our views on this matter at the forthcoming Conference.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by welcoming the clear explanation of the complicated paper which was given to us by Mr Shah and the Committee Chairman. The United Kingdom appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General and his staff to contain the overall size of the budget and the positive results of their labours.

Although the reductions that have been achieved are welcome, we remain convinced that further reductions in the proposed budget can be made without damage to the operational capacity of the agency. This can, in our view, be achieved by cutting overheads, by realistically linking levels of expenditure to priorities, and by generally tightening up management control. We will discuss these points further in Commission II at the Conference.

Our position remains the same as it did at the last Council meeting. To allow my Government to be associated with a consensus agreement on the budget we must ask for proposals to be put before the Conference which will ensure that there is no real growth in the budget for the next biennium. We look for proposals for any increase in the truly operational programmes-and here I would distinguish between some of the more general, almost academic work undertaken in some Headquarters programmes, and operational programmes which have an impact in the field. It is increases in these operational programmes which, we stress, we believe are possible within a budget that does not have any real growth, but that these increases are offset by management and administrative savings and, if necessary, by a switch in resources from low-priority programmes.

In calling for this we wish to reiterate our support for FAO's activities and our support for the International Community's efforts to improve global agriculture and banish hunger. In saying this we also wish to underline the importance of maintaining public confidence by ensuring that FAO is seen to be aware of the need to exercise its stewardship in a cost-effective manner.

Finally, we have heard with interest the suggestions made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark, and we hope that at some point it will be possible for us all to have an opportunity to discuss these ideas for the future.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise tient à réitérer son opposition à la mise en oeuvre aveugle du concept de croissance zéro sans pour autant souscrire à une augmentation du budget qui ne tiendrait pas compte de la situation alimentaire et agricole dans les différentes régions du monde en développement. Voilà pourquoi nous nous félicitons que, dans la conception de son budget, le Directeur général ait proposé le niveau de ressources en tenant compte des objectifs poursuivis par l'Organisation et au regard de la situation économique mondiale. Mieux, il a remanié son projet original en prenant en compte des observations et suggestions raisonnables faites par certains membres de notre Conseil lors de sa dernière session. C'est un fait qui a été relevé ici et qui est tout à l'honneur de la FAO et de son Directeur général. Nous devons encourager ce qui marche et il s'agit là d'une phrase que j'emprunte à ma collègue des Etats-Unis, l'Ambassadeur Fenwick.

Je crois que cette phrase est très significative et nous voudrions qu'elle s'applique ici plus qu'ailleurs. Je voudrais qu'elle s'applique surtout au Programme de coopération technique dont chacun a su apprécier dans cette salle l'utilité et l'efficacité. On peut donc s'étonner des attaques faites ici et qui ont pour cible le PCT sur lequel tous les pays en développement fondent beaucoup d'espoirs. Nous estimons, pour notre part, que l'augmentation qui a été imprimée au niveau du Programme de coopération technique n'est pas à la hauteur de l'attente des pays en développement qui fondent, comme je l'ai dit, beaucoup d'espoirs sur ce Programme.

Nous apprécions le fait que le Directeur général, dans la version finale du Programme de travail et Budget, ait procédé à des réductions, sans que celles-ci concernent les programmes économiques et techniques qui ont reçu un appui unanime du Conseil à sa dernière session. Cependant, nous ne pouvons que nous inquiéter des réductions continues dont sont l'objet les dépenses administratives et de soutien depuis déjà quelques bienniums.

Nous voudrions donc ici exprimer nos craintes quant à la poursuite d'une telle politique qui pourrait aboutir à compromettre la capacité d'exécution de la FAO, malgré ce qu'a dit précédemment le délégué du Royaume-Uni. Nous pensons que cette réduction a désormais atteint un seuil au-delà duquel l'efficacité dans l'exécution des programmes de l'Organisation se trouverait dangereusement affectée.

Voilà les raisons pour lesquelles la délégation de mon pays tient à appuyer le Programme de travail et Budget tel qu'il est proposé.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hasta donde llega nuestra memoria es la primera vez que el Director General transige, ha aceptado un compromiso en cuanto a sus responsabilidades constitucionales de presentar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto a la Conferencia.

En acto de flexibilidad, con profundo sentido de cooperación, el Director General ha acogido las observaciones planteadas por los órganos rectores, pero hoy constatamos con decepción que nada de ello vale para modificar la actitud ciertamente negativa de unos pocos países desarrollados.

Nos duele, nos ofende, inquieta nuestra conciencia profundamente tercermundista el hecho de que el primer orador que intervino en este debate haya hecho referencia al 40 aniversario de la FAO para reiterar su actitud negativa. Hubiera sido más lógico y más consecuente si esa representación quería hablar de aniversarios que hubiera dicho que con la reiteración de esa actitud negativa, ese país quería celebrar el quinto aniversario, quinto aniversario repito, de la fecha en que su país inició la instigación de la conspiración contra la cooperación multilateral.

El aumento neto anterior de 1. 4 por ciento ha descendido al 1. 1 por ciento; los aumentos calculados del 14 por ciento han descendido al 5. 2 por ciento; estas son reducciones drásticas excepcionales; todo ello mientras se mantendrá el aumento del 3. 8 por ciento en los programas técnicos y económicos. Para los países desarrollados posiblemente habrá un crecimiento cero de las contribuciones en dólares, las monedas de esos países se han evaluado considerablemente en relación con el dólar de los Estados Unidos y así a ellos les costará menos sus contribuciones al Programa Ordinario de la Organización.

Nos conforta que grandes países en desarrollo, por citar sólo a tres entre los más grandes, India, China y Brasil por ejemplo, estén dispuestos en cambio, a apoyar este pequeñísimo aumento porque nuestras monedas se han devaluado considerablemente, es decir, que ahora nos costará más el aporte de nuestras contribuciones en dólares de los Estados Unidos.

Tratamos a veces de contener nuestras reacciones, aunque actuamos con profunda convicción, pero ¿cómo podemos permanecer silenciosos ante el desconcierto que nos causa un párrafo del informe de la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, párrafo en el cual cuatro países bien conocidos dicen que aprecian en su justo valor la reducción propuesta por el Director General pero que esperan nuevos recortes para lograr un crecimiento neto cero del Programa y como justificación dicen que ello sería corolario de la limitación del gasto público nacional en su país? Creemos que esta es una concepción injusta e inhumana, porque los presupuestos de esos países desarrollados están destinados a las sociedades de opulencia de esos estados, mientras que los escasos recursos de la FAO van a ser dedicados a millones y millones de seres humanos que padecen hambre y malnutrición.

Esta es una posición inaceptable para nosotros, Señor Presidente, ¿cómo es posible que se pretenda que una Organización tan importante y respetable como la nuestra, integrada por 156 Estados soberanos deba seguir las prácticas nacionales de unos pocos países porque son los que más contribuyen, y justamente aquellos Estados en los cuales la recuperación económica se está llevando a cabo de manera más notable?

Como lo dijo el colega de México, esta actitud es un nuevo golpe contra la cooperación multilateral, no obstante que altas personalidades de esos países y jefes de gobierno vienen manifestando su preocupación por la crisis del multilateralismo.

El Director General ha hecho recortes, ha reducido el aumento de los gastos, ha disminuido cantidades menos prioritarias, ha limitado los gastos administrativos, así ha logrado ahorros que dedicará a incrementar los programas técnicos y económicos que son el verdadero y real interés de los países en desarrollo. ¿Cómo es posible que aun así se insista en un crecimiento cero neto del Programa?

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que esa es una actitud egoísta.

Quisiéramos que esos colegas nos explicaran qué es lo que desean. ¿Que los ahorros logrados en vez de incrementar esos programas se tiren a la calle? ¿que se dediquen a financiar el viaje de algunos de ellos como astronautas camino a la luna?; ¿que se regalen?; ¿que se rifen?; ¿que organicemos paseos y excursiones con lindas señoritas a islas placenteras?; ¿que es lo que desean? ¿Qué hará el Director General con los ahorros que logra a base de esfuerzos y de buena administración?

Sabemos que no vamos a convencer a ninguno de los representantes de gobiernos que van a asistir a estas sesiones, pero apoyamos lo que ha dicho nuestro colega de Bangladesh en el sentido de que este Consejo haga un nuevo esfuerzo en pro del acuerdo y del consenso y pida a esos pocos países, afortunadamente pocos, a que rectifiquen su actitud; creo que el mundo en desarrollo está ante un desafío.

El Director General ha dicho en su introducción que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto marca el pulso de la Organización y representa su fuerza viva. Quienes en la Conferencia vamos a representar al Tercer Mundo tenemos la obligación indeclinable de lograr este mínimo aumento en el Presupuesto del Programa de Labores que será la Biblia para nuestros trabajos en los dos años futuros.

Vincent MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): In the interest of brevity I will make a few general comments on the budget and leave my more specific comments for the Conference.

A brief review of the budgetary increases permitted over the last decade shows clearly that they have been at best somewhat less than the international rate of inflation. Quite apart from this, we have seen where the Director-General has made a concerted effort to reduce the budget from a 1.4 percent increase to a 1.1 percent increase in growth. To me this appears to be a very realistic increase, and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Director-General for not making any cuts in the technical and economic programmes as covered on page 38 of document C 85/3.

In the context of our own experience in Trinidad and Tobago, we have not escaped the serious economic problems which the entire world faces today. The necessity for structural adjustment is a harsh reality which we have faced in the presence of declining revenue from oil and the need to have more stringent fiscal management. It is against this background of this dichotomy of circumstances as has been expressed here, the divergence of opinion by various members, that Trinidad and Tobago is sympathetic towards the marginal increase proposed by the Director-General in the budget. Trinidad and Tobago will recommend its acceptance by other delegations.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Liban)(langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Shah ainsi que les présidents des Comités du programme et des finances pour leur présentation.

Permettez-moi de commenter le point 11 de l'ordre du jour concernant le Programme de travail et Budget pour 1986-87 et cela d'une manière générale sans entrer dans le détail des chiffres.

Premièrement, cette question a été longuement étudiée et analysée au sein des Comités du programme et des finances. Une quasi-unanimité s'était dégagée au sein de ces deux comités quant à l'approche suivie par le Secrétariat de la FAO pour traiter du Programme de travail et Budget et quant au niveau de ce dernier. Le niveau du budget a été tout à fait satisfaisant et cela grâce aux efforts continus déployés par le Directeur général. Je voudrais souligner ici que l'adoption du Programme de travail et Budget, à l'unanimité, au cours de la prochaine Conférence, donnera à l'Organisation l'élan nécessaire pour aller de l'avant dans l'exécution des projets d'une manière satisfaisante et efficace pour le plus grand bien de tous les Etats Membres.

Deuxièmement, nous avons écouté hier et avant-hier le point de vue des honorables délégués commentant le programme ordinaire et les programmes de terrain pour la période 1984-85. Il s'est avéré à tous, d'une manière indubitable, que pour permettre à la FAO d'assumer les charges et les responsabilités qui lui incombent: lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde, promouvoir le développement rural et combattre la pauvreté et la misère, nous devons-en tant que responsables gouvernementaux-fournir au Secrétariat général les possibilités financières, matérielles et pratiques afin qu'il puisse accomplir ses devoirs comme il se doit, sinon nous ne serons pas conséquents avec nous-mêmes.

Troisièmement, en nous référant à l'introduction du Directeur général au Sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget pour le biennium 1986-87, il s'avère que les objectifs visés par l'Organisation sont clairs et répondent aux énormes besoins des pays membres dans les domaines de l'assistance et de la coopération. Le Comité financier et le Comité du programme ont reconnu que dans les circonstances économiques actuelles, répondre à ces besoins doit reposer sur un choix précis des activités ayant un impact profond et sur la nécessité de prendre les mesures appropriées pour les mettre en oeuvre d'une manière efficace et satisfaisante. En vérité, le projet tel qu'il est soumis par le Comité des finances et le Comité du programme réalise parfaitement cet objectif. D'autre part le niveau du budget s'est limité à une augmentation modeste des programmes techniques et économiques, après la réduction apportée aux activités administratives et les services de soutien.

Nous aurions souhaité et espéré avec la majorité des membres du Conseil, que l'augmentation du budget soit beaucoup plus substantielle qu'elle ne l'a été. Toutefois, nous sommes conscients des circonstances qui ont milité en faveur du niveau actuel du budget. Ma délégation appuie et soutient le projet tel qu'il nous a été présenté et souhaite que tous les autres membres l'appuient.

H. REDL (Austria): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction of this very important item. My delegation fully supports the activities and priorities proposed by the Director-General. We are pleased that in the Programme of Work Africa has the first priority. We are very grateful that it was possible to reduce the administrative costs and to make savings of about US\$ 1.2 million.

On the subject of the budget, my delegation will explain its position in detail during the course of the Conference. We hope this budget will be adopted by the Conference with the maximum consensus.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to make some general remarks and leave any further statements to the more intense discussion of the Conference.

We welcome the efforts of the Director-General to take into account the difficulties which may arise for all member States if higher annual contributions were to be made. The Director-General pointed this out clearly in his introduction to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-7. Beyond that, we have already noted with satisfaction at the Eighty-seventh session of the Council that the Director-General has made efforts in his proposed Programme of Work and Budget to orientate the priorities in the work of the Organization more strongly towards technical programmes for increasing food and agricultural production, as well as towards rural development programmes, thus making reductions in overhead costs.

We recognize the efforts of the Director-General to draw the necessary conclusions from the discussion at the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council, to limit the real budget increase to 1.1 percent, and to achieve further cuts in the administrative sector as well as not increasing the budget under item 14. Here, we underline the statements made by our delegation in the Finance Committee. This will be our basic view of these items.

Allow me to make some general comments on the Programme. We agree to the Programme priorities outlined in the document, increasing food production, increasing food security, consultation on information systems, intensification of training, promotion of economic and technical cooperation between developing countries and the greater efficiency of the work of FAO in the field. On the major Programme of agriculture we welcome the efforts of the Organization to assist Member States effectively in the formulation of their national policies and strategies to develop agriculture. This applies in particular to the efforts to strengthen the training of experts. Above all, this Programme deals with the promotion of economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, to which we lend our support.

With regard to the major Programme on fisheries, in particular we welcome the activities of FAO in dealing with fish waste and food loss in an important sphere, as well as in its efforts to use under-utilized fish species, or those which are not used at all.

What impresses us in the major Programme of forestry is the thrust of FAO's work to stabilize the ecological contribution that forestry makes to soil and water resources, as well as the efforts in afforestation for fuelwood production.

In connection with the Technical Cooperation Programme, it has always been our opinion that technical cooperation must be financed through voluntary contributions of Member States and not from the Regular Programme. Concerning the TCP, we have already made our comments under agenda item 8.

We should not discourage the willingness to cooperate and I think therefore we should endeavour to come to a comprehensive consensus on the questions under discussion.

Jean-Pol NEME (France): La délégation française a déjà eu l'occasion de faire part de manière détaillée de ses commentaires sur le Programme de travail de la FAO pour le biennium 1986-87, notamment lors des réunions du Comité du programme. Comme le temps nous est compté, je me bornerai à un rapide rappel de nos positions. D'un point de vue général, nous approuvons totalement les objectifs et les stratégies proposés dans le Programme de travail 1986-87 à savoir, concentrer l'action sur la promotion des productions vivrières et le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire en visant un impact accru sur le terrain et en favorisant le développement de la coopération technique et économique entre les pays en développement. En particulier, l'accent mis sur l'appui aux efforts nationaux pour l'établissement de politiques de prix qui encouragent véritablement les producteurs, le rappel de l'intérêt qui s'attache à la création de groupements nationaux, le souci d'améliorer la liaison entre la recherche et la vulgarisation, la prise en compte des cultures secondaires et la recherche d'une plus grande adéquation entre les techniques utilisées et le milieu, sont autant de points positifs. En effet, pour mon gouvernement, la priorité absolue doit être accordée à l'aide aux économies paysannes en crise et tout particulièrement à la promotion de technologies appropriées aux groupes de producteurs sur lesquels repose le développement de ces économies. Nous ne pouvons donc qu'appuyer les orientations du Programme de travail de la FAO qui vont dans ce sens. S'agissant du budget qui nous est soumis, nous tenons à féliciter vivement le Directeur général pour la rigueur et l'efficacité dont il a fait preuve en réduisant de 1,40 pour cent à 1,14 pour cent la croissance réelle du budget proposé pour le biennium 1986-87, conformément aux recommandations de ma délégation lors de la dernière session du Conseil.

C'est la première fois que le Directeur général accepte de réviser en baisse ses propositions budgétaires par rapport à celles du sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget, ce qui traduit une attitude extrêmement positive que nous tenons à encourager.

En effet, si d'un point de vue général, le Gouvernement français estime que les budgets de l'Organisation internationale ne doivent connaître d'augmentations en termes réels en raison des difficultés économiques persistantes et de la rigueur budgétaire à laquelle nous sommes astreints, mon gouvernement est toutefois pleinement conscient du rôle tout à fait particulier qui incombe

à la FAO pour contribuer à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans de nombreux pays et plus spécialement en Afrique. C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer les orientations budgétaires privilégiant les programmes techniques et économiques ainsi que le Programme de coopération technique grâce à une réduction des dépenses administratives et de soutien. Nous approuvons en particulier la priorité accordée aux programmes techniques et économiques dont la croissance en termes réels, par rapport au biennium précédent, s'élève à 3, 7 pour cent en 1986-87, ce qui correspond à une augmentation trois fois plus élevée que l'ensemble du budget de la FAO. Ces propositions budgétaires montrent qu'une part de plus en plus importante du budget ordinaire est consacrée aux programmes de terrain, soit directement à travers le PCT, dont le budget croît de 4, 2 pour cent en termes réels, soit indirectement par le soutien technique apporté aux projets de terrain par le personnel permanent et les consultants rémunérés sur le chapitre 2 "Programme technique et économique".

Ma délégation a toujours approuvé la priorité donnée depuis plusieurs années aux programmes de terrain dans le budget ordinaire de la FAO, priorité qui a été accentuée au cours de l'année 1985 grâce au transfert au PCT de 15 millions de dollars d'économies réalisées sur d'autres chapitres du budget 1984-85 afin de financer de petits projets d'intervention rapide pour la relance de l'agriculture en Afrique. Parallèlement, nous nous félicitons de l'effort d'économie considérable qui a permis de réduire de plus de 15 pour cent en termes réels le budget des charges communes. En outre, la nouvelle réduction de la part des dépenses de personnel dans le budget ordinaire qui passe de 58 pour cent en 1984-85 à 55 pour cent en 1986-87 constitue pour ma délégation un point positif. Nous avons d'ailleurs noté à cet égard que la part des dépenses de personnel dans le budget de la FAO avait régulièrement augmenté jusqu'en 1974-75 pour atteindre un nouveau maximum de 77 pour cent et n'a cessé de décroître depuis cette date, ce dont nous nous félicitons.

Enfin, et ce sera mon dernier point, en ce qui concerne la répartition régionale du budget, nous appuyons tout particulièrement la priorité accrue à l'Afrique qui reçoit près des deux tiers du total des augmentations réelles de programme proposées en 1986-87. Ainsi la part de l'Afrique dans le budget ordinaire passe-t-elle de 25 pour cent en 1984-85 à 27 pour cent en 1986-87.

Toutefois, il aurait été utile que la présentation du Programme de travail et budget fasse également apparaître les efforts faits par la FAO en faveur des PMA, conformément aux recommandations de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, qui s'est tenue à Paris en septembre 1981. Nous espérons que cette proposition sera prise en compte lors de la préparation du Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium et nous serions reconnaissants au secrétariat de nous fournir des précisions sur ce point.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Mi Gobierno aprecia muy positivamente las modificaciones introducidas en el presupuesto desde la celebración del último Consejo. Apreciamos el esfuerzo realizado y reconocemos que las dificultades superadas lo han sido sopesando las opiniones de los distintos delegados expuestas en el anterior Consejo.

Como ya manifestamos anteriormente, estamos de acuerdo con el incremento de los gastos destinados a los programas principales, con la política de transferencias de recursos de la Sede al campo, y con el incremento de recursos destinados a Africa.

Nos satisfacen plenamente los objetivos que establece el presupuesto de fomentar la producción, mejorar la seguridad de alimentos, conseguir más eficaces resultados en los programas de campo, y naturalmente, promover la cooperación económica y técnica de los países en desarrollo.

Estamos de acuerdo con Dinamarca y Reino Unido en que urge discutir cuál ha de ser el futuro de la FAO. Mi país, como todos ustedes saben, está sufriendo todavía las consecuencias de la crisis económica. Nuestros indicadores económicos no son todavía ni mucho menos alentadores, ni nuestra sociedad es opulenta. El presupuesto nacional para 1986 se está discutiendo en estos días en el Congreso de los Diputados, pero la propuesta de mi Gobierno no ha podido ser expansionista. Al menos, el próximo año todavía tendremos que movernos dentro de la moderación.

Somos conscientes de los problemas que afectan a muchos países que necesitan una ayuda para rehabilitar sus agriculturas, y es a la FAO a quien le corresponde esa labor. Por eso, y haciendo una excepción en la política general de contracción del gasto de las organizaciones internacionales, mi delegación considera que el proyecto de incremento de presupuesto es aceptable y además sienta las bases para un control del gasto eficaz y progresivo. Esperamos finalmente que los recursos empleados obtengan el máximo rendimiento posible.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos primeramente felicitar al señor Shah y al Presidente de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas por la presentación que nos han hecho del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el año 1986-87 que ha presentado el Director General.

Realmente esta misma situación la hemos confrontado a partir de cuatro a cinco años en que se vienen haciendo esfuerzos denodados por tratar de mantener un nivel de trabajo eficiente hacia la comunidad internacional, hacia los países, a pesar de la imposición de reducciones; digo imposición de reducciones porque nosotros podemos comprender las reducciones, podemos apoyar totalmente esta versión que presenta el Director General porque creemos que es un compromiso del Director General que debemos aceptar por respeto a su dedicación y vocación hacia el real drama que vive hoy la agricultura, que vive Africa, el hambre, la desnutrición, la crisis generalizada, el orden económico injusto e impuesto. Decimos esto porque ésta es una pequeña muestra de la imposición.

No hay nadie en esta sala que pueda negar que las necesidades han crecido; nadie puede negar que las necesidades crecen, y que la crisis es más profunda. Y sin embargo hay muchos que aquí se han vanagloriado de estar creciendo y haber resuelto su problema dentro de una crisis que ellos manejan, porque realmente la manejan de acuerdo con su mecanismo.

Entonces, no entendemos cómo se puede hablar, cómo pueden hablar de ser pioneros de la FAO, pioneros en el 40° aniversario.

Nosotros consideramos que el presupuesto que se presenta, tenemos que decir que es equilibrado; es equilibrado por obra y gracia de un esfuerzo inmenso que han hecho la Secretaría de la FAO, su Director General, para mantener dentro de niveles modestos la atención a la producción alimentaria, a la seguridad alimentaria, a los programas de cooperación técnica, a los programas de cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo, y a los programas de campo, técnicos, económicos, a la priorización para Africa. A todo esto se le ha llamado priorización o presupuesto equilibrado.

Queremos expresar que estos capítulos, estas tareas no son caprichos. Son las prioridades que han dado las orientaciones de la Conferencia pasada, y específicamente las conferencias regionales que nos han dicho dónde debemos poner el énfasis en esta situación.

La FAO ha hecho un trabajo digno de saludar y de encomio por las dificultades que tropieza para poder realmente aceptarlo. Creemos que aprobando este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, si no estamos totalmente conformes con su volumen en general porque creemos que debió haber crecido mucho más para poder realmente resolver los problemas, pero, bueno, ofrece la fuerza vital necesaria para que la FAO cumpla su misión y sus funciones con los Estados Miembros, y repito al servicio de la comunidad internacional.

Al conmemorarse este 40° aniversario de la FAO, quisiera decir que los pioneros en su constitución, muchas veces con orgullo un poco diríamos filantrópico, han hablado de que fueron los primeros. Sin embargo, es un poco apesadumbrado en estos momentos ver que los primeros no son los primeros en garantizar su progreso con verdadera conciencia y de que las tareas para realizar son inmensas y no las empezamos a hacer y que están agravadas por crisis mundiales indiscutibles y generalizadas, sobre todo en sus efectos, y son cuestiones bastante lamentables y que la prensa destaca con frecuencia. Creo que aquí no se apoya a garantizar, sino que aquí se está apoyando a destruir. Por principio, Sr. Presidente, nuestro país ha planteado que el crecimiento cero en los programas de todos los organismos internacionales es negativo, y es negativo porque es una forma de ponderar el hambre. Se habla mucho de ponderar, sin embargo aquí se pondera el hambre y le da un tanto por ciento mayor a los que son más necesitados.

Estamos seguros que la implementación de este crecimiento que tiene filosofía de conceptualización, debe tener un origen sano en cuanto a crear estabilidad y no se sabe por dónde se va a estabilizar. Esta sería una de las cosas que se podrían aceptar a costa de los organismos internacionales, sin embargo creemos que en estos momentos esto unifica más la voluntad de todos los organismos y de todos los países en desarrollo para mantenerse unidos enfrente y mantener estos organismos multilaterales a toda costa.

No vamos a utilizar más tiempo que el que usted nos propuso, Sr. Presidente, para la discusión general. Aprobamos se traslade a la Conferencia con el pleno apoyo de este Consejo el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87.

A. K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I cannot pretend that I have anything new to say here. We participated in the discussions of this agenda item during the Eighty-seventh session of the Council, and during that time, while supporting the Summary Programme of Work and Budget we felt that FAO would be considerably constrained in fulfilling its mandates within the level of budget presented at that time. You may recall the study "Agriculture Towards 2000" which gave us an indication of levels of investment in agriculture necessary in order to rid ourselves of the problems of hunger now facing many developing countries.

The levels of investment suggested in that study were at a level which most of the developing countries cannot afford. We would expect FAO's involvement in this programme to increase in a similar manner. Because of FAO grappling with the fundamental world problems of hunger, malnutrition, and rural development, it is obviously a priority consideration and will therefore require more investment than perhaps we consider when we are talking about these things.

The TCP programme, for instance, which has raised a lot of discussion has made FAO an operational Organization rather than a mere depository of technical knowledge. It is a programme which must be supported. Because of these considerations my delegation fully supports the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget and would urge that the Council approve it in its entirety.

Carlos R. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Vamos a ser muy breves Sr. Presidente. Nuestras opiniones ya fueron expresadas en la reunión del Comité del Programa de este año y en el 87 período de sesiones del Consejo y queremos reiterar nuestro endoso al proyecto que se nos presenta para el bienio 1986-87. Queremos adelantar ese apoyo aunque nos referiremos específicamente sobre estos problemas en la Conferencia. Queremos también dar nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de Pakistán de que este Consejo endose el proyecto, que se nos ha presentado, por unanimidad.

Badr BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): Ce point de l'ordre du jour, déjà discuté au cours de la 87ème session du Conseil en juin 1985, a suscité des réactions et des avis partagés mais pas nécessairement divergents de la part des différents membres du Conseil. D'ailleurs l'initiative prise par le Directeur général de ramener la croissance du budget de 1, 4 pour cent à 1, 1 pour cent dénote la volonté de rapprocher les points de vue et de parvenir à un consensus, bien que nous soyons au fond de nous-mêmes convaincus de ce que la situation alimentaire mondiale actuelle nécessite une intervention plus vigoureuse de la FAO et donc des moyens financiers plus importants.

Pour ce qui est du principe de la croissance zéro, la délégation tunisienne rejoint le point de vue exprimé par l'honorable délégué du Pakistan et par M. l'Ambassadeur du Congo, à savoir que ce principe de croissance zéro ne devrait pas être appliqué systématiquement et aveuglément aux différentes institutions des Nations Unies. Nous croyons que la FAO est aujourd'hui appelée plus que jamais à multiplier ses efforts dans le sens de l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans beaucoup de pays du tiers monde et surtout des pays africains touchés par la sécheresse.

Dans ce contexte, la Tunisie appuie le projet de budget proposé par le Directeur général et le considère comme un minimum incompressible et demande aux pays membres du Conseil de l'adopter tel qu'il est présenté.

José Manuel WATSON (Panamá): Nuestra delegación ha participado tanto en los períodos de sesiones de este mismo Consejo como en los Comités que lo asesoran y en los cuales se ha examinado la correspondiente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del bienio de 1986-87.

En el pasado 87° período de sesiones de este Consejo aprobamos las estrategias, prioridades y programas del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1986-87. En aquella oportunidad, se apoyaron reducciones en servicios administrativos y de apoyo no técnicos por un total de 3, 75 millones de dólares de los Estados Unidos, con el fin de obtener un aumento del 3, 8 por ciento en los programas técnicos y económicos. Estos y otros aumentos menores significó un aumento neto de los programas de 6, 2 millones de dólares de Estados Unidos; o sea, 1, 4 por ciento sobre la base actual con un nuevo cálculo de los costos.

En esta oportunidad, y sobre la base de sugerencias formuladas, el Director General nos propone asignaciones presupuestarias para los Programas técnicos y económicos en la forma aprobada por el pasado Consejo; e igualmente nos propone la reducción de fondos para las actividades no técnicas y de apoyo en un millón de dólares, no incluyéndose aumentos en la partida de imprevistos. Por lo tanto, el aumento neto de los programas propuestos es de sólo 5 millones de dólares de los Estados Unidos, o sea apenas un 1, 1 por ciento sobre la base actual con un nuevo cálculo de los costos.

Frente a esto, la delegación de Panamá, no puede menos que preguntarse: ¿qué viene a significar realmente cinco o seis millones de dólares frente a la magnitud de las tareas que tenemos por delante? Y ¿qué viene a significar, por ejemplo, frente a la transferencia neta de recursos de los países en desarrollo a los países desarrollados? Situación ésta que como ya hemos señalado en anteriores oportunidades, es realmente dramática para mi región: América Latina y el Caribe.

Para Panamá, el aumento sólo de un punto porcentual en los intereses de su deuda externa significa el pago de 16 millones de dólares más y, la transferencia anual neta de recursos viene a significar actualmente unos 250 millones de dólares.

Reiteramos la validez de los seis objetivos principales que orientan la preparación del presupuesto. Igualmente, consideramos adecuadas las medidas adoptadas para con el Continente africano, en cumplimiento de la Resolución 1|86 del Consejo, ya que la grave crisis que azota esta parte del mundo merecen una atención prioritaria a sus necesidades de asistencia.

En igual forma deseamos resaltar en el Programa de Presupuesto los aspectos relativos a la cooperación entre países en desarrollo en el sector de insumos agrícolas que contribuyan a un aumento de la productividad agrícola, señalando claramente que esta cooperación no sustituye la cooperación Norte-Sur. Ciertamente es que estas actividades en términos generales se ven imposibilitadas por la falta de recursos e infraestructuras adecuadas; de allí que la propuesta de la FAO, como una nueva política de movilizar fondos extrapresupuestarios para el mejor aprovechamiento de las posibilidades de los programas de cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo, cuento con el beneplácito de nuestra delegación.

Respaldamos igualmente, Sr. Presidente, el contenido y preocupación manifiesta del Comité de Finanzas expresada en los párrafos 2. 57 a 2. 59 del documento 88/4 relativos a la reducción de gastos, ya que considera que la Organización debe contar con la infraestructura adecuada para un buen desempeño de las labores que está llamada a cumplir.

Estamos pues, en presencia de un nuevo presupuesto de la FAO para 1986-87 que consideramos realmente mínimo y que, aunque apoyamos la propuesta del Pakistán, no se puede justificar por la búsqueda de un mal interpretado consenso.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Panamá reitera su apoyo a este presupuesto mínimo que se propone, sin que esto quiera decir que no sean válidos e importantes nuestros señalamientos y preocupaciones que bien deben aparecer en nuestro Informe final.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): When the delegation of my country participates in any committee in this pioneering Organization, or when we participate in any other organization within the UN family, and when the delegation of my country participates also in the discussion of an important item like the one we have under consideration now, namely the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87, we try always to reflect the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which can be summarized as follows: to assist and support developing countries, least developed countries, and food deficit developing countries. Out of our feeling of international responsibility, we support everything that we consider will benefit those countries. Therefore we have already supported the budget which was submitted and which was also considered by the Finance Committee and by this Council during its previous session.

When the Director-General submitted the reduced budget of the Finance Committee, and we were clear that he had undertaken these reductions from a realistic viewpoint of the economic circumstances of all the countries in the world, in addition to our feeling that the Director-General will never prejudice in any manner the quality of technical programmes which benefit developing countries, we also approved this reduced level of the budget, and we express our approval of the budget here.

However we are still concerned that should these significant reductions be pursued at the level of administrative services and support services, which we believe to be the fundamental bases for this Organization-the fundamental bases upon which the technical programmes which benefit developing countries are built-they might in coming biennia affect the quality of technical programmes which are of such benefit to, and serve the interests of, developing countries. We have referred to this, and we have cautioned against the trend, in the meeting of the Finance Committee.

What I am saying is not a secret. All countries without exception suffer a difficult economic situation at present. However, if the able, rich and industrially developed countries suffer this economic situation, what is the position of those developing countries which are in dire need for even the minimum resources required? There is no doubt that developing countries are suffering more than the others. Their peoples suffer food shortages. There might be sacrifices-if we can call them sacrifices-made by able or rich countries, but we believe that these sacrifices, whatever their size, should not be constraints that hinder efforts to save the millions of lives which are the toll of the acute food shortage. Whatever sacrifices are made by developed countries, they still stand short of the toll paid daily by the peoples of developing countries.

We all have principles. Whatever these principles may be, they should give way to facts-stark facts. The facts are so clear in Africa, in Asia, and perhaps in other parts of the world. The facts could not be clearer. We find that Africa suffers hunger, and its peoples die in thousands. These are facts, and stark reality which should not be denied. We should address our principles to these facts, and we should put these principles into the service of the solution to these problems.

We approved the present budget submitted here, and we would like to express our thanks to the Director-General, his collaborators, and the Organization staff for their positive response and reaction. They have reached the limit-that is what we believe.

In conclusion we appeal to all countries to approve the present budget during the session of the Council, and subsequently in Commission II of the general Conference next week.

Henri Arfang SENHOR (Senegal): Permettez-moi de féliciter M. Shah et les Présidents du Comité du programme et du Comité financier pour la présentation claire et précise du Programme et Budget pour le budget 1986-87.

Je dirai également ma reconnaissance au Directeur général pour les efforts qu'il accomplit en vue de tenir compte des recommandations et des suggestions de la précédente session de notre Conseil opérant des réductions sensibles sur les prévisions initiales.

S'agissant de l'augmentation de 1, 4 pour cent du budget, force nous est de constater qu'elle est insignifiante en regard des besoins réels et des priorités auxquelles notre Organisation, qui reflète nos préoccupations, doit faire face dans ce contexte.

Ma délégation s'inquiète vivement du fait que nous rencontrons certaines difficultés pour faire approuver les propositions du Directeur général, alors que nous avons, à l'unanimité, accepté les stratégies et objectifs préalablement définis. N'est-il pas logique de prévoir par conséquent les moyens nécessaires pour réaliser les objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés? Une démarche s'impose à nous pour diverses raisons. D'abord, les crises économiques et alimentaires qui sévissent actuellement dans de nombreux pays en développement, crises qui n'ont jamais été aussi profondes parce que structurelles, nécessitent un plus grand appui aux projets de développement.

Par ailleurs, compte tenu de sa situation, l'agriculture africaine a besoin plus que jamais de ressources nouvelles pour assurer sa réhabilitation.

Enfin, la coopération multilatérale devrait donner une plus grande priorité à la recherche scientifique, au transfert de technologies et à la formation.

Pour toutes ces considérations, je voudrais approuver sans réserves le Programme de travail et Budget proposé, en insistant à nouveau pour que le PCT soit renforcé et doté de moyens plus importants.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): En atención a la brevedad, vamos a ahorrar tiempo en las felicitaciones a quienes han realizado esta laboriosa tarea que representa el Programa de Presupuesto que se discute hoy.

Creo que no hacen falta nuevos argumentos técnicos para abogar por su aprobación; por ello, nos limitaremos a expresar nuestro apoyo absoluto y pleno a la exposición hecha por nuestro colega el Embajador Bula Hoyos, de Colombia, decano en estas lides de trabajo en la FAO. Lo apoyamos porque estamos identificados con él en los criterios expresados aquí, porque conocemos como él la realidad de los pueblos de nuestros países que luchan por sacudir ese estado de atraso social, de pobreza vergonzante y de incapacidad para superar tal estado que los tecnólogos califican como subdesarrollo, que otros científicos lo clasifican como países del Tercer Mundo, todas las cuales son expresiones para nosotros peyorativas que implican un solo criterio, la no posesión del dinero. Para ponerlos en condiciones de lograr tal superación, esto sólo les hace falta, como demostramos hoy en esta discusión del Presupuesto, en la cual se niega ese dinero.

Por eso, porque tenemos esta convicción, suscribimos todos y cada uno de los conceptos expresados en la intervención de Colombia, y nos manifestamos por la aprobación del documento en discusión.

Avraam LOUCA (Cyprus): For the second consecutive biennium the Director-General is presenting a budget with severe cuts in administrative expenditure. We are very happy to note that the recent budgetary revisions which have been brought about by the Director-General in an effort to accommodate the views of some member countries did not affect the progress of the work, but rather affected non-productive provisions. Through the transfer of funds the Director-General has been able to maintain the emphasis on technical and economic programmes, and we welcome this continued effort to reduce administrative costs. However we hope that these reductions will not affect the Organization's capacity to deliver its programme efficiently and effectively.

We are particularly happy that under such a budget, merely of zero growth, there has been a slight increase in the resources for the TCP-although we would have wished for a higher appropriation.

My delegation endorses fully the strategies, priorities and programmes, as well as the budget proposals, as they appear in the document under review.

E. T. CHENGU (Zimbabwe) : My delegation fully supports the Director-General's Work Programme and Budget as presented here now, although we feel that the technical and economic programme could have been allocated more funds. We would however wish to point out that it should be recognized that his budget has come at a time when many governments, particularly in Africa, are experiencing a deep economic crisis, and efforts to get out of the crisis only results in a vicious circle. This crisis has a negative impact on the governments' ability to absorb the very aid that we are discussing in the first place. Many governments in Africa are facing right now at home a domestic crisis in both capital and recurrent budgets. This is due to a number of factors such as unfavourable external factors, high interest rates, volatile exchange rates, trade restrictions, protectionism, disadvantages in terms of trade, lack of funds for the most essential investment, and a crippling debt burden. All this has a negative implication for the governments' ability to absorb aid in general, and in particular on their ability to ensure that technical assistance, which is supposed to come from organizations such as FAO, is put to the most effective use. This is to say that governments should ensure that there is a transfer of knowledge and technology from the TCP experts to their indigenous counterparts, and also that the numerous feasibility studies being carried out by TCP experts are in fact taken forward for implementation. This, in fact, in many cases does not happen because of these budgetary cuts in both capital and recurrent budgets, and in many cases because of lack of suitable counterpart staff in the local organizations. Ideally increases in technical assistance should always be matched by corresponding increases by member governments in their capital and recurrent budgets. We should therefore urge, in considering this budget before us, we would urge the FAO to step up its role as a provider for technical assistance at the field level as well as a mobilizer for investment and aid in order for there to be adequate absorption of aid.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada) : We have had the advantage of being a member of the Finance Committee which considered the summary programme in May of this year. We have had the advantage of being a member of the Council which considered the summary programme in June, and again the full Programme of Work and Budget which was presented to the Finance Committee and is in front of us today. We have expressed ourselves at some length on those previous three occasions, and since the Council in June there has been some reduction in the budgetary proposals which reflects the concern that the Director-General has had that there are members of the Organization who feel that additional budgetary restraint is needed.

Originally I had intended to intervene in the debate and perhaps to try with some logic to present the reasons why we take this approach: the purposes which we think it would serve, the ways by which it could be done, and to re-affirm on behalf of my country our commitment to development assistance in increasing quantities. But in view of the time and some futility of the dialogue, we had thought perhaps that we would not say much. Indeed the mid-day break and the conversation with you indicated that perhaps there could be some restraint in debate this afternoon, in the light of the fact that full consideration of the budgetary proposals would be given in Commission II and ultimately put to the Conference for decision.

In spite of some challenging oratory this afternoon and as much as we like to hear ourselves speak, we have decided to continue our restraint, and we would merely indicate that we will present our case in the Conference framework, and that we still have reservations in spite of the improvement in the budgetary proposals since June. We feel that there is a real opportunity, an opportunity which could be missed, to put the Organization on the map and to address the prospect of a zero growth budget, one that would be advantageous to all without cutting back in the Programme proposals that are in hand in the budget itself.

So we will not speak further at this time; our views are on record. The views we made in the Council we feel are still largely relevant and we will repeat them in the appropriate forum in the Conference.

MOHAMED MAZLAN bin JUSOH (Malaysia) : I am sorry to take the floor at this late hour but since many developed countries have voiced a reservation on this Programme of Work and Budget I feel it is my duty to reiterate our support for this Programme of Work and Budget as contained in document C 85/3.

Despite the objections expressed by some major developed countries on the meagre increase proposed, we view the proposed budget as very realistic, taking into account the needs of the worst problem-ridden agricultural sectors.

We would like to commend the Director-General for his efforts in search of a general consensus and we fully urge countries which have expressed their objection to give special consideration to this fundamental problem of food production. We intend to come back to this issue in the Conference.

We wish also to support the Director-General's programme priorities, promotion of food production, increased food security, consultation of information systems, emphasis on training and enhancement of TCDC and ECDC, and ensuring of impact at the field level. The emphasis given to Africa receives our special support. All of us are aware of the severity of the crisis facing Africa and therefore the re-programming of the 5 million to support rehabilitation of agriculture and the proposal to transfer 15 million in savings to implement specific rehabilitation programmes are most appropriate and timely.

Finally, my delegation agrees that the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 be transmitted to the Conference in its entirety.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Having followed this debate with full attention I hope you will agree with me that although much of great interest has been said, there were no queries of a nature which warrant a reply from me at this stage. I should however like, on behalf of the Director-General, to make a few general remarks.

In my presentation this morning, Sir, I kept myself to the facts, the facts of the changes, the facts of what is before you. I deliberately refrained from commenting on the changes or the reasons for the changes, and I think it is very gratifying for us that the Council itself has recognized the attempts made by the Director-General and the reasons for them. As many distinguished delegates have said, it is the Director-General's commitment to assist all Member Nations to arrive at an agreed position, which was the motivating factor in the changes between the summary budget and the full budget. He has been commended for this and on his behalf may I express our gratitude for the understanding and support shown by the Council.

It is not a question, I think, at this stage of my assisting in making tallies of the 34 Member Nations who have spoken. Their positions will be reflected in the report which we shall endeavour to prepare, and I think there is no other comment that I need make at this stage.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr Shah. May I sum up the operative part, the last part of our report. The Drafting Committee will prepare a full report, but in view of the limited time available I would like to sum up our conclusions so that there is no ambiguity. The Drafting Committee will indicate the trend of the viewpoints expressed, and from my notes the conclusion will be "that the Council as a whole expressed its full support for the Director-General's proposal, and agreed to remit the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 to the Twenty-third Session of the Conference with the recommendation that it be unanimously approved. "

Arnell D. WEYGANDT (United States of America): On a point of information, Mr Chairman, did I correctly understand you to say that the report of the Council will not only recommend that the budget will be remitted to the Conference, but that it should also be accepted unanimously?

CHAIRMAN: I will read it again. This is the formula we use when there are some differences of opinion. "The Council as a whole expressed its full support for the Director-General's proposal and agreed to remit the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 to the Twenty-third session of the Conference with the recommendation that it be unanimously approved ". This does not preclude anyone taking up a position in Commission II.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): To clarify that once again, Mr Chairman, you mentioned parentheses. I wonder if that parentheses is in the statement, "The Council as a whole, while some members disagreed is what you said.

CHAIRMAN: The preceding paragraphs will bring out the flavour of the discussion. There are no parentheses. The sentence will read, "The Council as a whole expressed its full support and so on.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A nosotros nos inquieta la agresividad de ciertas minorías. Porque creemos que no es serio que en un Pleno del Consejo se discuta una coma más o menos, sobre todo cuando sabemos muy bien que su resumen es apenas una guía, o una orientación para los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

De manera que lamentamos que se sigan introduciendo estos elementos que no corresponden a la tradición de seriedad y corrección con que trabajamos en este Organismo.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): This debate gives me a feeling of déjà-vu in that I recall in the last Council meeting I attended we had a similar discussion. My delegation made the point then that perhaps a more suitable summation would be one in which it is said that some sort of nearer identity of view had been expressed in the Programme priorities, but there would be a different view expressed on the orders of magnitude. With respect, I feel that the formulation I suggest would better reflect some of the nuances in the discussion we have heard today, and I would prefer this formulation to the one you originally suggested.

CHAIRMAN: What is the formulation you are suggesting?

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The formulation we suggest would be something on the lines of "a nearer identity of view has been expressed on priorities ", or "a common identity of view was expressed on priorities ", or "a difference of view was expressed on the orders of magnitude ", and leave it that the Council leaves it to Conference for decision.

CHAIRMAN: We cannot do the drafting work here. I summed up in the way I did because out of 34 Council members who spoke 28 gave their full support, 6 had expressed reservations, and this is normally the formulation we follow. Let us not take paragraph by paragraph as if we were a drafting committee. Whatever is in the report you will see tomorrow. I suggest we conclude this item so that we can go on.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais tout simplement dire que la délégation congolaise appuie entièrement les conclusions que vous avez tirées et je crois qu'elles reflètent les débats qui ont eu lieu ici. Nous ne pensons pas qu'il faille mettre en équilibre les deux points de vue qui se sont exprimés. Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait eu déséquilibre.

CHAIRMAN: In any case, if you have any further comments we will be considering the report tomorrow.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to support the proposals submitted by the British delegation.

CHAIRMAN: You can do that when we take up the Report.

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 3. Preparations for the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference, including:
- 3. Préparation de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO et notamment:
- 3. Preparativos para el 23 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular:
- 3. 2. Election of the Nominations Committee
- 3. 2. Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures
- 3. 2. Elección del Comité de Candidaturas

CHAIRMAN: I am happy to announce that under Rule XXV 5(b) the following 11 members will serve on the Nominations Committee: Angola, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Denmark, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Somalia, Spain and Zaire. The Nominations Committee will elect its own Chairman. We wish to thank all those who have helped in setting up the Nominations Committee.

- III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- III. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 14. Reports of the Forty-ninth Session of the Programme Committee, the Fifty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee, and their Joint Session (Rome, 16-27 September 1985) including:
- 14. Rapports de la quarante-neuvième session du Comité du Programme, de la cinquante-sixième session du Comité financier et de leur session conjointe (Rome, 16-27 septembre 1985), notamment :
- 14. Informes del 49 período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, del 56 período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas y de su reunión conjunta (Roma, 16-27 de septiembre de 1985), en particular:

- 14. 1. Financial Position of the Organization
- 14. 1. Situation financière de l'Organisation
- 14. 1. Situación financiera de la Organización
- 14. 2. Appointment of the External Auditor
- 14. 2. Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes
- 14. 2. Nombramiento del Auditor Externo
- 14. 3. Headquarters Accommodation
- 14. 3. Locaux du Siège
- 14. 3. Locales de oficina en la Sede
- 14. 4. Delayed Payments of Assessed Contributions
- 14. 4. Retard dans le règlement des contributions ordinaires
- 14. 4. Demoras en el pago de las cuotas

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): The only item which has not been covered in the agenda of the Council is the Joint Inspection Unit Report on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, so I draw the attention of Council members to this item which in our report is divided into three relevant paragraphs.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKARA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Part III of document CL 88/4 contains the report of the Fifty-sixth session of the Finance Committee. Since we have already dealt with the Programme of Work and Budget under item 11 of the agenda, I will confine myself to highlighting only those items remaining to be discussed by the Council, and in the case of certain items where decisions have to be made together with recommendations to the Conference.

Firstly, under financial matters, we reviewed the status of contributions to the budget, and I would draw the attention of Council to the information in paragraph 3. 23 of the report, along with Appendix A. Since these figures provided to the Committee are as of 16 September 1985, the Secretariat has provided the Council with an update on this data which appears in document CL 88/LIM/1. It is significant to note the following: (a) considering the fact that we are just two months short of completing the biennium, cash receipts for 1985 assessments are still lower than what they were in 1984 during the same month; (b) 80 Member Nations have not yet paid their 1985 contributions in full. One of the major contributors has not paid its current year's assessment; (c) 43 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding relating to 1984 and previous years' assessments, and (d) as a consequence of (b) and (c) above, 11 Nations may lose their voting rights at the forthcoming Conference. Once again, the Committee recommended to the Council that it urge all Member Nations with outstanding contributions to remit amounts due and overdue without further delay.

Relative to this issue of delayed payments is the important problem of finding a solution to the long-term problem of delayed payment of contributions. Members will recall that the Council, at its Eighty-seventh session, wished the Committee to keep the subject under review and to come up with proposals which would ensure that the allocation of any cash surplus in the future would be on a more equitable and rational basis, since current practice did not adequately compensate those Members who have been paying their contributions on time as against those who did not, but who nevertheless continued to enjoy their share of the cash surplus regardless of delay in payments.

We had a useful and full discussion on the subject and the views of the Committee on the Secretariat paper listing alternative measures submitted for its consideration appear in paragraphs 3. 32 to 3. 38 in our report. After lengthy debate, the Committee concluded that further study is required to fully evaluate the impact of possible variations of current regulations to permit the Committee to arrive at a valid recommendation to the Council which would be simple, practical and acceptable to all.

Under Organizational Matters the Committee considered recent developments with regard to Headquarters Accommodation. The views of the Committee are reflected in paragraphs 3. 61 to 3. 66. The Committee welcomed the positive developments in finding a permanent solution for the Headquarters accommodation problem, and will give to Council an update with regard to the construction of 70 rooms on the eighth floor of Building D, the decisions already taken by the Italian Government towards meeting expenses in connection with other additions to existing buildings within the complex, and further progress made so far regarding all these steps on which Council was briefed at the last meeting.

On import licences, a topic which has been on our agenda in the last four years, the Committee was informed that as far as official equipment and materials are concerned, the authorities had been issuing the required permits without delay, but with regard to import licences for goods to the Commissary, the delays continued. This brings us to the question of negotiations regarding the Headquarters Agreement which have been dragging on for the last ten years. The Secretariat will be providing the Council with additional information, as these discussions are still continuing.

I wish to draw the attention of Council to an item under Personnel Matters which requires a recommendation to be made by Council to Conference relating to the representation allowance of the Director-General.

The Committee was informed that the representation allowance of the Director-General had not been revised since January 1981 and taking into consideration the inflation that had occurred, it was felt necessary to increase the allowance. The Committee expressed its support for the proposal and recommended that the Resolution drafted in accordance with General Rule XXVI. 1(c) as appearing in paragraph 360 be transmitted to Conference.

On Other Matters, an important issue on which the Council has to take a decision is with regard to the appointment of the External Auditor for the next two years to audit the accounts of the Organization. The Committee, under Rule XXVII-7(m) of the General Rules of the Organization, is expected to make a recommendation to the Council in this regard. In its deliberations, the Committee considered that while the present External Auditor has provided, and continues to provide, satisfactory services to the FAO, the Director-General should formulate and submit for the Committee's consideration, other nominations with regard to future appointments in order to provide equality of opportunity to all External Auditors of other Member Nations who may consider themselves competent to cope with the auditing of the FAO's accounts in conformity with the Basic Texts. This was a request made by the Committee on a previous occasion and the Council will recall that the Committee had recommended that the Council should request the Director-General to formulate such proposals. The Committee expressed the same desire at this meeting, too.

The Committee at the end of its deliberations agreed to recommend the extension of the services of the present External Auditor for an additional period of two years, commencing with the audit of the accounts for 1986. The Draft Resolution appearing in paragraph 3. 104 is placed before the Council for approval and for submission to Conference.

Also under Other Matters, the Committee was informed of the question raised by Council as to the reimbursement of travel expenses of members of the Council, and that the Committee should express its views on this matter since the current practice of reimbursing the expenses of only the Head of Delegation meant that where a Member Nation in the Council had a Permanent Representative in Rome, it was not possible to reimburse the travel expenses of a delegate, from the capital, even where the presence of such a delegate would contribute more to the deliberations of the Council.

The Committee felt that, since each Member Nation of the Council could claim reimbursement of the travel expenses of one representative and because budgetary provision was normally made by the Organization to meet the cost of travel of all 49 Heads of Delegations, the proposed change would not entail additional budgetary provision. These items will come up subsequently, but the deliberations of the Committee touched on them.

CHAIRMAN: Reimbursement is coming up under item 16. 2, Constitutional and Legal Matters. Mr Crowther will make some additional comments and will consider the points made by the Finance Committee.

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Since the information that has been reported by the Chairman of the Finance Committee concerning contributions, Some additional contributions have been received.

I would like to report to you that two countries, Algeria and Lesotho, have made their payments in full of the balance of the contributions due to the organization for the calendar year 1985. In addition, Guinea-Bissau has already paid US \$24 000, which is that balance of their 1983 contribution and part of their 1984 contribution. I would like to call the Council's attention, as was noted in paragraph 4 of the LIM document that you have in front of you, that only 73. 52 percent of 1985 assessments have been received to date. This compares with 86. 34 percent received at the same date a year ago. Eighty Member Nations had not yet paid in full, of which 65 have made no payment whatsoever. The amounts of unpaid contributions of all Memeber Nations are set out in the appendix to the LIM document. I think that is all I need to add at this point.

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): I would like to compliment the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee and the members for this report. I am not trying to compliment myself, I will except myself.

I just want to make one point with regard to the appointment of the external auditor. Paragraph 3. 100 states that the Director-General had approached certain Permanent Representatives requesting information regarding the interest of the auditors-general of these countries in providing external auditing to FAO, and so on. We would like to know which Permanent Representatives were approached and if possible what was the mode or criteria for selecting such countries to find out whether they were interested.

CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegation wish to speak? Otherwise shall we endorse the two draft resolutions to which the Chairman of the Finance Committee made reference, one under 3. 60 of CL 88/4 on the emoluments of the Director-General, and the other one under 3. 104 of CL 88/4 concerning the appointment of the external auditor? Shall we approve these two resolutions and submit them for the adoption of the Conference?

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): I do not wish to delay the proceedings but could I please have a reply to my question before we fully support these recommendations? We want to endorse them but we would like to have the information.

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): As a result of the request from the Council, the Director-General did contact Member Nations who have auditors-general and who are prepared to take on major responsibilities of this nature. To use his criteria we contacted the International Organization of Auditors-General to receive recommendations. We had considered proximity to Rome to avoid any extra travel that might be involved. We finally ended up contacting six countries and sent a long list of criteria including information that is included for the direction for each External Auditor under the terms of the Basic Texts. We received information from each of the six, including the present External Auditor, which was carefully evaluated and the results were presented to the Finance Committee who then recommended continuation of the present External Auditor for another period of two years.

It should also be noted that the members of the Finance Committee requested that the Director-General consider performing the same exercise at the conclusion of the next two years as well and look to even more countries for consideration of the appointment of the External Auditor from their countries.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any other point of information or comment? Otherwise I take it that we approve the two resolutions mentioned by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi decide

Así se acuerda

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

16. Report of the Forty-seventh Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 14-18 October 1985), including:

16. Rapport de la quarante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 14-18 octobre 1985), notamment:

16. Informe del 47° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 14-18 octubre de 1985), en particular:

16. 1. FAO's immunity from Legal Process in Italy –

16. 1. Immunité de juridiction de la FAO en Italie

16. 1. Inmunidad de procedimiento judicial de la FAO en Italia

16. 2. Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of Council Member (Rule XXV-6 CRO)

16. 2. Remboursement des frais de voyage des membres du Conseil (Article XXV-6 du RGO)

16. 2. Reembolso de los gastos de viaje de los miembros del Consejo (Artículo XXV-6, RGO)

Ivo P. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): El documento, Sr. Presidente, al cual se refiere nuestro tema en discusión es, como ustedes saben, el CL 88/5, que concierne el Informe del 47° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Este período de sesiones tuvo lugar en los días 14 y 15 de octubre y se concretó, como lo señala el documento, en referencias a un solo punto: el que concierne al reembolso de los gastos de viaje de los miembros del Consejo.

Este organismo había pedido en su último período de sesiones que se analizase por parte del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos si el Artículo XXV-6 del Reglamento General de la Organización permitía que se reembolsen los gastos de viaje de un miembro, cualquiera que fuese, la delegación de un Estado que forma parte del Consejo. El Comité estudió la historia de esa disposición, a la cual creo no necesito hacer referencia, probablemente lo hará, si lo estimara oportuno, el Consultor Jurídico, aunque está clarísimamente expuesta en el documento. De ese análisis, se sacó la conclusión en que el Artículo, tal como se encuentra, no permite una interpretación tan amplia como la que se había puesto en discusión. De ahí que el Comité estimó que si el Consejo deseaba autorizar la financiación de los gastos respectivos de un miembro de la delegación que no sea el representante, como señala el artículo, tendría que ser reformado el Reglamento General de la Organización. Consecuentemente debería ser modificado el Reglamento interno del Consejo. En definitiva, la conclusión del Comité se concreta en el proyecto de resolución que ustedes encontrarán en la página 5, donde hay un nuevo texto para el Artículo XXV-6, propuesto e igualmente se invita al Consejo a que considere la oportunidad de reformar su Reglamento interno.

Eso es todo, repito, lo que discutió el Comité el cual, como ustedes saben, según sus términos de referencia, tiene facultad para discutir sólo aquello que le sea exprofesamente sometido por el Director General.

CHAIRMAN: Now you have the draft resolution in paragraph 12 of CL 88/5. Is it the desire of the Council that we endorse it to the Conference with our support?

Arkell D. WEYGANDT (United States of America): I would like to preface my remarks by congratulating His Excellency Ambassador Alvarenga on a very excellent chairing of the CCLM at the meeting which this report reflects. I am in the somewhat anomalous position of complimenting the CCLM on the report that it has written but I find myself in the position of not being able to approve the draft resolution that has been prepared here.

The United States as a general principle does not support the policy of paying for government representatives' travel to United Nations System meetings.

We also note that while this measure would not require additional budgetary authority, since the Secretariat is obliged to programme adequate funds to cover the cost of travel of all representatives, nevertheless this proposal in all likelihood will result in increased budget expenditures.

My delegation is troubled by this proposal for the reason that funds expended for representatives' travel does, at least indirectly, reduce the overall level of resources available for the urgent problems of hunger and agricultural development facing this Organization.

This is not the kind of increase in expenditure, however small, this is not the kind of signal that this body should be sending to the world community at this time.

My delegation opposes the proposal to expand FAO's authority to permit it to pay the travel expenses of any one of the Council members' delegates to a Council session and does not believe that Rule XXV. 6 of the GRO should be changed.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne sais pas si nous devons revenir sur une décision que, me semble-t-il, nous avons déjà eue à prendre. Effectivement[^] lors de la dernière session nous avons simplement demandé au CCQJ de nous faire une proposition de texte, étant entendu que nous étions d'accord, y compris les Etats-Unis, pour que l'on puisse payer le billet d'un membre d'une délégation. Nous étions d'accord là-dessus; mais il s'agissait de voir s'il était nécessaire de modifier le texte en proposant un amendement, ou s'il fallait simplement s'arrêter à une interprétation du texte actuel.

Je me demande s'il est nécessaire de revenir sur la décision que nous avons déjà eue à prendre à ce sujet, à moins qu'il y ait des gens ici qui puissent me contredire. Mais, à mon entendement, la décision avait déjà été prise. Maintenant, c'est du point de vue pratique que nous avons demandé que la question soit examinée par les organes compétents de la FAO.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je tiens à appuyer ce que vient de dire M. le Représentant du Congo au sujet de l'amendement à l'article XXV-6 du Règlement général de l'Organisation; d'autant plus que cet amendement a déjà été examiné lors de la réunion précédente du Conseil. Je tiens à affirmer également qu'il n'entraînera aucune augmentation dans le budget de l'Organisation. Je vous remercie.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Just to endorse the decision of the Ambassador of the Congo, the Brazilian delegation also approves the amendment of the General Rules of the Organization in order to cover the travelling expenses of one member of the delegations of each Member Nation of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Then I would suggest that with the exception of one dissenting member that we support the form of this resolution to the Conference for its approval. Thank you.

Indeed, we thank the Chairman of CCLM and the members of the CCLM for your important contributions.

I shall be grateful if the Vice-Chairman from Austria, Mr. Redl, will chair this item on the forestry congress. You will recall it was Austria which stimulated declaration of the International Year of the Forests in 1985.

H. Redl, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair.

H. Redl, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia H. Redl, Vice presidente del Consejo.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

10. Action Arising out of the Ninth World Forestry Congress (Mexico City, July 1985)

10. Suite à donner au neuvième Congrès forestier mondial (Mexico, juillet 1985)

10. Medidas derivadas del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial (Mexico, julio 1985)

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): El Congreso se reunió en la ciudad de México del 1 al 10 de julio de 1985 y asistieron a él más de 2 200 participantes, entre ellos 34 Ministros de 105 países.

Coincidiendo con el Congreso, se celebraron varias reuniones “satellites” entre ellas una consulta de expertos de la FAO sobre la función de la silvicultura en la lucha contra la desertificación, y una reunión del Comité Asesor de la FAO sobre Enseñanza Forestal. Se realizaron viajes de estudio por México, Estados Unidos, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua y Costa Rica.

Abrió el Congreso el Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. El Director General de la FAO y el Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos de México pronunciaron sendas declaraciones ante el Congreso cuyo tema central era: “Los recursos forestales en el desarrollo integral de la sociedad “. Se organizaron, además, debates sobre diversas cuestiones: el tema de “las actividades forestales y su función en el desarrollo se examinó en sesiones plenarias, y tres comisiones técnicas se ocuparon de las “tendencias y nuevas aportaciones en lo relativo a “protección y manejo de los recursos forestales “; “producción y productividad “; e “instituciones y desarrollo rural “.

Todas las discusiones se realizaron en el marco de las preocupaciones del mundo de hoy; la crisis de la pobreza en el mundo en desarrollo, manifestada en el hambre y la malnutrición, la escasez de leña, el desempleo y el aumento de la deuda exterior, que exacerba la destrucción y degradación de los bosques tropicales y acelera la desert i zación de las regiones áridas; la crisis ambiental en partes del mundo en desarrollo, particularmente la contaminación atmosférica, de la que la lluvia acida es la más divulgada, por cuanto es la causa principal de la destrucción de los bosques en las zonas templadas de Europa y de América del Norte.

El Manifiesto de México resume las conclusiones, recomendaciones y llamamientos del Congreso. No se hizo ninguna recomendación dirigida específicamente a la FAO, no obstante lo cual el Congreso reconoció y apoyó las políticas, estrategias y programas de la FAO en el sector forestal.

El Consejo quizás desee prestar atención particular a las siguientes partes del Manifiesto:

La recomendación del Consejo de la FAO de que el Congreso preste especial atención a la conservación y la debida utilización de los recursos forestales fue advertida oportunamente; convenido el Congreso, de que el Año Internacional del Bosque declarado por el Consejo de la FAO, proporcione una oportunidad única para el examen de los problemas forestales mundiales, el Congreso exhortaba a los gobiernos a que apoyen los objetivos del Año Internacional del Bosque de la FAO, cuyo éxito depende en su mayor parte de iniciativas nacionales y locales; y declaró que el Plan de Acción en los Bosques Tropicales, que fue aprobado por el Comité de la FAO de Desarrollo Forestal en los Trópicos, justifica una acción urgente y el apoyo general de todos los organismos y personas interesados; apoyó la resolución de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para Europa celebrada en Rykjavik en septiembre de 1984, referente a los impactos de la contaminación atmosférica sobre los bosques y, además, sugiere la creación de un fondo mundial para el desarrollo y la protección forestal, especialmente para ayudar a los países en desarrollo.

Con respecto al próximo Congreso, el Consejo podría autorizar al Director General para que inicie las consultas pertinentes.

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen owing to the late time I would like to ask you to be very precise in your statements and to avoid repetitions.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En primer lugar, debemos declarar que estamos muy contentos de verlo presidiendo los trabajos de nuestro Consejo.

La Delegación de México desea facilitar de todo corazón al Sr. Flores Rodas, por la presentación de este tema y, asimismo, desea expresar su profundo agradecimiento a la FAO y en especial al Departamento de Montes por su valiosa colaboración en la organización del noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial que contribuyó en forma muy importante al éxito obtenido en la realización de tal Congreso.

El número de países asistentes, 105, como el de participantes, que fueron 2 200, la calidad de los documentos, las discusiones realizadas y el resultado final plasmado en el Manifiesto de México, dan fe de dicha organización y del éxito del Congreso.

La Delegación de México desea poner a la consideración de este Consejo el que haga una formal recomendación a la Conferencia en el sentido de que adopte mediante una Resolución el Manifiesto de México, y en particular indique a la FAO aquellos aspectos que le conciernen y que están contenidos en la parte relativa al Manifiesto y las consecuencias que de él se derivan para la FAO en el documento CL 88/7.

Sra. Doña Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia considera que uno de los actos más importantes dentro de la celebración del Año Internacional del Bosque 1985 ha sido la realización del noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial en la ciudad de México, capital de un país amigo fraternalmente latinoamericano. Ese Congreso constituyó un certamen de gran importancia con la presencia del Sr. Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, Licenciado Miguel de la Madrid, y del Director General de la FAO, así como de otras importantes personalidades de todo el mundo.

Este Consejo debe estar complacido por el hecho de que en ese Congreso se atendió nuestras recomendaciones en el sentido de prestar atención a la conservación y a la debida utilización de los recursos forestales. Igualmente estamos seguros de que las conclusiones del noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial tendrán impacto significativo en las actividades forestales de la FAO.

La Delegación de Colombia pide cordialmente al distinguido representante de Austria que transmita el sincero reconocimiento del Gobierno colombiano a las altas autoridades austríacas porque los delegados de Austria en este Congreso presentaron la propuesta, acogida unánimemente, de crear un fondo forestal para ayudar a los países en desarrollo a conservar sus recursos forestales. Esa constructiva propuesta de Austria se refleja en el apartado IV donde se afirma que el Congreso declaró que se debería crear un fondo mundial para el desarrollo y la protección ambiental de los bosques especialmente para ayudar a los países en desarrollo.

La Delegación de Colombia opina que en el Manifiesto de México, Apéndice 1, representa un acto de verdadera afirmación en los principios fundamentales dirigidos a la conservación de los recursos forestales y al mejor uso de éstos, de manera que el contenido de este Manifiesto debe ser divulgado ampliamente y tenido en cuenta en todas las ocasiones propicias.

Finalmente, la Delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe este Consejo consigne su reconocimiento y gratitud al Gobierno y al pueblo de México por las facilidades y la valiosa cooperación que ofrecieron para la celebración del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, lo que sin duda contribuyó a su éxito.

MA GENG'OU (China) (Original language Chinese): We thank the Secretariat for preparing an excellent document, CL 88/7, which gives a brief and lucid account of the background, mandate, proceedings and results of the Ninth World Forestry Congress. The recommendations it made concerning the forestry sector of FAO's biennial Programme of Work for 1986-87 are also mentioned in the document. This Conference provided an excellent opportunity for discussion of the problems facing world forestry development. We think that it was a success.

Concerning the extremely important bearing forests have on human life, production, environmental protection and ecological balance, and because of degradation and diminishing of forestry resources in many parts of the world, it is relevant to take conservation and rational utilization of the existing forestry resources as a strategic task of FAO. The Chinese delegation believes that this will enjoy wide support by all governments.

Moreover, considering the interactive close relationship between poverty and destruction of forestry resources in the developing countries, and the instrumental role tropical forest plays in directly providing food and fuel for developing countries, we support the Plan of Action on Tropical Forests and appreciate the proposal put forward by Austria on the creation of a fund for development of world forestry and environmental protection of forests. It is our belief that the proposed fund will provide FAO with the necessary means to play a greater role in assisting developing countries in their efforts to conserve their forestry resources and ease the shortage of forest products.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation for the role played by FAO in the forestry sector. Brazil has already benefited from very relevant assistance from the Organization in the development of important projects in this area. We wish also to express our appreciation for the successful results of the Ninth World Forestry Conference held in Mexico, and confirm our support of the Manifiesto approved on that occasion, especially in regard to the twenty-three principles and guidelines and forestry policy and strategies. Brazil strongly agrees with the guidelines and has already adopted and implemented policies in the same directions. Conservation and profitability of forests, with due regard to the full use of their productive potential, should be among the routes pursued by national governments.

As a member of the Committee on Forest Development, Brazil has offered its support to the priority areas reflected in the action programmes. However, we feel that adequate time was not given to a full appreciation of the programmes of action by the governments concerned, taking into consideration the extreme importance of the matter. It is our opinion that programmes of action should have been more thoroughly discussed. Nevertheless, we are fully prepared to cooperate in the implementation of the programme because we do think the programmes are very important-so important that they deserved a more attentive prior examination.

For the same reasons we are not yet prepared to announce a final decision on the proposal to create a world fund for development and environmental protection of forests. While we agree in principle with the ideal, we feel that additional information on the structure of the fund must be given to Member Countries and a decision should be postponed for a more appropriate occasion.

Jean-Pol NEME (France): Je ne m'étendrai pas sur les conclusions et recommandations du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial auxquelles la délégation française apporte son plein appui, et tout particulièrement en ce qui concerne la nécessité d'accroître les investissements dans les forêts et les industries forestières.

Mon gouvernement tient d'abord à renouveler sa proposition d'accueillir en France le dixième Congrès forestier mondial en 1990. En outre, ma délégation souhaiterait rappeler qu'une Conférence internationale sur l'arbre et la forêt sera organisée à Paris du 5 au 7 février 1986 à l'initiative du Président de la République française qui a invité les pays européens et africains à se rencontrer au niveau politique le plus élevé pour rechercher la mobilisation d'efforts accrus en faveur des forêts tempérées et de celles de l'Afrique sèche. Les travaux de cette Conférence, qui bénéficie du soutien technique de la FAO, seront concentrés sur deux thèmes de réflexion portant l'un sur l'avenir des forêts menacées par le dépérissement dans les pays tempérés et l'autre sur l'avenir de l'arbre et de la forêt menacée par la désertification en Afrique sèche, ce dernier thème concernant non seulement les pays africains mais également les pays donateurs. Le volet africain de cette Conférence viendra en écho au neuvième Congrès forestier mondial de Mexico, d'une part, et à la Conférence de Dakar sur la désertification COMIDES II, d'autre part.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): Australia had some reservations about the proposal to have 1985 declared the International Year of the Forest because in our view sufficient time was not given to allow countries to prepare for such an occasion or to develop an effective promotion campaign. In any event, 1985 had been declared International Youth Year. Nevertheless, while Australia was not organizing any specific activities relating to the International Year of the Forest, Australian forestry agencies are developing a national forestry strategy which seeks to obtain the commitment of governments and government agencies at all levels to treat forests in a manner which maximizes their benefit to the community in the long term; also to obtain the cooperation between government and private agencies with land use responsibilities having an impact on forestry activities, and to achieve recognition by all sections of the community of the status of the forests as a natural resource and of the importance of multiple use management of that resource on a sustained basis and to maintain maximum flexibility for all users in the overall national interest. A draft of that national forestry strategy was released in Australia in May of this year for public comment.

Concerning the proposal on the new world fund for forestry, I find myself sharing the common concerns of the delegate of Brazil. Australia does not support the establishment of a new world fund for forestry aid projects. We believe that the case for the establishment of a world fund for forestry needs to be thoroughly examined and proven before the question of financial contribution is considered. We do note that other financial agencies such as the World Bank, UNDP and FAO, are already involved in this area.

Finally, on the question of cooperation and coordination; the proposal that forestry aid projects be coordinated globally, we believe, merits support in the interests of avoiding duplication of resources and efforts and in optimizing the use of expertise. We believe it could be achieved by implementing the suggestion that all donor agencies should provide information periodically to FAO, and we urge members to identify projects, both existing and proposed, and resources available for such projects.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): We welcome the fact that the Ninth World Forestry Congress was held at the invitation of Mexico, in Mexico City this year. The Federal Republic of Germany took an active part in the Ninth World Forestry Congress, and shares the results of the Congress to a large extent as they are reflected in the Manifesto of Mexico. We likewise welcome the effective support given by the FAO Secretariat to this year's World Forestry Congress.

My delegation supports the attitude of the World Forestry Congress, that increased investment in forestry and forestry industries is necessary, but we cannot voice our opinion on the creation of a forestry fund as put forward by Austria. In this respect quite a number of questions are still open, for which no details are yet available. This had been stated by the delegation of my country at the Ninth World Forestry Congress in July.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has pointed out not only at national, but also at international levels that national, subregional, regional and international activities for the conservation of forests are of special importance. We therefore actively supported the proposal made by Austria to declare 1985 the International Year of the Forest.

The reduction of air pollution, as requested under III on page 3 of the document seems to us for that reason a priority task. My Government has already taken intensive measures at the national level to reduce air pollution. Relevant proposals were also submitted by the Federal Government to the European Community. The Federal Government will also continue efforts towards an increased reduction of air pollution with the aim of diminishing its harmful effects on forests.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to point out that the Federal Government, within its forestry policy, is prepared to host one of the next World Forestry Congresses in Munich, the capital of Bavaria. This does not apply to the Tenth World Forestry Congress, which quite a number of countries have offered to host. The Bavarian land capital would, however, be able to act as host for one of the subsequent congresses.

Dietmar KINZEL (Austria): It seems needless to say that this delegation is very proud and happy to see you in the Chair.

First I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the production of the concise Document CL 88/7, and also for the comprehensive introduction given by Mr. Flores Rodas. In many countries forests are being increasingly affected by atmospheric pollution, forest fires, pests and diseases which may endanger in the future the quality of life and certain aspects of human activity such as agricultural production of food, water quality and conservation of wildlife and fishery resources. The Austrian Delegation has therefore followed with great interest the recommendations of the Ninth Forestry Congress, and in this context refers to the Fourth General Session wherein several countries offered to host the Tenth Congress.

With regard to the Organization of the next World Forestry Congress we would like to confirm the position of the Austrian Delegation in Mexico City as outlined on page 3 of the Document CL 88/7.

Eugene Vernon WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): The essential role of trees and forests in the national and rural economies of poorer countries in meeting a variety of needs of the greater majority of poor people in rural areas and in contributing to an ecologically stable environment for agriculture and rural development generally makes forestry an important element in both multilateral and bilateral programmes. We believe FAO has an exceptional, and in some respects a unique, capability to assist international action in forestry, and we will continue to support its activities in forestry development, and in particular those activities which complement and support our own bilateral programmes.

The United Kingdom endorses the view expressed by the Ninth World Forestry Congress of the need for increased investment in forestry and forest industries in accordance with the general directions and priorities set out in the FAO "Plan of Action on Tropical Forests" adopted by the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics and subject to the wishes and priorities of the countries directly concerned.

We are sympathetic with the intentions of the Austrian proposal for the creation of a Forestry Fund to assist poorer countries to conserve their forest resources, but believe this requires further examination before any decision is made in support of the proposals.

Finally, we would like to draw attention to the effort FAO put in to make its contribution to the Ninth Congress. This must have strained staff resources but the Forestry Division is no doubt satisfied with the results.

Mrs Jean GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation wishes to join with previous speakers in exchanging the congratulations to the Government of Mexico on the successful organization of the Ninth World Forestry Congress in which they had the fullest support of the FAO. The theme of the Congress along with the splendid physical arrangement provided for a full discussion and examination of the world forestry problems with special emphasis on conservation and the proper utilization of forest resources.

While Trinidad and Tobago did have reservations at the last meeting about the Declaration of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest, we believe that this Declaration did enable the Congress to further emphasize the theme. Over the past decades FAO has consistently called for greater attention to be paid to the forest sector. It has continued through various programmes, but more so through the adoption of the Plan of Action on Tropical Forests, to urge greater awareness of the importance of the forest sector in terms of its integrated contributions to our country's development through sound forest policies and strategies.

Encouraged by the proposal of Austria for the creation of a World Fund for the development of environmental protection of forests with a special design to aid developing countries, my Government has already given further and positive consideration to the creation of a permanent forest resources inventory and management section in the Forestry Division. While we support in principal the World Fund, we will await further information on its structure and operation.

We wish again to join with all of the delegations in offering our congratulations for this Conference and the support of the manifesto in general.

Orton Vundo MSISKA (Malawi): My delegation would like to congratulate the Mexican Government for hosting this Congress, and to the Congress for the fine document presented here. All of the 23 principles and guidelines that are listed in the document are very acceptable to Malawi and as the other delegates have said, we are from a developing country where agriculture is the main theme of development and where forestry has been included in the national rural development programmes, and this is in line with Item 2 in the policies and strategies outlined here.

In relation to Item 3 we have involved area and village action groups because these are the people mostly involved in production: these are the rural people, and we have programmes of rural fuel-wood and poles in the country. However, we would like to emphasize that we experienced in most cases difficulties in trying to convince other organizations, and therefore in relation to Item 6 would emphasize that publicity and extension should be more enhanced.

In relation to Item 10, Malawi encourages agroforestry techniques. As I have already pointed out, we are largely an agricultural country.

Item 15. Malawi thinks that probably if there are any research possibilities of producing other items from these wood projects, like gas and maybe oil, our country would gain a lot from such types of endeavours.

We support the afforestation project especially for catchment areas.

In short then I would say that we also value very much the exchange of information between neighbouring countries. In this case we are talking about countries grouped in the SADCC, which is the Southern Africa Development and Co-ordination Conference, as well as the SARCUS, the Southern African Regional Conservation and Utilization of Soils. We find that these organizations are of great benefit in technical transfer of information between the countries. This is in relation to Item 21, and in Item 22 we have tried very much to involve women in developments through National Planting Days. So in conclusion we are fully in support of the recommendations as outlined in the Document.

Tatsuya KAJIYA (Japan): First of all I would like to make a brief comment on the manifesto of Mexico. My Government supports the manifesto in general since it clearly identifies current problems in the field of forests and forestry, and it indicates the proper direction in tackling these problems. However, I must inform the Council that the Japanese Delegation to the Congress has expressed their reservation in regard to the proposal for the establishment of a World Fund for the development and environmental protection of forests. Although our reservation is missing in the footnote of the text, it is indicated in the Document CL 88/7. It was actually made at the Congress together with the Federal Republic of Germany. My delegation feels that the new Fund will not necessarily bring about effective and efficient assistance in the field, but rather it might cause the increase of unnecessary administrative costs.

Taking this opportunity I would also like to inform the delegates of the activities carried out in Japan in order to commemorate the International Year of the Forest. In response to the FAO Council Resolution 2/86 for the Declaration of this International Year, Japan has actively undertaken various activities in order to increase public awareness of the importance of forests and forestry for the quality of life since the beginning of this year.

Out of all these activities I would like to call your attention, particularly to the internal symposium entitled "Forest for the Future of Mankind" which was held on 14 October in Yokohama with around 400 participants. At that symposium the Yokohama Forestry Declaration was made, and announced, among other important issues, its support of the FAO Action Plan on the Development of Tropical Forests. In this connection I hope that the delegation will be interested accordingly in this Declaration made by the participants to the symposium. Copies of the texts of the Declaration are available for the delegates at the Document Desk.

I. NYOWAN ARDHA (Indonesia): Indonesia has always known the very important role that forestry could play in agricultural development in general and in food production in particular. The problem of forestry development as we face it in Indonesia has been given wide attention during the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico. The Indonesian delegation took an active part during that Conference. The Indonesian delegation therefore appreciates very much FAO for promoting and sponsoring the Ninth World Forestry Congress held in Mexico, which has been very successful due to the full support accorded by the Government of Mexico. Therefore Indonesia supports the Mexico manifesto for forestry development and during our fifth celebration of World Food Day the national theme of celebration has been food income level, forestry and environment.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): Allow me first of all to say how pleased we are to see you, Mr Chairman, guiding our deliberations this evening. At this late hour I will be very brief.

I would like to thank Mr Flores Rodas for his fine introduction of the subject. My delegation welcomes the recommendations arising out of the Ninth World Forestry Congress especially as they concern FAO's policies, strategies and programmes in the forestry sector. Forests play an important role in the economies of the developing countries. They are a valuable resource of renewable energy, and their link with world food security can hardly be over-emphasized.

The manifesto of Mexico will have far-reaching effects of great interest to mankind, and we urge the Council to recommend to Conference the adoption of the Mexico manifesto.

Carlos R. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, queremos felicitarle a usted por verle en la presidencia. Vamos a ser muy breves.

Apoyamos la recomendación ya expresada por otros delegados de que este Consejo recomiende a la Conferencia que se adopte una Resolución que incluya el Manifiesto de México, dando particular atención a las partes del manifiesto en que se derivan, se explicitan consecuencias para la FAO, tal como aparece en el documento que tenemos ante nosotros, en páginas 2 y 3.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Avant de passer au point suivant de notre ordre du jour, je voudrais faire une proposition en ce qui concerne la réunion du Comité de rédaction, dont j'espère qu'elle recueillera votre assentiment. Le Comité de rédaction devrait siéger immédiatement après la séance. Etant donné qu'il est presque 7 heures, que vous irez peut-être au-delà de 9 heures, et étant donné que des Membres du Comité ont déjà quelques exemplaires du rapport qui sera discuté, on pourrait se préparer; je voudrais proposer que le Comité de rédaction puisse siéger maintenant déjà pour accélérer un peu son travail, et cela d'autant plus que nous n'aurons pas d'interprètes peut-être jusqu'aux petites heures.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the delegation of Lebanon is that the Drafting Committee should start its work now.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): To my knowledge we have only one draft available. So perhaps we should see this item processed, which is an important one. Moreover, I do not think we can have simultaneous meetings of the Council and the Drafting Committee.

9. World Food Programme: Proposed Pledging Target for 1987-88

9. Programme alimentaire mondial: Objectif proposé de contribution pour 1987-88

9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos: Objetivo propuesto de las promesas de contribución para 1987-88

J. C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): You have before you the recommendations of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, document CL 88/2 that the new pledging target for WFP's regular, that is to say development, resources for the 1987-88 biennium should be set at \$1. 4 billion, comprised of 3. 25 million tons of food and \$405 million in cash. This is slightly higher than the target set for the current biennium. It is also for the first time broken into a specified quantity of food in tons, since approved commitments for WFP development projects are expressed in quantities of food, and a cash level in dollars adequate to transport and administer the commodities provided.

The target recommended by the CFA would allow the annual approval of new development projects utilizing about 1. 9 million tons of food until the end of 1988. Such a commitment level would be substantially above the average annual commitment level of previous years and thus would enable the programme to continue the momentum we have been gradually building up.

Expressed in terms of annual deliveries, fulfilment of the target will enable about 1. 5 million tons of food to reach the beneficiaries each year.

However, to comprehend the full magnitude of WFP's efforts, to this figure one needs to add deliveries for relief and on behalf of bilateral donors. By 1988 total deliveries may well be 2. 5 million tons for that year.

Of course as Executive Director I would like to have seen a somewhat higher target. The need is certainly there, especially in the present global environment in which so many developing countries are burdened with debt. Thus WFP has many more requests than we are able to meet and I have no doubt that that situation will continue.

At the same time we are increasingly confident in our ability to use food wisely, namely to ensure that it has a lasting developmental impact. This applies especially in the sector of agricultural and rural development where we receive the invaluable support of FAO in regard to, for example, the appraisal and evaluation of projects

On this, the Organization's 40th anniversary, I want both to congratulate them on all their achievements and to extend WFP's sincere thanks for their support of the programme's endeavours to use food aid for the lasting benefit of the poor and hungry. Nevertheless, any target of this kind must strike a balance between need, the capacity of WFP to efficiently utilize food aid and the willingness of donors to provide more multilateral food. On the whole the target before you balances these considerations in a reasonable and satisfactory way.

In this connexion I should mention that the level of cash included in the target is somewhat above the proportion of cash pledges in the recent past. If achieved it would enable us to handle increased shipments of commodities and to continue to purchase food from developing countries without eroding the essential cash reserve that we have carefully built up over the years.

As this Council well knows, WFP is a big purchaser of food from developing countries for use in other developing countries. Indeed each year WFP spends far more on south-south cooperation than other United Nations organizations.

There will be an especially urgent need to expand such purchases next year. The reason lies in the good harvest now expected over large parts of the African continent. While unfortunately a few countries will continue to have serious food deficits, many previously affected by drought will not be in a deficit position this year and a few will have substantial food surpluses.

The situation is made more difficult by the presence in some countries of quantities of emergency food aid which could not be utilized by famine-stricken peoples before the new harvest.

This does not mean that the food crisis is over for all affected areas. A number of countries and large groups of stricken population are still in need of relief assistance. Furthermore, the need for food aid for rehabilitation and development work is increasing. What is new now is the fact that locally produced cereals can again be procured in previously affected African countries to meet the full requirements of needy people who have no purchasing power, such as pastoralists and vulnerable groups. Moreover, for these countries where serious food shortages still exist, the need next year can probably be met by purchases from those African countries now having substantial surpluses. If this is to be done WFP will require much more cash for purchases in surplus countries and regions for transportation to the food-deficit areas. WFP's successful record in such triangular transactions in the past is well known and we will be only too pleased to put our expertise in food procurement and related logistics at the disposal of countries and organizations interested in triangular transactions.

Within our current limited cash purchases we have already resumed purchases in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Wherever possible we are making swapping arrangements, under which imported wheat is exchanged against locally produced cereals. Both local purchases and exchange of commodities are essential not only for providing badly needed assistance to the African poor but also for sustaining farm prices which have been depressed in a number of African countries where the effective demand is further reduced because of the low purchasing power of the population. If we do not do all we can to help the farmers get a remunerative price for their products I fear that food crops will be so poor that recourse to costly emergency food aid operations will be unavoidable even in years where climatic conditions are not exceptionally unfavourable. I therefore appeal to all those who are in a position to do so to cooperate with us in an effort to assist the African poor with cereals grown by African farmers.

I have digressed somewhat from the agenda item before you. Let me conclude by reminding this Council that the pledging target must be one that commands the general support of both donors and recipients. As a CFA recommendation adopted by consensus the target level before you has met that test. It is, as I have said, only a modest increase over the target for the current biennium, but it would, if achieved, represent a substantial increase over the actual pledging for this biennium and, most importantly, would allow the programme's development work to continue to grow. I seek your support therefore for the target level recommended by the CFA and ask you to forward it for approval by the FAO Conference.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dentro del deterioro progresivo y creciente de la cooperación multilateral, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos era una excepción, por cierto a pleno título, porque ese Programa realiza una magnífica labor bajo la excelente dirección del Sr. Ingram, a quien nos complace tener con nosotros esta tarde.

Desafortunadamente, como lo demuestra este Documento, a partir del bienio 87/88 también los recursos del PMA van a ser forzosamente sometidos a las limitaciones bien conocidas.

Como dijo el Sr. Ingram, la propuesta que él presentó a la reunión del CPA era más amplia, mucho más ambiciosa y muy justificada; sin embargo, debimos llegar al compromiso que aparece en el párrafo 1 de la parte dispositiva del Proyecto de Resolución. Como podrá verse en ese párrafo 1 el CPA acoge el nuevo enfoque, la innovación que propuso el Director Ejecutivo del PAM con imaginación y realismo al considerar que, dadas las circunstancias actuales, es más indicado en el futuro concebir el objetivo parte en productos y parte en recursos en' efectivo.

La Delegación de Colombia apoya este proyecto de Resolución y proponemos que en el informe del Consejo sobre este tema haya un párrafo claro, específico y concreto que resuma y fortalezca el elemento común que aparece en los párrafos 1, 2 y 4 de la parte dispositiva, en relación con la esperanza de que dichos recursos se incrementan con sustanciales contribuciones adicionales procedentes de otras fuentes, no sólo para lograr este objetivo sino para superarlo, o sea, que el Consejo debe hacer un llamado en este sentido.

También creemos que en nuestro informe debemos adoptar las operaciones triangulares que tienen múltiples beneficios para los países en desarrollo.

Y, finalmente, la Delegación de Colombia, en nombre del Gobierno de nuestro país, reitera el pleno apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, nuestro encomio al Sr. Ingram con nuestra voz de aliento para que continúe la magnífica e importante tarea que viene realizando.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Allow me first of all to thank Mr Ingram for the presentation of this agenda item. Brazil has favoured the pledge and targets proposed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme on the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. That is a food component of 3. 4 million tons and US \$430 million in cash, equal to 1. 5 billion in total. My delegation also supported the separate presentation of targets in food and cash compositions aiming at facilitating the management of the programme. The Brazilian support to the target proposal of the Executive Director was based on the understanding that these targets would reconstitute WFP to the record levels of operations reached in 1984 since food crises still prevail in many regions of the developing world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless, a compromise with donor countries establishing the target of 3. 25 million tons of commodities and US \$405 million in cash was reached, and endorsed, by the Brazilian delegation. We are prepared to confirm our support to this proposal but we wish also to express our concern with the difficult food situation in many developing regions for which a firm commitment of the international community will be determined, particularly the traditional donor countries, in order to alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by hunger and malnutrition.

This commitment would have, been better sought if the original proposal of the Executive Director had been approved. We confirm our support to the levels indicated in the draft resolution.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): A notre tour, nous voudrions féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour l'excellente introduction qu'il vient de nous faire sur le sujet proposé, c'est-à-dire l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour 1987-88. En tant que membre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, nous avons largement débattu de la question et nous devons dire que le Congo a appuyé avec une certaine fermeté les propositions initiales faites par le Directeur exécutif du PAM, parce que ces propositions, à notre avis, reflétaient davantage la situation réelle qui prévaut sur le terrain et, comme l'a si bien dit M. Ingram lui-même, je crois

Tatsuya KAJIYA (Japan): First of all I would like to make a brief comment on the manifesto of Mexico. My Government supports the manifesto in general since it clearly identifies current problems in the field of forests and forestry, and it indicates the proper direction in tackling these problems. However, I must inform the Council that the Japanese Delegation to the Congress has expressed their reservation in regard to the proposal for the establishment of a World Fund for the development and environmental protection of forests. Although our reservation is missing in the footnote of the text, it is indicated in the Document CL 88/7. It was actually made at the Congress together with the Federal Republic of Germany. My delegation feels that the new Fund will not necessarily bring about effective and efficient assistance in the field, but rather it might cause the increase of unnecessary administrative costs.

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RobertNPRINS (Canada): We are pleased to receive information on the outcome of the Ninth World Forestry Congress held in Mexico in July 1985. We would also like to draw the attention of Council members to the holding of the Commonwealth Forestry Congress, which took place in my country in September this year. We believe both of these congresses brought home the fact that forestry and agriculture cannot be seen as separate competing institutions, but as components of overall land management practices aimed at preserving and improving the land resource base.

The second point, we are puzzled as to whether this Council is being asked to make a particular decision, as was suggested by the Provisional Agenda. We would appreciate having some clarification of this point. We note from the document before us that the manifesto did not specifically address its recommendations to FAO. Nevertheless, we read with great satisfaction that the issues raised by the manifesto are already being considered for FAO programmes. Therefore, we ask the Secretariat to give further clarification of the way in which the Programme of Work and Budget before us is being adjusted to take into account the outcome of the World Congress.

It is the view of this delegation that forestry is not receiving the emphasis it deserves in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, as may be noted from the rather small percentage of budget devoted to forestry. We would like to see this looked at in future programme proposals.

We would like to join other delegations who have suggested that the proposal for a world fund needs further elaboration before further consideration is given to the establishment of such a fund. Finally, my government would like to reconfirm its support in principle for the Plan of Action on Tropical Forests.

Henri Arfang SENGHOR (Senegal): Je voudrais féliciter le Gouvernement du Mexique pour l'organisation du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial et remercier également le secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il nous a remis. Cette séance plénière donne l'occasion à la délégation sénégalaise d'apporter son appui plein et entier aux conclusions et recommandations du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial qui sont résumées dans le manifeste du Mexique. Nous appuyons tout particulièrement les recommandations du Congrès concernant la nécessité d'accroître les investissements dans les forêts et l'industrie forestière. En outre, ma délégation apporte plus particulièrement son soutien aux recommandations 8 et 9 du manifeste où il est souligné d'une part qu'il est indispensable et urgent que les ressources forestières constituent une option rentable de revenus pour la population rurale car cela répond à ses besoins.

D'autre part, c'est seulement dans le cadre d'un développement rural intégré incluant la gestion et l'exploitation des forêts, en harmonie avec les activités agricoles, qu'il sera possible de contribuer au progrès social et à la conservation des ressources naturelles.

Enfin, je tiens à rappeler que mon gouvernement accueille actuellement avec la collaboration de la FAO la seconde Conférence sur la désertification-COMIDES II, à Dakar; cela permettra de dégager des options techniques prioritaires avant la prochaine Conférence internationale sur les arbres et les forêts qui se tiendra à Paris en février prochain et à laquelle participera le Président du Sénégal.

MANIRUZZAMAN CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Mexican Government for hosting this Congress. We would also take this opportunity to say how glad we are to see you, Mr. Chairman, guiding this meeting.

We appreciate and share the stand taken in the Council by the delegation of Austria a little while ago in expressing its legitimate concern that the increase in atmospheric pollution, if not halted in the near future, will endanger the forestry resources of this world, and certain aspects of human activities such as agriculture, production of food, water quality, conservation of wildlife and fishery resources.

My delegation follows with great interest the recommendations of the Ninth World Forestry Congress, and appreciates the good work done by FAO in this regard.

Augustin K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I wish only to add the support of my delegation for the manifesto of Mexico. Considering that forests promote the climatic conditions necessary for agriculture, and agriculture being the fundamental function of this Organization-without mentioning the intrinsic value of forests to society-we fully support the Mexican manifesto.

We also endorse, in principle, the creation of the World Fund for the Development and Protection of Forests to assist developing countries.

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Trataré, de ser lo más breve posible. Tratando de contestar las preguntas del distinguido representante de Canadá, la primera pregunta es qué decisión este Consejo debe tomar. Son dos decisiones; una de ellas con respecto al Manifiesto de México que ha sido claramente expresada, es que debe ser enviado a la Conferencia con el apoyo pleno del Consejo. Segundo, al final del documento se considera si el Director General puede iniciar las consultas en la preparación del futuro Congreso Forestal Mundial. Al apoyar claramente el Manifiesto de México incluye la autorización, a mi modo de ver, al Director General para iniciar las acciones que él considere necesarias.

Segunda pregunta. Cómo se refleja en el programa de trabajo y de presupuesto del Departamento de Montes y en general de la FAO, el Manifiesto de México, creo, que al momento en que el Manifiesto de México apoya totalmente los programas de la FAO en este sentido no hay necesidad clara e inmediata de hacer ningún reajuste porque ha sido totalmente apoyado por el Manifiesto de México; por lo tanto, en el momento que el Manifiesto de México es aceptado por la Conferencia y se convierte en un documento aprobado por los miembros de gobierno de la FAO, se convierte esencialmente en la estrategia y en la política forestal que la FAO debe seguir a este respecto.

Con relación al apoyo presupuestario, creo yo que apoyar claramente este Consejo y enviar a la Conferencia el Plan de Acción aprobado por el Comité de Desarrollo Forestal en los trópicos es una de las acciones para apoyar el presupuesto forestal de la Organización en el campo, ya que este Consejo, y en todas sus deliberaciones, por lo menos en el día de hoy en que he estado aquí, ha hecho énfasis en el trabajo de campo directamente. Por lo tanto, apoyar el Plan de Acción sobre el desarrollo forestal en los trópicos y lo que se refiere al apoyo presupuestario y de fondos fiduciarios eventualmente podrían resultar ser un apoyo presupuestario al Programa Forestal de FAO.

Creo que al contestar la pregunta del distinguido representante de Canadá también he hecho un resumen bastante rápido sobre la discusión del día de hoy que se puede resumir en los siguientes puntos: apoyo total al Manifiesto de México; un agradecimiento también total al Gobierno de México por haber hospedado tan de buena forma el Congreso Forestal Mundial y, finalmente, un apoyo a los programas de Acción de la FAO discutidos y aprobados por el Comité de Desarrollo Forestal de FAO.

Hay algún punto de discusión aparente aquí en el que me parece que hay confusión entre los fondos propuestos por su país, Austria, y el fondo que se refiere al Plan de Acción. Son dos cosas totalmente diferentes y, ojalá que no exista ninguna confusión en este caso.

CHAIRMAN: This closes our debate on the item of the World. Forest Congress.

M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

M. S. Swaminathan, Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente del Consejo

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Avant de passer au point suivant de notre ordre du jour, je voudrais faire une proposition en ce qui concerne la réunion du Comité de rédaction, dont j'espère qu'elle recueillera votre assentiment. Le Comité de rédaction devrait siéger immédiatement après la séance. Etant donné qu'il est presque 7 heures, que vous irez peut-être au-delà de 9 heures, et étant donné que des Membres du Comité ont déjà quelques exemplaires du rapport qui sera discuté, on pourrait se préparer; je voudrais proposer que le Comité de rédaction puisse siéger maintenant déjà pour accélérer un peu son travail, et cela d'autant plus que nous n'aurons pas d'interprètes peut-être jusqu'aux petites heures.

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In this connexion I should mention that the level of cash included in the target is somewhat above the proportion of cash pledges in the recent past. If achieved it would enable us to handle increased shipments of commodities and to continue to purchase food from developing countries without eroding the essential cash reserve that we have carefully built up over the years.

As this Council well knows, WFP is a big purchaser of food from developing countries for use in other developing countries. Indeed each year WFP spends far more on south-south cooperation than other United Nations organizations.

There will be an especially urgent need to expand such purchases next year. The reason lies in the good harvest now expected over large parts of the African continent. While unfortunately a few countries will continue to have serious food deficits, many previously affected by drought will not be in a deficit position this year and a few will have substantial food surpluses.

The situation is made more difficult by the presence in some countries of quantities of emergency food aid which could not be utilized by famine-stricken peoples before the new harvest.

This does not mean that the food crisis is over for all affected areas. A number of countries and large groups of stricken population are still in need of relief assistance. Furthermore, the need for food aid for rehabilitation and development work is increasing. What is new now is the fact that locally produced cereals can again be procured in previously affected African countries to meet the full requirements of needy people who have no purchasing power, such as pastoralists and vulnerable groups. Moreover, for these countries where serious food shortages still exist, the need next year can probably be met by purchases from those African countries now having substantial surpluses. If this is to be done WFP will require much more cash for purchases in surplus countries and regions for transportation to the food-deficit areas. WFP's successful record in such triangular transactions in the past is well known and we will be only too pleased to put our expertise in food procurement and related logistics at the disposal of countries and organizations interested in triangular transactions.

Within our current limited cash purchases we have already resumed purchases in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Wherever possible we are making swapping arrangements, under which imported wheat is exchanged against locally produced cereals. Both local purchases and exchange of commodities are essential not only for providing badly needed assistance to the African poor but also for sustaining farm prices which have been depressed in a number of African countries where the effective demand is further reduced because of the low purchasing power of the population. If we do not do all we can to help the farmers get a remunerative price for their products I fear that food crops will be so poor that recourse to costly emergency food aid operations will be unavoidable even in years where climatic conditions are not exceptionally unfavourable. I therefore appeal to all those who are in a position to do so to cooperate with us in an effort to assist the African poor with cereals grown by African farmers.

I have digressed somewhat from the agenda item before you. Let me conclude by reminding this Council that the pledging target must be one that commands the general support of both donors and recipients. As a CFA recommendation adopted by consensus the target level before you has met that test. It is, as I have said, only a modest increase over the target for the current biennium, but it would, if achieved, represent a substantial increase over the actual pledging for this biennium and, most importantly, would allow the programme's development work to continue to grow. I seek your support therefore for the target level recommended by the CFA and ask you to forward it for approval by the FAO Conference.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dentro del deterioro progresivo y creciente de la cooperación multilateral, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos era una excepción, por cierto a pleno título, porque ese Programa realiza una magnífica labor bajo la excelente dirección del Sr. Ingram, a quien nos complace tener con nosotros esta tarde.

Desafortunadamente, como lo demuestra este Documento, a partir del bienio 87/88 también los recursos del PMA van a ser forzosamente sometidos a las limitaciones bien conocidas.

Como dijo el Sr. Ingram, la propuesta que él presentó a la reunión del CPA era más amplia, mucho más ambiciosa y muy justificada; sin embargo, debimos llegar al compromiso que aparece en el párrafo 1 de la parte dispositiva del Proyecto de Resolución. Como podrá verse en ese párrafo 1 el CPA acoge el nuevo enfoque, la innovación que propuso el Director Ejecutivo del PAM con imaginación y realismo al considerar que, dadas las circunstancias actuales, es más indicado en el futuro concebir el objetivo parte en productos y parte en recursos en' efectivo.

La Delegación de Colombia apoya este proyecto de Resolución y proponemos que en el informe del Consejo sobre este tema haya un párrafo claro, específico y concreto que resuma y fortalezca el elemento común que aparece en los párrafos 1, 2 y 4 de la parte dispositiva, en relación con la esperanza de que dichos recursos se incrementan con sustanciales contribuciones adicionales procedentes de otras fuentes, no sólo para lograr este objetivo sino para superarlo, o sea, que el Consejo debe hacer un llamado en este sentido.

También creemos que en nuestro informe debemos adoptar las operaciones triangulares que tienen múltiples beneficios para los países en desarrollo.

Y, finalmente, la Delegación de Colombia, en nombre del Gobierno de nuestro país, reitera el pleno apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, nuestro encomio al Sr. Ingram con nuestra voz de aliento para que continúe la magnífica e importante tarea que viene realizando.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Allow me first of all to thank Mr Ingram for the presentation of this agenda item. Brazil has favoured the pledge and targets proposed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme on the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. That is a food component of 3. 4 million tons and US \$430 million in cash, equal to 1. 5 billion in total. My delegation also supported the separate presentation of targets in food and cash compositions aiming at facilitating the management of the programme. The Brazilian support to the target proposal of the Executive Director was based on the understanding that these targets would reconduct WFP to the record levels of operations reached in 1984 since food crises still prevail in many regions of the developing world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless, a compromise with donor countries establishing the target of 3. 25 million tons of commodities and US \$405 million in cash was reached, and endorsed, by the Brazilian delegation. We are prepared to confirm our support to this proposal but we wish also to express our concern with the difficult food situation in many developing regions for which a firm commitment of the international community will be determined, particularly the traditional donor countries, in order to alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by hunger and malnutrition.

This commitment would have, been better sought if the original proposal of the Executive Director had been approved. We confirm our support to the levels indicated in the draft resolution.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): A notre tour, nous voudrions féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour l'excellente introduction qu'il vient de nous faire sur le sujet proposé, c'est-à-dire l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour 1987-88. En tant que membre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, nous avons largement débattu de la question et nous devons dire que le Congo a appuyé avec une certaine fermeté les propositions initiales faites par le Directeur exécutif du PAM, parce que ces propositions, à notre avis, reflétaient davantage la situation réelle qui prévaut sur le terrain et, comme l'a si bien dit M. Ingram lui-même, je crois

que les problèmes de l'endettement des pays du tiers monde sont en eux-mêmes des problèmes qui expliquent cette augmentation, et il a dit aussi que les demandes en ce moment deviennent de plus en plus importantes, en raison justement de cette situation économique et financière des pays en développement. Voilà pourquoi nous nous étions acharnés à appuyer les propositions initiales du Directeur exécutif.

Cependant, nous devons reconnaître qu'il y a eu négociation et qu'il y a eu accord, consensus sur un montant et nous voudrions dire que nous partageons et approuvons ce consensus auquel nous sommes parvenus. Je crois qu'il s'agit là d'un point important, et nous nous réjouissons qu'ici le principe de la croissance zéro ne puisse pas s'appliquer parce qu'il s'agit ici aussi des problèmes alimentaires qui concernent les peuples qui souffrent. Je crois qu'il s'agit là d'un point important.

Nous aussi, nous voudrions rendre hommage au Directeur exécutif pour la nouvelle manière avec laquelle il nous a présenté cet objectif, à savoir cette distribution entre le tonnage en denrées alimentaires et les espèces, parce que nous estimons que ces deux volets sont très importants pour la contribution, au niveau du PAM, parce que, d'une part nous savons que la ressource alimentaire contribue au développement de nos pays grâce à leurs contributions dans les projets de développement, mais aussi nous croyons fermement que les opérations triangulaires sont des éléments très importants pour le développement de ces pays. C'est pour cette raison que le volet "ressources en espèces", tel que c'est libellé ici, est un volet très important qu'il faudra recommander à tous les contributeurs de s'efforcer d'atteindre.

Pour terminer, nous voulons nous aussi mettre un accent particulier sur notre rapport pour que l'espoir qui est exprimé dans le numéro 1 puisse être atteint, de même que la demande qui est faite pour que l'objectif puisse être pleinement réalisé, parce qu'il s'agit ici d'un objectif qui ne semble pas, à notre avis, répondre exactement aux besoins réels. Mais comme il s'agit d'un objectif qui a recueilli le consensus, nous estimons que tous les pays contributeurs peuvent s'efforcer de l'atteindre. Sur ce, nous recommandons que la résolution, telle qu'elle est énoncée ici, puisse être appuyée auprès de la Conférence.

Ramesh Chander GUPTA (India): The Indian Delegation would like to sincerely commend the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr Ingram, for his excellent introduction and his detailed account of how food aid as a valuable development resource can be used in diverse ways for alleviating immediate hunger and human suffering, and as a long-term measure for rehabilitating agriculture and for economic development as such. In this atmosphere which we see today where there is lack of sympathy or, if I use the words "withdrawal from multilateralism", the fact that WFP continues to enjoy donor support, and of course, the support of the recipient countries, is in no small way attributable to the fact that the Programme has managed its affairs efficiently and expeditiously and that it has been able to do remarkably good work in meeting situations of emergency and situations of resource constraints.

With regard to the pledge and target we would like to recall that in the previous biennium also, the Executive Director had proposed a target of US \$1.5 billion but it was reduced to \$1.35 billion. We had every hope that since it was a consensus target that it would be achieved, but to our dismay we found that there was a substantial shortfall. In keeping that picture in view we felt that a target which is realistic, which is acceptable to the donors would be the kind of target we should fix. We believe that after unanimous view on this target in the last meeting of the Committee on Food Aid we have a reasonable hope that the donors would try their best to meet it and to provide their full support to the programme.

Another attractive feature of this proposal this year is a splitting of the target into commodities and cash. We are aware of the fact that the Programme has been facing cash restraints although there is no crisis. But if the trend continues where countries contribute twenty percent or less, or twenty-five percent, in cash and the rest in commodities, the Programme could in the very near future face a cash crisis, so this again is a welcome step.

Another point I would like to refer to is the triangular transaction. In our own experience the problems of surplus can be as painful as the problems of shortages. Carrying the surpluses imposes tremendous economic burdens on developing countries. To the extent the Programme could use commodities produced in developing countries for neighbouring areas, and for providing relief would be a most welcome help to the developing countries in ameliorating some of their cash and resources constraints.

With these remarks we fully support and endorse the target and would commend this resolution for the Conference acceptance.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): The World Food Programme has done a great deal of fruitful work in using food aid for agricultural development, emergency assistance operations, and other purposes. For this it has won commendation by developing countries. Faced with a situation in which some developed countries have a considerable food surplus while many low-income countries are suffering food shortages, food aid should be strengthened. Therefore, the Chinese Delegation fully endorses the Council's draft resolution to be submitted to the Conference. We assure the Council that we shall give positive consideration to the pledging target for 1987-88 and report to our Government as soon as possible.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): We appreciate very much the Executive Director's fine summary. We also appreciate and admire his skill in navigating what must be one of the most narrow fences in the world between the need and the capacity and the will of donors to contribute to the Programme, but he has managed this, just as he has managed very effectively the Programme overall. We know that the compromise that was reached at the CFA meeting was a difficult one but if I might digress myself it was achieved through goodwill and good offices and so forth. It is possible that we all might reflect on this in approaching other issues at this and other meetings.

The Canadian profile in WFP is very high. We are the second largest donor and this exceeds our profile on other international institutions. It also probably exceeds the profile that might be suggested by the size of our overall economy. We believe in the WFP. We believe in the need that it responds to. We must work harder. We took the position at the CFA, one of some concern, that the target set could be reached, whether the amount or the composition could be reached or not. But we accepted the target. We support the target that has been established. We agree with other speakers who have said that other donors really must come forth. We are happy to convey our support of the draft resolution to the Conference.

Sra. Doña Mercedes RUIZ ZAPATA (Mexico): Al aprobar que el Proyecto de Resolución que contiene el objetivo de promesas del Programa Mundial de Alimentos a la Conferencia, la delegación de México quiere dejar acentuado en actas, que aún cuando reconocemos que el objetivo propuesto es el resultado de un delicado proceso de negociación, hubiéramos preferido que se adoptara la propuesta inicial en vista de las crecientes necesidades de los países beneficiarios.

Deseamos igualmente felicitar al Director Ejecutivo del Programa por haber propuesto, por primera vez, un objetivo con dos componentes bien establecidos lo cual facilitará sin duda las posibilidades del programa para responder de una manera eficiente a las solicitudes de ayuda alimentaria.

No dudamos que el objetivo propuesto será aprobado por la Conferencia de la FAO, pero deseamos hacer un llamado a todos los países miembros, incluso los países en desarrollo, para que dentro de sus posibilidades hagan un esfuerzo para que el objetivo no sólo se logre sino que incluso se supere.

Asimismo, creo que debemos insistir ante los grandes países donadores para que respeten el contenido de las normas básicas del PMA en el sentido de que un tercio de sus contribuciones se haga en efectivo. Para terminar, apoyamos las declaraciones hechas por Colombia, Brasil, Congo e India.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (CUBA): Queremos primeramente felicitar al Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, Sr. Ingram por su presentación del tema. Sin embargo queremos expresar que la presentación del tema que efectuó el Sr. Ingram en el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria pasado, constituyó a nuestro juicio una de las informaciones más profundas sobre la importancia y la necesidad de la ayuda para el desarrollo y de la eficacia del programa.

Creo que el Sr. Ingram en esa oportunidad hizo un profundo análisis de la situación. Probó esclarecedoramente que el PMA estaba recibiendo más pedidos de ayuda para el desarrollo, producto de la situación alimentaria que atraviesa el mundo, productos de la situación económica y financiera que atraviesan los países en desarrollo.

Creo que su exposición fue convincente también de que la asistencia del PMA para el desarrollo era una forma eficaz de ayuda alimentaria y que así había funcionado. Probó la existencia de excedentes. Sin embargo, aquí también tenemos que decir que su proposición inicial, la que todo el Comité consideró con suficientes condiciones para aprobar, tuvo que resistir la restricción; tuvo que, en una discusión difícil, ciertamente fue difícil la discusión, pero tuvo que resistir la restricción y se aprobó una cantidad menor que la propuesta, propuesta inicial cuya necesidad realmente estaba probada.

Nosotros creemos que el Sr. Ingram, en estos momentos como Director Ejecutivo, tiene todo el apoyo del Tercer Mundo, de los países en desarrollo, por su excelente administración, por su excelente guía de programa y por su dedicación al trabajo. Creo que lo único que nosotros podemos pedir es que se cumplan una de las peticiones más importantes que hizo el CPA, en su última versión, al pedirle a los donantes o a los posibles donantes, que hicieran mayores esfuerzos para alcanzar el objetivo y proporcionar recursos adicionales con el fin de hacer frente a crecientes necesidades de países en desarrollo.

Esto no tenemos duda que la Conferencia lo va a aprobar en todas sus partes. Nuestra delegación quiere plantear que dentro de su apoyo a la labor del Programa, nuestro país considera de mucha importancia las transacciones triangulares así como la aceptación por el Comité de Política y Programa y su presentación a la Conferencia, y estamos seguros que aceptará la nueva modalidad de la ayuda en dinero y en alimentos.

No nos resta nada más que felicitar de nuevo al PMA y a su Director Ejecutivo, y decir que nuestra delegación apoya el proyecto de Resolución en todas sus partes para presentarlo a la Conferencia.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (United States of America): I am fully aware of the lateness of the hour and will make every attempt to be brief. My delegation very much appreciates the clear and comprehensive introduction which the Executive Director has given to this item. The United States support the World Food Programme pledging target recommended by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for 3. 25 million tons in commodities and \$405 million in cash. We note that this total of \$1. 4 billion is higher than the \$1. 35 billion level said to be reached in 1985/86. Contributions in the past pledge period met only 74 percent of the 1985/86 target. We nevertheless support the modest 3. 7 percent increase in the target for 1987/88 realizing that higher than normal food aid flows are likely to be needed to support efforts for rehabilitation and economic recovery in Africa. On the basis of past experience we would anticipate that the actual total pledge level for this biennium will be about 85 percent of the target, or about \$1. 2 billion worth. We believe this level is obtainable and responsive to needs. We further feel that the World Food Programme should aim to maintain realistic pledge levels and to examine its current approach with a view to shifting resources from low performance and low priority projects to those of higher priority and immediate need.

My Government agreed to the separation of the pledge into commodity and cash components on the understanding that written formulas will not be adopted, such as insisting that each country provide one third of its pledge in cash. We believe that such formulas are not appropriate, because donors' capabilities to provide commodities and cash vary-or you might say that different donors have different comparative advantages. Some find it more appropriate and more possible to contribute in cash while others find it better to do so in commodities.

In conclusion, I should also note that in accordance with the budgetary procedures of our Government, the United States will continue to make its pledge in total monetary value.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): My delegation recognizes that the new pledging target before us was based upon a very delicate balance between the various positions expressed by donors and recipients. The Japanese delegation therefore is pleased to join in the consensus on the new target of US\$1. 4 billion promoted at the last session of the CFA. Given that the gaps between the targets and actual pledges have gradually been increasing over recent years, and considering also that the existing donors share the burden in making their contributions, we hope that efforts will also be made by WFP to seek out new possible donors in order to mobilize the additional resources.

With regard to the concern expressed by the Executive Director about the cash resources, my delegation would like to underline the importance of all donors to comply with the WFP's General Regulations stipulating that they aim at providing a cash component of at least one third of their total contribution.

In conclusion, my delegation commends the WFP for its successful achievements so far and its efficient management in the field of development of food aid as well as in emergency assistance, particularly in Africa, and we express our continuous support to the Programme.

Mrs Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): On this agenda item concerning the Draft Resolution on the target for the World Food Programme for the period 1987-88, my delegation expressed the view at the Twentieth CFA session that it is of crucial importance to establish a realistic target which can actually be met by the donor countries. We would support the target which was agreed upon at the last CFA, at a total of US\$1. 4 billion.

We share the Programme's concern that the cash needs of the Programme are not being met, since not all donors provide the recommended one third of their contributions in cash. We therefore accept the principle of dividing the target as a cash and commodity component of US\$405 million and 2. 35 tons of food respectively. At the same time we have noted the possibility for countries to continue pledging in monetary terms only. Due to national budgetary procedure this will still apply for Denmark. In order to attain the proposed target we agree with other speakers that new donors in a position to do so should join the Programme. Furthermore, we consider that at present where the global flow of food aid is increasing, donors should channel a greater share of their food aid through the World Food Programme. This will enable the Programme to reach, or even surpass, the target proposed.

In that connection I am pleased to conclude by informing you that it has been proposed to Parliament to increase the Danish contribution to the World Food Programme by 10 percent annually starting from 1987.

Michael A. COMMINS (Australia): We too wish to reaffirm our support for the proposed nature and size of the target which, as other speakers have noted, is the product of a compromise achieved after a frank and cordial discussion during the Twentieth Session of the CFA, the Governing Body of the WFP, in the best traditions of cooperation between countries working together in the multilateral system.

The decision of the CFA is also a reflection of the high regard which all countries have for the efficiency, effectiveness and management of the WFP and the impact of its important field programmes in operation, at a time of increased and competing demands on limited resources. This important factor has been referred to by quite a number of speakers before myself. We join with Colombia, Canada, Japan, Denmark, and others in urging additional donors to come forward and augment the contributions of the traditional donors in an endeavour to achieve the target.

Australia is presently using the services of the WFP in arranging exchanges of Australian wheat for locally produced grain in Zimbabwe, Sudan and Somalia in food aid activities.

For the information of this Committee, one third of Australia's contribution is provided in cash to the WFP, to hopefully assist WFP in stepping up its involvement in triangular transactions.

In conclusion, we endorse the Draft Resolution in its present form, and recommend that it be forwarded to the Conference.

H. M. MBALE (Malawi): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, on his well-presented introduction to the paper under discussion and for the good work he and his colleagues are doing to alleviate hunger in the developing countries and other needy areas.

My delegation supports the proposed pledging in Conference and notes with appreciation the Executive Director's statement regarding the triangular purchases, for example purchases from Zimbabwe and my country Malawi. I have no doubt whatsoever that this approach would assist the WFP to deliver the food aid in a timely and in a cost-effective manner. At the same time this procedure will go a long way to encourage small-holder farmers in the developing countries to continue producing sufficient quantities for themselves, for storage and for use by neighbours as and when the need arises. I entirely agree with the delegate from India that carrying surpluses can be a tremendous burden to a country, as indeed my country is experiencing right now.

With these few remarks my delegation supports the Draft Resolution and recommends that it should go forward to the Conference for consideration and decision.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise remercie M. Ingram qui nous a fait une introduction lucide de ce projet de résolution au sujet du PAM. Nous remercions également le Directeur général de la FAO qui a accordé une aide très utile au Liban, cela pendant les deux dernières années; cette aide a permis à notre pays de surmonter les difficultés que nous connaissons.

La délégation libanaise ne peut être que d'accord sur la proposition de M. Ingram au sujet du Programme, et le Liban, nous nous y engageons, maintiendra un appui sans réserve à l'avenir.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): The proposed pledging target is the result of a long and delicate process as the Executive Director of WFP has already indicated in his opening remarks, for which we would like to join others in congratulating him. The new fashion in the presentation of the target consisting of two items is also to be commended. Cyprus supports the target and endorses the Resolution.

We would also like to join with the delegates of India, Cuba and others in hoping that the target will be reached in the biennium in question.

Guillermo E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Deseo unir, Sr. Presidente, a la felicitación al Sr. Ingram tanto por el trabajo realizado por el PMA como por la breve y clara introducción que nos hiciera del tema en la tarde de hoy.

La Argentina apoya con entusiasmo las actividades del PMA y en este sentido creemos que las medidas fijadas son razonables y podrían ser alcanzadas con la cooperación de la comunidad internacional. Mi país es un pequeño contribuyente a sus actividades y continuará contribuyendo en la medida de nuestras posibilidades. Claro está que para la Argentina es difícil asumir compromisos en dinero, pero intentaremos sí aumentar aún más nuestra contribución en alimentos.

Por otra parte, damos nuestro respaldo a la cooperación triangular ya que tiene múltiples efectos beneficiosos para los países en desarrollo. En resumen, apoyamos el proyecto de resolución presentado en todos sus términos.

CHAIRMAN: This completes my list. That means we are universally unanimous in support of this Resolution and I would like to add my own voice of congratulations to Mr Ingram on the chorus of well-deserved praise which has been voiced in this house. I think no one will deny that in today's world WFP has developed into a most meaningful and effectively managed multilateral assistance programme, and I would like to thank Mr Ingram and all his colleagues.

I would also like to hope that the cash component will be realized because I think in the next few years the most serious problem which many of the African countries will face with the onward march of their agriculture is the maintenance of a floor price to their farmers. This is going to be a very great challenge—a floor price which adequately remunerates the farmer. This is going to be a major determinant for further progress and hence this particular aspect of WFP's activities is very important and we do hope that the targets set here will be realized. I want to thank again all the delegates who have participated and Mr Ingram for coming at this late hour.

3. Preparations for the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

3. Préparation de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO: (suite)

3. Preparativos para el 230 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO: (continuación)

Increase in the Number of Vice-Chairmen of the Conference

Augmentation du nombre de vice-présidents de la Conférence

Aumento del Número de Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia

Fourteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture

Quatorzième Conférence McDougall

14ª disertación en memoria de McDougall

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Ante gestiones que un grupo de países hemos realizado en torno a la conveniencia de aumentar el número de vicepresidentes de la Conferencia, deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría el que nos haya presentado el documento CL 88/8 para nuestra consideración, a las regiones, Sr. Presidente, que componen el Grupo de los 77 y a los miembros que componen dichas regiones. Estimamos que esta Conferencia es una Conferencia especial porque se celebra en ella el 40 Aniversario de la FAO. Esto ha generado un gran entusiasmo entre todos los Estados Miembros del Grupo de los 77 y por lo tanto ha inducido el que cada una de nuestras regiones desee hacer acto de presencia en la Mesa de nuestra Conferencia. Esta es, pues, una ocasión particular y por eso, Sr. Presidente, pensamos que sería conveniente en esta ocasión suspender la aplicación del Artículo VIII del Reglamento, con el propósito de que se diera cabida a más vicepresidentes para la Mesa de la Conferencia. En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, deseamos apoyar de manera muy firme el párrafo 5 del documento CL 88/9 y tomamos nota de los otros párrafos, particularmente del número 6 en donde se hace referencia a un antecedente en ese sentido, es decir, de suspender la aplicación de un párrafo y de un artículo.

Pensamos, sin embargo, que en esta ocasión quizás no es indispensable el contar con el contenido del párrafo 4 que en última instancia sería voluntad de un próximo Consejo el determinar estas cuestiones y quizá el contenido de este párrafo lleve inclusive a ciertas confusiones sobre el propósito de la suspensión del Artículo VIII del Reglamento.

Por tanto, deseo expresar que quizá fuera conveniente que solamente nos concentráramos en la recomendación específica que hace el párrafo 5º del documento CL 88/9.

Al agradecer el que usted tome nota de ello, expresamos de nuevo nuestro gusto si esto lo aprueba el Comité para recomendarlo a la Conferencia y la Conferencia, a su vez, aprueba el que podamos estar representadas cada una de las regiones del Grupo de los 77 en tres vicepresidencias y, por supuesto, en la presidencia de la Conferencia.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): In order to save time I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the OECD Group on this Item. I would like to start off by saying that the Group is against amending Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization. However, we understand the Group of 77 wishes to submit the candidature of one additional vice-chairman for the Conference. Our Group has decided not to submit additional candidates in order not to increase further the number of three Vice-chairmen foreseen in the General Rules. I am pleased to inform you Mr Chairman that the OECD Group can accept suspending the application of the relevant provision of Rule VIII so as to enable the Conference to elect four vice-chairmen for this particular session of the Conference.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Après avoir pris connaissance du document CL 88/9, portant sur l'augmentation du nombre des Vice-Présidents de la Conférence, l'on se rend compte que le Règlement général de l'Organisation a fixé, en 1945, le nombre des Vice-Présidents à trois et cela lorsque le nombre des membres de l'Organisation était de 42, alors que ce nombre a atteint 156 membres à l'heure actuelle. Par conséquent, nous estimons qu'il serait préférable d'accroître le nombre des Vice-Présidents de la Conférence et de le porter à quatre, d'autant plus que le Conseil, qui ne comporte que 49 Etats, dispose de trois Vice-Présidents et que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies compte plus de trois Vice-Présidents.

Aussi la délégation du Liban approuve la proposition du secrétariat portant sur la suspension de l'Article VIII du Règlement général et son amendement, afin que la Conférence soit en mesure d'élire quatre Vice-Présidents pour l'actuelle session, et ce, afin de faciliter le processus des élections.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais rappeler au Président ma proposition concernant la tenue de la réunion du Comité des candidatures, d'autant plus que nous avons renvoyé la tenue de cette réunion jusqu'après l'examen du point important du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia desea destacar el hecho positivo de la declaración de nuestro colega y amigo John Glistrup, de Dinamarca, quien habló en nombre de los países de la OCDE. Creemos que éste es un signo de distensión y de cooperación que ojalá se prolongue en la Conferencia que se inicia el próximo sábado a través del entendimiento entre los países desarrollados y el grupo de los 77 que preside nuestro colega López Portillo, de México, y a quien agradecemos su cooperación, y por lo tanto, apoyamos el párrafo 5.

CHAIRMAN: Do we unanimously approve the recommendation in paragraph 5?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La Conférence McDougall doit être prononcée dans la matinée du lundi 11 novembre.

Dans un premier temps, il était prévu qu'elle serait prononcée par Son Excellence

M. Belisario Betancur, Président de la République de Colombie; c'est d'ailleurs ce qui est annoncé au paragraphe 12 du document C 85/12.

Depuis, il se trouve que le Président Betancur a dû renoncer à venir prononcer la Conférence McDougall; je voudrais maintenant informer le Conseil que Son Excellence M. Alan García Pérez, Président de la République du Pérou, qui est lui aussi une éminente personnalité répondant à tous les critères qui doivent guider le choix du conférencier McDougall, a bien voulu accepter de venir prononcer cette conférence.

CHAIRMAN: We are very happy that His Excellency the President of Peru will be with us. That completes the arrangements for the Twenty-Third Session of the FAO Conference.

H. A. Senghor, Vice Chairman of the Council, took the Chair.

H. A. Senghor, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia H. A. Senghor, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous remercier de m'avoir élu Vice-Président du Conseil. Comme je vous l'ai dit lors du jour de mon élection, c'est un honneur pour moi; je tiens à vous dire à nouveau toute ma gratitude; c'est également une marque de sympathie et de respect à l'égard du Sénégal que je représente.

7. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest.

7. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun.

7. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común.

7. 1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO.

7. 1 Faits nouveaux récents survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO.

7. 1 Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

A. REGNIER (Directeur du Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Etant, donné l'heure tardive, je pense qu'il n'est pas nécessaire pour moi de faire une introduction complète de ce point de l'ordre du jour et par conséquent je renonce à la petite introduction que je voulais faire.

Je voudrais simplement attirer votre attention sur un point particulier. Les deux documents qui sont devant vous sont le C 85/9 et le supplément 1. Le supplément 1 a été rédigé à la fin du mois de septembre, par conséquent il est relativement à jour; il s'est passé peu d'événements dignes d'intérêt depuis l'époque de sa rédaction sauf peut-être pour les trois points suivants que je vais citer sans les élaborer.

D'une part l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies qui a débuté le 15 septembre et qui se déroulera jusqu'à la fin du mois de décembre. Et le point essentiel jusqu'à présent est une proposition présentée par le Président de l'OUA proposant la convocation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale consacrée à l'Afrique. Les débats sont en cours à ce sujet.

Le second point est la réunion de Genève sur le nouveau programme d'action des pays les moins avancés, suite de la Conférence de Paris. Lors de la session de la Conférence peut-être que dans mon introduction sur ce même point de l'ordre du jour pourrais-je donner plus de détails sur les résultats de cette réunion. En tous cas, une nouvelle réunion de ce genre a été convoquée pour la fin de la décennie. Le point sera fait sur la mise en place de ce Programme, et les objectifs qui avaient été définis à Paris ont été à nouveau réaffirmés.

Je pense que cela suffit. Bien entendu je suis à votre disposition pour répondre à toute question que vous souhaiteriez poser.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como siempre, el Señor Regnier ha hecho una magnífica presentación. Estos dos documentos, el que ya consideramos en la reunión pasada y éste, así como las actuaciones del Director General en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas confirman claramente que la FAO, gracias a esa labor dinámica e inteligente del Dr. Saouma, sigue ocupando un puesto preeminente de respeto y prestigio en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas.

Finalmente parece que hubo acuerdo sobre la evaluación de la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo como lo habíamos sostenido y se esperaba. El documento acordado señalará que no se han alcanzado los objetivos indicativos totales expuestos en la EID y comprenderá otra serie de aspectos negativos para los países en desarrollo tal como lo dice el párrafo 7 del documento.

Acerca de la 11 reunión ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, a partir del párrafo 30 del Suplemento 1 y las conclusiones y recomendaciones que aparecen en el Anexo A convendrá destacar el contenido del párrafo 35 sobre la labor de la FAO y en especial el apoyo al Programa de Rehabilitación Agrícola en África.

Ni en el documento ni en la declaración del Sr. Regnier se hace alusión a un hecho importante que es la elección del Ministro de Agricultura de Francia como nuevo Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

También deseamos señalar como signo positivo el hecho de que por primera vez el Director General de la FAO asistió a un período de sesiones del CMA; todo esto nos anima a esperar cada vez más una vinculación fructífera entre la FAO y el CMA y una labor común en beneficio de los países en desarrollo.

La Delegación de Colombia destaca la frase final del párrafo 61, según la cual la FAO resulta ser en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas la Organización que más se ocupa de la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

Una vez más apoyamos la alta prioridad que en el Programa de Labores de la FAO se concede al PCT y al PCTD. En esta ocasión, ni en este Suplemento 1, y tampoco en la presentación del Sr. Regnier se habla del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, el FIDA, no obstante que este tema se refiere a acontecimientos en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y que el FIDA es una agencia de Naciones Unidas. ; Naturalmente, entendemos esto porque confirma lo que ha venido sosteniendo la Delegación de Colombia desde hace mucho tiempo: el FIDA muere, el FIDA agoniza lentamente, olvidado, solitario, lejano, y con una administración divorciada de los representantes de los gobiernos. Nadie sabe qué está pasando en el FIDA, por qué no se ha convocado la reunión del próximo Grupo de Consulta, ni cuándo se convocará esa reunión, mientras que se acerca la fecha del Consejo de Gobernadores en enero de 1986 y se habrán completado dos años en espera de la segunda reposición.

En esta oportunidad la Delegación de Colombia no desea insistir en la clara responsabilidad de aquellos países que no han permitido la segunda reposición de los recursos del FIDA, ¿podríamos limitarnos, acaso piadosamente a un nuevo llamado, otro más, para que se salve el FIDA en nombre de los pequeños y medianos agricultores de todo el mundo?

Finalmente, nos complace mucho ver a usted, Señor Presidente, Embajador distinguido de gran experiencia, presidiendo esta reunión.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would first of all like to congratulate you on your election as Vice-Chairman of the Council. We believe that under your chairmanship we will finish all the items before long.

The points to which I wanted to refer have already been mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, which means that we have common interests. I was going to call attention to the fact that in paragraph 7 of the report in the appraisal of the implementation of the international development strategy the aggregate targets set forth in that strategy have not been met, and the per capita output in aggregate in the developing countries, as in 1985, was 5 percent lower than in 1980, while the average income in the sub-Saharan Africa was lower than 15 years ago. Interest payments and external debt since 1982 exceeded new lending and, together with other factors, brought about a net transfer of financial resources from developing countries to the developed countries in 1984, with projections indicating a similar situation in 1985.

As remedies to this situation, some suggestions were made by the Committee. In paragraph 10, we have a reaffirmation of the target of 0.7 of Gross National Product as ODA which should be achieved as soon as possible, in any case before the end of the decade. Furthermore, every effort

should be made to provide the resources required by the United Nations System and other international organizations, particularly the multilateral financing institutions-and I suppose IFAD would be included here.

I think the Council should re-echo the alarm that has been indicated in these pages, and also the recommendations made here to remedy the situation should be re-echoed by us. As the document says, the attainment of food security depends on the full and effective implementation of the measures set out in the IDS and reaffirmed by the General Assembly Resolution.

The other point to which I would call attention is the assessment that has been made of the TCDC and ECDC by the high level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. In paragraph 69, indeed, it is indicated that "once the bottleneck caused by the scarcity of foreign exchange for travel and equipment was overcome, developing countries were willing to contribute human resources and institutional and infrastructural facilities to strengthen cooperation amongst themselves: for every dollar contributed externally a further contribution of \$3.3 in cash and kind was generated by the developing countries themselves." Which means to say that this investment in ECDC and TCDC is indeed a good investment because it is multiplied by at least 303 percent.

Likewise, we note with satisfaction the allocation of US \$1.5 million from UNDP special resources for the promotion of action-oriented TCDC activities.

We wish it were more because we know that this is a sector where every dollar invested brings abundant results.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): We will make our comments extremely brief because we expect to address this at the Conference. We feel that the document that is prepared is a fair one and a thorough one within the scope which its authors appear to have set for it-that is, in describing FAO's involvement in various United Nations' initiatives and joint undertakings with some other United Nations agencies.

I am afraid we are somewhat disappointed that virtually no reference is made to the issue of coordination, notwithstanding a number of United Nations General Assembly resolutions. The only one that I could find that would really meet our standards or our interests in learning about FAO's efforts in this field is perhaps the reference to information systems. We feel that this is an important item not only because of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, but because it is important for all of us to find ways of achieving more concerted approaches to the world hunger problem. So I hope that perhaps during the course of future Council meetings we would have an opportunity to learn from the Secretariat the efforts that the FAO has made to respond to the calls for coordination and harmonization.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Primeramente, queremos saludarlo a usted, Señor Presidente, y nos complace verlo presidir esta sesión del Consejo.

Muy brevemente, porque el tiempo lo reclama así, no la necesidad de discutir temas muy importantes pero creo que la presentación de este documento por el Sr. Regnier y la preparación por la Secretaría merece nuestro reconocimiento. En él se recogen aspectos importantes de las actividades y novedades de Naciones Unidas, en las cuales la FAO ha tenido una participación muy destacada.

Queremos, en aras del tiempo, expresar nuestro total apoyo a lo expresado por la Delegación de Colombia y por la Delegación de Filipinas en sus intervenciones muy enjundiosas.

Específicamente tenemos dos cuestiones en las cuales va a participar nuestra Delegación con bastante pormenorización en la Conferencia y una de ellas es la situación del FIDA que creemos que la representación de Colombia tiene razón en que hay que lograr que esta Conferencia le dé un vuelco, por lo

menos el reconocimiento de la necesidad de que el FIDA siga existiendo. La otra cuestión es la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo planteada por la Representación de Filipinas; es muy objetiva. Esto es nuestro reconocimiento al documento y nuestra delegación en la Conferencia se reserva el derecho de volver sobre este tema a priori.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): I have only briefly referred to this document, but just in relation to the activities of UNEP it may be of interest to some delegates in this Council that Australia at the request of UNEP is organizing an international conference on the economics of dry land degradation and rehabilitation. The key objective of the programme is to assist developing and developed countries and aid agencies to complement the UN plan of action to combat desertification. I will not go into details, but an international conference is being held in Canberra from 10 to 14 March in 1986 which will consider a draft of executive management guidelines, and an outline of the technical guidelines and 14 case study reports from projects in 9 global regions affected by dry land degradation. I believe that revised executive management guidelines are to be developed following the conference for a review by the international organizations and by regional workshops in China, India, Africa and South America during the period April to October 1986. I believe also that the executive management guidelines are to be presented as a report by the Executive Director of UNEP to the UNEP Governing Council meeting in June 1987.

The support for the programme, I believe, which has been formally or informally agreed by UNEP, involves the Commonwealth Secretariat, USAID, CIDA and the Australian Government and I believe that some 40 countries intend to participate. If anybody is interested in the details of the programme I will be happy to provide them personally.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Deseamos expresar, como lo han hecho otros delegados, nuestra satisfacción plena, Señor Presidente, por verle presidiendo los trabajos de nuestro Consejo. Agradecemos, asimismo, al Sr. Regnier la presentación sintética que ha hecho de este tema y a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de los documentos que tenemos enfrente.

La Delegación de México, al expresar su preocupación profunda por la significativa reducción de los recursos financieros de las Organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas en general y en forma muy particular de los organismos internacionales de crédito en el área de la agricultura, desea unirse a lo que ha declarado la Delegación de Colombia, la de Filipinas y la de Cuba en este sentido. Reiteramos como han hecho ellos el llamado a los países donantes para que aceleren la finalización de las negociaciones para la segunda reposición de recursos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola a la brevedad.

Asimismo, nos unimos a lo expresado por la Delegación de Filipinas en relación a fortalecer el apoyo de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y la cooperación económica.

Destacamos el párrafo 69, entre otros como bien fue indicado. Esta cooperación no sólo es fundamental en momentos de crisis económica generalizada y es un medio para promover la cooperación en nuestros países y el desarrollo económico, sino también es un excelente ejemplo de productividad y de creatividad que ha tenido éxito generalizado.

Señalamos también la importancia de que la FAO refuerce sus relaciones con la ONUDI. Apoyamos el establecimiento de un acuerdo de cooperación entre las dos organizaciones especializadas para desarrollar trabajos e investigaciones en el área de las agroindustrias y de maquinaria agrícola.

El marco del sistema de consultas de la ONUDI podría ser una posibilidad para el trabajo conjunto de las organizaciones. Manifestamos la conveniencia de que la FAO tome en cuenta los trabajos realizados en las organizaciones regionales y subregionales dedicadas al estudio y solución de las cuestiones agrícolas, con objeto de tener una mejor coordinación y evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos, así como emprender actividades conjuntas en aquellas áreas donde se requiera mayores recursos.

Estas podrían ser el desarrollo de fuentes renovables de energía aplicadas a la elaboración de alimentos, actividades de capacitación en diferentes áreas relacionadas con la agricultura y alimentación, la financiación de proyectos de desarrollo de agroindustrias, y centros de biogenéticas.

Mame Baila SY (Senegal): Je voudrais donc, en vous félicitant de présider nos travaux et en remerciant M. Regnier pour l'introduction très brillante qu'il a faite du document, faire une observation sur ce document, qui est particulièrement important, que le Conseil devrait, à mon humble avis, faire sienne et faire siennes également les préoccupations exprimées au paragraphe 7 de ce document, de manière à suggérer la mise en oeuvre des dispositions prévues au paragraphe 10. Au niveau de ce paragraphe, j'aurais proposé d'ailleurs que l'on reformule sa rédaction pour introduire d'une manière beaucoup plus particulière la situation du FIDA. Bien sûr, on parle d'institutions financières multilatérales, mais le FIDA présente un aspect tout particulier sur lequel on devrait mettre l'accent, car il demeure un instrument qui pourra développer les pays que nous représentons.

Je voudrais également dire (puisque malheureusement les femmes sont sous-représentées, je me fais le devoir d'être leur porte-parole aujourd'hui) qu'en tout cas la Conférence mondiale chargée d'examiner et d'évaluer les résultats de la Décennie des Nations Unies de la femme à Nairobi devrait amener le Conseil à réfléchir sur beaucoup de dispositions contenues ici, et notamment dans les paragraphes 16, 17 et 19, pour reconnaître l'importance du rôle des femmes dans la production vivrière, surtout dans les pays qui nous concernent, c'est-à-dire, les pays comme les nôtres, où la femme participe pour plus de 50 pour cent à la production des denrées vivrières. Je voudrais également, contrairement à certaines délégations, dire qu'il y a tout de même un effort de coopération entre la FAO et certaines institutions, effort qu'il convient de souligner car le paragraphe 28 nous montre un système de coopération entre l'ONUDI et la FAO qu'il faut encourager pour que cela se développe. Je vois également qu'il en est de même pour le PNUE et beaucoup d'autres institutions. On devrait mettre un accent particulier sur la situation économique et critique en Afrique et surtout sur le problème des réfugiés dans notre continent. Je crois que si la situation alimentaire mondiale, en tout cas sur notre continent, est particulièrement difficile c'est qu'il y a des problèmes sensibles sur lesquels le Conseil devrait être attentif afin de proposer que l'aide soit renforcée dans ce domaine.

En conclusion, je pense que la onzième session ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation est arrivée à une conclusion sur laquelle le Conseil devrait s'arrêter parce qu'en réalité il est très heureux de noter que cette institution à caractère politique, qui a été créée pour imaginer des orientations devant mener à des solutions pouvant résoudre les drames que nous connaissons, si cette organisation nous appelle à appuyer le Programme de la FAO pour le relèvement de l'agriculture africaine, le Conseil devrait en prendre note. Il est également important de lire dans le paragraphe 34, que c'est l'homme qui est responsable des drames que nous connaissons et que c'est lui qui doit les résoudre s'il le veut. Donc le Conseil devrait faire sienne cette réflexion pour qu'ici, tous ensemble comme nous l'avons démontré, nous nous engageons dans cette voie puisque la solution de nos problèmes reste dans nos mains.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'autres intervenants, nous passons au point prochain.

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

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

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

15. Second Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1984-85 Biennium

15. Deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme pendant l'exercice 1984-85

15. Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas en el bienio 1984-85

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It was at the Sixtieth session of the Council in June 1973 that it decided that every year it should receive a report from the Director-General on the unscheduled sessions and sessions cancelled in relation to those which

have been approved by the Conference for the biennium. At your session a year ago, the Director-General reported on 22 unscheduled sessions and 17 cancelled sessions since the beginning of the biennium. I should now report on his behalf the number of unscheduled sessions and the sessions cancelled. These are given to you, to the Council, in document CL 88/3, but there is some information which I am obliged to up-date since the document was prepared some weeks ago. The changes which I should like to draw attention to are as follows: instead of 46 unscheduled sessions the number should read 42. Instead of 34 cancelled sessions the number should read 36.

The document itself gives reasons why sessions had to be cancelled or why unscheduled sessions had to be convened and this information normally appears as an annexe to the Council report so I would not like to test the patience of the Council in giving any further explanations, unless of course any member would wish to have them.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'autres intervenants nous passons au point 17. 1

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

17. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

17. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques:

17. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

17. 1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

17. 1 Invitations d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO

17. 1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce sera pour très peu de temps, car en fait, il n'y a à signaler aucune invitation d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO durant la période considérée.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous passons au point prochain.

17. 2 Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have Status with FAO

17. 2 Invitations d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO

17. 2 Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): As you know FAO has organized a large number of technical meetings to which various international organizations, intergovernmental organizations as well as international non-governmental organizations are invited. FAO is thus able to get expert advice and information on particular subjects. International NGOs having status with FAO are invited on the basis of existing arrangements for cooperation based on FAO Basic Texts. International NGOs having no status with FAO can be invited on an ad hoc basis if their participation is considered useful for a particular meeting. The Director-General informs the Council in advance whenever possible of the names of these organizations, but when this is not possible he reports to the Council ex post facto on such invitations. These organizations and the meetings to which they have been invited are listed in Council document CL 88/INF/5 and no action from the Council is really required on the matter.

17. 3. Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees
17. 3. Modifications de la représentation de certains Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier
17. 3. Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je crois que les modifications intervenues dans la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme sont exposées en détail dans le document CL 88/INF/9. Je rappelle simplement que M. L'Ambassadeur Félix Sabal Lecco, représentant du Cameroun, a été remplacé par M. Thomas Yanja à la quarante-neuvième session du Comité du Programme, et que M. Fozlo Brewster, représentant la Barbade, a été remplacé à cette même session par M. C. E. Maynard.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. AUTRES QUESTIONS

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

18. Any other Business

18. Questions diverses

18. Otros asuntos

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au point 18: "Questions diverses". S'il n'y a pas d'intervenants, nous passons au point 19.

19. Date and Place of the Eighty-ninth Session of the Council

19. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-neuvième session du Conseil

19. Fecha y lugar del 89º período de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Là non plus, pas d'hésitation: la quatre-vingt-neuvième session du Conseil aura lieu dans cette même salle le vendredi 29 novembre 1985 ou plus tôt si la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence s'achève avant la date prévue.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci de l'information. Je pense que nous avons terminé nos travaux. Je ne vais pas vous retenir, je déclare la séance close.

The meeting rose at 20. 15 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a la 20. 15 horas

council

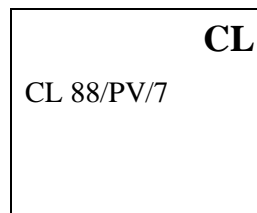
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Eighty-eighth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-huitième session
PLÉNIÈRE

88° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTH PLENARY
MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENTERE
EPTIMA SESION PLENARIA
(7 November 1985)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours,
M. S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 15. 00 horas, bajo la presidencia
de M. S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Council. As already announced, the first part of today's afternoon programme is a small ceremony. May I request our distinguished Vice-Chairman Ambassador Bukhari to take the chair.

Unveiling of the portrait of the Independent Chairman of the Council

Inauguration du portrait du Président indépendant du Conseil

Descubrimiento del retrato del Presidente independiente del Consejo

Atif Y. BUKHARI, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Atif Y. BUKHARI, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia, Atif Y. BUKHARI, Vice-Presidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the merciful, the compassionate, I call to order this afternoon's meeting. As you all know it has been customary for us in the work of the Council to cease our formal work for a few minutes to express our gratitude and pay tribute to that person who has chaired the work of this Council and who has guided its work during the past four years. We will stop our work for a few minutes to unveil a portrait of him, which shall remain to adorn the walls of this meeting room along with the portraits of former Independent Chairmen of the Council.

It is a great pleasure for me now, Dr Swaminathan, to express to you on behalf of all my distinguished colleagues on this Council our deep admiration for those wonderful traits of character which we have known in you, your wisdom, your patience. Of course, that comes as no surprise-you come from a great country, India, the country of wisdom, the land where wisdom was born, the land of patience. I would also like to express the appreciation and esteem of the entire membership, Dr Swaminathan, for your vast knowledge in the fields of agriculture and development. Our admiration is also due to you for that deep courtesy which you have shown, even when you have had to be firm. We wish to express our admiration for the great patience you have shown while undertaking this important task of chairing the Council.

I would like to further add that your well known achievements in the scientific field have been evident to all those who have enjoyed the opportunity of meeting you and furthering their acquaintance with all your great qualities.

We shall now proceed to unveil the portrait of Dr Swaminathan.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

We have now unveiled the portrait, it shall remain for as long as this marvellous pioneering Organization shall stand.

I now give the floor to His Excellency the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We have been privileged to have Dr Swaminathan as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council since November 1981.

In a statement to the FAO Conference accepting his new responsibility, he spoke about "generating a symphony approach among all nations while determining the priorities and programmes of this Organization".

If I may pursue his metaphor in directions which he certainly never intended, I would say that he has been a successful conductor of the orchestra during these four years.

Under Mr Swaminathan's stewardship the Council has tackled successfully a wide range of specific problems, relating to both agricultural policies in general and the activities of FAO.

Both in action by the Council itself, and in preparation for decisions by the Conference, the record of the Council in these four years has been positive.

As Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute, Mr Swaminathan will continue to be a leading figure in agriculture research.

I wish him, and IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), every possible success.

I would like to express to him my personal appreciation for his constructive approach to problems, and for the cooperation which we have enjoyed since 1981.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the Director-General. Dear colleagues I am quite convinced that every Member of this Council would like to take the floor to express personally their feelings and their appreciation to Dr Swaminathan. However, as you know we have a heavy work programme as we have to adopt our final report, and that the time available is rather limited. However, this should not prevent us from allowing all those who wish to do so to take the floor as we are here expressing our feelings and gratitude to the Independent Chairman. However, I would like to request all speakers to be brief in their statements so that we may have enough time left to finish our work for this session.

I have a proposal to put to you and I hope you will be kind enough to accept it, namely that the various regional groups represented in the Council may express the sentiments and feelings of their own region. I believe that in adopting such a procedure we will be allowing all the groups to express their sentiments and at the same time saving the time of the Council.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente Swaminathan; entre quienes nos encontramos hoy en esta sala, uno solo corresponde a uno de los retratos de la colección en la cual Vd. acaba de ingresar. Bienvenido a la Galería de los ex-Presidentes del Consejo de la FAO.

1973/1977: color anaranjado, blanco, gris, reflejo del trópico, ardiente, inquieto y revolucionario.
1981/1985: austeras sombras, grises, oscuras, símbolos de la calma asiática, de la sabiduría oriental, de la filosofía y serenidad del Lejano Oriente.

Así pasan los días y los años. Unos y otros integran la humana existencia. Somos briznas de hierba en las manos de Dios. El tiempo seguirá transcurriendo inexorablemente.

Más adelante, ojalá en un futuro muy lejano, quien sabe Dr. Swaminathan, si usted y yo sin incomodar al colega Bukar Shaib, cuyo retrato separa los nuestros, en noches frías y días calurosos adelantaremos diálogos a través de los cuales confrontaremos nuestras experiencias vividas en esta Sala Roja, en compañía de tantos distinguidos colegas y amigos cuyas actuaciones no escaparán a nuestro juicio. Pero, seguramente seremos benévolo con los miembros del Consejo porque los dos hemos dedicado gratos años a este Organismo; y en esta Sala Roja dejamos no sólo nuestras imágenes sino todo un mundo de inquietudes, afectos, recuerdos, nostalgia, satisfacciones y también frustraciones.

Por el momento, Usted Sr. Swaminathan se. coloca al final de nuestros retratos. Siga tranquilo y sereno con seguro paso de satisfacción por el deber cumplido. Merecidamente Usted pasa a la posteridad; entra por la puerta grande y se incorpora a la historia de la FAO. Gracias.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank His Excellency Ambassador Bula Hoyos for those lovely words, and I now give the floor to the Representative of Pakistan.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): It is difficult to match the eloquence of Ambassador Bula Hoyos but I would say that on behalf of the Asia Group it is my great privilege and honour to pay our tributes to Dr Swaminathan. Dr Swaminathan since 1981 has guided our deliberations in a constructive, diligent and fair manner, and under his able leadership the Council, as the most important body of the Organization, has not been allowed for a single moment to drift from the charter of its duties. Dr Swaminathan, known as a scientist of outstanding calibre in his own right and an Independent Chairman of great qualities, will continue to inspire all those who will follow him and all of us in the years to come. We wish him long life and happiness in his future.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I first met Dr Swaminathan when he was elected Chairman of Commission at the FAO Conference in 1979, I think. At the same time I had to serve as Chairman of the Drafting Committee and it did not take me long to appreciate the way in which he was conducting the deliberations in the Commission and making life easy for us in the Drafting Committee, and I must say that it has been a privilege for me, and I think I am talking on a lot of countries' behalf, to say that it has been a privilege for us to serve under your guidance since you took up the post as Independent Chairman of the Council.

Dr Swaminathan has many qualities. I would not like to attempt mentioning them all but in passing I could mention wisdom, patience, courage; above all I think during the latter years when we have had close cooperation, a number of us have come to appreciate your qualities as an agricultural scientist. I think here in FAO it is very important that we keep our feet in the soil and you have helped us, sometimes during difficult times, to do that. We have now got your picture here with us, but I would say that I am looking forward to also having you in person in future years working together with us. Some of the occasions which I have enjoyed most have been when I have seen your eyes sparkling, when you have been speaking about your dedication to improving rural life, and I hope that I will still have the opportunity many times in the future also to see that.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): C'est pour moi un honneur et un plaisir fort agréable de pouvoir prendre la parole ici, au nom des pays de notre région, en cette occasion solennelle.

Nous avons personnellement collaboré avec M. Swaminathan durant les quatre années qu'a duré son mandat. Nous avons donc su apprécier ses qualités exceptionnelles et sa vaste expérience dans un domaine qu'il maîtrise parfaitement. Il a su, tout au long de son mandat, gagner la confiance de tous en raison de son calme, de sa sagesse et de son savoir-faire. Il a su très souvent dans cette salle nous tirer de situations embarrassantes et je crois que tous les membres du Conseil lui en sauront gré.

Nous sommes fiers qu'il puisse inscrire son nom dans les annales glorieuses de notre Organisation et nous sommes persuadés que son portrait, qui se trouve dans cette salle, continuera à inspirer les membres de notre Conseil. Vous pouvez être fier, M. Swaminathan, d'avoir accompli parfaitement votre devoir avec compétence et abnégation. En tout cas, nous continuerons à suivre vos sages conseils que vous avez su, à certains moments, nous prodiguer dans cette salle.

Mohammed DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and Compassionate, Mr Chairman, life in all its ways comes in cycles and now the time has come for us to bid goodbye to Dr Swaminathan, the Independent Chairman of the Council. We bid goodbye to Dr Swaminathan at the end of one of the most marvellous cycles in the life of the Organization. He is a man who has enriched agricultural science and fields of agriculture and development, not only in his own country but in the world, thanks to the many prominent and eminent positions he has occupied. We are convinced he will continue to be such a generous giver to the activities of agriculture and development. We have known him to be a motel of justice, fairness and patience, and we have known him to be firm and calm in tumultuous times. We were honoured to work with you, Sir, and wish you health and success wherever you go and in whatever position you may occupy.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): As the single representative of the South-West Pacific region it has been a privilege to serve on this Council under your distinguished Chairmanship since the beginning of this year when Australia resumed its seat on the Council. I know I speak for New Zealand and the other countries in the South-West Pacific region whom we have the honour to represent.

This is a region which has grown under your Chairmanship, Sir, from six members to seven, and we hope shortly the number will increase to nine. This also represents a sign of the confidence of our region in the value of participating in distant fora such as FAO, under the able guidance and example of men like yourself who have distinguished themselves selflessly, if I may say so, in the thoroughly professional pursuit of your noble profession, in particular in food and agriculture and who have demonstrated concern for the well-being of the people, of the world.

It has been a privilege to know you although briefly, and to learn from your experience and wisdom. We hope we will continue to benefit from the fruits of your activities not only in the area which I know will continue to benefit from your guidance, but whatever other pursuit you may decide to undertake. We know that we will all continue to benefit from the activities of people such as yourself.

CHAIRMAN: As I said before, everybody has a great desire to express his feelings to Dr Swaminathan. I think if we open the door we are not going to finish. We have a lot to say about him I know, and this includes myself in fact. We have asked that representatives of regions should speak, and we will stick to that. Although I have other names of speakers on my list I am going to give the floor only to two. Colombia has spoken on behalf of Latin America, and I also have Brazil on the list.

Mrs Millicent II. KKNWTck(United States of America): I will be very brief, although it is hard to be brief. We have heard many words here to describe the man who is now being lost to us as Chairman, an agricultural scientist, one who has intellect, wisdom, calm and savoir-faire. Those qualities have been recognized in universities all over the world. I do not suppose there is anyone who carries more honorary degrees, whether they be from Alabama or Aberdeen, than Dr Swaminathan.

But for me, he has always had a different, particular quality-the ability to carry the intellect beyond the reaches of reason and hard thought, statistics and knowledge, and to carry all that into the regions of the heart by concern for human beings who suffer, by knowledge on how to reach those concerns-that is what matters to me about someone in a position such as the one Dr Swaminathan has occupied. That is what inspires us here. It is not just that everybody cannot be so intelligent. We are not all going to get those degrees. Not everybody will know about the 648 different kinds of rice. But we can hope somehow to emulate and to work in the stream that he has so clearly outlined, of caring about other human beings and making useful to them whatever qualities and capacities we have.

It is for that, speaking for North America, that I am happy to be able to say thank you for what you are and for what you have done for us.

Yovtcho ROUSSEV (Bulgarie): Au nom de mon pays et des pays de ma région je voudrais remercier M. Swaminathan pour ses efforts et sa compétence. Malgré leurs différences, il a réussi à réunir les Membres du Conseil autour de la philosophie et des buts de la FAO: la lutte contre la famine et la malnutrition, et une amélioration des conditions de travail et devie des producteurs agricoles.

Pour les gens qui sont loin de nos engagements, peut-être est-ce peu de chose; mais pour nous qui en portons la responsabilité, nous nous rendons compte de l'importance du travail qu'il a fait au nom de toute l'humanité.

Je voudrais encore une fois le remercier de ses efforts et je crois que dans l'avenir il pourra encore oeuvrer pour notre travail commun et pour notre Organisation.

Octavio Rainha da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): The distinguished Latin American Ambassador Bula Hoyos spoke about our independent Chairman of the Council with his beautiful picture on the wall. He could have spoken on behalf of the Latin American/Caribbean Group, but I would be failing in my duty if I did not say to Dr Swaminathan on behalf of the Latin American/Caribbean Group that we pay a very simple tribute to his considerable achievements in the international scene and in FAO.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Dr Swaminathan, you have just heard the tributes from various regional groups who have sincerely and frankly expressed their feelings and sentiments, their appreciation, and their respect for you and for all that you have given in the way of help and service to this Council. In turn, I would like to add my name to all those who have spoken, and to address myself to you frankly and honestly.

I would like to say that you have been an undoubted and unquestionable leader in this Council, an excellent leader who has chaired our work in a very patient and wise manner and, as we say, the hardest moment is that of parting. But as you know, you will always and forever remain with us in this room, and we will always remember you whenever our eyes fall on your portrait. We will then remember your achievements. Therefore, I request you to accept from me and from the entire membership of the Council our deepest thanks, congratulations and our best wishes for all that the good Lord may provide you for a good life and happy days of success, and that we may always hear of you and be proud of your scientific achievements and of what you have given to improve our human society. You also must be proud of what you have given to this Council. That is all I have to say.

M. S. SWAMINATHAN, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

M. S. SWAMINATHAN, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

M. S. SWAMINATHAN, Presidente independiente del Consejo, Ocupa la presidencia

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman, distinguished Members of the Council, Mr Director-General, and all those present here, I cannot find words to express my sense of gratitude for all you have said. I know I do not deserve any of it. In fact, when I first came into this room I saw the portrait of Mr Bula Hoyos over there. It is a very admonishing picture; he is trying to tell us all to behave ourselves, and I thought, "I am taking on a very formidable task". But his portrait and all the others, from that of Viscount Bruce and Andre Meyer, the builders of this Organization, have always inspired me and I have thought that I must be true to that tradition, and must not let them down.

While accepting this responsibility, I quoted from the great leader of my country, Mahatma Gandhi, who once said "the most important lesson I have learnt in my life is from my illiterate mother who taught me that all rights come from a duty well done". This has always been in front, of me and I promised you that I would do my best within my limitations. If you are satisfied I am happy; if you are not satisfied you will soon have a new Chairman, so there is nothing more I can do.

But I am sorry I will not be here when my successor is elected. Therefore, I want to give my congratulations in advance to my successor, and to give my very best wishes to him. Also since I will not be here on the occasion when the retiring Independent Chairman formally says a few words of thanks, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not take up a few minutes of your time to express my particular thanks to all who have helped me in my work. I thank the artist who did this portrait, Ann Tudor Walters. She was so patient. I am told by Mr Savary that she is the same person who painted the portrait of Dr Bukar Shaib. She was extremely patient, and I thank her.

It has been a real privilege to have been associated with the work of the Council during the last few years. I have learned so much from every one of you and you have given me in an abundant measure your cooperation and consideration. I am particularly indebted to Dr Edouard Saouma, Mr West and the entire staff of FAO. Dr Saouma's dedication to the ideals of FAO and his dynamic leadership have been sources of great inspiration to me. I will also be failing in my duty if I do not express my sincere thanks to Mr Sylla and Mr Savary, the former and present Secretary General of the Council, with whom I had the good fortune of working. They are not only outstanding

professionals but also great human beings: from whom we can learn much. Similarly my thanks go to Mr de Cap rona, Mr Sole Leris, Mr Henderson and now Mr Tedesco, the Assistant Secretary Generals with whom the Chairman has to be in frequent touch, whose guidance and help have been extremely valuable in my work. They have all been pillars of strength in organizing the work of the Council. Mr Linley, Mrs Le Clainche, Mr Chavez, Mr Annabi, Mrs Badolati and all their colleagues have been extremely helpful. Above all my thanks are due to the numerous anonymous and unseen persons who work night and day to make our work easy. My special thanks go to the Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council, with whom again the Chairman of the Council has to work very closely: Professor Trkulja, the dynamic Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Alvarenga, Chairman of the CCLM, Mr Musharraf, Mr Gordon, Mr Holmes, Mr Carandang and Mr Tanwir Ahmed. It has been a pleasure to know them.

We have much work to do this afternoon and I do not wish to take your time in giving an extended "Thank You" talk. Nevertheless, I must say that when we began our meeting on Monday I was moved by the vivid description by many Council Members, and particularly the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela, of the plight of farmers affected by the prevailing international trade and price environment for primary commodities produced and marketed by developing countries. In the past the farmer was the master of his or her own destiny, subject, of course, to the vagaries of the weather. I would like to narrate to you an old Chinese poem-many Chinese poems are full of wisdom-which captures the spirit of the independence of the farmer. It says

"From sunrise I work
Till sunset when I retire;
I drink the water from the well
That I have dug;
I eat the food from the field
That I have tilled;
Kings and emperors
What have they to do with me?"

Unfortunately today's farmers cannot survive without the requisite policy support at national and international levels. The livelihood security of farmers depends on an optimum blend of technology, services and government policies, particularly in input and output pricing. This is where the work of FAO and our Council assumes such great significance. Mr Ralph Phillips in his book on FAO has particularly stressed the important role of the Council to keep under review the state of food and agriculture in the world. It is in this context that I have benefited greatly from my association with the work of the Council. It is not a formality that I say I have found in the Council a mood of cooperation and consensus, a sincere desire to see a world without hunger, and a sense of urgency to come to the rescue of those affected by natural calamities. During the last two years, we had to grapple with the problems of Africa and I was happy and proud to see the extent of unanimity prevailing in the Council as regards the urgency of helping the affected countries speedily and effectively.

From the dawn of agriculture, plants and animals have provided a mechanism for beneficial collaboration among the peoples of the world, irrespective of race, religion, or colour. Plants which had their origin in Latin America and Africa are now exceedingly important, both as human food and industrial raw material in many countries of Asia. Similarly, plants of Asian origin have become exceedingly important in many parts of Africa and Latin America. Above all, it is the Third World which provided the plants and animals which are now of human and commercial significance in the developed countries of Europe, North America and Oceania. Lord Buddha once said that in this world plants alone are capable of extending unilateral love, since trees provide shade even to the axemen who come to cut them. Let us therefore hope that agriculture will continue to be a catalyst of cooperation in our world which is increasingly being threatened with discord and despair.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of India for nominating me for this position. The Late Prime Minister Indira Ghandi was always generous in her encouragement of agricultural scientists and the present Prime Minister has maintained the view that "if agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will go right". It is such political commitment that has led to India proving the prophets of doom wrong.

May I wish you, my distinguished friends in the Council, continued success in the important work you are doing and great personal happiness. It has been a privilege knowing you and I thank you once again for your friendship and consideration. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for your kind patience.

STANDING OVATION

OVATION

OVACION

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN: Now on to the job of this afternoon. I am very grateful to Vice-Chairmen Bukhari for chairing the Session.

The Drafting Committee has worked very hard. I request Mr Gregory, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to come over. I hope you have documents CL 88/REP/1, REP/2, REP/3 and REP/4. Shall we start our discussion on the adoption of the report? I request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to introduce the report.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We have before us a number of drafts of the Drafting Committee. We worked through two evenings and completed our work this morning, I am happy to say. I must say to start with that I am indeed grateful for the great degree of cooperation and goodwill that persisted throughout the Drafting Committee by all its members. The fact that we were able to complete our work with so much goodwill and such cordiality, despite differences of opinion on certain issues, is certainly something that I will remember, and I am grateful to the members of that Committee. I have served on many drafting committees and this will be a pleasant memory; some are not so pleasant, but this one certainly was.

I do not think the draft will entirely satisfy everybody, but I think everybody will find something in it to satisfy themselves. I only plead that when looking at the various sections of the draft, particularly the issues that are likely to be more contentious, you look at them as a whole. We must of course focus paragraph by paragraph, but would you look at the total section and look at the balance we have attempted to strike. I think we have done that.

Perhaps as individual parts of the report come up which merit separate comment I could to that, Mr Chairman, if necessary.

DRAFT REPORT-PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE I

CHAIRMAN: I would like to record our appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Drafting Committee for their patient work.

Shall we, as usual, take Document CL 88/REP/1 item by item. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4-they are procedural matters and they are just facts.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Interprétation de l'arabe): En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 1, on constate une faute de frappe. On parle de la soixante-dix-septième session, alors qu'il s'agit de la quatre-vingt-septième session.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: Shall we move to paragraph 5? I would also repeat what members of the Council are already aware of, that we do not take time on editorial changes. Some improvements may always be possible in expression. So please do not intervene to make some suggestions on how to improve the language. Let us just go into the substantive portion.

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 25

PARAGRAPHES 5 à 25

PÁRRAFOS 5 a 25

Horacio M. CARAÏJDANG (Philippines): The report before the Council is supposed to reflect faithfully and truthfully the proceedings before the debate. I do not see any reference to the observations made by the Philippine delegation vis-à-vis the import or the meaning of the words "many", "most", and "consensus" and the ambiguity that could lead to a virtual exercise of veto power by a minority. Certain delegations made remarks on this point and to ignore it or leave it out or to refuse to make any reference to the issue would make the report incomplete, especially because of the fact that certain references are made in paragraph 24. Therefore, in my view, to make this report balanced after the paragraph indicated in the present paragraph 24, I would propose the following wording: -"it was stressed that decision was taken by the majority and that no single delegation enjoyed veto power, and that failure to reach consensus did not mean that the majority view could be taken as the Council's decision. "

CHAIRMAN: But the Basic Text is very clear, that all decisions are by majority. You can think about it and then repeat it.

Victor HJÓRT (Denmark): I asked for the floor because my delegation was involved in the discussion in the Drafting Committee which led to the square brackets which are around this paragraph. In fact, we had some points concerning this paragraph, but after a lengthy discussion we were not able to solve all the points we raised. The two sentences which now appear in paragraph 24, which is now before the Council, were agreed to on this version as it stands now in the Draft Report. We had hoped that we could fulfil the discussion in the Drafting Committee but because of time constraints and the necessity to discuss other important issues, which also are in the report, we accepted that we have to keep the square brackets on the report which would appear before the Council.

I would like to make it clear that our delegation did not wish to have a report from the Drafting Committee which was not entirely agreed upon, and the square brackets are only due to the fact that there was no time to fulfil the discussion which we wished on the points connected to this paragraph. However, as I mentioned before these two sentences were only part of the discussion, and we feel, the part of the discussion which caused the least problems. In fact, as I said, they were originally agreed to, and we feel that in order to avoid a cumbersome discussion now before the Council, the easiest way would be just to drop those square brackets and adopt the two sentences as they stand.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Señor Presidente, este párrafo fue objeto en el Comité de Redacción de largas discusiones. Seis de los miembros de ese Comité, y de esto dará fe el Presidente, nos opusimos a que se presentara a la consideración de este Consejo dentro del Informe. Ello obedece a que no es costumbre en los informes de nuestro Consejo el que se haga mención a lo que un representante dice, en primer lugar, salvo que se refiera a cuestiones de gran importancia como aquellas que, por ejemplo, se refieren en el párrafo 13 ya aprobado.

En segundo lugar, las cuestiones que aquí se tratan están adecuadamente consideradas en el propio Informe del CPPB adoptado por nuestro Consejo, como se refleja aquí en nuestro informe; al ser adoptado así en nuestro Consejo, estas cosas están ya incorporadas en nuestro informe y, por tanto, han sido aprobados. Quien desee consultar el informe podrá darse cuenta de esto.

En tercer lugar, lo que se refiere en este párrafo no es de importancia y además toca un tema, en última instancia, que no fue materia de discusión durante nuestros debates; por tanto, seis de las delegaciones del Comité de Redacción nos opusimos a que este párrafo se aceptara. Nosotros insistimos en que este párrafo se suprima y creo que podemos llegar a una solución de transacción en función de los nuevos párrafos que ha presentado la Delegación de Filipinas y aquellos nuevos párrafos que eventualmente muchas delegaciones podrían presentar haciendo referencia a lo que una delegación dijo en éste o en otro sentido.

Como una solución de compromiso, la Delegación de México solicita a la de Dinamarca y a la de Filipinas que gentilmente retiren su insistencia respecto a introducir párrafos relativos a lo que un representante dijo.

Por otra parte, deseo informarle, Señor Presidente, que he podido hacer algunas auscultaciones en mi calidad de Presidente del Grupo de los 77 entre varios, no todos pero varios, delegados de nuestro Consejo y creo que hay un acuerdo general en que se suprima este párrafo. En todo caso, Señor Presidente, creo que esto no debe dar lugar a mayores debates y debería permitírnos pasar rápidamente a una solución y a los siguientes párrafos.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): I will be very brief. I would wish to endorse what the distinguished Ambassador from Mexico has just said since the point which has been made within parentheses in paragraph 24 is already very honestly and truthfully reflected in the main body of the report of the CCP. I do not think that it would make any material difference if we delete this paragraph, because the point of view is already reflected.

CHAIRMAN: Will Denmark and the Philippines consider withdrawing the respective sentences, since the verbatim records contain all the other comments. In my personal view it would be very difficult for a report if each of 49 members said "whatever I said in the Council meeting should be reflected in the report." It would be very difficult to draft a report. So, my humble request would be for both Denmark and the Philippines to withdraw their respective comments. As the Ambassador of Mexico said it is in the report, it is in the verbatim records very clearly, so your viewpoint is expressed. It would be very difficult for a report to represent each individual viewpoint. It would be very difficult to draft a report. Denmark, would you like to reconsider?

Victor HJORT (Denmark): I would like to consider your offer but if there are other delegations who have interventions in this, I would prefer to hear those first.

Horacio M. CAKÁNDANG (Philippines): On the condition paragraph 24 is withdrawn, because if there is reference here to consensus then we should also have reference to what the Philippine delegation said about consensus.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we then, if both Denmark and the Philippines agree, withdraw paragraph 24 and the subsequent paragraph? Would any member want to speak? Are you agreeable Denmark?

Victor HJORT (Denmark): I would just like to add one thing to what I said before. When my delegation pursued this discussion in the Drafting Committee, we were speaking on behalf of a major group of countries represented in the Council. We felt that we had a question of principle which ought to be recorded in the report of the Council, and that at the same time it would be fair that this minority view be recorded. I have paid attention to what you yourself have said about this, and other delegations, and will say that in the spirit of compromise and homogeneity of the reports we will be willing to withdraw this paragraph.

Paragraphs 5 to 25, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 25, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 25, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 26 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 31 son aprobados

Paragraphs 32 to 39 approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 39 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, première partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART II
PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE II
PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE II

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 16

PARAGRAPHERS 7 à 16

PARRAFOS 7 a 16

CHAIRMAN: No comments on paragraphs 7 and 8? Paragraph 9?

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I raised my sign for paragraph 9 but, bearing in mind the injunction by the chairman of the Drafting Committee, I quickly scanned this section as a whole to look for balance. I do appreciate the work that the Drafting Committee has done, but I must intervene to say that I do not find that this report reflects the discussion on the Technical Cooperation Programme. It does not include in these brief paragraphs a good many points which were raised by my delegation and by others-points which we believed were put forward in a thoughtful and reasonably constructive way. We do not feel that they are the views of a single delegation, and the point has I think been raised a couple of times in the last few minutes that single countries, whether talking about transnational cooperation or technical cooperation programmes, should not have their views recorded in reports. That is my first point.

The second is specifically in respect to paragraph 9. I find the views expressed in fact familiar, although I do not think they came from the floor of this Council. In particular, I think I recognize the last sentence in that paragraph as emanating from the Secretariat at the close of debate, and if I am not wrong, by the Deputy Director-General, Mr West. It was of great interest to us when Mr West asked for the floor after an extended debate which showed some considerable divergence of views. We had hoped-and indeed expected-that when he asked for the floor he would be exercising his considerable responsibilities as a member of the Secretariat serving the Member Countries in total, to propose some compromise or consensual approach that might bridge some of those divergencies, and I had perhaps wishfully, thought he might be suggesting that the figure of \$400 000 was perhaps a little excessive and as there was no urgency, some compromise may be found. Or perhaps he was going to say that the Secretariat has listened hard to the suggestions made and would certainly take them on board for further thought and perhaps in one or two cases, such as in overview or in management, that the Secretariat would certainly give this consideration and see what could be done. I know it was not his intention to be partisan nor to participate in debate on behalf of one side or the other, but the way his remarks did come out, it seemed to be just that. I know that Mr West is not devoid of his own views, and certainly can express them but we usually count on the Secretariat to clarify things or to provide us with evidence of fact and we found this intervention in particular a little partisan. It did not contribute to any consensus or any bridging of the divergence of views, but plumped heavily on one side. I know it might well be his somewhat misguided sense of British justice, that he felt the argument was being lost, not in terms of numbers but in terms of its quality, and had to intervene on one side or the other.

My third point is-and it was a matter of some concern yesterday-"The Council decided to endorse.... ", while within the paragraphs of the report itself it does indicate that there were some differences of view on this particular matter. We regret now that we did not call for a vote on this issue, because we feel that there really are only two ways of reaching decisions like this,

particularly monetary matters; by consensus-and there was no disposition either in the Council or by the Secretariat to search for consensus-or by vote. While the practice is "let us have short cuts from time to time", and when the results are obvious we dispense with it and reach conclusions, there are times when perhaps it should be resorted to.

I would dearly like to submit improved drafts for this section but, bearing in mind our time and the patience of my colleagues, I shall content myself with having made those remarks, and not propose any changes.

Joachim WINKEL(Germany, Federal Republic of): I do feel, like the distinguished delegate of Canada, that paragraph 9 does not really reflect what has come from the floor here. As a matter of fact we do not feel it is balanced enough. As my Canadian colleague mentioned before, there were a couple of countries which had rather a constricted critical approach to the TCPs, and I would have liked to find this mentioned in at least one or two sentences. In order not to prolong the session here and to come to consensus, I would only like to mention this now and I do not ask for a change of the text.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): We are now, I believe, discussing paragraph 9, and I am wondering whether I should perhaps wait until paragraph 11, where the matter of expense is concerned, because on the Programme Committee my Government did indeed endorse and heartily commend the nature of the programme, the practicality, and the speed with which it can operate, and our objection came in another matter so I shall wait until paragraph 11.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 9? Paragraph 10? Paragraph 11?

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I am sorry to say we did feel that there was a difference of opinion as to increasing the size of the possible projects, because that would necessarily limit the number of projects that could be made; and, since 80 percent of all the projects are under US\$100 000, we thought that keeping the limit at US\$250 000 would be wise in view of the widespread effort that we hope to see.

In addition, I did mention in the Programme. Committee-and it is in the report of the Programme Committee-my Government's concern about the rise in the assessed budget, since TCP derives most of its funds from the assessed budget. If this could be included in the reports of this session, I would be grateful.

CHAIRMAN: The first point comes in the first sentence of paragraph 12 "Some countries did not support the proposed increase in the maximum size of projects. In their view, the present average size of projects, which was well below... "

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No sé si la distinguida Embajadora de los Estados Unidos hizo o no alguna propuesta sobre el párrafo 11 pero quisiera preguntarle a los...

CHAIRMAN: She has only made her comments in the record of today's discussion.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Bien, señor Presidente. Entonces puedo aprovechar mi intervención para referirme a las observaciones planteadas por Canadá.

Nosotros lamentamos mucho que se insista en perpetuar una tendencia mediante la cual algunos distinguidos colegas se obsesionan cada vez que no pueden imponer unilateralmente sus puntos de vista. Nosotros no podemos aceptar, señor Presidente, el tratamiento desobligante que se ha dado al señor West, al decir que él no fue responsable cuando no trató de presentar puntos de vista que correspondieran a todos los Estados Miembros. Creemos que, por el contrario, el Sr. West hizo una declaración muy respetable y por lo tanto, reiteramos nuestro pleno respaldo al Director General Adjunto.

Ya que estamos en el uso de la palabra, quisiéramos preguntarle al colega de Canadá si él y su país reconocen o no el párrafo 12, el próximo párrafo que está encabezado, por cierto, por "Algunos países".

CHAIRMAN: I do not think we can have cross questioning and cross-debate. Everyone can make their point. I would also request members not to refer to other members or to people in the Secretariat, or to Mr West, because the draft which we have before us is the responsibility of the Drafting Committee-it has come to us from the Drafting Committee which we set up, and therefore it would be better to refrain from attributing any statement to anyone. It is a Drafting Committee's report which we shall accept or modify-that is for us, but it is our Drafting Committee which has given us the report.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Ya que usted ha hecho esta declaración, yo me atengo a ella. Pero haré una referencia positiva a una delegación diciendo que me uno plenamente a lo que ha dicho y planteado el Dr. Bula Hoyos en nombre de la delegación de Colombia.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we go on to paragraph 12? Paragraph 13? Paragraph 14? Paragraph 15? Paragraph 16: I give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the reference at the end of paragraph 16 should be "paragraph 13" and not "paragraph 7".

CHAIRMAN: I hope you heard the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that there is a correction to paragraph 16. "... subject to what has been stated in paragraph 13", and not "7". Please make the change.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): I believe we have come to the close of this chapter, item 8, and I would suggest that what has just been referred to by the distinguished delegate of Canada with regard to the Deputy Director-General should be deleted from the verbatim record.

CHAIRMAN: As the Pakistan delegate has suggested, do you want to withdraw your remarks? It is a verbatim record and we have to record what people have said.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): No. What I have said prudently or imprudently is for the record, and as I recall and in my very brief time in the Council there have certainly been a good many things in the record that perhaps should not have been there, intemperate remarks or others. I did not deliver anything I said with any degree of malevolence; it was an observation that I felt strongly I should make, and rather than take the Council's time in attempting to redraft or suggest we draft paragraph by paragraph, I have made those remarks for the record and should like them to remain there.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México) : Ya que me ha dado usted la palabra, Sr. Presidente, : aprovecho para decir que si bien estamos aprobando aquí en el Informe expresiones que se salen del contexto y que ofenden a personalidades que han cumplido con un trabajo eficiente y honesto en todos los sentidos, creemos que estas expresiones no son necesarias y deberían suprimirse. Nos parece que esto es honesto, pero si un delegado insiste en mantener esas expresiones que podemos considerar ofensivas, tiene pleno derecho a hacerlo, Confiamos en su honestidad intelectual y en el respeto a todos los funcionarios tanto de la FAO como de los Estados Miembros que esperamos comportarnos de una manera elegante.

CHAIRMAN: I will review this suggestion with the distinguished delegate of Canada. Personally if I make a statement and it finds a place in the record I would be looking at it as a privilege. If Mr West or whoever made a statement, and in the wisdom of the Drafting Committee and the Council they have adopted it and put in their own report, this is a tribute to the person's remarks rather than derogatory remarks... so I would like to read it again. If you agree I will sit with Mr Musgrove and we will go through the verbatim record and if there is any point derogatory to Mr West we will certainly modify it.

Paragraphs 7 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 17 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 23 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IIe partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

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

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

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

Paragraphs 6 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraphe 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 13

PARAGRAPHES 11 à 13

PARRAFOS 11 a 13

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is on this REP, Chairman, paragraph 13. I just want to attempt to correct an understanding I have that there is an inclusion in this at the request of one member of the Drafting Committee. It is not a contentious issue. It is in paragraph 13, after the word "regularize" there were included some additional words, at least according to my draft. The words that I had included after that word were "in accordance with the regulations of the Organization" after the word "regularize", but perhaps other members of the Drafting Committee who disagree with this would say so. This was raised to satisfy one member of the Drafting Committee. It does not apparently appear in the draft, Mr Chairman. Can I repeat that? After the word "regularize" in paragraph 13 should appear the inclusion "in accordance with the regulations of the Organization". I would welcome the advice of any other members of the Drafting Committee if they feel that was subsequently deleted.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the inclusion of the few words-that is "to regularize in accordance with the regulations of the Organization their positions" ? Thank you.

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 approved

Les paragraphes 14 et 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 y 15 son aprobados

Paragraphs 16 and 17, including Resolution, adopted

Les paragraphes 16 et 17, y comprise la résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 16 y 17, incluido la Resolución son aprobados

Paragraph 18 approved

Le paragraphe 18 est approuvé

El párrafo 18 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, lile partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II I, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 16. 40 to 18. 15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 40 à 18 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 16. 40 a Lis 18. 15 horas

DRAFT REPORT-PART IV (CL 88/REP/4)

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE IV (CL 88/REP/4)

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE IV (CL 88/REP/4)

CHAIRMAN: While document CL 88/REP/5 is being distributed and examined I will go through document CL 88/REP/4.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 11 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la planiere, IVe partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte IV, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE V

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 3

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 3

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 3

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Recordarán ustedes que cuando tratamos este tema, propusimos que se recogieran en el Informe elementos comunes que aparecían en los párrafos dispositivos uno, dos y cuatro del Proyecto de Resolución, en los cuales se pedía no solamente que se tratara de cumplir el objetivo sino que se superara.

Es así como propongo lo siguiente, señor Presidente. Al final de la penúltima frase del párrafo 3, donde dice: "tanto en efectivo como en productos", agregar simplemente las siguientes palabras: "y tratarán de superarlo". Eso está en el Informe del CPA y también en los párrafos dispositivos del Proyecto de Resolución.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I am sorry to put a discordant note. I certainly agree with my colleague from Colombia. There were many countries who said that they hoped that it could be exceeded but I do not see the proper notice here that several countries said that they could not make their pledges divided in cash and commodities because of the problems connected with the making of their own budgets and preferred that the pledge be in monetary terms. So regardless of the cost, whether buying from their farmers, as Canada and the United States have to do, if the price goes up it will cost more in the tonnage. Therefore it is the total that we would like to have rather than have it divided. That is not reflected. The only thing that faintly reflects it is "the possibility of still pledging in monetary terms". That is not an adequate description of "considerable donors". Australia is another that simply cannot pledge under that system. It is difficult for them to pledge under the separating system of commodities and cash.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): According to my notes here the phrase referred to by the Ambassador of the United States was added during the drafting process. Unfortunately a word has been eliminated. I do not know if it helps at all, but after the end of the sentence the word "only" should be included.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): That helps a lot. Would it be possible, "the difficulty of pledging in commodities and cash and the possibility of still pledging in monetary terms only".

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que la Embajadora de los Estados Unidos tiene razón. En realidad, ellos han planteado ese punto en el CPA. De manera que si el Presidente del Comité de Redacción logra una redacción satisfactoria aproximada de la que ha propuesto la Embajadora Fenwick, tal vez esto no ofrezca dificultades.

CHAIRMAN: Is the formulation suggested by the United States acceptable: "noted the difficulties of pledging in commodities and cash and the possibility of still pledging in monetary terms only"?

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Could we add before the "possibility" the words "we also note the difficulty of some countries in pledging"? Mr Gregory, would you do that?

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: So we add "to endeavour to exceed it" as well as "noted the difficulties of some countries in pledging both in cash and commodities and further noted".

Paragraphs 1 to 3, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 4 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 4 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFO 4 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Les ruego que me perdonen, pero hay un punto de menor importancia en el párrafo 4. Dice, al menos en el texto castellano, dice: "El Consejo aprobó unánimemente el objetivo". Creo que la función del Consejo no es aprobar sino recomendar. Es decir, "El Consejo recomendó unánimemente", porque la Conferencia será la que tome la decisión final.

CHAIRMAN: The English text says, "the Council unanimously supported". "Approved" is wrong. I hope the Spanish text can be corrected. Now we have the resolution which we have already approved.

Paragraph 4, including Resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 4, y compris la résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 4, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 10

PARAGRAPHERS 5 à 10

PÁRRAFOS 5 a 10

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al final del párrafo 7, espero que no sea controvertido el propósito de recoger una propuesta de México que mereció el apoyo del Consejo o que por lo menos nadie se manifestó en contra. Podíamos usar la forma neutra y decir lo siguiente. Al final del párrafo 7, una frase que diría: "Se sugirió que el Manifiesto fuera adoptado mediante una Resolución". Esto lo propuso México y muchas delegaciones lo apoyaron.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia has suggested the addition of the sentence which you have heard: "It was suggested that the Manifesto be adopted through a resolution" because it says here "the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference for its consideration and approval".

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): We could say that it decided to refer the Manifesto to the forthcoming Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference for its adoption by a resolution".

CHAIRMAN: Is that all right-"for its adoption by a resolution"? Right. I presume that the concerned countries will prepare the resolution and put it up in the usual way.

Paragraphs 5 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 18

PARAGRAPHES 11 à 18

PÁRRAFOS 11 a 18

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I hope we are not entering into troubled waters here. But I very much prefer the conclusive summing up which you yourself had made during our debate on this, and if I am correct, I have a couple of small suggested changes here that I think would reflect that summing up. Perhaps I can read the sentence as it might be amended: "in conclusion the Council on the whole agreed to give its support. " Thus deleting the word "full", with the remainder of the sentence to proceed as written.

I think this would reflect not only your summing up, but in fact, the debate in the sense that you had explained that use of the term "on the whole" carries with it the Council's decision, while at the same time giving the indication that some members of the Council disagreed, and the use of the word "full" in this sentence seemed to imply unanimity which I do not think was evident in the debate. I would commend those suggested amendments to the Council.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): To some extent I must disappoint you but in fact there was no discussion on paragraph 18. This discussion was on paragraphs 16 and 17 which does reflect what I think is a very useful balance of views that reflects the cooperation that existed in the Committee and I would strongly urge that we could leave those as they are. Unfortunately I cannot assist you with paragraph 18 as it was not discussed.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega y amigo Gregory, quien ha hecho una excelente tarea como Presidente del Comité de Redacción, nos habló hoy sobre el equilibrio que existía en este proyecto de informe y, en realidad, podemos observar que en el párrafo 16 aparece la opinión de un grupo de países y en el 17 la de otros países. Sin embargo, con ánimo de conciliar un poco nuestras discusiones y de avanzar en nuestros trabajos, tal vez podríamos proponer una transacción al colega del Canadá en el sentido de aceptar la primera parte de su propuesta: "por ultimo, el Consejo en general" pero le diría que nos deje el término "pleno", porque agregar las palabras "en general" quiere decir que los que quedamos a la luz de lo que se dice en el párrafo 17 ofrecimos pleno apoyo al presupuesto.

Este es un tema importante, se trata del documento más importante para la vida de la Organización. Creemos que de esa forma podríamos lograr un compromiso.

CHAIRMAN: The formulation I used was "as a whole". The United Kingdom, the masters of the English language, have the floor.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Being a Scot I would not claim any particular mastery of the English language. But I was going to say that we found that the Canadian formulation, which was based on your own formulation, to be very acceptable. My memory always seems to fail me at FAO meetings, whether it is the joy of being in Rome, I sometimes forget the full details in Council debates. I always had the impression that it tended to note the budget and approved the Programme of Work. I think probably the formulation the Canadians have suggested would be acceptable as a reflection of the actual debate. Again as Mr Bula Hoyos has pointed out there is the question of the balance in the text and it does seem to us that the formulation suggested by the Canadians maintained this balance because paragraphs 16 and 17 cannot really be logically followed by a suggestion that it was full support. I suggest we take the Canadian suggestion.

Joseph TCHICÁYA (Congo): Nous aussi nous sommes sensibles à l'amendement proposé par notre ami du Canada, nous pensons qu'il faut que le rapport que nous adoptons puisse refléter tous les points de vue qui ont été exprimés, et nous croyons nous aussi qu'en enlevant le mot "pleinement" et en ajoutant "dans son ensemble", on crée un petit déséquilibre; et je crois pour ma part que nous pourrions accepter la proposition faite par notre ami l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos de Colombie: ou bien nous disons que le Conseil "dans son ensemble", et cela reprend les conclusions que vous-mêmes aviez tirées à la fin de ce débat; ou bien nous laissons comme cela, c'est-à-dire que nous ne mettons pas "dans son ensemble" et le texte en l'état nous convient parfaitement.

Mais je ne pense pas que l'on puisse ajouter "dans son ensemble" et enlever "pleinement"; ou bien on ajoute "dans son ensemble" et dans ces conditions-là on conserve "pleinement"; ou bien on n'ajoute rien sur ce texte qui nous paraît parfaitement équilibré.

Je crois qu'on peut parfaitement ajouter "dans son ensemble" et laisser le mot "pleinement", qui à notre avis reflète les débats qui se sont déroulés ici.

CHAIRMAN: Would this be agreeable to Canada "as a whole" and keep the rest of the sentence as it is, because that will be consistent, because those who have supported have "fully supported". I would suggest we leave it in the way Ambassador Bula Hoyos has suggested, that is it will read: "in conclusion the Council as a whole agreed to give its full support to the proposed Programme", because the other viewpoints are there in the preceding paragraphs.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I do not wish to stand alone in obstructing the Council's progress but I would prefer if you would agree that we use the term "on the whole" as opposed to "as a whole". It is, perhaps, my colonial use of English...

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of Canada is we simply say "in conclusion the Council on the whole agreed to give its full support".

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I am sorry, did you agree to my suggestion as to "on the whole". I will respond to the "full" after I have heard clarification on that.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): No tenemos la traducción española de esa diferencia y, por tanto, no podemos evaluarlo. Suplicamos una apreciación del significado "on the whole" y "as a whole", ya que no sabemos lo que significa en español.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je ne puis pas parler avec autorité pour ce qui est de l'espagnol, mais quant aux deux expressions en langue anglaise "as a whole" et "on the whole", je dirais qu'on les rendrait en français de la façon suivante: dans le premier cas, en disant que le Conseil "dans son ensemble", c'est-à-dire pratiquement la quasi-totalité de ses Membres, a approuvé, etc. ; tandis que "on the whole" veut dire que "dans l'ensemble" le Conseil a approuvé, etc. ; c'est-à-dire, d'une façon générale, à quelques nuances près, et non pas à quelques membres près... Voilà comment je comprends pour ma part la nuance entre "on the whole" et "as a whole".

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would give my full support to Canada.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): I think there is a small nuance between "on the whole" and "as a whole". What has actually happened is that the Council "as a whole" has agreed to lend full support because "on the whole" would dilute the word "full" support, because it is a body, as a whole, the Council as a whole, the great majority agrees that it should be. This is how I look at it. I think it should be "as a whole" rather than "on the whole" otherwise it will contradict the word "full".

Octavio Rainha da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I am quite in agreement with what has just been said by the representative of Pakistan. I believe that if we want to try to make some sort of effort to arrive at an understanding about this paragraph I believe that "as a whole" as it has been rightly pointed out by Pakistan is the best expression, coupled with "full" support. As far as clarifications are concerned I believe that the position is well clarified as far as paragraphs 16 and 17 are concerned. So, I would be in agreement with this if we would have "as a whole" and "as well".

CHAIRMAN: That is the formulation I used and I thought there was general agreement yesterday, but now since it has come in a different form we have to enter into this debate once again.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal): Je suis particulièrement perplexe de constater que nous avons ici des difficultés. Je le suis d'autant plus que dans les deux paragraphes qui précèdent, la position de certains Membres a été clairement exprimée: ils n'appuyaient pas le Programme. Dans le paragraphe 17 il est dit que "la plupart" d'entre eux... donc on sait qu'il n'y a pas équilibre. Je conteste d'ailleurs le mot "équilibre". Il y avait une majorité qui s'est, dégagée manifestement au niveau du paragraphe 17. En foi de quoi, ici, au paragraphe 18, le Conseil, qui a des règles d'adoption des mesures, prend une décision; l'autre partie, bien qu'ayant manifesté sa position, ne devrait pas, en réalité, tenter de remettre en cause une décision qui a été prise suivant les normes bien établies qui régissent notre Organisation. Donc, il est dangereux d'introduire des nuances comme: "de façon générale", "dans son ensemble"; tout cela n'est pas nécessaire car il est certain que ceux qui ne sont pas concernés par le paragraphe 18, le sont au paragraphe 16. Une décision est prise sous une forme bien déterminée, c'est pourquoi ma délégation aurait souhaité, comme cela a été fait au niveau du Comité de rédaction, qu'on accepte le paragraphe 18 tel qu'il est, sinon nous nous engagerons dans des procédures qui ne nous mèneront pas à une bonne fin, en tous cas dans un bref délai.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise ne peut qu'appuyer ce qui vient d'être avancé par le délégué du Sénégal, à savoir, ou bien on laisse tel quel le paragraphe 18, ou bien, en cas d'amendement, on dirait: "le Conseil dans sa totalité est convenu d'appuyer pleinement le Programme de travail...".

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I hope I shall be able to make a suggestion which will not prolong this debate. I think that my delegation is one of those referred to in paragraph 16, and it quite clearly cannot go along with the conclusion which is referred to in paragraph 18. The formula that we would have preferred, and which we think would have more accurately reflected the events which took place during this debate, was one in which it was recognized that Council muted the budget-that is all it could do-but gave its full support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. If this formula is not acceptable to the meeting then we are quite happy for paragraph 18 to remain as it stands, and we would simply like the addition of a footnote to paragraph 18 which would read as follows: "The delegation of the United Kingdom was not associated with this conclusion. "

To sum up my statement: We would prefer a formula in paragraph 18 which would avoid a footnote and which would also accurately reflect the debate within Council. If this is not acceptable and it is the view of the meeting that paragraph 18 must remain as it is, then I would be grateful if the footnote which I have just quoted could be added to the record.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): To save the Council's time and to avoid going over and over the same old problems at meeting after meeting: We would have preferred a search for consensus on this, but there seems to be no such disposition. We would like to be associated with the footnote which was just read by the United Kingdom.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous sommes déjà intervenus sur la question et nous pensons effectivement qu'il faut faire preuve de beaucoup de coopération afin de ne pas perdre du temps sur une question qui en fait ne devait pas nous diviser. Je pense que nous travaillons sur les Textes de base au niveau de notre Organisation et par conséquent tout pays membre est obligé d'appliquer ces Textes ou de les faire respecter. Je crois que les paragraphes 16, 17 et 18 s'inscrivent dans ce cadre. Nous estimons, comme l'ont dit les délégués du Sénégal et du Liban, que l'on peut accepter le mot "dans son ensemble" afin d'éviter la discussion; mais cela ne signifie pas que là nous appliquons exactement les Textes; et si on applique les Textes de notre Organisation, on n'a même pas à mettre "en général" ou "dans son ensemble": c'est le Conseil, et c'est un problème de majorité. Dans ce cas, le problème est de savoir combien de pays ont dit cela; cela a été exprimé aux paragraphes 16 et 17; et ici il s'agit d'une conclusion et les conclusions ne peuvent être tirées que par rapport à l'opinion de la majorité. Si la majorité a rejeté ceci, cela doit être dit clairement.

Ici, nous n'avons pas à faire de concessions; "dans son ensemble", nous l'avons accepté tout à l'heure dans un esprit de coopération et de compromis; mais, là, je pense que cela ne vaut même pas la peine que l'on introduise cette notion et je voudrais par cette occasion rendre hommage au Comité de rédaction qui a pu mettre au point ces trois paragraphes, qui, à notre avis, reflètent exactement les débats qui ont eu lieu dans cette salle.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): My delegation would like to leave paragraph 18 as it is and associate itself in the footnote with the United Kingdom and Canada.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): If paragraph 18 remains unchanged, my delegation would like to enter in that footnote with the United Kingdom.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia considera que dimos muestra de buena voluntad y de espíritu de cooperación cuando tratamos de modificar la propuesta de Canadá; pero consideramos, Señor Presidente, y lo vamos a decir con mucha convicción, que no es correcto que una delegación que hizo parte del Comité de Redacción y que allá aceptó este texto ahora aquí se sume a la reserva. Creemos que esto no es serio, que esto quebranta los mínimos principios éticos de la cooperación internacional.

El párrafo 16, que recoge la opinión de esos países, dice en su frase final inclusive que reservaron su posición acerca del nivel del presupuesto, ¿es esto acaso lo que ellos piensan o no? ¿Por qué ahora, después de que en el párrafo 16 se recoge su opinión van a insistir en dejar reservas? ¡Y pensar que esta actitud la realizan aquellos colegas que tratan de darnos lecciones de moral y de moderación, Señor Presidente!

Creemos que este Consejo no puede seguir trabajando en esas condiciones. Aquí tratan de sacar ventajas, cuando usted hace el resumen van al Comité de Redacción y allí debilitan el texto, aceptan una redacción y luego viene aquí y hacen reserva. Creemos, Señor Presidente, que eso es inaceptable.

Mamoudou FASSASSI (Bénin): La délégation béninoise trouve que le Conseil travaille à partir de textes et ces textes doivent être respectés dans toute leur intégralité, et il se trouve que les paragraphes 16 et 17 expriment très bien la pensée du Conseil. C'est pour cela que la délégation béninoise appuie l'intervention de la délégation sénégalaise. Le paragraphe 18 peut rester tel quel.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): We feel concern that the tradition of consensus in this forum seems to be skating on thin ice. We would like to see a consensus reached rather than just seeing reservations at the Council. Therefore, in order to accommodate the different points of view, we would suggest a recommendation which would read as follows: Paragraph 18: "In conclusion the Council on the whole agreed to give its full support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and recommended its unanimous support by the Conference. " We hope-it is our sincere hope-that this formula would be acceptable to all the distinguished delegations.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Having attended the debate in the Drafting Committee, and listening to the discussion that is going on here, I would just offer a suggestion-and while I expect that it will satisfy neither side, I shall try this as perhaps a compromise just for consideration. If it is not acceptable I do not expect anyone to take it up. My suggested formula on paragraph 18 would be: "Taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 17, the Council agreed to give its support... ". I have deleted the words "In conclusion, " and "full".

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban)X langue originale arabe): Nous considérons que le Comité de rédaction est: issu du Conseil, qu'il comporte des membres représentatifs de toutes les tendances au sein du Conseil. Le paragraphe 16 de ce rapport a été avancé pour mettre en évidence la position de certains. Nous avons étudié cette question lors de la réunion de juin. Nous l'étudions aujourd'hui au cours de cette session et nous l'étudierons également prochainement.. Nous n'acceptons donc absolument pas l'amendement du paragraphe 18 car tous ces paragraphes reflètent pleinement toutes les positions.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): We are now studying the proposal made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and hope to be able to express our position later.

Mame Balla SY (Senegal): Je crois sincèrement que le Président du Comité de rédaction-en tour, cas j'ai omis de le féliciter alors que j'ai travaillé avec lui-vient de montrer ses talents qui ont permis d'aboutir aux résultats que nous espérions vraiment voir passer sans difficulté. Malgré ma première déclaration, je voudrais inviter ceux qui m'avaient manifesté leur amitié à dire en conclusion: "en tenant compte des articles 16 et 17", parce qu'en réalité la conclusion c'est cela: le Conseil était obligé de tenir compte de ses observations et de ses positions mais le Conseil doit décider sous une forme majoritaire. Donc, on pourrait accepter la proposition.

Personnellement, je suis prêt à appuyer dans un esprit de conciliation et d'objectivité la proposition que vient de faire le Président du Comité de rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: I shall repeat what the delegate of Senegal proposes on paragraph 18:

"In conclusion, taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 17, the Council agreed to give its full support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget... "

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I took out the words "In conclusion" and "full", so it would read: "Taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 17, the Council agreed to give its support... "

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Primeramente quería decir que no somos partidarios de que se radicalicen las posturas; si el párrafo no se puede modificar y algunos miembros no están de acuerdo tienen perfecto derecho a hacerlo constar. Por otra parte, también es cierto que el Programa no recibió pleno apoyo puesto que hubo algunos países que no estuvieron de acuerdo con el mismo Programa.

Yo desearía que llegásemos a un consenso y al mismo tiempo desearía que se aceptase que algo que se ha dicho en el Comité de Redacción por una delegación posteriormente, y por el mero hecho de que se ha dado cuenta de que hay otra mejor redacción, pueda modificarse sin que merezca ninguna calificación, nada más que simplemente ésa de que se puede mejorar un texto en cualquier momento.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I have another simpler solution. I think that we could well end this section with the words "in full understanding of the factors which have motivated these and in the strong hope that the proposals would be unanimously approved at the Conference". I hoped that we could leave out 18 which seems to be taking us all night. The whole thing is already said "in the strong hope that the proposals would be unanimously approved at the Conference" and there is no need for 18.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think there is a good spirit in the Council tonight and everybody is saying that they want to arrive at a consensus, and I think that the proposal of the Chairman of the Drafting Group is a possibility that we should take seriously because when you take away the word "full" that means the implication is that it could be not full, and when you indicate at the beginning of the sentence "taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 18" you are indicating in the conclusion that indeed there were some that had reservations and that the majority had fully supported it, but the conclusion is there that the Council gave its support to

the Programme of Work and Budget. I think there is no escaping this. So I would therefore recommend to the Council that we support the proposal of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, of course without the reservations of the footnote because this is, I think, taken care of by the introductory words "Taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 18", otherwise I think we will go on and on and on discussing what indeed was the conclusion of this Committee. But in this way we have a clear conclusion and the views of the minority and the majority are recorded.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Philippines' suggestion is that we first ascertain that Senegal has supported the Drafting Committee Chairman. If people support the Drafting Committee Chairman, then withdraw the reservation which has been inserted because it is conditional.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): Yes I could agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee's proposals.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We thought we had the judgment of a Solomon from the distinguished delegate on my right and we would have been very happy with the proposal to do that with paragraph 18, as we think it is perhaps superfluous. I regret that having looked very carefully at the language of the proposal by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee we feel that it does not protect our position and therefore the situation is that either paragraph 18 remains or a modified version of paragraph 18 is adopted on the lines proposed by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. We would like our reservation to remain and we hope this will speed up the discussion.

Carlos R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Para retomar la propuesta de Filipinas y Senegal en el sentido de aprobar la propuesta del Comité de redacción; creemos que la propuesta de eliminar el párrafo 18 no es seria, no debería ni ser considerada.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal): Je pense que certaines délégations avaient, à juste raison, craint une menace consistant hélas à voir s'installer ici un système de veto, alors qu'en réalité le Conseil doit décider, forcément. Nous avons discuté pendant des heures et des heures, aussi bien en pionnière qu'au Comité de rédaction, et il est anormal qu'on nous propose après tant d'efforts-surtout pour le Comité de rédaction qui a travaillé hier soir jusqu'à 23 h 30-de dire qu'on ne décide rien. Je pense franchement que le Conseil ne devrait pas s'acheminer dans une telle direction et je suis sûr que nous n'irons pas jusque-là. Je le dis parce que quand on tient compte des articles 16 et 17, on voit qu'au 16 il y a des pays qui ont dit qu'ils n'appuyaient pas le budget. Sur le 17, on dit "plus nombreux", que doit faire le Conseil? C'est comme si on contestait un bon Président élu. Je pense donc qu'on doit maintenir les articles 16 et 17 et, à partir du moment où des membres n'ont pas appuyé, on ne peut pas dire "pleinement". Je pense donc que le problème devrait être réglé. Pour nous, nous nous en tenons, dans un esprit de conciliation, à cela, sans note de bas de page, sinon, nous aboutirons à une situation qui ne pourrait pas être claire.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): If the reservations are going to stay I think we should go back to the former wording that has been proposed by the Drafting Committee. After all, it is clear that these delegations want themselves singled out that they are not following the majority. So, Mr Chairman, I think if the reservations are going to remain, even if the proposal of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee were to be adopted, I would think that we should go back to the original proposal of the Drafting Committee. But I still hope that those who make the reservations will consider again that indeed this is a justified way of recording the decisions by the Council, because what are you recording? You are recording a decision of the Council that it is supporting the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. Now the decision is made by the majority. I think nobody quarrels with this. The question is whether the minority views are recorded. I think they are recorded very well in paragraph 16. If they want them again recorded in paragraph 18 then I think we should go to the proposal of the Drafting Committee.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am not going to make any other proposal regarding drafting, certainly because the Drafting Committee did not in fact even discuss the proposal I made; it was purely my own. But I would point out that the item in the agenda is for discussion and not decision; the decision must be taken by the vote at the Conference, and that thought was behind the minds of the Drafting Committee when they formulated paragraphs 16 and 17. So in fact the suggestion made by, I think, the distinguished delegate of the United States to delete paragraph 18 is a possibility in the sense that a decision is not required. That is just a comment I make in the hope that it will be helpful, but the item is for discussion and not for decision.

Joseph S. MTENGA (Tanzania): The Drafting Committee adopted paragraph 18 in the draft that they made. Because of what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has explained to you, we now agree this is the result of that explanation.

The Drafting Committee adopted it because, if you go through the last few words starting "and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously", here you see the Drafting Committee did not make a strong recommendation, or the Council is not making a strong recommendation as we have done elsewhere. It is a hope, and if a hope is something to go by this is the best way to put it because it does not make any specific recommendation to the Conference. The formulation that we have been given by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is perhaps the best compromise out of this problem because at the same time it would have shown the views of the majority. All the same, for the sake of compromise, and in view of the late hour and the good spirit that has prevailed in the House, I would have supported the Chairman of the Committee having put it the way he put it and perhaps this would have met with the agreement of those who opposed the paragraph as it was. But if in the end we are not going to get anywhere, and if we want to avoid the possibility of having a footnote-and this is just a question-would those who opposed this, and therefore wanted a footnote to be inserted, agree if we deleted paragraph 18 altogether because this is what we do not know.

CHAIRMAN: I think I would like to formulate two alternatives so that we can come to a decision soon. One is the suggestion by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee: "Taking into account the views expressed in paragraphs 16 and 17, the Council agreed" and so on.

The other is to leave paragraph 18 as it is from the Drafting Committee and allow those delegations... "The delegation of the United Kingdom is not associated with this conclusion. " Canada, United States and Germany also wanted to be associated with the footnote.

Let us now come to some decision on this issue. We can go ahead, retain it as it is and allow those delegations to exercise their authority of expression.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): I have just discussed this and if we read the formulation as it is, deleting the word "full" we shall have, "In conclusion, the Council as a whole agreed to give its support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously". We think that will be better than having a reservation. We agree to this formulation, and she was agreeable to this formulation.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Can you repeat that please as we are confused?

CHAIRMAN: "In conclusion, the Council as a whole agreed to give its support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously".

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je n'ai peut-être pas bien suivi mon ami du Pakistan, mais il me semble qu'il a repris la proposition du Canada. Je tiens à dire que nous compliquons un peu ce paragraphe; je crois sincèrement que ce paragraphe 18 devrait être modifié en partie, comme l'a proposé le Canada, et en partie comme l'a proposé la Colombie. Je pensais qu'on allait pouvoir sortir de l'impasse vers laquelle on se dirigeait. A mon avis, il n'y a pas plusieurs solutions. Nous connaissons déjà l'atmosphère de cette salle: lorsque l'on commence à proposer les notes de bas de page, il devient vraiment difficile de pouvoir faire changer d'avis à ceux qui les proposent. C'est pour cette raison, et je suis persuadé que cela est vrai, que les pays qui voudraient qu'on les cite dans ce rapport veulent se distinguer dans ce domaine et donc je pense que pour cette raison, au paragraphe 18, au lieu de mettre les notes de bas de page, on pourrait mettre "quelques membres". On citerait alors le nom de ces pays: Canada, Etats-Unis, Royaume-Uni, Allemagne; ils seraient cités au paragraphe 18 pour qu'il n'y ait pas de notes de bas de page; c'est une solution pour permettre de mettre en valeur les pays concernés.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): For the information of the Council, we certainly would not prefer to have the footnote, provided our position is not compromised. In the light of the indication that no conclusions or decisions were required on this item I had thought that the suggestion to delete paragraph 18 was a good one. Certainly if that can be accepted by the Council we would not wish to have a footnote in that event.

Ajmal Mahmood QURESHI (Pakistan): We are only endeavouring to reach a consensus without prejudicing or precluding the expression of views of the minority. After discussion with the distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America this formulation would be acceptable to everyone because it goes in without any reservation and expresses the spirit given in paragraphs 16 and 17, because it is agreeable to her. It will read, "In conclusion, the Council as a whole agreed to give its support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously".

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): The distinguished delegate of Pakistan has expressed it exactly. This is the original Canadian proposal, and I support it.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I do apologize to my distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of the United States of America. Our proposal is "on the whole", not "as a whole". We take "as a whole" to mean the Council in its entirety whereas we take "on the whole" to mean the Council generally, and that was what we were trying to include in the use of the words "on the whole".

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal): Je pense que tout à l'heure il y a eu une confusion qui s'est introduite dans nos débats. En parlant de ce point je pense qu'il convient de distinguer la décision que le Conseil doit prendre à la suite de ce débat. Avec la décision qui concerne le Programme nous sommes convaincus, et nous le savons, que le budget sera adopté par la Conférence. Mais, quand vous demandez, pour prendre un raisonnement parabolique, qu'un collaborateur vous demande d'étudier un problème, il faut qu'il propose quelque chose. Vous n'êtes pas tenus par la proposition, mais il doit nécessairement vous dire quelle est la conclusion proposée. C'est pourquoi le Conseil est tenu de dire quelque chose à la Conférence, sinon, c'est une discussion qui n'a ni queue ni tête. Je crois que les différentes formulations proposées ne sont pas très graves en l'occurrence, du point de vue de la décision; parce qu'il est certain que les décisions seront appliquées là où il faudra les appliquer. On voulait tout simplement sauver un climat d'entente; car, que l'on dise "dans l'ensemble" ou "d'une façon générale", je pense que les dangers ne sont pas très grands, dans la mesure où il y a l'appui de la majorité qui je l'espère ira en grandissant dans le sens de cet appui.

CHAIRMAN: I appeal to all Council members, who seem to want to prolong my Chairmanship this evening-if you all agree, let us accept the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan. I will read it. "In conclusion, the Council as a whole agreed to give its support to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and expressed the hope that the Conference would approve it unanimously", because paragraphs 16 and 17 bring out clearly all the viewpoints and it is only a hope that is being expressed. I am sure that those delegations who have reservations will be able to express them in Commission II of the Conference. So may I appeal to the delegations of the United Kingdom and Canada to agree to this formulation.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): With considerable sadness and reluctance because of the debate that has taken place, I am afraid I have to reiterate our position, that the use of the words you have suggested in our view does not take account of what happened in the debate, and our reserved position referred to in paragraph 16. If paragraph 18 remains with the formulation, I regret that we still will wish for a footnote to clarify our position. I was attracted to the idea put forward by the distinguished delegate of Tanzania, which was originally put forward by the delegate to my right. The easiest way out of the impasse is to delete paragraph 18 altogether. I am sure this would also meet the desire of the distinguished delegate of Senegal to present something reasonable to the Conference. It is there in paragraphs 16 and 17. Through you, Mr Chairman, I propose that paragraph 18 is deleted.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I do not know how long we can take up the time of this body. I am sure that Pakistan, with its ancient history and philosophical background, will perfectly happily accept "on" instead of "as" and return, in other words, to the original suggestion of Canada. That is what I now propose.

Mame Balla SY (Senegal) Je pense que le délégué du Royaume-Uni a quelque peu travesti ma position. J'ai toujours été contre la suppression du paragraphe 18 et j'ai dit que l'on ne peut pas discuter sans proposer une solution. Je tiens à ce que cela soit clair: jamais je ne me rallierai à une telle proposition.

Joseph TCHTCAYA (Congo): je voudrais que nous puissions parler sérieusement de la question. Je pense, pour ma part, que lorsque nous avons écouté notre ami du Pakistan faire sa proposition nous avons dit que la nôtre était la même. Le Congo, comme vous le savez, n'aime pas beaucoup les notes de bas de page. Nous estimons que ce n'est pas une bonne méthode de négociation dans une enceinte comme la nôtre. Dans le passé, nous avons mis des contre-notes de bas de page pour montrer notre opposition aux notes de bas de page. C'est pourquoi, je voudrais me rallier à la proposition faite par le Pakistan et dire: "Le Conseil, dans l'ensemble, est convenu". Je crois que nous pouvons accepter cela sans mettre le mot "pleinement" puisque cela gêne certaines délégations et je crois que cela pourrait rencontrer l'appui de tout le monde.

Victor HJORÍ (Denmark): We have listened carefully to the debate which has taken place, and I will admit that a couple of the proposals put forward were agreeable to our delegation. We recognize that by now the expressions "as a whole" and "on the whole" are rather difficult to interpret in any proper direction. If it is of any help, we would like to offer another proposal, hoping that we can shorten the discussion. Our proposal is that the paragraph should read, "In conclusion, the Council generally agreed to give its support..." etc.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just want to point out the fact that indeed the Council is supposed to make a recommendation to the Conference regarding the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This is written in Rule XXIV, Functions of the Council, 2(a) and I shall read it:

"The Council shall consider and make recommendations to the Conference on policy issues regarding the Summary and Draft Programme of Work and Budget and Summary Estimates by the Director-General for the following financial period. " If you have to consider and make recommendations you have to make a decision; a recommendation is a decision to recommend. I would like to refer to Council document CL 88/4 page iv, Matters Requiring Attention by the Council, wherein are recorded the decisions of the Finance and Programme Committees. Here is a way of recording views which can be an example for this Council. In the third paragraph on this page we read: "The Committees recalled that the strategies, priorities and programmes..." , and then in the fourth paragraph on that page we see: "Some Members reiterated their Governments' position pertaining to... programme growth..." "

Paragraph five begins:

"The majority of Members of both Committees recalled that they had fully supported the programme increase..." "

and then at the end of that paragraph, bearing in mind the views expressed above on that page, we see that the Committees recommended to Council to endorse the proposal of the Director-General. You attribute the decision to the Committee's taking account of the views of the minority and the majority. So it is clear that you can have a minority view recorded in the preceding paragraph and still attribute the decision to the Committee. I could cite ten or twenty examples of this kind, where you attribute the decision to the Committee but that does not mean that there had been no diverging views regarding the conclusions of the Committee. This is just a way of recording, whether you say "the Committee generally" or "the Committee gave its support" or "its full support" I think it is the same, the decision is to recommend to the Council the Programme of Work and Budget. But I think we should consider that when we say "the Committee"., there are many precedents and that there are diverging views and the members who do not agree with this can cite the preceding paragraphs. Therefore I think it is not terribly important that you put "full support" or "gave it support". But I think we are prolonging the debate without very much reason.

CHAIRMAN: Let us now not have a discussion. When I summed up yesterday I knew we had to make a recommendation and we had used the formulation in previous instances when we had a similar position as a whole. It is only on that basis that I used that sentence. "In general" has been suggested. If that is more acceptable to members keep it as it is, if it is the one which is acceptable to the United Kingdom, Canada, etc. Is it acceptable to the United Kingdom?

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I can confirm that the phrase "The Council in general" would be acceptable to us.

Joachim WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany): I can confirm that if it would read "The Council in general" Germany would agree.

Joseph S. MTENGA (Tanzania): I only wanted to put the record straight that the United Kingdom at the time misunderstood the Tanzanian delegation. Fortunately the United Kingdom delegate said yes, they would go along with it, and therefore withdrew their reservation, for which the Tanzanian delegation is thankful.

The reason I am raising this is that the subject under discussion is of such importance, it is a policy issue and cannot be left hanging in the air. It has never happened before. The Tanzanian delegation would not expect it to happen now. I am very happy with the conclusion that is now reached because it is a logical one, although it still waters down our position in view of the fact that "in general" and "on the whole" would mean the same. But we are prepared to go along with it if that is the consensus.

CHAIRMAN: Then let us conclude with the Denmark solution: "In conclusion the Council agreed", because we are going into the Conference, let us go in a spirit of amicability. If some people insist on the present wording, then the other group will put their names behind.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): J'ai quelque peine à accepter cette transaction qui vient d'être faite. Je crois fermement que le paragraphe tel qu'il est libellé ici tient compte des débats; et c'est pour cette raison que tout à l'heure je disais qu'en principe je suis opposé aux notes de bas de page; mais je crois qu'ici, peut-être, nous devons adopter les notes de bas de page et laisser le texte en l'état. En fait, qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? Nous pensons que nous faisons ici une recommandation à la Conférence, et à la Conférence, nous aurons un vote sur le budget. Et je crois que, de toute façon, ceux qui auront fait les réserves ici vont voter contre le budget ou peut-être s'abstenir. C'est pour cette raison que je crois qu'il est préférable de laisser le texte en l'état et de demander à ceux qui le désirent de faire des notes de bas de page.

CHAIRMAN: Let us come to a decision. There are two propositions. One is the proposition of Denmark, the same formulation "The Council in general" which is acceptable to the United Kingdom, Canada and so on, and there will be no footnotes. The other is the proposition of Congo to retain the text as it is and allow those countries which would like to do so to express their reservation in the way that the United Kingdom did. So those who are in favour—we will take the views of people. We must have either the Congo proposal or the Denmark proposal. We must come to a conclusion.

Octavio Rainha da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I tend to favour the Congo position because I do not understand the meaning of the expression "The Council in general". Perhaps if you could clarify this it would help.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not think that anybody can give an authoritative definition. It is a question of impression. As someone said earlier about "on the whole", it obviously means that a fair number of the Council did not agree but the majority did. It is more or less the same "as a whole", perhaps even weaker.

CHAIRMAN: Let us then take a decision on this matter. Let us not explain the different viewpoints. Make concrete suggestions. A point of order from Malawi first.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

H. M. MBALE (Malawi): I did ask to speak but you bypassed me and I did not understand. I think we are talking about semantics now. My proposal is that we should put it to the vote, as you were proposing earlier.

CHAIRMAN: So those who are in favour of the Congo proposal that we leave paragraph 18 as it is and such countries as would like to put in a reservation-the delegation of the United Kingdom is not associated with this conclusion, also Canada, United States, Germany, and so on. Those who are in favour of the Congo proposal, please raise your hands. Those who are in favour of Denmark's proposal? The majority would like the Congo proposal, it is 17 versus 12.

The Congo amendment was adopted by 17 to 12 votes with 1 abstention.

L'amendement du Congo est adopté par 17 voix contre 12 et 1 abstention.

Por 17 votos contra 12 y 1 abstención queda aprobada la enmienda de Congo.

That means that those countries who wish to express that they are not associated with the conclusion will put a footnote there.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): We would like to ask that the name of our country should be included in the footnote.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I did not vote on this issue because it is not very clear to me what "in general" modifies. Does it modify the subject or does it modify the verb? If it modifies the verb I cannot agree with it.

CHAIRMAN: The majority have already not agreed.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): If "in general" modifies the verb that means that some parts they approve and some parts they did not. But if it modifies the subject that means some did not approve and some approved. Therefore it is ambiguous. That is why I did not take any part in this voting. I did not know whether "in general" modified the verb "support" or the subject "the Council".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your comments.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): I had requested the floor but perhaps a wee bit late. Still endeavouring to save the situation of reservation, we suggest the following formulation: "In conclusion, notwithstanding some divergence in views", and then the rest remains.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Council seems to be in a mood now to consider additional drafting. Let me complete the meeting and I will come back if there is any last minute wonderful idea.

Paragraphs 11 to 18 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 18, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 and 20 approved

Les paragraphes 19 et 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 y 20 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 21 to 28

PARAGRAPHES 21 à 28

PÁRRAFOS 21 a 28

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que es una costumbre desafortunada llenar un informe con la expresión de: "Un miembro del Consejo". Por lo tanto no encuentro ninguna explicación a la última frase del párrafo 21, Proponemos que se suprima la última frase de este párrafo 21.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): I recall that there were rather a small number of speakers on that item and therefore "One member" may be more than it looks like. The reason for deleting the reference therefore is not self-evident to me.

David R. GREGORY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The only change that took place here in the Drafting Committee was-we were given two paragraphs which are now represented as one paragraph, but there was absolutely no discussion from my recollection on the item.

CHAIRMAN: I think if Canada does not object I would say please do not insist. The views are there in full in the verbatim report and the report should indicate a broad view rather than every single viewpoint which is contained in the verbatim report.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We would prefer if possible to see the last sentence remaining in the report. Certainly it reflects our views as well as the views of Canada.

CHAIRMAN: That makes two!

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A estas horas hemos de decir cosas agradables. Al principio de nuestros debates de esta tarde el colega del Canadá en sentido muy positivo se refirió a ciertas expresiones inglesas que podrían tener origen colonial. El lo dijo en forma positiva; pero parece que nuestro colega del Reino Unido, quien declaró que cuando viene a Roma lo pasa muy bien y se divierte, se ha contagiado con esa expresión colonialista, pero en sentido contrario. De todas maneras nosotros dijimos muchas cosas sobre este tema y si se mantiene esa frase, ya tengo otra redacción y, si usted me permite, la voy a leer, ya que creemos que no siempre la expresión de: Un miembro o de dos miembros, deba prevalecer dentro de un informe, dentro del cual se expresaron otras muchas opiniones. Usted, Sr. Presidente, toma la decisión, y si me permite leeré la expresión de otros miembros, ya que la delegación de Colombia es tan respetable como cualquier otra.

CHAIRMAN: I think if the Council agrees the first sentence will stop there, because I think generally in report writing we do not refer to one member, although the United Kingdom has said he supports it, but the records usually go by the verbatim records.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): Not to harp unduly, but I must reiterate the fact that there were very few speakers throughout this entire item. We addressed ourselves to the problem of coordination and to what we thought FAO could productively do in response to that problem and I must say that unless my memory fails me no one in the Council objected to the remark and seeing as how other items on this agenda have been treated in such a way that one or two members have made a remark and seen it reflected, I do not really see a reason why this cannot be reflected.

CHAIRMAN: If Colombia, you do not insist further let us go on and adopt what has come from the Drafting Committee.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo no me voy a oponer a que eso se exprese, pero, naturalmente, debe aceptarse la siguiente frase adicional para el párrafo 21: "Se opinó que la FAO ocupa un sitio de prestigio y respeto en las Naciones Unidas y cumple adecuadamente todas sus funciones." Esto lo dijo mi Delegación, lo dijeron otras y nadie se opuso.

CHAIRMAN: So we shall we add this sentence, "It was stated that FAO enjoyed a position of respect and prestige in the United Nations system and adequately fulfilled all its functions".

Mame BALLA SY (S-énégal): Je n'ai aucune observation sur la seconde et la dernière phrase qui viennent de nous être proposées. Mais si je me souviens bien j'ai été le dernier orateur sur cette question; et je dois dire que j'ai moi-même refusé cet argument en donnant des exemples sur le PNUD et sur l'ONUDI pour dire que l'on ne peut quand même pas nier qu'il y a beaucoup de considération et un effort de la part de la FAO pour encourager une certaine harmonisation et une certaine coordination. Et j'avais même conclu en recommandant que cela se poursuive.

Donc, vraiment cette dernière phrase nous en vaut une autre et peut-être d'autres pays vont encore demander de faire inscrire leurs positions; et nous arriverons à avoir des tonnes de rapports. Et je souhaite sincèrement que d'autres pays ajoutent leurs positions, si vraiment ils le désirent, mais sincèrement cela n'ajoute rien du tout; tout le monde souhaite une harmonisation et une coordination; il y a un effort, il faut le reconnaître et passer là-dessus.

Paragraphs 21 to 28, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 22 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 28, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 29 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 31 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 32 to 36

PARAGRAPHERS 32 à 36

PÁRRAFOS 32 a 36

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Just a matter of clarification. I understand when you have to suspend the Rules, you have to give a time allowance of 24 hours, before you can suspend it. Does this report serve as that notice? I would like to ask for clarification.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As the delegate of the Philippines rightly pointed out, the suspension of a Rule does require a 24 hours notice. In this connection various considerations should be taken into account: the unanimous view that this Rule should be suspended; the fact that in addition to the members of the Council, a considerable number of observers from member nations which are not members of the Council have followed its deliberations; the document that will be submitted to the Conference—a LIM document reproducing an extract from this Council Report—can presumably be ready tomorrow and all delegations will find it in their pigeon-holes on Saturday at the opening of the Conference. I consider that in the light of the above the spirit of the notice Rule will certainly be met.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation has some very strong views on the matter of recording decisions of the Council. I have here a prepared statement by the Philippine Ambassador on this matter, which I am prepared to read now. But, due to the lateness of the hour I shall not do so if nobody objects if I hand it over to you so that it can be included in the verbatim records. (The following statement is inserted on request.)

My "Many" and "Most" Files

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Colleagues, I ask for your indulgence. After going over the Report before us, I am constrained to speak again.

My subject will be the piles of papers in my office, those marked: "Many and Most". These documents, Sir, are compiled FAO Reports, those that are remarkable for their "Many and Most".

The terms "many" and "most" attracted my attention, Mr Chairman. That these terms are difficult to define or delimit is obvious, I believe.

How many is "many"?

How many is "most"?

Do these terms represent a majority or a minority?

These terms could be indicative too of certain conditions in the Council-uncertainties or ambiguities in its functions and objectives. I have been wondering Sir, if the Council is certain about its role. What are its functions? What are its purposes? What is it supposed to do? Is it expected to make recommendations to the Conference?

After my remarks during the 87th session of the Council-my first remarks before an organ of the FAO-certain colleagues came to me, showing great concern, and very kindly said to me: "It is because you are new. "

I was disturbed. Was there something wrong in my remarks?

Today as I ponder the kind words again, I feel happy that I am "new".

Because I am new I do not feel very much bound by the traditions and the generally accepted practices evidently being observed by the Council with reverence. The excitement could be lost the moment one's critical sense has been blunted or conditioned.

I am not against traditions or certain established formalities. But too much reverence to established formalities, practices or traditions could be suffocating. It could hamstring the Council. The deliberations of the Council could degenerate to mere formalities, to a ritual.

In my remarks last Monday, Sir, I congratulated the entire Council. I am impressed by its diligence and patience to come every time for debates-debates which are of the same quality and substances as those of previous ones in other subsidiary bodies of FAO.

The debate on commodity problems, for instance, has been raging for over a decade. Is there anything else that has not been said about protectionism and its related issues?

Have not our predecessors said what we are trying to say here today? It is very likely that our observations here today will be reported in the next Conference.

Mr Chairman, at this point only I mention that after some years delivering speeches in different platforms in my country, I confronted my children with a grievance: that they were not listening to my speeches.

Their defense was: "Father, we have heard you many times over-repeating yourself. "

Because I am new, Mr Chairman, I find it difficult to understand phrases like "a great majority of the members, while recognizing that FAO is not a body in which negotiations can be conducted, agreed on the necessity of sending a signal... ".

I have asked my staff, Mr Chairman, to find out how the idea that FAO is not a body for negotiation came into being, why the insistence on incorporating it, how many times has it been restated and why it has to be restated over and over again.

Does it indicate what the JIU reports as a tendency to paralyze world organizations, an evidence of the stalling that has frustrated attempts at more decisive action. If this point is of great importance, maybe it should be embodied in an appropriate document not excluding the Charter of the Organization.

What is meant, Mr Chairman, by "sending a signal"? Are we going to send a memorandum, a circular, a cable or any other communication?

"Signal to the international community"? A "to-whom-it-may-concern" type of communication?

In 1979, Sir, the Conference passed Resolution 2/79. Today, the Council is sending a signal. Is the Council not moving backwards? What happened to Conference Resolution 2/79?

This search for answers is only one example of the various difficulties of a new member of the Council, Mr Chairman. And there are many more-many cases like the one above where I find myself entangled.

Does the Report represent the "verbosity" that the Joint Inspection Unit complains of in Document No. JIU/Rep/85/9?

In my remarks here last Monday, Sir, I suggested that paragraphs 4 and 14 of the keynote address of the Director-General to the 55th session of the Committee on Commodity Problems be emphasized. The words of the Director-General are those of a person who is on top of developments in trade on agriculture commodities. Therefore his words carry much greater weight than those of a newcomer like me.

He said:

"Commodity problems have almost always been difficult and controversial. Indeed my decision to address you personally reflects my concern about the serious dimensions of today's problems, characterized by severe declines in prices of many commodities on the one hand and mounting protectionism on the other, bringing the world to the brink of a trade war. I can hardly overemphasize the urgency of taking measures to improve this critical situation. "

"Much of the world agricultural commodity trade, including trade in processed primary products so vitally important to developing countries, is hampered by widespread protectionism. And the situation is getting worse instead of better: the use of export aids by developed countries to dispose of their surpluses in products of export interest to developing countries; stricter limitations on imports of beef and sugar into certain developed country markets; high volatility of international markets for their exports; and further restraints imposed on imports of textiles and clothing from developing countries, all illustrate this. It is therefore not surprising that some developing countries have raised doubts about trade as a reliable basis for their food security and economic progress. Clearly much remains to be done to restore confidence in the international trading system. "

The reaction to my recommendation was something like-"Is it in accordance with established procedures?" I was wishing the reaction to be "Does it make sense?"

This wishful thought led me once again to indulge in wishful thinking, which I usually do during deliberations of this Council, imagining that someone was nudging me, and heard him admonishing me: "Sir, what you need is common sense".

I retorted: "I have had enough common sense to read the Charter of the FAO. in the Charter the member nations expressed *déterminât ion*("being determined")to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action on their part for the purpose of:

raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;

securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products;

bettering the condition of rural populations;

and thus contributing toward an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger".

"The member states furthermore undertook, among other functions, to promote and recommend national and international action pertaining to-"the improvement of the processing, marketing and distribution of food and agricultural products;

"the adoption of international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements;

"the adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international. "

"I have had sense enough to believe that the nations of the world did not intend the FAO and other organizations established by them to be powerless, to be unable to deal with the problems on their agenda, or to be more report-pushers. "

"Any other proof that you have common sense?" the voice asked.

"I have sense enough to know the difficulty of knowing the sense of the Council", I said.

"Why?"

"I do not know. "

"Why?", he insisted.

"I do not know", I replied, irritated.

"Why, because it has no sense?"

"No. The Council has a lot of sense! Many, in fact, if not the most sense. "

"And what makes it difficult to determine the sense of the body?"

"Oh no, perhaps it has not really that many senses; let us see... sense of national interests, sense of community interests, sense of G-77 interests... what else... let us see... do you think that it has the sense of the interests of the peoples of the world too-the vast human community?"

"I also know that the Council is the second highest governing body of FAO " I boasted, "and I believe..."

"Believe what?" asked my tormentor.

"Do I have the right to believe?"

"Yes, provided you act according to your beliefs, your beliefs become deeds. "

"That is quite too much", I said. "It should be enough that I believe... " It is an impossible condition that our beliefs be translated to action. Do not impose that condition on us members of the Council, much less on the state members of the FAO. You should be happy that I, or we, at least believe".

And taking the offensive, I asked: "Do you know if all the member states of the different world organizations believe at least in the Charter of these organizations?"

But my tormentor, Mr Chairman was suddenly gone.

Mr Chairman', forgive me for yielding to day-dreaming here. To entertain myself? Not really. Perhaps in search of some ideal political condition under which our Council could carry out its function and great mission.

Sir, undoubtedly we are all aware that this Council is the second highest governing body of FAO. It has this high calling and much is expected of it by the peoples of the world.

Before us, Sir, are serious problems. To cite only a few examples, there is the case of hungry peoples. On commodity trade problems, the Director-General has warned us of an impending trade war.

Sir, I had thought, and now believe, and now urge that the Council be endowed-maybe through your leadership-with a new vision, a new sense of responsibility to the peoples of the world, a new dynamism and courage to act, to break away from existing traditions, conventions and other established practices, if necessary to take the bold decision and actipn expected of the Council-decisions and action befitting itself, its high calling as the second highest governing body of FAO.

Mr Chairman, after these sessions, I will be reporting to my President. My President had been strong in his conviction that UN organizations move beyond rhetorics to vigorous action. And last night I was disturbed by a nightmare: In my dream I was before my President, reporting on my mission.

"How did all those Conferences go?" he asked.

" Well, Mr President, we went over voluminous reports which told us of certain critical conditions in world agriculture and food. "

" We know that already. How many times are you supposed to be told that? or to tell me that? Anything else to justify the attendance of the delegations?"

" Sir, we decided to send signals... "

" To send what?" interrupting me.

" Signals, Sir"

"Signals?"

"Yes, Sir, signals!"

"Are you lost or something, or in darkness? This is getting funny. Signals! Flares or sirens?"

I stood quietly as the President picked up a telephone call.

"What happened to that Resolution in 1979, Conference Resolution 2/79?" he continued the interrogation.

"I found the Resolution in the files, Sir, " I regretted my words. Luckily for me the Prime Minister came in and my ordeal was over, at least temporarily.

Mr Chairman, please do not allow the above to take place. It might cost me my job. But this is not the important consideration; it is tlie fact that I have to make an accounting to my President and my people. The Council should, I believe, make an accounting to the peoples of the world who had opted to establish the organizations of their respective nations.

Let me bring you, Mr Chairman to another scenario. Let us imagine a member of our respective families seriously ill. Good parents that we are, we call a team of good doctors-the best doctors. The doctors make their diagnosis, repeat them, repeat them, repeat them.

The doctors' diagnosis comes up finally to confirm that the patient is seriously ill.

Would anyone of us in this Council be happy if the doctors limit themselves to declaring that our beloved one is "indeed ill-and seriously ill" without prescribing the cure and administering the medicine?

Would anyone of us in this Council be satisfied seeing banner headlines in the newspapers that our beloved one is seriously ill?

Mr Chairman, I would not. My purpose in calling doctors is to have my beloved one treated and cured. It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman that I now propose that we send all those documents on issues on our agenda to the FAO Conference with our-the Council's-recommendations.

Consequently, I move that the Council adopt the following:

- That having noted during the Council's deliberations of the U. S. delegation's statement that the U. S. is sceptical of the benefits provided by price-affecting international agreements, and believes that international trade will be most beneficial if it is conducted through free markets... the Council recommends that the statement be conveyed to member governments and appropriate international agencies for their information and consideration;

- hat, in view of the consensus that protectionism has persisted and that its effects have caused undue economic difficulties, member states in the review of their own national as well as regional policies take this consensus into account.

- That, having reviewed the evaluation report on the technical coopération programme, it recommends that the programme be expanded, providing funds therefore from savings of the Organization and reductions of outlays from less urgent programs such as studies.

Mr Chairman, these are only examples of recommendations that the Council can specifically propose. There are others-many others.

The Council, Mr Chairman, is called upon to provide advice to the Conference, to draw attention to specific policy issues and to make recommendations on these or certain policy issues. The Council was conceived as an active organ of FAO. It is not conceived to be solely a forum for debate.

Mr Chairman, lead us to this new reality. Thank you.

Mrs Millicent H. FENWICK (United States of America): I have a suggestion, not for action, only for consideration. I would like to put before my colleagues something that I think would be very helpful. We can refer, if we want to be more legal, to page 39 Item 19 of the Basic Texts which promotes something of this kind although in a less democratic fashion. The other day a great number of countries wanted to vote for closure, another number of countries wanted to speak their piece. We have seen today what happens when there are no limits to discussion. We need not vote now but maybe we would vote ourselves the following procedure: that each delegate representing a country is enabled to speak for five minutes; therefore every view would surely be heard and yet the hours will not be uselessly extended. I think it would facilitate our work. I just toss it on the table and maybe we could think about it. Many parliaments are conducted along these lines and the people find it satisfactory, because everybody has a chance and everything is limited. You do not have to speak for five minutes, you can speak for three minutes but you cannot speak for 20 minutes when there are other people waiting to have their views recorded. Then we could have one afternoon maybe for what might be called "formal speeches" where people could speak for an hour but no action Would be taken, and everybody could go home.

CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that all the Chairmen of the various 77 groups could meet together sometime over a cup of tea and discuss ideas of this kind. Some other ideas have been put at this Council meeting about how to reach consensus. I think it would be very good if all the group Chairmen could meet and have a general discussion.

Paragraphs 32 to. 36 approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 36 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 36 son aprobados

Paragraph 37 approved

Le paragraphe 37 est approuvé

El párrafo 37 es aprobado

Paragraph 38 approved

Le paragraphe 38 est approuvé

El párrafo 38 es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the close of our session. I want to thank you all once again. It is nearly eight o'clock and all the groups have spoken so there is no need for further speeches. It is my duty to record on behalf of the Council our sincere appreciation to the Chairman, and the members of the Drafting Committee, for the wonderful job they have done. Mr West would like to offer a comment.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On behalf of the Director-General I would like to thank the Council for completing its work. It looked as if it might go on much later today despite having an extra day, and having had a very intensive debate on some items. At any rate, the work of the Council has been successful, you have done your job vis-à-vis the Conference and you have thereby greatly helped the work of the Conference. For this, we in the Secretariat are duly grateful.

CHAIRMAN: I must once again thank my three distinguished Vice-Chairmen. We are very grateful to Senegal and Austria for your suggestions regarding the International Year of the Forest, and also to the distinguished Ambassador for Saudi Arabia, to Mr West and all the officers who are here-and of course to our interpreters who help us to understand each other and cross the language barrier. I want to thank all of them again.

With this the present session of the Council comes to a close.

The meeting rose at 20. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 20 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 20. 00 horas